

BIG FUN, BIG ADVENTURES!

Introducing OPAL Playtimes at Woodlands Academy of Learning

Dear Parents and Carers,

We're getting ready for a new kind of lunchtime! We're really excited to be introducing **OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning)** at Woodlands. OPAL helps children enjoy more active, creative and adventurous play with their friends.



□ Why is play so important?



Play is much more than a break from learning. It helps children to:

- □ Be active, explore and build confidence
- □ Make friends, share ideas and work together
- □ Use their imagination and get creative
- □ Develop independence, resilience and problem-solving skills
- □ Have fun and enjoy coming to school

□ What will playtimes look like?

Children will have more opportunities to explore our outdoor spaces and choose how, where and with whom they play. This may include using a wider range of play resources, trying new activities and getting a little muddier along the way!

Children may experience new challenges and greater freedom to lead their own play. Staff will carefully consider risks and benefits so that play is as safe as possible, while still allowing children to explore, learn and grow.

□ A little help from home



As our OPAL adventure develops, we will be asking families to donate suitable play resources. Take a look at the poster overleaf that has a list of requested items. If you are having a clear out over the half term holiday please bring clean and safe (no broken items please) items from the list to school, during the first week back. Collection point will be the back left side of KS1 playground.

□ Be part of our OPAL journey

- **Over the coming months, we'll share updates and invite you to events where you can see our new play opportunities in action.** We hope you'll join us in making playtimes happier, more active and full of imagination.

Want to find out more? Visit **www.outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk** for information and videos about OPAL.

Thank you for your support. We can't wait to see our children learning, exploring and having fun together!



Best wishes,
Mrs T Newton
Headteacher
Ms A Campbell – OPAL Mentor