

OPAL Play – Getting Ready for Outdoor Play!

As we continue to develop our OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) provision, we are opening up even more exciting areas of our school grounds for the children to enjoy. As the weather changes, children will need the right footwear and clothing to be able to access all the different OPAL activities.

We want to make it clear that you do not need to provide all of the items below. Children will always have a range of play opportunities available to them. ***However, some areas and activities require particular footwear for children to use them safely and without ruining their school shoes. If your child would like to access these areas, they will need the appropriate footwear.***

Wellies – for muddier areas

Children will need to wear wellies if they want to play in:

- the sandpit
- the woodland
- the forest areas, including the mud kitchen

If your child would like to use these areas, please send in a pair of wellies that can stay at school so they are always available when needed.

Outdoor trainers for football

As we move into autumn and winter, the grass will become softer and muddier. Children who would like to continue playing football on the grass will need a pair of outdoor trainers that you are happy to get wet and muddy. These should be separate from their school shoes and PE/sports trainers. For safety reasons, we will not be allowing football boots for OPAL play. Again, children do not have to bring outdoor trainers – they are only needed if they want to play football when the ground conditions mean school shoes are unsuitable.

Waterproofs

OPAL means making the most of outdoor play throughout the year, including when the weather is a little wetter! Now would be a good time to consider whether your child needs a more waterproof coat. Alternatively, you may wish to provide a lightweight waterproof jacket or waterproof layer that can simply be slipped over their normal school coat. This can be kept at school in their locker, ready for wet days.

Can you help our new areas?

We are very excited to be opening our sandpit, forest and digging areas, including our new mud kitchen. We would really appreciate donations of any unwanted items that could be used for imaginative outdoor play, such as old pots and pans, baking trays, mixing bowls, wooden or metal spoons, ladles, whisks, jugs, measuring cups, sieves, colanders, funnels, buckets, spades, watering cans and sturdy toy diggers or trucks.

Having the right clothing and footwear means we can say **"yes" to more play**, even when things get a little wet and muddy!

Thank you for your continued support as we develop OPAL at Chadsmead.



Mrs Grainger
Headteacher