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18th April 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

OPAL Play

We are very excited to have started our OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) journey in the past week. Mrs Preston, Mrs Coates and myself have attended a meeting where we undertook an audit with our OPAL worker and now have an action plan and lots of ideas about how we can improve the play opportunities for the children at Swanland School.

Also, here is a [video](#) which shows what one school has implemented.

We will be sending out a survey to get your views on the opportunities for play at school and home.

We have funded the first part of this journey with money from our Sports Premium budget along with a very generous donation of £5000 from the PTA, this will go towards buying some essential items such as appropriate storage and larger equipment.

We have received many amazing items that we requested last term, and these have enhanced the playtimes already including items from our Amazon Wishlist, a blue tooth speaker, a mud kitchen, scooters and skateboards, drainpipes, pallets, tyres and more. Thank you.

We are hoping that some of the families at home would like to support us by donating any of the items below? We aren't looking for anything new in the list below, rather, items that you have at home that are unwanted, outgrown or unused. If you can assist at all, we would really appreciate any donations as these items will help us to continue to improve play:

- old wheely suitcases (any size– broken zips are fine)
- off cuts of astroturf/ artificial grass
- pots, pans and kitchen utensils (whisks, wooden spoons, plastic plates and cups) for mud kitchen
- small planks of decking board
- plastic toy tea sets
- toy cars/lorries etc
- milk crates
- small world toys (small characters, animal etc toys that encourage creative play)
- scooters, skateboards, trikes, balance bikes and diggers
- wooden logs that children can sit on or build dens with
- any items that would help with den building
- cushions and teddies
- dressing up clothes (this can include hats, sunglasses, scarves as well as any outgrown fancy dress items you have)
- or you might have ideas of other similar things that your children used to play with but have perhaps grown out of.

PTO

We would also love to do some of the things in the videos like have a giant sandpit and play/summer houses and shelters for children to play in as well as big sheds for storage, but this will take a bit more fund-raising and time.

Find out more about what OPAL is by [clicking here](#).

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "HStephenson".

Hannah Stephenson
Head Teacher