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Head teacher: Ms E Davies

03 October 2024

Dear parent/carer,

I wrote to you last week regarding Mayespark becoming an OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) school. Below is a link that will provide you with some insight as to what OPAL is all about.

www.outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk

<https://outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk/research-and-evidence/videos/>

We strongly believe that: **“Play is freely chosen, personally directed, intrinsically motivated behaviour that actively engages the child. Play can be fun or serious. Through play children explore social, material and imaginary worlds and their relationship with them, elaborating all the while a flexible range of responses to the challenges they encounter. By playing, children learn and develop as individuals, and as members of the community.”** (Children’s Play Council 2001).

We would really love for you to help through donations. We are currently collecting:

- Small world play (Duplo, action figures, Happy Land, toy cars, dolls, teddies)
- Large cardboard boxes for den building
- Dressing up clothes of all sizes
- Spare Wellies
- Tools like small spades/shovels, trowels and brooms
- Fabric (large sheets/brightly coloured fabric)

If you are willing to donate any of the above to school, please could you send them in with your child in a bag labelled ‘OPAL play – Mr Radmore’. Wellies can be placed in our donation box in the school foyer.

The sooner that we have these items, the sooner the children will be able to play with them.

Finally, you may know builders or companies who can help us out. We dream of having a giant sand pit, welly storage and other large structures for children to sit in. If you have a contact who may be willing to help us out, please speak to Mr Radmore or Mrs Davies.

Our staff are really excited for the upcoming changes and seeing the joy on the children’s faces as they play in new ways!

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr L Radmore

Assistant Headteacher

