



# Higher Bebington Junior School

OPAL stands for  
Outdoor Play and  
Learning.



"To ensure that  
every school child has  
an amazing playtime  
everyday with no  
excep-

## Opal Newsletter 1

Welcome to our first Opal newsletter.

We are so excited to be starting this new journey to make playtimes more exciting in our school. Did you know that children spend 20% of their time at school playing and, with this in mind, our school have engaged with the OPAL Programme to promote freedom for children to explore play in their own imaginative ways, using found and gathered resources in the natural outdoor environment.

Our school grounds are fantastic but are significantly underused in the Winter/Spring months when the fields become inaccessible due to being wet! Over the coming year we hope to put in place lots of inspiring ideas to mean this space can be used all year round.

You will have noticed stacks of tyres and pallets building up by our car park. We will soon be moving these to the playgrounds, where we will begin our exciting journey.

What does this mean for us?

- Happier children
- Children coming into class ready to learn
- A fully inclusive playtime offer
- It allows children an opportunity to be creative and make decisions
- Children develop independence and resilience skills
- Increased social skills
- .... and most importantly fun!

### Our Play Detectives

Our new team of Play Detectives will meet with Mrs Whittaker and Ms Bosmans each month and look at our provision. They will get feedback from the children and document our journey through Twitter and Newsletters so you are all up to date with what is happening.

### Your role

If you have any resources that you can donate to school please contact Ms Bosmans or any of the Play Team through the school office.

Please see the following link to see an example of an OPAL school that is fully embedded in the OPAL approach to playtimes-we think it looks great!

<https://youtu.be/cm7IfAEsjqI>

Many thanks

The Opal Team

### Meet our team

Mrs Calveley-  
Headteacher

Mrs Whittaker-  
Deputy Headteacher

Mrs Devoy-Assistant  
Headteacher

Ms Bosmans-Play  
Leader

Ms Lewis-Parent  
Governor

### Play Detectives

**Year 3:** Ruby, Max,  
Heidi, Huw, Charlie,  
Emily

**Year 4:** Amy, Frankie,  
Oscar, Erin, Theo,  
Freda

**Year 5:** Harry, Taylor,  
Pippa, Elizabeth,  
Bobby, Paige

**Year 6:** Nathan, Bella,  
Thiya, Lois, Elanah,  
Jenson

