

# OPAL Newsletter



## Cullercoats Primary Spring Update



OPAL stands for Outdoor Play and Learning and is a programme endorsed by Sport England.



"To make sure that every school child has an amazing playtime every day with no exceptions" (OPAL)

Our OPAL Pledge: "Amazing adventures every day, creative and fun, the freedom to play. Making memories, it's never done. Active challenge for everyone."

Dear Parents/Carers

We would like to say a huge thank you for your continued support with our OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) programme. We have made some huge changes to the way we approach playtimes and it has had an overwhelmingly positive impact on our children's enjoyment, creativity, and well-being. The transformation of our school in such a short time has been nothing short of amazing! The play opportunities we now provide for our children at playtimes are incredible, and this is only the beginning - things will only get better and better!



### We did it!

We are absolutely thrilled to share the fantastic news that we have achieved the highest OPAL award - Platinum Award. Only **less than 1%** of schools in the country achieve platinum status. This is an incredible achievement and a true testament to the dedication, hard work, and enthusiasm of our wonderful Cullercoats community.

### Thank You

A huge thank you to families for your support by collecting and donating resources and sharing creative ideas. Thank you so much for your continued support and generosity.



### Golden Welly Award



The Golden Welly Award is earned by one child per week who has shown that they are brilliant at OPAL Play. We have a Golden Welly Award in KS1 and KS2. Children get to display the trophy in their classroom for a full week before the award is handed over to the next recipient.

### OPAL Helpers

Every day we have the fantastic OPAL Play Team Helpers on the school grounds to support. We have Team A, B & C. To the right we have some of the helpers from Team A.





# OPAL Zones

We have 7 zones set out across the Cullercoats Primary School land.

- Zone 1**
- Zone 2**
- Zone 3**
- Zone 4**
- Zone 5**
- Zone 6**
- Zone 7**



## Zone 1

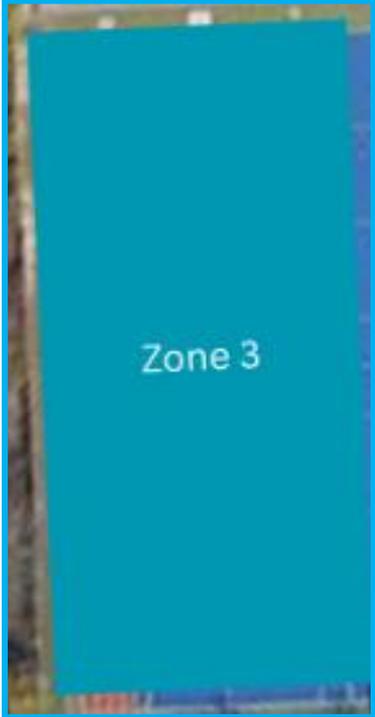
Wheelie Area  
 Scooters  
 Tyres  
 Prams and Buggies  
 Trolleys

Football Zone  
 Y1 & Y2 - ball play during playtimes  
 Y3/4/5/6 - each day is timetabled for who is playing football



## Zone 2

Hot wheels  
 Chill out areas  
 (on the window ledges)  
 Friendship bench  
 Soft toys  
 Cushions and blankets  
 Tyres  
 Scooter Zone  
 (once the wheelie zone is shut down)  
 Tardis Storage  
 Wheelie Storage



## Zone 3

Pool Noodles  
 Hula Hoops  
 Gymnastics  
 Fancy Dress  
 Space Hoppers  
 Cones and Markers  
 Skipping Ropes  
 Cable Reel Chill Zone  
 (boardgames/jigsaws/drawing)  
 Lego/Duplo, Hoops, Metal  
 Frame and Tuff Tray  
 Storage



## Zone 4

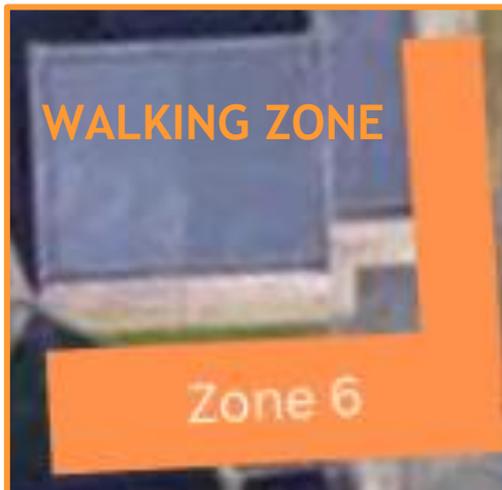
Lego  
 Duplo Blocks  
 Creatives/drawing/crafts  
 Chalk  
 Small world  
 Role Play  
 Music & Performance Area  
 Boombox  
 Welly Storage Area  
 Small Word Storage  
 Arts and Crafts Storage



## Zone 5

Willow Nature Area,  
 Reading Den (no shoes/wellies)  
 Dinosaur Land  
 Mud Café  
 Fire Pit Friday  
 Tyre Obstacle Course  
 Fairy Garden  
 Willow Structures  
 Wheel Barrows  
 Magnifying Glasses  
 Chill out benches  
 Rain Water Play  
 Foam bricks  
 Rakes  
 Trowels  
 Tree Stump Seating  
 Building and creating areas  
 using natural resources and  
 loose parts

The Willow Area changes with the seasons. For example - in Autumn we can rake the leaves, make leaf piles, collect apples. Also, the willow area changes when we cut back the willow structure. We can build and play with the willow shavings.



## Zone 6

Journey from Tiger Turf to the field (Walking Zone)  
*Wait for the barrier to be put down as the signal to when the field is open*

Journey from willow to the field - New Gate

Den Building Storage Shed  
 Climbing Wall  
 Upper Body Gym  
 Water Play Area



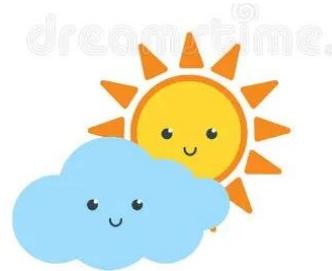
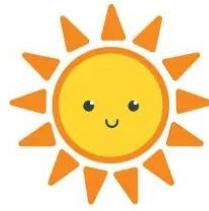
## Zone 7

Grassy Field Area  
 Mud play and digging planter  
 Sand Play  
 Den Building  
 Boat play  
 Tree Swing  
 Hammock Swing  
 Large Loose Parts  
 Adventure Land - Tidy up every Friday  
 Hill Rolling

## Chill Out Zones and Areas

We have lots of areas where children can sit, chat and chill with their friends:

- The window ledges and Friendship Bench in **Zone 2**
- The Cable Reel Relaxation/Boardgames area
- The Craft Bench
- The Reading Den
- Tree Stump Seating and chill zones benches in the Willow Area
- Create their own seating and chill areas with the Den Building Kit
- Create seating with the large loose parts in Adventure Land
- The Boat



At Cullercoats Primary School we go out to play in all weathers. However, the Zones that are open and the resources that are out may change depending on the weather.

We will not go out to play if there are weather warnings/it is too dangerous. Safety First - **ALWAYS!** All children must have a pair of wellies at school, as well as appropriate rain coats and trousers, hat, scarves and gloves. As the weather improves, children will need to swap these items for sunscreen and sun hats instead.

Across the school, it has been great to see how interested, engaged and enthusiastic the children are on their playground. Thank you so much for your continued support and generosity.

*Amazing play, every day - the Cullercoats way!*

Let's keep working together to create amazing experiences and  
make play times fun!



Yours sincerely,  
The OPAL Development Team

