



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

July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have now just completed the first term on our OPAL journey and we would like to share with you some of things that we have achieved so far. When we first started the children were given the full field to explore. They enjoyed going around the woodland area, finding branches and logs to make into dens, seating areas, fantasy worlds and just the pure enjoyment of carrying sticks around.



With the kind donations from our school community the play areas have started to develop. The children have spent many happy hours playing with tyres: rolling in them; balancing on them; stacking them and then playing 'Jack in the box'.

They have enjoyed playing with the crates and tarpaulin: stacking them, building dens; making assault courses; placing planks from one to another and carefully walking across. We have watched as the children have started to take controlled risks, making bridges that they have set at a height that has provided a challenge as they have crossed from one side to the other.



Headteacher: Mrs McAleny

T. 0151 342 3772 • F. 0151 342 8124

E. schooloffice@gayton.wirral.sch.uk • W. gayton.wirral.sch.uk

For those children who just love getting mucky, there is the mud kitchen, where they have created mud pies, made big muddy holes and made their own concoctions.



They have loved playing in the two kayaks that were kindly given to us. They have made up adventures as they've pretended to row away or sat in them as others have pushed the kayaks down the hill. We have already seen great examples of team building, sharing and working together.

We have recently added a water wall, using some of the pallets, gutters and pipes. It is fascinating to watch how the different ages approach this area. The F2 children have loved pouring the water, using the hand pump and watching as the water travels along the pipes and gutters. The upper juniors started off doing similar things, but quickly moved their thinking along as to how they could purify the water and created a system to see how they could achieve their goal.



They have also had great enjoyment just playing with the rubble sacks. Hiding under them and pulling the sacks as others are sat in them.

This is only the beginning of our journey and we are now ready to develop this further. We are hoping to add the following features soon:

- Build a music wall, using the pots and pans, cooling wire racks, tins, pipes and other items that have been provided.
- Create a bird hide for the children to quietly watch the birds!!
- Make game tables, using the large cable reels
- Secure the boat that we have into the ground, so the children can go on imaginary adventures.
- Create a mini golf pitch and putt, using the golf sticks donated to us.
- Create zones for the pallets and tyres to be stored
- Develop a creative area, where the children can weave, draw and create.
- We also want to establish a wheeled zone, where the children can ride on scooters and balance bikes.

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Some parents had mentioned that they would prefer to donate money to us, as they didn't have any 'loose parts' to pass on at the time. As we are now in need of scooters and balance bikes, we would prefer to purchase these, rather than have them donated, as they need be robust enough to be used constantly by the children. Therefore we would prefer to purchase them through a site recommended by the OPAL group. So if any parents would like to help us purchase these, we would gratefully appreciate your support. We will be asking for donations towards these in September 2021.

We are still also in need of the following 'loose parts'.

- Wooden spoons
- Old pots and pans
- Baking trays and utensils
- Push chairs and prams
- Binoculars
- Magnifying glasses

We are already seeing the impact on the children's play and we are only at the beginning of our journey. As the children return back to school in the autumn term, we will be asking for each child to have a pair of named wellies for them to change into. We will provide an area for them all to change and leave their shoes where they can stay dry. As an interim, the infants are going to be using the poly tunnel.

We thank you kindly for your donations so far and also in anticipation for supporting us, in taking the children's play onto the next stage of our journey.

Kind regards

Gayton Primary OPAL Play Team



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