



Riverside Primary School

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Monday 21st September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

EYFS - Year 6

Celebrating Play at Our School: An OPAL Update for Families

It was an absolute pleasure to see so many of you come and visit our school to see our playtime provision in action! We were delighted to share with you how our pupils spend their playtimes and to showcase the wonderful opportunities they have to explore, create, and play together.

As a school, we are firmly committed to ensuring that all of our children enjoy high-quality play every single day. Through the OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) approach, play is recognised not just as a break from academic work, but as a crucial part of every child's health, well-being, and development.

The Benefits of OPAL Play

Daily high-quality outdoor play provides rich opportunities for our children, including:

- **Physical Health & Fitness:** Building motor skills, stamina, and physical strength through active exploration.
- **Emotional Well-being:** Reducing stress, boosting confidence, and supporting mental resilience.
- **Social Development:** Developing teamwork, cooperation, negotiation, and friendship across different year groups.
- **Creativity & Problem-Solving:** Encouraging imaginative play, curiosity, and critical thinking using varied resources and open spaces.
- **Enhanced Learning:** Returning to the classroom refreshed, focused, and ready to learn.

Preparing for Autumn & Winter Weather

As the wetter and colder weather approaches, we remain committed to outdoor play in all seasons! To make sure your child can continue to enjoy our outdoor provision comfortably, please ensure they have the following in school every day:

- **A Waterproof Coat with a Hood:** To keep dry during rain and drizzle.
- **Wellington Boots (Wellies):** Essential for playing on the grass, mud, and field areas during wet weather.
- **A Spare Pair of Socks or Tights:** We strongly encourage every child to keep a spare pair of socks or tights in their bag or on their peg. Even with great footwear, splashy play happens, and a fresh pair of socks keeps children warm and dry back in the classroom!

Please ensure that all coats, wellies, and clothing items are clearly labelled with your child's name.

We Value Your Feedback & Ideas

To help us continually improve our playtimes, we would love to gather your views:

- **Parent Survey:** We have created a [short survey](#) and would be very grateful if you could take a few moments to complete it to share your feedback on our current playtime provision.
- **New Website Page:** We have launched a dedicated OPAL section on our school website where you can find more detailed information about our play commitments, guidelines, and updates.
- **Share Your Ideas:** Within the survey and on our new website page, there is an opportunity for parents to share your thoughts, feedback, and future ideas for our play spaces. We welcome any suggestions or offers of support as we continue to develop our outdoor environment.

Thank you once again for your enthusiastic support during our open session and for your ongoing partnership in making playtime a joyful, enriching part of the school day.

Warm regards,

