



# Riverside Primary School

Ferry Road, Hullbridge, Hockley, Essex, SS5 6ND

**Headteacher:** Mrs Claire Smith

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Friday 12th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we move into the wetter and colder months, we want to make sure all children can continue to enjoy our OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) areas safely and comfortably.

Many of our OPAL zones, including the *mud kitchen* and grassed areas, can get quite muddy when it rains — and we want every child to be able to take part in play across all zones, whatever the weather!

Please could you help by ensuring your child has:

- **A warm, waterproof coat** for outdoor play every day
- **A pair of wellies** clearly **named**. We will store these in storage boxes for easy access at playtimes. **Please start bringing your wellies into school!**
- If you have any pre-loved wellies, please leave these at the main office and we can distribute them as needed for those children who may not have a pair.
- As children may be removing their shoes to wear their wellies, please ensure that their school shoes are clearly named.

Please note: if your child does not have wellies, they may be unable to access some of the muddier OPAL areas when the weather is wet.

The children have had a fantastic start to the year with OPAL. Highlights include:

- Our new **Playleader Team**, who are doing a brilliant job leading and organising games
- The **Golden Welly Award**, which is helping improve behaviour and tidy-up routines
- The reopening of the **sandpit**, now on a class rota, with special access for Golden Welly winners each Friday
- Exciting new developments such as our **OPAL Hub**, a dedicated space for resources and play equipment

We're really proud of how enthusiastically the children have embraced OPAL play, and we're looking forward to another fun-filled term outdoors — come rain or shine!

Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep playtimes active, creative and enjoyable for everyone.

Mrs Sarah Chandler

Miss Sally Jackson

Mrs Michelle Lobb



Artsmark  
Silver Award  
Awarded by Arts  
Council England

