



# Homefields Primary School

Stay and Play  
Our Opal Journey  
2024 – 2026



Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>  
May 2026

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# What is OPAL?



- OPAL stands for Outdoor Play and Learning.
- It is a programme that helps schools improve the quality of play for every child.
- Play is not a break from learning. Play is learning.
- Through OPAL, we have transformed playtimes into rich opportunities for creativity, movement and connection.

# Our Homefields OPAL Journey



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## The original team



Mrs Ali

# In the beginning



**OPAL**  
donations  
request

PLEASE CAN YOU HELP US TO MAKE  
OUTDOOR PLAY AT HOMEFIELDS EVEN  
MORE EXCITING BY DONATING ANY OF THE  
FOLLOWING ITEMS?

- PUSHCHAIRS
- SUITCASES (DOES NOT MATTER IF ZIPS ARE BROKEN)
- DIGGER/CONSTRUCTION TYPE TOYS
- ROLE PLAY ITEMS
- MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
- RIBBONS
- BLANKETS
- FLOATY SCARVES
- DOLLS (HARD BODIED PLEASE)
- DOLLS' ACCESSORIES, CLOTHES, BLANKETS

**THANK YOU**


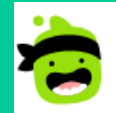
 

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Homefields  
Primary School  
Play Assemblies



Chalk Boards



Be Kind, Be Courageous, Be Respectful

**OPAL Risk Assessment**

Homefields Primary School

Pallet Bus

# Community events



# Our Vision for Play?

- We wanted every child to feel included and find something they love.
- We wanted children to take risks safely, build friendships and explore their imagination.
- OPAL has helped us create richer, more meaningful play for all children.



# Why play matters at Homefields?



- Play helps children develop confidence, resilience and creativity.
- It builds independence, communication and problem-solving skills.
- It supports teamwork, emotional wellbeing and how children learn to learn.

# Loose Parts, Endless Possibilities

- Tyres, crates and loose parts inspire extraordinary play.
- Children build, balance, design, invent and collaborate.
- These open-ended materials encourage creativity, engineering thinking and teamwork.





