



COMMENTS

PARENT COMMENTS

MY CHILD IS SLEEPING BETTER / MY CHILD HAS A BROADER IMAGINATION / MIXING YEAR GROUPS IN PLAY IS HEALTHY / OPAL IS GREAT! / MY SON LOVES OPAL AND IS ALWAYS TELLING ME ABOUT IT AND WHAT NEW THINGS ARE COMING, WE NOW SPEND A LOT MORE TIME OUTSIDE AS A FAMILY / WOULD BE GOOD IF WE COULD SHARE ANOTHER EXPERIENCE WITH YOU AGAIN !/
 MY CHILD IS MORE RESILIENT AT HOME/ I HAVE EVEN NOTICED THIS IN OUT OF SCHOOL CLUBS.

PUPIL COMMENTS

THIS IS WAY BETTER THAN FOOTBALL!
 OPAL IS THE BEST!
 I LOVE OPAL!

I AM SO LUCKY TO COME TO THIS SCHOOL
 I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE! (YEAR 6 LEAVER)

STAFF COMMENTS:

THE CHILDREN ARE EVEN MORE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT GETTING OUT TO PLAY/
 THERE IS LESS CONFLICT BETWEEN CHILDREN AND A LARGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN ARE ABLE TO SELF REGULATE WHEN THERE ARE ISSUES BETWEEN THEIR PEER GROUP/
 A CHILD WAS WEARING A HEAD BAND, WHEN I NOTICED IT I SAID HOW LOVELY IT LOOKED. SHE TOLD ME SHE HAD MADE IT IN THE CREATION STATION AT LUNCH TIME AND SHOWED ME HOW IT COULD ALSO BE TRANSFORMED INTO A NECKLACE WHICH I THOUGHT WAS FANTASTIC /
 I HAVE NOTICED A DECREASE IN CHILDREN BEING RELUCTANT TO GO OUTSIDE OR SAYING THEY ARE BORED /
 THERE IS NO MORE DAWDLING IN CORRIDORS AND AVOIDING THE OUTDOORS/
 ALL CHILDREN ARE HIGHLY ENGAGED AND I HAVE NOTICED CONVERSATIONS WHICH INVOLVE PROBLEM SOLVING/ HOW AMAZING IT WAS TO SEE THE CHILDREN HAVING SO MUCH FUN TODAY. KNOWING IT IS GOING TO BE LIKE THIS EVERYDAY IS BEYOND WORDS / THERE IS DEFINITELY A DECREASE IN FIRST AID INCIDENTS



WHAT DO WE HAVE IN OUR PLAYGROUND SO FAR?

ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND WITH STAGE AND DRESSING UP
 DIGGING PIT
 MUD KITCHEN
 CREATIVE STATION
 SAND PIT
 DEN BUILDING
 SMALL WORLD AREAS INCLUDING DINASAURS AND CARS
 LEGO AREA
 WATER PLAY
 WHEELED TOYS WHERE CHILDREN ARE ENCOURAGED TO BRING IN THEIR OWN SCOOTERS TO RIDE PLUS MUCH MORE ON THE WAY...

WHAT'S NEXT?

LAUNCH 2 IS THE BIGGEST NEXT STEP. MANY RESOURCES IN THE OPAL SHED ARE READY. IDEAS IN THE PLAN INCLUDE:
 MORE WHEELED ITEMS, BIGGER AND BETTER MUD KITCHEN.
 MORE QUIETER SOCIAL SPACES TO BE INCLUDED IN PLAYGROUND.
 BOAT TO BE OPENED.
 TREE SWINGS AND CLIMBING TO BE INTRODUCED
 BIGGER AND BETTER DEN BUILDING
 HILLS AND TOPOGRAPHY ON THE SCHOOL FIELD
 NEW AND IMPROVED WATER PLAY
 MORE RESOURCES IN THE CREATIVE STATION
 FUNDRAISER TO BE LAUNCHED TO RAISE MONEY FOR MORE OPAL RESOURCES.
 DEVELOPING ASSEMBLIES SO THAT THE CHILDREN ARE HEAVILY INVOLVED WITH THE PLANNING.
 PLAY LEADS TO VISIT OTHER OPAL SCHOOL FOR IDEAS AND INSPIRATION
 CHILDREN TO WRITE THEIR OWN REPORTS ON OPAL - AFTER LAUNCH 2

PLEASE KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR REGULAR OPAL UPDATES AND CELEBRATIONS OF AMAZING PLAY IN OUR SCHOOL NEWSLETTERS



OPAL



AT BEAUPRE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL



WHAT IS OPAL?

OUTDOOR PLAY AND LEARNING (OPAL) IS A RESEARCH-BACKED INITIATIVE THAT INTEGRATES OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES INTO THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM. IT PRIORITISES PLAY AS A CRITICAL ASPECT OF CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENT, ENHANCING CREATIVITY, PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS, TEAMWORK AND PHYSICAL WELL-BEING. OPAL ISN'T JUST ABOUT PLAYING OUTSIDE; IT'S ABOUT USING THE OUTDOORS AS A DYNAMIC CLASSROOM WHERE LESSONS COME TO LIFE.

WHY DO WE BELIEVE IN OPAL?

WE BELIEVE THAT CHILDREN LEARN BEST WHEN THEY ARE ACTIVE, ENGAGED, AND INSPIRED BY THE WORLD AROUND THEM. THAT'S WHY WE'VE EMBRACED OPAL AS A CORNERSTONE OF OUR EDUCATIONAL APPROACH. THROUGH OPAL, WE CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR PUPILS TO EXPLORE, DISCOVER, AND GROW IN A NATURAL ENVIRONMENT, FOSTERING A LIFELONG LOVE OF LEARNING.

