



'to ensure that every child has an amazing playtime every day with no exceptions'. (OPAL CIC)



July 2023

Welcome to our first Opal newsletter!

Anyone entering the East Wing playground, will have noticed many changes over the course of the last year or so and we hope that your children have come home with positive stories to tell of their playtime adventures. Read on to find out more about Opal within our school and ways you can help to support ongoing and future projects.

### Play Assemblies

Regular play assemblies, lead by Mrs Carter and Mrs Kelly, provide an opportunity for all children in Reception to Year Two to share their successes and ideas for play and to collaboratively decide 'rules' for using the different areas safely, considering the potential risks and how to reduce these. The children amaze us with their ability to do this and agree on rules, which they remind each other of when needed outside. These 'rules' are revisited and revised as needed.

### Play areas so far

Staff and members of our local community have worked together to create different areas for the children to play creatively in and we are extremely grateful to all those who have donated items for these areas, supported our cake sales and made resources for us. Thank you from everyone here at Pickering Infant and Nursery School. The children love the different opportunities to develop their play, and playtimes have changed greatly through having these.



### Next steps

The children are always involved in the decision making for new areas. Year Two children wrote letters requesting a mud kitchen, stage area, construction area and wildflower area. These are now in place or part of an ongoing project. Their next wishes are for a larger sandpit area and more small world spaces. They have also asked for opportunities to share their play adventures with families so watch this space in Autumn Term for news on this!

### Your ongoing support—thank you!

There are often things we are looking for to develop play opportunities for the children so please do keep looking on the newsletters and social media for items we are needing. We would also appreciate help with our bigger projects so if you have a skill or interest you think could help us, please do let us know. There will be 'project days' coming up when we will ask for help with projects so please do volunteer some time if you can. Finally, we would like to hear your views about OPAL play at school and ask that you complete the survey that will be sent out with this newsletter.