



GAYTON PRIMARY SCHOOL
GAYTON ROAD • HESWALL • WIRRAL • CH60 8PZ



Dear Parents,

We can't believe that it is now just over a year since we started on our OPAL journey. Huge changes have already taken place, with even more ideas in the pipeline.

Here are a small selection of pictures to show the areas that have been developed this year. The pictures emphasise how the children have been able to develop their creativity, imagination, perseverance, agility, fun, teamwork and areas where they have challenged themselves, taking on their own risk assessment in certain situations.

- Dressing up
- Scooters
- Bikes
- Sandpit
- Tunnels
- Slides
- Swings
- Willow village
- Barrels
- Natural building materials
- Expansion of the mud kitchen
- Sunken tyres
- Palettes



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We would like to thank those parents/carers who were able to attend our OPAL afternoons last term, we hope you found the session beneficial to see the changes and the ethos of what OPAL is all about. The areas have also been developed with the kind donations from members of our school community. We have managed to purchase most of the items from our wish list, which was on show during the Open Afternoons. Thank you to those parents who have also provided us with further donations through Parent Pay. This is always available for any parent to contribute towards.

There were 46 parents who responded to the OPAL survey. All the results were very positive and thank you to the parents who offered suggestions for more ideas that we could integrate into our play provision. Along with the children's ideas we have now added a selection of swings, both tyre and traditional swings for the children to use. We've even purchased some battery operated traffic lights for the bike area, so the children can practise their road skills, including the use of the traffic signs. In the long term, we are hoping to add some climbing areas to challenge our more adventurous children.

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The children have fully enjoyed building pathways, castles, tunnels in the new sand pit, as well as digging and creating patterns. It has been amazing how imaginative the children have been.

Another new development this term was the purchase of a selection of wheeled toys. These have proved very popular right across the school, with some imaginative ways of using them and making them accessible for all.



We must also thank the Rangers from Royden Park for their constant supply of logs and bark. They have also been able to support us in providing information and have offered to bring in Roy the Royden Owl to provide other curricular links.

We are constantly looking at ways to improve the play for the children. If anyone has any further ideas or are able to support us in creating exciting play opportunities for all, we are always here to listen to your proposals.

Best Wishes

Gayton OPAL Play Team

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