



OPAL Newsletter



March 2024

OPAL continues to transform our lunchtimes. The feedback from children and staff is wonderfully positive. Thank you to you all for supporting the development of this amazing opportunity for our children. We must also say a huge thank you to our Play Team who have embraced all the changes with enthusiasm and have been so positive about the wonderful developments they are a part of.

Benefit -Risk Approach

As part of our benefit-risk approach (a reminder of this is below) We are working with the children to negotiate rules and systems. The children are learning how to dynamically risk assess, which means they identify hazards, assess the risks and take action to eliminate or reduce those risks. They continue to monitor and review any risks during their play, with the support of the Play Team.



Before you go to the tip...

If you are having a Spring clean/sort out over the Easter holidays, please think about OPAL!



The OPAL page on the school website has more information about what we would like, but we will take anything off your hands!

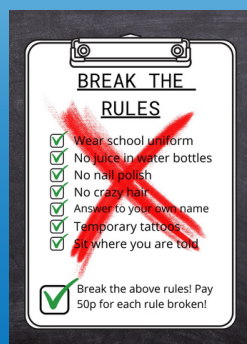
<https://www.brooksideprimary.co.uk/opal-2/>

Break the Rules Day!

We are having a 'Break the Rules' day on Friday 19th April to raise money for OPAL. Children will pay 50p per rule they break, more details below!



Is anyone able to get hold of big wheelie bins, road barriers, outdoor lidded storage barrels etc? We are happy with seconds/rejects!



Amazon Wish List

We have set up an Amazon wish list to give you an idea of the sort of things we would like for OPAL. These things could be new or used, and don't have to come from Amazon!

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/58P8HKYM7ZQ2/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex?scrllybrkr=32d5309f

Rachel Clark and Sarah Evans

Taking Risks

Risk-taking is an essential feature of play provision and of all environments in which children legitimately spend time at play. Our play provision aims to offer children the chance to encounter acceptable risks as part of a stimulating, challenging and managed play environment. Keeping children safe in school is very important, that hasn't changed. What we will be doing with the children is working with them to help them learn how to identify risk, assess it and decide what they need in order to proceed. The continuous discussions with the children will help us to form effective risk-benefit assessments. We hope this will give children lifelong skills that they can take with them into adulthood.



The HSE (Health and Safety Executive) agrees that play which carries some risk is not only allowed but should be actively encouraged. Children, by law, have the right to play. Their document, 'Children's Play and Leisure - Promoting a Balanced Approach', is available for you to read on our website.

Ideas and information for parents and carers of children aged between 4 and 11 years



Health and Safety
Executive

CHILDREN'S PLAY AND LEISURE – PROMOTING A BALANCED APPROACH

1. Health and safety laws and regulations are sometimes presented as a reason why certain play and leisure activities undertaken by children and young people should be discouraged. The reasons for this misunderstanding are many and varied. They include fears of litigation or criminal prosecution because even the most trivial risk has not been removed. There can be frustration with the amounts of paperwork involved, and misunderstanding about what needs to be done to control significant risks.
2. The purpose of this statement is to give clear messages which tackle these misunderstandings. In this statement, HSE makes clear that, as a regulator, it recognises the benefits of allowing children and young people of all ages and abilities to have challenging play opportunities.

OPAL parents booklet 'The Power of Playtime' is also available on the website for your information.