Mrs Heald  
Curricular  
Lead for Play



Mrs Rogers  
Play Co-  
ordinator



Mrs  
Dymond  
Parent Play  
Champion



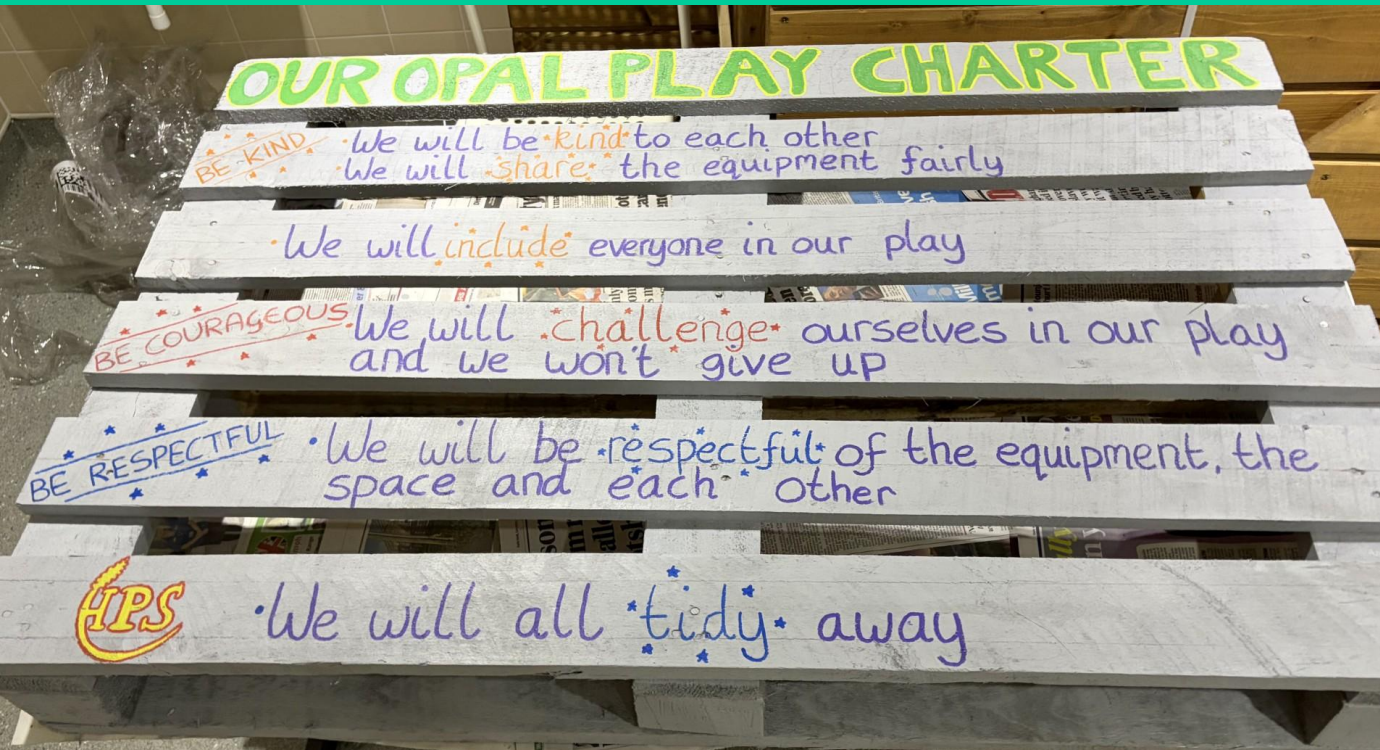
Mrs Thomas  
Governor Play  
Champion



Mrs Ross  
Strategic  
Planning

The 'B' Team

# Play Charter



## OUR OPAL PLAY CHARTER



### BE KIND

- We will be **kind** to each other
- We will **share** the equipment fairly
- We will **include** everyone in our play



### BE COURAGEOUS

- We will **challenge** ourselves in our play & we won't give up



### BE RESPECTFUL

- We will be **respectful** of the equipment, the space, and each other
- We will all **tidy** away

**TOGETHER WE MAKE OUR PLAY AMAZING!**

We will have fun!!



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# Embraced the weather

We talked about wellies.... a lot!



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# Organised

- Brand new sheds helped us to organise resources and enabled the children to be independent selecting items and putting them away.



# What is great about play at Homefields?



Celebrated



# Adventure Starts in the Woodland

- Our woodland spaces have become places of imagination, creativity and adventure.
- Children build dens, create worlds, solve problems and work together.
- Den building has encouraged teamwork, resilience and imaginative storytelling.



# Spaces for Everyone



- Not all play is loud.
- Our social dens, reading nook and quiet zone support friendship, calm and belonging.
- These spaces support wellbeing, emotional regulation and connection.

# For Children Who Love to Move

- Bikes, scooters and wheeled toys give children opportunities to move with joy.
- Active play builds coordination, confidence and physical wellbeing.
- Movement is a vital part of play.



# Curiosity, Wonder and Small Worlds



Children explore through small world play, bubbles, chalk boards, digging and fairy play.

These moments develop imagination, storytelling, fine motor skills and curiosity.



