

Autumn Term Review 2025

Welcome to our first Opal newsletter of this school year, reviewing latest additions and changes to our Opal provision and sharing next steps with our school community. The weather has been challenging at times, but we have been outside every day possible, hence the importance of your child having appropriate wellies and coat, gloves, hat and spare socks in school.

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. This year, we have introduced class books to enable staff to share 'rules' and play assembly notes with the children in classes and introduce new members of our school community to them when joining us.

Area updates

The children returned to school in September to find a few changes had taken place in our outdoor area and were very grateful to the group of staff and volunteers who had given their time to improve opportunities outside. The mud kitchen moved from the bottom of the trim trail to the top and improved surface cover was put down, making the area more accessible and larger. The addition of new shelving and seating added to the improvements. The trim trail's woodchip was replaced along with new edging being put in, and the area under the birch tree was left for grass. In September, rollover bars were installed—a huge thank you to Mr Eddon, Mr Kelly and the staff who made all of these changes and additions happen!



Other news

The first stay and play of the year gave families the opportunity to find out more about what goes on at school during play and lunchtimes and much fun was had by all who attended while exploring the areas and playing together. Our Open Evening provided an opportunity for new and prospective families to experience our outdoor provision, with many positive comments being shared. Thank you to all those who attended both events and we look forward to the next one.

Your ongoing support—thank you!

Play can be messy! We appreciate your support in providing children with appropriate clothing and footwear, and for your understanding when they do come home rather messy. Children spend a lot of time creating their own structures with the loose parts and, to maximise play opportunities, these are often left out during the week—this is not because we don't care, it is quite the opposite and helps the children have time to go back and change their den or vehicle, continue to cook the family meal, or whatever it is they are doing on a later occasion. We look forward to seeing many more wonderful creations!