



Dear Parents and Carers,

The Spring term has been eventful so far, and that is set to continue for the playground. Many exciting things are on the horizon, and we want you all to be a part of them.

A reminder - As we have had rainy weather over the last few weeks, please ensure your child has a waterproof coat with a hood and a spare change of clothes in their book bag if they get soaked. There are wellies in our welly cupboard for the children to borrow if they want to explore the puddles and mud.

Spring 1 News

Reception

Last year, the Reception joined Years 1 and 2 on the playground, and it was a great success. This year, we have begun introducing them to all the different parts of the playground and the rules in place. On Thursday afternoons, Reception has an OPAL assembly with Mrs Leech, where we talk about what they might play with and decide what is 'safe enough'. Reception parents and carers will receive a 'Welcome to OPAL at Burlington' letter during this half term.

SOS - Save Our Sandpit

We recently asked for your support with our sandpit as it urgently needed repair. The OPAL team felt that the current sandpit was too small for a school our size and decided it would become a pebble pit instead. On Friday, 24th January, three wonderful volunteers, Mr Williams and Mrs Leech, replaced the old liner and filled it with 1800kg of shingle. The children were introduced to the changes on the playground by an assembly and were very excited to play in it on Monday, even in the rain.

A huge thank you to Jennifer Saxby, Maddie Highet and Amanda Ferebee for giving up your Friday afternoon to come and help.



Planters by Harley Gaunt - Thank You

Harley Gaunt in the Juniors has been busy creating planters from pallets for the playground during the weekend. What a fantastic job! We cannot wait to use them. Thank you!



Amazon Wishlist- Thank You

We recently introduced an Amazon Wishlist for OPAL, and we are very grateful to everybody who has brought an item off our list. All the items listed need to be regularly replaced due to being played with a lot. <https://amzn.eu/983v2T9>

Donation - Thank You

We would also like to thank everyone who has donated items for OPAL. The children adore using new resources. Again, we have attached the list of items we are looking for. If you have something not on the list and are unsure whether we would use it, contact the office at admin@burlingtoni.org.uk, and they will forward any emails to Mrs Leech. You'd be surprised about what the children use and how they play with it. For example, a school uses old mannequins and car seats on the playground.

What's Next?

Large Sandpit

As we have changed our small sandpit into a pebble pit, we urgently need a large sandpit. This is our aim for the Spring Term. To do this, we will need the help of our community. We plan to install a large sandpit on the playground using tyres as a surround. We aim to create an 8m x 6m sandpit with a sand depth of 45cm. To create this, we must source roughly 100+ tyres, 35 bulk bags of sand, 7 bulk bags of gravel and a liner. To make this sandpit happen, we will need many volunteers to give up their time. We aim to complete the sandpit one weekend. We will send out further information on when and how to sign up.

Opal Loose Parts - Donations

If you are having a Spring Clean, please think of OPAL, as we are always looking for donations. For a complete list of items, please click on the following link, which will take you to the OPAL page on our website:

<https://www.burlingtoni.kingston.sch.uk/teaching-and-learning/opal>. You will find the list of items at the bottom of the page.

We have added a **new item** to the list, which is 3-wheeled scooters. As we have a dedicated wheeled area, we have the space to allow children to use three-wheeled scooters safely.

Many thanks,

The OPAL Team and Mrs Leech