



Ss Peter & Paul's Catholic Primary School

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OPAL Newsletter – Spring 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As the sun has been shining brightly this week, we are excited to share how the beautiful weather has added an extra layer of joy and energy to our OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) programme. This week, the children have been absolutely thriving in the sunshine, making the most of their outdoor playtime. It has been a week filled with creativity, physical activity, and plenty of laughter!

Sunny Play Highlights

With the warmer weather, the children have embraced the outdoor spaces like never before! Here are just a few of the highlights from this week's outdoor adventures:

- **Creative Loose Parts Play:**
The children have been using the sunny weather to explore even more imaginative ways of using loose parts—building structures, designing obstacle courses, and crafting nature-inspired art. The combination of sun, natural materials, and creativity has allowed the children to really stretch their imagination and work together.
- **Physical Challenges:**
With more space to run, climb, and explore, the children have been taking on new physical challenges. Whether it's balancing on logs, racing across the playground, or engaging in group games like tag, the children are developing stronger coordination and teamwork skills. The sunshine has made outdoor play even more inviting, encouraging children to stay active and engaged.
- **Teamwork and Collaboration:**
The sunny days have brought the children together in wonderful ways. We've seen older and younger students working together to build play structures or creating elaborate games involving everyone. This collaborative spirit has been a joy to watch and a testament to how outdoor play fosters friendship and social skills.

First Aid Incidents Down & Conflict Resolution Up

One of the most noticeable benefits of the sunny weather and the outdoor play has been the reduction in first aid incidents. The children are becoming more confident in managing their own physical play, taking on risks safely, and enjoying the challenges without injury. It's been wonderful to see how well they are learning to assess their surroundings and look out for one another.



With the space and freedom provided by OPAL, children are learning important skills like communication, negotiation, and compromise in a natural and positive way.

Parental Engagement – Stay & Play Day

We were thrilled to see so many of you at our Stay and Play Day! The children were so proud to share their outdoor play experiences with their families, and it was heart-warming to see the positive energy and excitement as parents and children played together. A big thank you to all who joined us—we hope you enjoyed the opportunity to witness the benefits of OPAL first hand.

For those who couldn't make it, don't worry—we'll be hosting more events like this in the near future, so keep an eye out for future dates!

Looking Ahead

As we move into the warmer months, we're excited to continue our OPAL journey. The sunny weather has shown us just how powerful outdoor play can be, and we can't wait for even more outdoor adventures as we approach summer. We're already planning new play challenges, creative projects, and even more ways for our children to engage with the natural environment.

Thank You for Your Support

Finally, we'd like to thank all our parents for their continued support of OPAL. The positive feedback and involvement from our parent community have made all the difference in making this programme a success. Together, we are creating a school environment where outdoor play is not only encouraged but celebrated as a key part of our children's growth and learning.

We look forward to many more sunny playtimes ahead!

Warm regards,
Miss Wilson
OPAL Play Lead

