Outdoor Play and Learning - October Newsletter

Welcome to the first OPAL newsletter!

We have now completed our first full half term of OPAL Play. It has been a great success! The children have enjoyed playing in new and exciting ways which have been celebrated in our weekly play assemblies, including awarding the Golden Welly. We hope the joy of playtime has been trickling into conversations at home.

Please take a look at some of the photos below to see what we have been up to:

Digging pit



Lego area



Cardboard zone



Mud kitchen



Puzzles and Games

Water play

Reading zone

Tyre factory





Through this kind of play, not only are children more active at lunchtime, they are also having the opportunity to further develop skills such as cooperation, team work and problem solving.

As the weather begins to dampen, we really appreciate your help in ensuring your child comes to school with appropriate warm, waterproof clothing. This will ensure we can keep playing no matter the weather! Thank you for your support with this.

Thank you also for your support in understanding that OPAL Play may result in the children getting a little bit dirty. Some parents and carers have been sending in spare clothes with their child for lunchtimes (especially if they enjoy the mud kitchen). Please feel free to do this.

Thank you also for all of the donations of equipment so far. They are much appreciated and have allowed us to make such incredible improvements to our play opportunities. We are now seeking the next round of donations to support role play, small world play, and sand play.

If you can provide any of the following, please can donations be dropped off at the front of school in the week beginning 2nd November. Thank you!

- Suitcases of any size and type
- Briefcases, especially hard cased ones
- Tools large and small like small spades, trowels and brushes
- Sand toys
- Water toys e.g boats, ducks, cylinders, containers
- Hats/scarves/jazzy shirts/elasticated skirts/waistcoats/wedding dresses/character costumes
- Small world toys e.g. little people, cars, animals, dolls
- Chalk
- Outdoor boxes and storage
- Musical instruments

Going forward, we are working on:

- Scooters
- Wheelchairs
- Roll over bars
- Sand pit
- New mud kitchen

We are in the process of adding OPAL information to the school website. This will include our Play Policy and suggestions for play at home. When this is complete, we will notify families via the Weekly Update.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us:
bcharters@lordderamores.com
hsmith@lordderamores.com
lholmes@lordderamores.com

Best wishes,
Beth Charters, Helen Smith, and Liam Holmes