



Opal Newsletter

October 2025



What a brilliant half term of PLAY!

Where to begin? What a brilliant half term of play we have had! This is the first of OPAL's half termly newsletters celebrating all things play and what a lot we must celebrate! It has been an absolute joy walking around site at lunchtime and seeing our children immersed in play. OPAL is based on the idea that as well as learning through good teaching, your children also learn when they play. As 20% of their time in school is playtime, we want to make sure that this amount of time (equivalent to 1.4 years of primary school) is as strong as possible. The following pictures speak for themselves and show just how much fun our children have been having and how strong our play offering is becoming!



Cardboard

It's amazing what fun can be created with a cardboard box especially one big enough for us to get into!

Sand pit

Did you know we have our very own sand pit on the back playground! How amazing it is that we get to go to the beach every lunchtime!





Lego

Our outdoor classroom becomes a building den at lunchtimes where we can play with Lego and build to our hearts content.

Tyre Swings!

We now have two tyre swings we have enjoyed using in the Forest School area!



Den Building



Climbing Wall

Testing out upper body strength when climbing!

Mud Kitchen

Creating delicious delights in our mud kitchen which has had a 'spooky' makeover this week!



Scooters and circle carts!

Thank you to the friends of St Laurence and all your fundraising efforts last year. The children are thrilled with the scooters and circle carts purchased. Look at how much fun we are having! has a pair of old trainers or wellingtons they can change into, as these are needed to access the small field and forest school area.



Arts and Crafts

We have a range of arts and craft activities available to the children.



Ball games

We continue to enjoy a range of ball games.

Wet Weather!

Coats are a MUST for OPAL! The children will be outside every lunchtime regardless of the weather exploring our extensive site. Please ensure your child has an old pair of trainers or wellington boots which are clearly labelled. If your child has grown out of a pair of wellies and you are willing to donate them to school we would be most grateful.



A new addition to our Forest School

Thank you to Mrs Leith and family, Mr and Mrs Haden and Mr and Mrs Hamilton for donating their time last Saturday to help make this a possibility!



Donations and your time

Thank you for your wonderful donations so far! Don't forget you can donate anything to OPAL! The donation area is in the corner of the school car park. We are grateful for anything - big or small. At the moment, we are looking for anything metal for our mud kitchen - tea pots, goblets, utensils, dressing up accessories and small world toys,

Do you have any contacts with building suppliers that would like to donate to our school or would be able to give us a good discount?
Please let the school office know.

Our recently elected School Councillors have been discussing their ideas for OPAL so watch this space!

If you would like any more information about OPAL then please refer to the page on our school website which can be found here:
[Outdoor Play and Learning \(OPAL\) | St Laurence Church Junior School](#)

MS White
OPAL Curricular Lead for Play

And remember...

You are never too old to play!