



Waterbeach Community Primary School

Learning - Laughter - Friendship

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Dear Parents,

We are about to launch our exciting new project to make our playtimes even better, in conjunction with Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) CIC. In 2018, OPAL won the best active schools' programme in Europe award and has been cited in two parliamentary reports as delivering outstanding practice. OPAL is working closely with Sport England to promote more active childhoods, which is one of the many reasons we are improving our playtime, as well as to improve opportunities for socialisation, cooperation, coordination, resilience, creativity, imagination and enjoyment for your child.

We strongly believe that: **"Play is freely chosen, personally directed, intrinsically motivated behaviour that actively engages the child. Play can be fun or serious. Through play children explore social, material and imaginary worlds and their relationship with them, elaborating all the while a flexible range of responses to the challenges they encounter. By playing, children learn and develop as individuals, and as members of the community."** (Children's Play Council 2001).

To facilitate this project, we will need to gather some new resources, move some things around on the playground and require some loose parts. 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. Do you have any of the items listed below that you would be happy to donate to school?

- Suitcases of any size and type
- Anything on wheels/castors
- 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 pallets
- Metal frames
- Cable drums
- Guttering
- Noodles (the type you use in the swimming pool!)
- Hats/scarves/jazzy shirts/elasticated skirts/waistcoats/wedding dresses/character costumes
- Pegs (to help to set up dens)
- Small world toys (dolls, cars, trains etc)
- Cushions
- Watering cans
- Lego/Duplo
- Art and Craft supplies

We will be holding a collection week beginning Monday 28st September. Please place any donations in the labelled boxes on the KS1 and KS2 playgrounds. Please do not bring your donations in before this date as we will have nowhere to store them. If objects are large, such as wooden pallets, then please let us know and we will arrange to help you with carrying these into school.

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 excited about this project and hope that you will support us in our efforts to improve playtimes for all children.

Yours sincerely,



Nicole Brace

Assistant Headteacher / Safeguarding Lead