



Bridlewood Primary School
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A place for learning, caring, sharing and growing together.

30th January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

OPAL Initial Parent Survey – Summary for Families

Thank you to everyone who completed our recent OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) parent survey. Your feedback is hugely valuable and will help us continue to improve play opportunities for all children at school.

What we learned from you

- *Play is essential – Parents strongly agree that playtime is a vital part of children's development, wellbeing, and learning.*
- *Playtime is valued – Children and families appreciate the time pupils spend playing at school.*
- *Childhood play memories were rich and varied – Many parents enjoyed activities such as arts and crafts, puzzles, reading, imaginary play, and exploring nature.*
- *Children today have fewer opportunities to play freely – Many noted that children do not have the same freedom you had growing up, often due to increased safety concerns and limited outdoor space.*
- *You shared fantastic ideas for improving play – Parents would love to see more nature-based play, outdoor exploration, creative arts and crafts, and ways to help children connect with the natural world.*
- *Weather is the biggest barrier to outdoor play – This is why having a raincoat and wellies in school is so important. With the right kit, children can play outdoors in all seasons.*
- *Parents are comfortable with 'real play' – You understand that outdoor play may involve mud, mess, and minor bumps, and you are okay with that as part of healthy childhood experiences.*

Next steps

We have been pleased with the first two weeks of OPAL play at Bridlewood and the children have embraced the opportunity to explore more of our grounds over lunchtime. We will gradually introduce more equipment over the coming weeks and establish the behaviour routines and expectations for the different outdoor areas and equipment. Thank you for your support with providing your children with wellies and a waterproof coat. If you need any financial support with these items, please do let us know and if you have any donations of pre loved wellies and waterproofs we would welcome these to our central store.

Kind regards.

Mr Hilliker

