



TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE

# Higher Bebington Junior School

Mill Road, Higher Bebington, Wirral, CH63 8QE  
[www.higherbebington.wirral.sch.uk](http://www.higherbebington.wirral.sch.uk)

E-mail: [schooloffice@higherbebington.wirral.sch.uk](mailto:schooloffice@higherbebington.wirral.sch.uk)  
Tel/Fax: 0151 608 1011

Headteacher: Mrs S. Calveley B.Ed.(Hons)

November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

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).

The project will start in this term and our hopes are that it will change the way we think and how we play together. To facilitate this project, we will need to buy 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 loose parts we are collecting immediately for us to enjoy a wider range of play experiences during playtime are:

- Tyres-any sizes
- Tarpaulins
- Wooden or plastic pallets
- Nets and ropes
- Milk crates
- Road barriers
- Brushes and brooms
- Cable drums



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- Guttering
- Noodles (the type you use in the swimming pool!)
- Pegs (to help to set up dens)
- Planks/panels of wood
- Tree stumps and trunks
- Ladders which are no longer needed

We have set aside a drop off zone (coned off) on the grassy area adjacent to the staff car park. The sooner we do this, the sooner the children will be able to play with the items. If objects are really large, such as wooden pallets, let us know and we will ensure that there is someone available to help you unload them. If you are unable to bring them to school then let the office know and we may be able to arrange for a collection.

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

Yours sincerely,

Janet Devoy and Anke Bosmans