

Friday 14th February

Dear parents and carers,

I am writing to update you regarding our lunchtime provision OPAL, Outdoor Play and Learning. We launched the scheme in September and we hope you've enjoyed looking at the photos of the children enjoying their lunchtimes in our weekly newsletter. We have noticed a dramatic improvement in the quality of the play and the children regularly give us feedback via the School Council, Eco Council, in assemblies and whilst they're outside. They love playing together, den building, the MUGA, wildflower meadow, garden, sensory garden, SEAL club and many more play opportunities.

After half term, we will be installing a new basket swing and bars in the meadow and a mud kitchen in the garden area. We now have welly boot storage for all year groups and therefore introducing a rule that if they play in our loose parts area, meadow or garden they MUST change into welly boots in these damp and muddy months. All children in Foundation Stage and Year 1 already have wellies in school. If your child is in Year 2 to Year 6 and they like playing in these areas at lunchtime please can they bring in a pair of named wellies. If you have spare wellies your child has outgrown and would like to donate them, there will be a large blue box in the carpark that you can place them in.

We are also looking for old saucepans, frying pans, spoons, bowls, weighing scales etc.. for the mud kitchen (no sharp items, china or glass) Stocks of den building equipment are also low so if you have old sheets, blankets or tarpaulins we'd also appreciate these. They can also be placed in the large blue box.

We're really looking forward to extending the opportunities for play and we will continue to share photos taken by our weekly play detectives.

Kind regards.

Mrs Catherine Bull Headteacher Parsons Down Partnership of Schools

