

Dear Beacon View Families,

We are excited to launch a new project to make our playtimes even better, in conjunction with Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) CIC.

We all strongly believe that: **“Play is freely chosen, personally directed, intrinsically motivated behaviour that actively engages the child. Play can be fun or serious. Through play children explore social, material and imaginary worlds and their relationship with them, elaborating all the while a flexible range of responses to the challenges they encounter. By playing, children learn and develop as individuals, and as members of the community.”** (Children’s Play Council 2001).



Due to COVID and other reasons, many children have missed out on developing their independent play skills, we hope to support them in developing these. The project has already started, and we hope to start implementing the activities after May half term. We believe it will change the way we think and how we play together. To facilitate this project, we will need to buy some new resources, move some things around on the playground and require some loose parts. Loose parts are any materials that can be easily moved, combined, and incorporated into children's free play. The items we are looking for will enable us to enjoy a wider range of play experiences during playtime (see below for some examples):



Principal: Mrs S Hodgson

We are going to start collecting these items immediately. You can drop them off in the palletted off area, next to the outdoor toilet block. If objects are really large, such as wooden pallets, we will ensure that there is someone available to help you carry them into school, just let a member of the team on the gates know when you are coming – drop off would ideally be at the end of the school day for large items.

In 2018, OPAL won the best active schools' programme in Europe award and has been cited in two parliamentary reports as delivering outstanding practice. OPAL is working closely with Sport England to promote more active childhoods, which is one of the many reasons we are improving our playtime, as well as to improve opportunities for socialisation, cooperation, coordination, resilience, creativity, imagination and enjoyment for your child. We are excited to be able to develop their work at Beacon View for the benefit of our children and families.

There will be more information to follow at a parent/carer's session later in the year when you will be invited to come and explore the stage one resources with your children. We are really excited about this project and hope that you will support us in our efforts to improve play time for all children.

If you would like further information, feel free to explore their website <https://outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk/> and if you would like to be involved, please speak to a member of the leadership team.

Yours sincerely



Sally Hodgson
Principal



Rachel Jones
VP: Safeguarding
OPAL Lead