



Lunchtimes Update

It has been lovely to see the children playing with all of our fantastic OPAL resources over the last week. We had our first whole school OPAL assembly last week during which we reminded ourselves of all the play opportunities we have and of some of the ways in which we can look after these and how to ensure lunchtimes are enjoyable and successful for everyone. This year we are introducing our play charter (see below) which was introduced in assembly and will then be displayed in each class as a reminder of how we make lunchtimes positive and successful for everyone.



Our OPAL Charter

- We have the right to play and enjoy OPAL.
- We have the responsibility to make sure everyone enjoys playtime by making sure:
 - ★ everyone chooses what to play
 - ★ we share equipment fairly and kindly
 - ★ we take care of the equipment
 - ★ we treat each other how we like to be treated
 - ★ we keep everybody safe
 - ★ we are kind to others
 - ★ we help people if they need us
 - ★ we allow people to join in games
 - ★ we ask grownups if we need help to sort out our problems
 - ★ we listen to one and another
 - ★ we play safely.

Resourcing our OPAL provision is a big undertaking; naturally, things get broken or damaged or wear out over time and therefore need replacing. The more people we have helping out with donations of items or making us aware of contacts we can try and use to help us, the easier this is. Items we are **always** on the lookout for include:

- Pushchairs
- Tarpaulins
- Pool noodles
- Larger sized dressing up items
- Kitchen utensils
- Bats/racquets of all types

These can be left at any time in or near the labelled box in reception. If anyone has something they think might be useful to us at school but isn't sure, please feel free email Mrs Ackrel to check - l.ackrel1@wiggintonprimary.co.uk

When we first began OPAL, we had a dedicated working party to instigate and manage projects. This team met approximately once a half term during the school day to decide on areas to develop, play opportunities to introduce and how to progress these. At times, we would also work on projects after school or occasionally at weekends (depending on availability). It would be really beneficial to have parents/carers as part of this team as our

'play champions'. There is a bit more information about this role below so if you think this is something you might be interested in supporting us with please email l.ackrel1@wiggintonprimary.co.uk to arrange a chat or to find out more.

The parent play champions will:

- Observe and assess playtime within the school at least once a year.
- Sit on the OPAL working party and attend development meetings.
- Support other parents to understand the school's approach to play.
- Advocate OPAL's approach and for children's play within the PTA and school community.
- Share contributions and ideas from parents and the wider community.
- Support the ongoing resourcing of loose parts from parents and the wider community.