

23rd June 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are excited to share some wonderful news with you!

Burlington Infant and Nursery School has been awarded the **OPAL Platinum Award**, the highest honour given by the OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) programme. This means our school is recognised as one of the best for outdoor play and learning in the country.



What is OPAL?

OPAL helps schools improve playtime by encouraging children to enjoy **free, creative, and active play outdoors**. It supports children to develop new skills and have fun in safe but exciting environments.

Our OPAL journey so far

We began our OPAL journey in **September 2023**. Since then, we have:

- Added new play equipment like tyres, sand, mud kitchens, and natural materials.
- Made changes so children can choose how and where to play more freely.
- Trained our staff to better support children during playtime.

Thanks to everyone's hard work—staff, children, and parents—we have reached the **Platinum level**, which is a huge achievement.

Why this is good for your child

- Children have more fun and enjoy being active at playtime.
- Play helps children build important skills such as **sharing, teamwork, creativity, and problem-solving**.
- It also helps children return to class feeling calm, happy, and ready to learn.

We believe play is an important part of your child's learning and development.

What's next?

Our Platinum Award lasts for two years. We will keep improving our play areas and activities. We also plan to involve families more through events where you can come and see the exciting play opportunities your children enjoy.

Thank you

We want to thank all of you for your support. This award shows how much our whole school community values outdoor play and learning. We look forward to continuing this journey with you and your children.

Warm regards,

Mrs Leech

Outdoor Curriculum Leader
Burlington Infant and Nursery School