

# OPAL Newsletter

We can't quite believe it has already been a year since we launched our OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) programme! What an incredible journey it has been. The impact of OPAL goes far beyond play. We've noticed continued growth in confidence, co-operation and problem-solving skills, alongside improved wellbeing. Children are learning to manage risks, support one another, and develop independence in a safe environment.



## An OPAL Winter

The winter term certainly brought its challenges, with colder weather and wetter conditions to contend with. However, we are proud to say that we successfully maximised the use of our field and made great use of our OPAL equipment throughout the season. The children showed fantastic resilience and enthusiasm, embracing outdoor play whatever the conditions! Even in more challenging weather, pupils continued to build, explore, and create—making the most of opportunities for den-building, imaginative play and teamwork. It has been wonderful to see how adaptable and resourceful they have become.

## Weekly Assemblies

Our weekly assemblies have become a key part of our OPAL journey. These gatherings give children the opportunity to celebrate, innovate, and negotiate, as well as reflect on their play experiences. Children are encouraged to carry out simple risk-benefit analysis, helping them to understand how to manage risks safely, while still enjoying adventurous and meaningful play. We have also introduced our weekly 'Golden Welly' and 'Golden Broom' awards to recognise children who take particular care during tidy-up time. These awards celebrate teamwork, responsibility and pride in our outdoor environment and it has been fantastic to see so many children taking ownership of keeping our play spaces safe and organised.

Haydn Road, Sherwood, Nottingham, NG5 2JU. Tel: 0115 9150193  
Email: [admin@haydn.nottingham.sch.uk](mailto:admin@haydn.nottingham.sch.uk) Visit: [www.haydn.nottingham.sch.uk](http://www.haydn.nottingham.sch.uk)

Head Teacher: Ms L Paulson

AT HAYDN WE ARE COMMITTED TO THE SAFEGUARDING AND WELFARE OF CHILDREN.  
HAYDN IS A NUT FREE SCHOOL.

## Thank you

We would also like to say a huge thank you for all the generous donations we have received so far—they have made a real difference to the quality and variety of play opportunities available to the children. We are now looking to further enhance our provision and are particularly interested in larger items such as cable reels, wooden pallets, and similar resources. If you are able to help or have access to suitable materials, please do get in touch with the school.



## Save The Date

Finally, we are delighted to invite you to our next **Stay and Play session on 11th June (2-3pm)**, celebrating 'The International Day of Play'. This day, recognised by the United Nations, highlights the importance of play in supporting children's development, wellbeing, and their fundamental right to play. We would love for families to join us and experience OPAL in action alongside the children. More information will be shared closer to the time.



## Feedback

We regularly gather feedback from the children and have a suggestion box in place so they can share their ideas and experiences. We would now really value hearing from parents and carers too. Please take a few moments to complete our feedback form—your views will help us continue to improve and develop our OPAL provision. [OPAL Feedback for Parents and Carers – Fill in form](#)

Thank you for your ongoing support in ensuring children come to school dressed appropriately for all weather conditions. Warm coats, waterproofs, and a spare set of clothes really help children make the most of their outdoor experiences. As we move into the next season, we are excited to build on this momentum and introduce even more opportunities for active, creative play.

Warm regards,

Miss Harley, Miss Higham and Miss Gilbert (The OPAL Team)