



# Spring Term OPAL Newsletter

'Be kind, be respectful, be the best that you can be'

02.04.2025

## Welcome to OPAL

Welcome to our first OPAL (outdoor play and learning) newsletter. Thankfully the rain has stopped and we are all beginning to make real use of our outdoor space. Over the last few months, everyone has been busy at Brookland Juniors. We have been working together to develop our outdoor play and learning environment for the children in our school.



## OPAL Benefits

20% of children's time in school is playtime and we want to make sure that this time (equivalent to 1.4 years of primary school) is as best as can be. At Brookland Juniors, we take pride in providing opportunities for children to learn through communication, cooperation, resilience, socialisation, imagination and creativity during their outdoor time. OPAL provisions enable children to develop independence, perseverance and communication and language skills. It also supports the stimulation of cognitive development, enhances problem solving skills and encourages creativity.

## What's new?

This term we have introduced:

- Four large tunnels on the field
- A theatre backdrop with a self made stage
- Transport artwork outside in the wheeled area
- Den making resources
- A new sensory developed gazebo area
- Tarpaulin and sleighs on the mound
- Go Karts



## OPAL Bingo

Each class has been given an OPAL Bingo sheet with lots of items to collect and bring in to school from home. When a class collects all items on their sheet, they will be awarded 15 minutes extra OPAL time. There will be an extra award for the child who collects the golden star prize, which is a suitcase! Who will our winning class will be?

## How can you help?

We are always in need of the following donations:

- Wheels (bike, tractor and car)
- Loose fabric sheets
- Gardening pots, Astroturf, bark and soil
- Plastic buckets, spades and sand toys
- Arts and crafts materials
- Musical instruments
- Small world toys (dolls, action figures and cars)
- Plastic crates
- Wooden pallets

Scooter	Plastic crate	Kitchen utensils	Suitcase
Chalk	Pair of wellies	Sheet of fabric	Dressing up costume
Cooking pan	Bucket	Toy dinosaur	Guttering
Pram	Doll	Tyre	Deck chair

