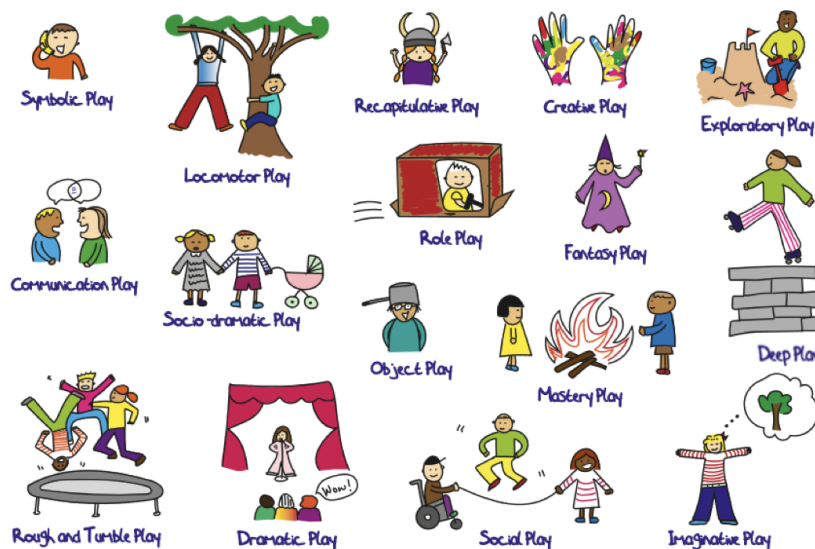




## Play - the unteachable curriculum

### The way children learn the things that cannot be taught

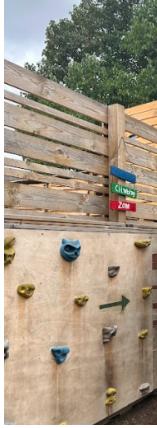


OPAL stands for 'outdoor play and learning' and is a strategic improvement programme designed to help us improve opportunities for play and make sure our outdoor environment provides the best range of experiences for the children. We started this 18 month project in September 2023, achieved our Silver Award within a year and we are now aiming for a Gold or Platinum Award by Spring 2026.



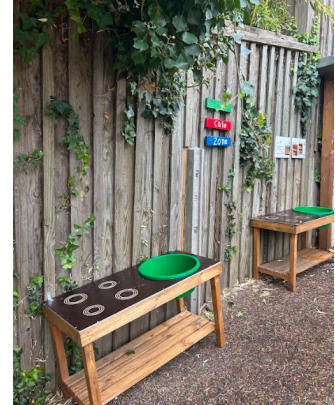
This is a joint venture with Coombe Hill Junior School and involves our Year 2 children accessing part of the Junior School Playground - which is great for helping with transition.





Parents have been a great support on our journey - donating resources, fund raising, holding OPAL cake sales and getting hands on with making signs and helping clear out areas of the playground etc.

Take a look at our fabulous, new, wooden teepees which we have the decking in our Small World Zone and in the playground in our Role Play Zone.



We have regular assemblies to introduce new Play Zones and resources to the children e.g. we are about to introduce a new Role Play Zone. We are very clear with the children about the behaviours we expect in each Play Zone.


We have Play Rangers (who wear purple hi-viz jackets) who help set up the new Play Zones and resources and also help ensure the ALL children tidy up. Our mantra is - ***“choose it, use it, put it away”!***

We currently have these Play Zones:

- Small World Zone
- Cafe Zone
- Traversing Wall
- Slide and Trim Trail Zone
- Reading House
- The Log Cabin Garden - mud kitchen and digging area
- Role Play Zone
- A Quiet Zone
- Imagination Zones - fairies and dragons






We have a Play and Learning Charter, which our Rights Respecting Ambassadors helped us produce (  Play & Learning Charter). Then, a parent and grandparents helped us turn this into a wonderful wooden sign for our Adventure Playground.



The school will use the Health and Safety Executive guidance document *Children's Play and Leisure – Promoting a Balanced Approach (September 2012)* as the principal value statement informing its approach to managing risk in play. In doing so, the school will adopt a risk-benefit approach as detailed in *Managing Risk in Play Provision: An Implementation Guide (Play Safety Forum, 2012)*.

 OPAL play policy.docx

For more information about OPAL, please see below or look at their website. <https://outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk/>

**OPAL and why we feel this is a fantastic project to undertake.**

*Did you know that playtime is about 20% of every child's day at school? It is also, for many children, one of the few times that they have to play outside regularly with their friends and without devices.*

*The Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) Primary Programme is the result of over 20 years of testing and development in over 800 schools across the UK and internationally.*

*OPAL is based on the idea that, as well as learning through good teaching, your children also learn when they play. As 20% of their time in school is playtime, we want to make sure that this amount of time (equivalent to 1.4 years of primary school) is as good as possible.*

*There are many proven benefits for schools that carry out the OPAL Primary Programme. They usually include children enjoying school more, more teaching time because there are fewer accidents and arguments, increased physical activity and even children becoming better at maths.*

*Play is not messing about. It is the process evolution has come up with to enable children to learn all of the things that cannot be taught. That is why it is fun.*

*There are certain things children must have in order to be able to play.*

*These include:*

- *clothes that they can play in all year round.*
- *things to play with.*
- *a certain amount of freedom.*

*If you would like to learn more about the OPAL Primary Programme, please have a look at the OPAL website.*

<https://outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk/>)