



July 2025

OPAL Play at Godinton

What a fabulous year!



Wow! What a year we have had introducing Opal at Godinton! It has been crazy, it has been manic, it has been messy, it has been busy busy busy, but most of all, it has been full of smiles and laughter and very happy children. When we started this scheme back in September 2024 we didn't really know what to expect; I certainly was taking on a role no one really knew much about and had to learn on the job what we needed and what was necessary. But step by step with the help of our wonderful children, our fantastic Outdoor Play Team, our truly amazing Site Manager, our wonderfully supportive school team, and the help and support we have had from parents and local businesses, we have got there - year 1 of Opal Play has been a huge success!

We have opened lots of different areas which are designed to spark imagination into every child no matter what they wish to play with. We have chilling areas, music, art, digging, mud kitchen, dressing up, water play, large games, scooters, basketball, low level den building, upper school den building, sandpit, marble run, space hoppers, dolls and prams, small world, football, frizbees, skipping ropes, tennis, construction areas, chalk, a woodland area to run through, and lots and lots of tyres, cones, builders bags, pipes etc that the children can use however they want - the only limit to play is their imagination.

It truly is wonderful (and noisy!) out there at lunchtimes and we have had lots of feedback from the children about how much fun it is at lunchtime, how much they enjoy playing in different areas and how they have been making different friends depending on where they play.

Lunch Swaps

We have introduced Lunch Swaps so that all year groups get an opportunity to play together sometimes. As we have staggered lunchtimes Lower and Upper School children do not get to play with each other therefore Upper School Lunch Swap was the perfect way to ensure that every two weeks the older children get the opportunity to play with the younger children and it is going down brilliantly! The younger children love having the bigger ones outside to play with (and chase!) and the older children love seeing their younger siblings and looking after the smaller children. Opal really is bringing the whole school community together.

Wellies

As always, with anything new, we have a few things that we want to "tweak" to make lunchtimes an even better experience for your children. From September we are changing our Red, Yellow, Green Welly Days

meanings slightly. Red Welly will remain field closed - playground only. Green Welly will remain you can play anywhere - no wellies needed. But Yellow Welly Day will now mean **everyone** needs to put on wellies whether they are on the field or playground. This will hopefully encourage more children onto the field during all weathers and give them more space to play. It will also mean expensive school shoes won't get as wet and muddy. [So can you please ensure that your children return to school in September with Welly Boots to use at Lunchtimes - many thanks.](#) All wellies will be sent home with children from Monday 21st July 2025.

Opal Play - Parent invite

So, as you can tell from the above and the various newsletters you have had from either myself or Miss Talbot over the last year, we love Opal at Godinton! I have been told by many parents who have spoken to me at school functions or when I leave school each day, that their children really enjoy their lunchtimes. Early next academic year, we will be inviting parents to join us for an Opal Lunch Play so you can see exactly what your children get up to at lunchtimes. Look out for more details next term with details of dates and times.

Donations

As always, we wouldn't be half as successful without the kind donations we have received from parents, friends of the school and the local community and businesses. We continue to seek donations and ask that if you are getting rid of anything that you think may be of use to us, you email me. You would be amazed what we can make use of! Attached to this letter is a current list of what we are looking for from September onwards, so if you come across any over the summer break, please think about donating to us, we would be very grateful.

Photos

'A picture is worth a thousand words' - take a look at the next page which shows just how much fun our children are having at lunchtime.

All that is left for me to say is thank you for your continue support, it is very much appreciated, and I wish you and your families a wonderful summer break. See you in September.

Mrs Karen Carr

Opal Play Co-ordinator

Opal@godinton.kent.sch.uk

A big thank you to the following amazing companies for their kind donations and support:
HiQ Tyres and Autocare, WBM Scaffolding, Willow Plumbs of Aylesford, Plumb Centre, Kier Transportation,
Iceland Store Ashford High Street, Singleton Environment Centre, Think Expo Logistics.



WE NEED YOUR HELP

As the summer break arrives, many of us use it as the perfect time for a clear out at home. Please bear us in mind if you happen to come across any of the following items during the summer break that you are happy to donate. Donations can be left outside Reception.

Tarpaulin

Cable Drums - large and small (not cardboard)

Milk Crates/Bread Baskets

Kitchen Utensils (spoons/ladles/spatulas etc)

Good condition Dolls and Dolls Prams

Telephones, mobiles, keyboards, old hand held computer games and joysticks

Hairdryers, curling tongs, straighteners

Small World toys and small cars

Unwanted children's comics or magazines

Dressing up clothing (outfits or old clothes such as blazers, hats, wigs, tutu
Hawaiian shirts etc)

Unwanted loomband packs/sets

Pool Noodles

Hard Suitcases on wheels

If you have any queries or to arrange delivery of bigger items, please contact Mrs Carr on
opal@godinton.sch.kent.uk

Many thanks for your continued help and support.

