

Lunchtimes Update

We had a visit from our local MP, Luke Charters, before half term. In a short assembly he told the children a bit about this work as an MP then he joined the whole school outside for an extra playtime where he could see first hand our fantastic OPAL provision. To say he was impressed was an understatement! The children loved showing him everything they play with and telling him how much they enjoy lunchtimes.



A key part of our OPAL provision is our whole school assemblies, which we have approximately twice a half term. These have a structure to them which we know as '**CINI**' - **Celebrate, Inform, Negotiate and Innovate**.

Celebrate - this is where we share and praise all the great play that happens, often through photos of the children playing (which the children love seeing!)

Inform - a chance to introduce new areas, equipment or items or general reminders

Negotiate - the children and I work together to come up with ways to use items, ways in which they will benefit from playing with them and dos and don'ts in order to keep everyone safe. As we have been doing this for a while now, the children are excellent at this and becoming real experts in risk benefit analysis! (see below for a couple of examples)

Innovate - an opportunity to look at new ways of playing with things or how to improve key aspects of play.

New items are only put outside for use by the children once an assembly has happened so that everyone knows how to use them safely and appropriately. Two members of our fantastic play team also join our OPAL assemblies to assist with ideas and questions.

Negotiate



Construction sticks

How can we use these safely?

- Only to be used for building/creating
- Don't use them as swords
- Don't flick or throw balls
- Don't stand on them
- Try not to snap them
- Don't wave them around

Negotiate



Larger barrels

How can we use these safely?

- Not for standing on
- Roll on them to move them
- Make sure you're in space
- Roll on them on your stomach
- Great for construction

One of the next projects we'd like to start is making a fairy garden around the bottom of a tree. If anyone has any small items that would be useful for this, we'd be very grateful for them. They can be dropped off in the box near the office. Thank you.

