



Opal Newsletter

May 2025



Our OPAL journey continues...

Where to begin? It is safe to say we have made great strides in implementing Opal's vision that every child at St Laurence has an amazing hour of high quality play every day.

We have continued introducing new play items as part of our lunchtime provision and there is still so much more to come. Over the coming weeks and months, we will continue to expand and develop our playtimes. We will include spaces and resources to enable our children to immerse themselves in all 16 play types. Watch this space!

What have we introduced?

- Tyre Play
- Mud Kitchen
- Small World Play
- Dancing
- Dressing up
- Bubble machine
- Chalk
- Painting
- Free flow
- Forest School

Free Flow...

We have introduced 'free flow' in the forest school area, the small and large fields and the front playground. The children have been thrilled to have the opportunity to explore more of our forest school area within school as well as the chance to flow between other areas of provision so that they can decide what type of play they would like to take part in. Here is what some of our children have said about this...

It's the best thing in the world! Joules Y3

I love going into the forest school and doing fun things! Freya Y5

A lifetime supply of fun! Maisie Y4

Free flow is exciting. Benji Y6

Forest School...

We have opened the whole of our forest area within school, and it has been a huge hit with the children! There are now several pathways to explore, places to build dens, a mud kitchen to cook up delights and lots of fantastic places to hide. We have been incredibly fortunate with the weather this term and hope this continues. When the weather does change, children will only be allowed in the forest school area with old trainers or wellies.



Loose part play...

Thank you for all your donations so far! Please keep them coming. Here are some examples of how we use them within our play.



Still to come...

We have a date for our sand pit and our outdoor classroom to be built next half term.

How exciting!

Donations...

Thank you for all your generous donations so far!

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](#)