Fir Tree Primary School

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Wallingford
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Headteacher: Matt Watt

Thursday 1st October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

We are delighted to share how excited we are to have officially launched **OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning)** at Fir Tree! It has been wonderful to see our new approach to lunchtime play begin to take shape, and the feedback we have received from the children so far has been amazing. The atmosphere at lunchtimes has been calm and purposeful, and it has been brilliant to see so many children enjoying new experiences, exploring different types of play and engaging in activities that spark their interests. Whether they are building, creating, exploring or playing together with friends, it has been fantastic to see the children making the most of the opportunities available to them.

We have been able to get started thanks to a combination of some fantastic donations from our families and the purchase of some initial equipment. A huge thank you to everyone who has already contributed!

OPAL Bingo – We Need Your Help!

Although we have made a great start, we still need a little more help to continue developing our outdoor play provision and create even more exciting opportunities for the children.

Today, we launched **OPAL Bingo** in assembly, sharing with the children a list of items that we would love to collect for school. These items will help us introduce new activities, develop our existing play areas and gather materials for projects we hope to build in the future.

Please take a look at the OPAL Bingo list (attached) and see whether you have any of the items at home that you no longer need or use. We would be incredibly grateful for any donations!

A few important things to remember:

- **Please do not go out and buy anything.** We are looking for unwanted, unused or leftover items that you already have at home or from work.
- **Please only donate items that appear on the OPAL Bingo list**, as these are the things we specifically need for our planned activities. If you think you may have something of interest, please contact myself via the office.
- If you are able to donate, please place your items in the **OPAL donation box** (see picture below), which will be located at the school entrance gate where staff greet families each morning.

The box will be emptied regularly, and donations will be incorporated into our playtimes as we continue to develop our provision.

Looking Ahead – Help Us Build Our New Play Zones!

We also have some exciting plans for the future! We are hoping to develop several new play zones longer term, including a **mud kitchen, a water play area and a construction zone**. These spaces will give children even more opportunities to explore, experiment, problem-solve, collaborate and use their imaginations.

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To help bring these ideas to life, we would love to hear from any families who have skills or experience in woodworking, DIY or building and would be happy to volunteer some time in school to help us create these areas from scratch. If this is something you might be interested in, please get in touch. We would love to discuss our ideas with you and explore how we might work together to make these exciting additions a reality.

Thank you once again for your continued support, generosity and enthusiasm. OPAL is already bringing so much joy to our lunchtimes, and we are excited to see how it continues to grow. With your help, we can create an outdoor environment full of creativity, adventure and opportunities for every child to enjoy.

Warm regards,

Miss Lloyd
OPAL Lead

Get ready to play… OPAL BINGO

PVC Pipes	Milk Crates	Plastic Trucks	Action figures	Plastic crates
Dress up items	Cars	Dinosaurs	Pans	Tyres
Lego	Animal figures	Scooters	Plastic tubes	Tarpaulin
Tree Stumps	Scooter boards	Trolley	Skateboards	Bubbles
Guttering	Wooden planks	Helmets	Artificial grass	Chalk

We are committed to delivering education of the highest quality that supports and challenges all pupils to learn and progress in a secure and happy environment.