



Thursday 10th October 2024

Dear Parents,

Following our previous letter, we are about to launch our exciting new project to make our playtimes even better, in conjunction with Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) CIC. In 2018, OPAL won the best active schools' programme in Europe award and has been cited in two parliamentary reports as delivering outstanding practice. OPAL is working closely with Sport England to promote more active childhoods, which is one of the many reasons we are improving our playtime, as well as to improve opportunities for socialisation, cooperation, coordination, resilience, creativity, imagination and enjoyment for your child.

We have also been very fortunate again this year to have been awarded a £3,000 Public Health Innovation Grant Funding for Education, from Worcestershire County Council. A big thank you to Mrs Collison for her help in obtaining this award, we have already spent part of the funds ready for our launch day and will be purchasing more equipment in the coming months to support the well being of all the children.

We strongly believe that: **“Play is freely chosen, personally directed, intrinsically motivated behaviour that actively engages the child. Play can be fun or serious. Through play children explore social, material and imaginary worlds and their relationship with them, elaborating all the while a flexible range of responses to the challenges they encounter. By playing, children learn and develop as individuals, and as members of the community.”** (Children’s Play Council 2001).

The project will start on Friday 8th November and our hopes are that it will change the way we think and how we play together. To facilitate this project, we have purchased some new resources, we will move some things around on the playground and require some loose parts. Loose parts are any materials that can be easily moved, combined, and incorporated into children's free play. The items we are looking for will enable us to enjoy a wider range of play experiences during playtime. We are currently looking for the following donations:

- Dressing up items; hats/scarves/jazzy shirts/elasticated skirts/waistcoats/wedding dresses/character costumes – to support the area of role play
- Small world items – which are small items to make imaginative play areas in small tyres; play figures (not action figures), toy vehicles, farm animals, peg dolls etc... - to support object play
- Plastic storage boxes with lids (large/medium for items to be kept in).



If you have any items to donate, they will need to be brought to school no earlier than the W/C Monday 21st October, where Staff will be on the main gate and will direct you to where the items need to be left. Please bring your items in between 8:45 and 9:00 any morning of this week.

Thank you for your continued support with our OPAL Primary Programme. We look forward to sharing more of what we have been getting up to at playtimes very soon.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J Dean".

Mrs Dean
Headteacher

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E Bilsland".

Mrs Bilsland
OPAL Curriculum lead

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Goode".

Mrs Goode
OPAL Co-ordinator