



September 2024

## OPAL Play at Godinton



Welcome back to Godinton and the start of our Opal Play journey! I hope you've all had a lovely summer. I've certainly enjoyed catching up with all the children and hearing all about their summer adventures. My first newsletter to you was just before the summer holidays and I promised you lots of exciting things ahead through our new Opal Play programme. It may look like nothing has started since we returned to school, but trust me, it's been busy busy busy! We have been busy sorting all your wonderful goodies from our first donation day. The Opal Working Party members have been working through our various training courses so we can deliver Opal to the highest possible standards. We've had our grounds meeting with our wonderfully supportive Opal Mentor where we've planned so many different zones of play to develop over the next 2 years. We've had a full staff Twilight meeting where our Opal Mentor explained the whole process and its amazing benefits, to all our teachers, teaching assistants and support staff. We've created our Opal Action Plan, which makes up the strategic plan for implementation and will be followed over the entire 2 year programme. We have a beautiful new section of grass growing under our big tree between the playground and the field which, once settled, will be made into a new zone called Festival Corner. We have set up our



very first Play Zone - Fairground Games - which the children are already enjoying. And finally, our fabulous Site Manager, Mr Rowson, has been exceptionally busy building wooden welly racks for over 400 children to keep their boots safe and shoes dry - and believe me, that's a lot of feet and a lot of wood!

Speaking of wellies, we are approaching that season where the rain will become our "best friend" and having wellies at school will be essential for all children and staff. Look out for a Parentmail detailing when to start sending your child in with wellies that they can leave at school. Waterproof coats, waterproof trousers or a waterproof all-in-one will also become an essential part of uniform for Opal, so please ensure your child is equipped for all elements .... and possibly a bit of mud.



We will be organising another donation day shortly, so again look out for a Parentmail with full details. This time we will be collecting donations over a whole week during the mornings only, and boxes will be left in Donation Corner like last time for anything you can provide. We will be looking to develop our Small World zone, so will be looking for plastic figures, farm animals, dinosaurs, cars (but please ensure they aren't broken/flaky as this can cause safety issues), and Happyland style toys. Nothing fluffy or fabric please - everything needs to be weather resistant. So look out for details of when you can start dropping things off.

Any painters out there?, Miss Talbot and Mrs Partridge and I will be painting/glamming up some of our existing wooden structures to add a bit of colour and fun to the play zones. If anyone is free on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September at 9am until 11.30am and willing to lend a hand, please email me on our Opal email address [opal@godinton.kent.sch.uk](mailto:opal@godinton.kent.sch.uk) Any help will be very gratefully received.

So, as you can see, Opal is well underway at Godinton. We are keeping the children updated through regular assemblies and I promise we will keep you all updated too. If you have any questions or queries, feel free to drop me an email.

Thank you as always for your continued support and we look forward to sharing more zones and fun lunchtimes with your children over the coming months.

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Opal Play Coordinator  
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## We've been having fun!

