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OPAL - WE NEED YOUR HELP to create better playtimes!

Loose Parts Collection Week: Monday 21st October to Friday 25th October 2024

Dear parents,

The children are all extremely excited about our new playground project. As mentioned in the OPAL launch letter sent out at the start of the programme, we will be collecting loose parts for children to play with every morning next week. 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):

- Suitcases of any size and type
- Anything on wheels/castors (scooters, trikes, go-karts, dollies for moving heavy objects)
- Plastic milk crates/supermarket delivery crates/plastic bread trays
- Briefcases, especially hard cased ones
- Road signs and cones
- Kitchen pots, pans, baking trays, work tables, wooden spoons, chopping boards
- Tools like small spades/shovels, trowels and brooms
- Tubes of various sizes and various materials
- Buckets
- Nets and thick ropes
- Keyboards/torches/laptops/calculators/mobile phones/desk phones/webcams/cameras that are no longer working
- Fabric (large sheets/brightly coloured fabric)
- Foam sheets/bodyboards/camping roll mats/yoga mats
- Wooden or plastic pallets
- Metal frames
- Cable drums
- Guttering
- Noodles (the type you use in the swimming pool!)
- Fancy dress costumes: Hats/scarves/jazzy shirts/elasticated skirts/waistcoats/wedding dresses/character costumes
- Pegs (to help to set up dens)
- Tarpaulins for den building
- Giant outdoor board games.
- Small world items (such as: farm animals, figures, mini cars, dinosaurs, dolls that children can role play with.)

We are also looking for donations of larger objects or sponsorships to help us implement OPAL effectively across our school. For example:

- sheds or outbuildings for storage or role play buildings (shops, cafes, outdoor libraries, etc..)
- building materials to begin to start creating outdoor storage for wellies and equipment
- playhouses
- tyres
- large cable reels
- unwanted garden pavers or sleepers
- old boats, caravans, event shelters or anything that you think children may enjoy playing in, on or will inspire imaginative, creative play!

If you have any items to donate, they will need to be brought to the main gate to the school site near the flagpole. Staff will be on the main gate and will direct you to where the items need to be left. Please bring your items in between 8:30am and 9:00am any morning next week (**week beginning Monday 21st October 2024**). If objects are really large, such as wooden pallets, we will ensure that there is someone available to help you carry them into school.

Please, once again, share this letter far and wide with any local businesses or family members who you think may be able to help the school with donations or developing and creating areas for play. The wider we can share this information and receive donations, the more imaginative and creative play opportunities we can provide to our children. If they are able to help, they can contact the school office by calling 01430 873338 or by emailing mountpleasant.juniors@eastriding.gov.uk . If you can help in any way, please contact the school to speak to a member of staff.

As previously mentioned, there will be more information to follow at a parent's session later in the year when you will be invited to come and play with your children. We are really excited about this project and hope that you will support us in our efforts to improve playtime for all children.

Thank you for your continued support with our OPAL Primary Programme. We look forward to sharing more of what we have been getting up to at playtimes very soon.

Yours sincerely,



Mr D Sage
Deputy Headteacher
Mount Pleasant CE VC Junior School