HOW IT BEGAN

WE BELIEVED STRONGLY ABOUT GATHERING THE VIEWS FROM EVERYONE ABOUT OUR PLAYTIMES SO WE CONDUCTED MANY BASELINE SURVEYS TO ENSURE OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY BELIEVED IN THE SAME THINGS.

FOLLOWING PARENT SURVEYS, WE NOTED THE FOLLOWING:

- 100% FELT LUNCHTIMES WERE VERY OR EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
 - 80% BELIEVED OUR CHILDREN HAD SOME OR VERY LOW RESILIENCE
 - 100% BELIEVED OUR PLAYTIMES WERE AVERAGE FOR OVERALL HAPPINESS OF OUR CHILDREN
 - OVER HALF OF OUR FAMILIES PLAYED OUTSIDE AS LITTLE AS ONCE PER WEEK TO ONCE PER MONTH
 - WHEN ASKING OUR PARENTS ABOUT HOW THEY FEEL ABOUT BEING MUCKY AND COMING HOME WITH DIRTY CLOTHES THROUGH PLAY, 100% OF A PARENTS SAID THEY AGREED THAT CHILDREN SHOULD BE GETTING DIRTY IF APPROPRIATE.
 - THE MAJORITY OF OUR CHILDREN OWN A RAINCOAT BUT WE PLANNED TO HAVE SPARE FOR THOSE WHO DIDN'T TO ENSURE ACCESS FOR ALL.
 - 100% OF OUR PARENTS WHO FILLED IN THE SURVEY DID NOT HAVE ANY ISSUES WITH MINOR ACCIDENTS
- THE RESULTS SUPPORTED OUR VISION - OUR PARENTS BELIEVED IN THIS AS MUCH AS WE DID, SO WE DECIDED TO GO AHEAD.



HOW DO WE MANAGE RISK?

- WE HAVE MANY FORMS OF RISK ASSESSMENTS FOR OUR OUTDOOR PLAY, AS WELL AS OUR RISK BENEFIT FORMS FOR EACH PLAY ZONE.
- THE MOST IMPORTANT TYPE OF RISK ASSESSMENT IS OUR REGULAR OPAL ASSEMBLIES WITH ALL CHILDREN AND SHARED WITH STAFF. THESE ASSEMBLIES ARE VERY INTERACTIVE AND CHILDREN ARE INVOLVED WITH ALL ASPECTS AND WE DISCUSS RISK
- WEEKLY MEETINGS WITH OUR PLAY TEAMS TO DISCUSS THE WEEK ARE HELD EVERY FRIDAY.
- WHEN SOMETHING NEW IS INTRODUCED, IT IS SHARED AND DISCUSSED WITH STAFF AND IN OUR ASSEMBLY AND SHARED WITH ALL
- HALF TERMLY MEETINGS TAKE PLACE WITH THE CURRICULAR PLAY LEAD AND ALL OF THE PLAY TEAM. RISK BENEFIT IS THE KEY FOCUS FOR EVERY MEETING.
- FIRST AID INCIDENTS ARE REGULARLY MONITORED AND INTERVENTIONS IN PLACE WHEN NEEDED.
- ZONES HAVE BEEN RESHUFFLED A FEW TIMES TO ENSURE THE BEST SUPERVISION AT ALL TIMES.

HOW IS OPAL MONITORED?

- WE HAVE REGULAR VISITS FROM OUR OPAL MENTOR: GEORGIE, WHO PROVIDES STAFF WITH ALL THE RELEVANT TRAINING, IDEAS AND SUPPORT.
- AS WELL AS ALL THE MEETINGS THAT TAKE PLACE TO MANAGE RISK, THE PLAY LEAD AND CURRICULAR LEAD DISCUSS OPAL VERY REGULARLY.
- THE CURRICULAR LEAD OBSERVES THE PLAYGROUND PER HALF TERM.
- HALF TERMLY MEETINGS ARE HELD WITH ALL OPAL STAFF AND THE CURRICULUM LEAD.
- GOVERNOR VISITS AND MEETING WITH THE CURRICULAR LEAD AND HOLDS US TO ACCOUNT.



YOUR VIEWS MATTER!

PUPIL SURVEYS

86% OF OUR CHILDREN NOW ENJOY THEIR PLAYTIMES!

CHILDREN'S VOICE IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT AND WE HAVE ASKED FOR THEIR IDEAS EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.

WHAT YOU WANTED AND WE LISTENED:

ADVENTURE NOW OPEN WHEN STAFFING ALLOWS / DEN BUILDING / TRACK, SCOOTERS AND GO KARTS / DRESSING UP / SANDPIT / STAGE / SKIPPING ROPES / GYMNASTICS EQUIPMENT / FOOTBALL PITCH / OBSTACLE COURSES / SMALL WORLD PLAY

WHAT YOU WANTED AND CURRENTLY BEING LOOKED INTO:

TRAMPOLINE / TREE CLIMBING / ZIP LINE / WATER GUNS / SWINGS

PARENT SURVEYS

100% SAY THEIR CHILD ENJOYS BEING OUTSIDE AS PART OF OPAL
100% SAY THAT THE OPPORTUNITIES WE HAVE PROVIDED HAVE POSITIVELY IMPACTED THEIR CHILD'S WELL-BEING
100% BELIEVE THE OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENT ENCOURAGES THEIR CHILDREN TO BE PHYSICALLY ACTIVE

STAFF SURVEYS

100% THINK THE PLAY RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT ARE INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE TO ALL PUPILS.

85% BELIEVE CHILDREN RETURN TO CLASS READY FOR LEARNING
85% THINK THAT OPAL SUPPORTS PUPIL'S SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

85% THINK OPAL CONTRIBUTES TO REDUCING BEHAVIORAL INCIDENTS

