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January, 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

OPAL Update

I am writing to provide you with an update on our OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) initiative at Mount Pleasant CE VC Junior School.

As of Monday 27th January, the pupils will have access to the activities they have been participating in during our Free-choice Fridays. Children will be able to move freely between both playgrounds and access any of the equipment that has been placed for them to use. This will continue as our approach for playtimes. Pupils will need to continue to bring in wellies if they want to access any of the site that is not on the playgrounds. A number of Year 5 and 6 pupils have created willow structures to provide social spaces and quieter areas for children to play in.

We appreciate that at the moment, the children are very keen and are getting stuck into the mud, literally! This will settle and will also improve once we secure our wellie storage. I appreciate that at the moment, children's uniforms are coming home dirtier BUT please rest assured that they are having excellent playtimes. We accept that children may come to school in less than a tidy uniform, and we do not expect it to be washed every day. As a school, we acknowledge that play is noisy, adventurous, creative and messy! We are going to be considering our uniform policy to ensure that it is fit for purpose to allow the children the best chance to play.

Over the coming weeks, months and years, we will introduce new areas, equipment and refresh the offer that is available to them. Any new activities will be introduced to the pupils through our Play Worships before it has been placed outside for the children to use. Please see some of the photos from our recent play times by visiting the [OPAL Developments page](#) on our school website.

OPAL Bingo

Before Christmas, we had a huge donation drive from families and members of the local community. To continue to gather the items we need to provide our pupils with fantastic play opportunities, we are going to play OPAL Bingo.

Each class has been given one of two bingo game boards with items that we need to increase our offer and add new areas to our school site. If you have any of the items on the bingo boards that you are willing to donate to school, please bring them in from Monday 3rd February. The class who fills their bingo board first will have the opportunity for an additional break time. The bingo boards have been attached to this letter.

OPAL 'Golden Wellie' Award

From Monday 3rd February, we will be introducing a new weekly award to our celebration worships on Friday afternoons. The new award will be selected by our lunchtime play team for individuals who have played creatively, shown compassion or being resilient with their play throughout the week. This award will be awarded to the pupils on a Friday and will be returned the following Friday to be given to a different child in Celebration Worship.

Community Ground Force Day

To help us construct some of the new areas within the school grounds, we are looking at hosting a "Community Ground Force Day" on **Saturday 8th March from 9AM**. Through the support of our families and the local community, we will be able to use the items we have collected to form new play opportunities for the pupils. Initially, we are looking to create a messy cafe, build some play houses that have been donated to us and construct our wellie storage around the school. We may also have other plans that are created between now and the ground force day. On our ground force day, we will be opening our kitchen to provide refreshments, bacon sandwiches and toast for our volunteers. Come along and lend a hand to improving our playtimes!

If you would like to attend our ground force day, please complete the attached Google form to give us an indication of attendee numbers (and the number of bacon sandwiches we need to make!). If you can provide any specific skillsets, please detail them on the Google form. For example, we need wooden pallets attaching to the school walls for our wellie storage and a messy kitchen creating from wooden pallets and decking.

Googleform Link: <https://forms.gle/ncZiTT9PyWV8vRVDA>

OPAL Stay and Play Session

In the coming months (following our Ground Force Day), we will be writing to you to invite you to join us for a stay and play session where we would like you to join us to experience OPAL play at Mount Pleasant Junior School.

Once again, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support with our OPAL initiative and the fantastic donations that continue to flood into school. If you, a family member or local business that you know can help in any way at all, please share the school's contact details with them and ask them to make contact with the school to discuss how you could help. You can contact the school office by calling 01430 873338 or by emailing mountpleasant.juniors@eastriding.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,



Mr D Sage
Deputy Headteacher
Mount Pleasant CE VC Junior School

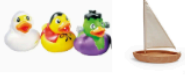


OPAL BINGO CARDS:

Class 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9:

Get ready to play... OPAL BINGO

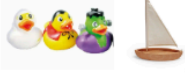
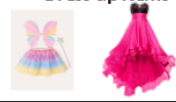


Baskets 	Tyres - Car / Truck / Bike 	Water Toys 	Action figures / Dolls 	Plastic crates 
Dress up items 	Ropes 	Old Waterproofs 	Kitchen Items 	Plastic Trucks 
Shovels and Spades 	Board Games 	Wheely Play Items 	Plastic tubes 	Tarpaulin 
Gravel 	Buckets and Barrels 	Trowels 	Cable Spools 	Spare Wellies 
Guttering 	Wooden planks 	Wheelbarrow 	Aprons 	Chalk 

Class 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10

Get ready to play... OPAL BINGO



Plastic Plates / Cutlery 	Tyres - Car / Truck / Bike 	Water Toys 	Umbrellas 	Plastic crates 
Dress up items 	Old Waterproofs 	Animal Toys 	Kitchen Items 	Plastic Trucks 
Shovels and Spades 	Pool Noodles 	Wheely Play Items 	Plastic Pipes 	Tarpaulin 
Outdoor Games 	Sinks and Tubs 	Trowels 	Wooden Pallets 	Spare Wellies 
Guttering 	Wooden planks 	Peddle Go-Kart 	Books 	Chalk 