

OPAL Newsletter



Cullercoats Primary Autumn 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

Our OPAL Play Project is well and truly underway; and what a difference it has already made to children's play times! This OPAL newsletter aims to celebrate all of the different types of play opportunities that the children have been able to enjoy so far.

What has happened already...



Activities

In September, we hit the ground running by introducing activities and resources to all areas of the school grounds. These include an amazing Willow Area, a reading den, small world dinosaur land, a large construction zone, a digging area, a sand area, a den building area, sports area, soft toys, dressing up, role play area, musical instruments, a boom box, lego and duplo building, a creation station and a toys and board games area.

What is next?

There are Parent Play Events for children in Y1 - Y6 coming up this term: Wednesday 16th October, Monday 21st October and Tuesday 12th November. Parents can sign up via the Schoolgateway.

Donations

We are going to develop a wheelie area where children can scoot, push prams and push anything on wheels. Bikes will not be included in this area. If you want to donate any wheeled items in good condition then we will gladly accept them. These may include: dolls prams/buggies, suitcases, scooters, trollies etc.



School Grounds Opened

We have opened up all areas of the outdoor space at our school so that children have freedom to roam and space to play. Previously, the children only had access to the tiger turf and concrete yard for their lunchtimes. The impact of opening the Willow Area and having a route to the back field has made an enormous difference to the space that the children have, the quality of play and the overall safety of the children.



OPAL Play Team

Our lunchtime supervisors are now called the 'OPAL Play Team' when they are outside supporting play. They all wear Hi Vis jackets to ensure that all children recognise who they can go to when they need support. Our OPAL Play Team has had specific training on different types of supervision - this allows both staff and children to get the most out of the play opportunities.



Golden Welly Award



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



Outdoor Clothing/Wellies/Accessories

To ensure that children are getting the most out of our OPAL, we will be out in all weathers. Heading into the winter months, it is advised that all children have a pair of wellies at school, as well as appropriate rain coats and trousers, hat, scarves and gloves. As the weather improves later in the school year, 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. They have asked a lot of questions and have clear ideas on the direction that they would like OPAL to go.

Thank You to Mr Storey and Miss Linden for dedicating the time and resources needed to make these changes possible.

Let's keep working together to create amazing experiences and

make play times fun!



Yours sincerely,
The OPAL Development Team