# Learning Through Challenge

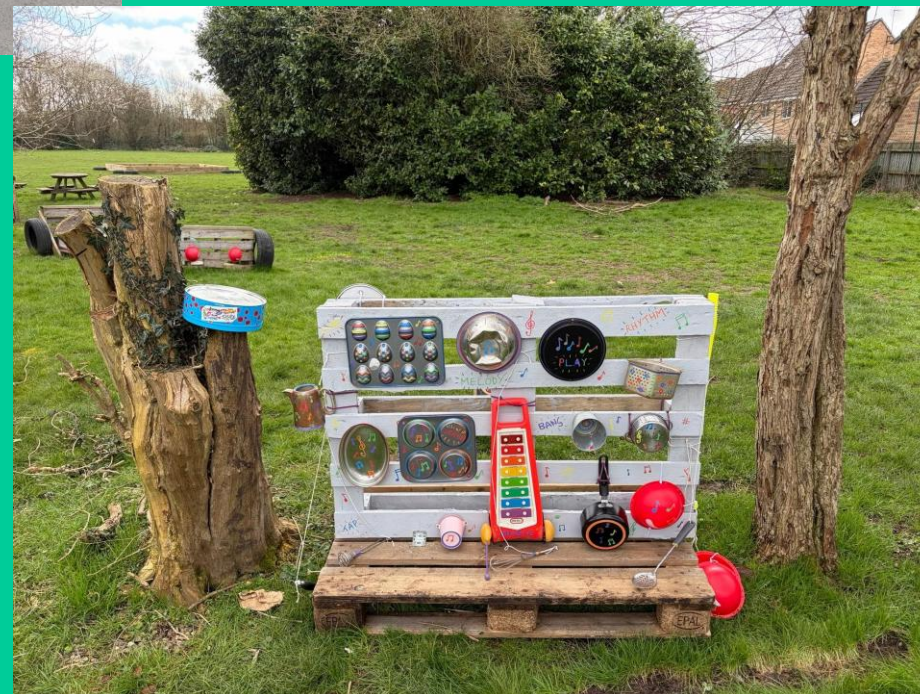
- Play allows children to take managed risks and build resilience.
- From climbing and building to rough-and-tumble play, children learn to negotiate and self-regulate.
- Challenge helps children become capable and confident.





New equipment

New social spaces



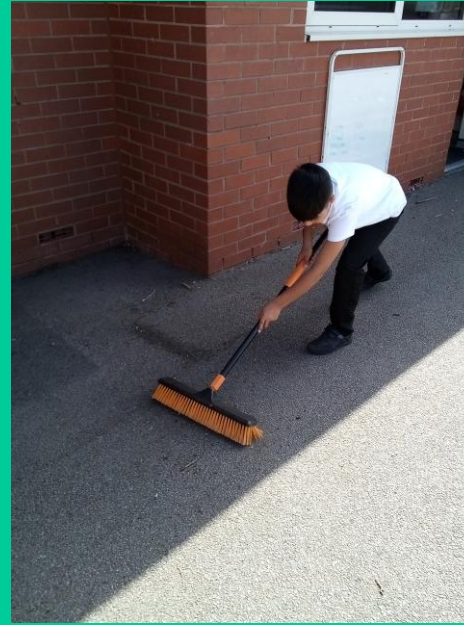
Music and Performance Spaces



Moved items on site to try new locations



Revamped existing spaces



Created opportunities for the children to be part of the process

Encouraging children to be responsible



# Creating awe and wonder



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# What OPAL Has Taught Our Children

- Imagination
- Teamwork
- Sharing
- Resilience
- Creativity
- Independence
- Problem-solving
- Inclusion



# The Impact of OPAL

- Happier playtimes
- More engaged children
- Increased creativity
- Improved teamwork
- Greater inclusion
- More independence
- Stronger friendships
- Reduced number of accidents



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## Our Journey Continues

OPAL has transformed the way we think about play.

We are proud of how far we have come and excited for what comes next.

By investing in play, we are investing in childhood.

Thank you for supporting our OPAL journey so far. Let's have a look at what is still to come.



# Coming soon



# Future projects

## Eco Garden 2026

- Planting
- Bug Hotel
- Raised Pond
- Netting/mesh for pond cover
- Nets
- Trays
- Magnifying glasses
- Pots
- Visualiser
- Pond plants
- Fish
- Log piles
- Bird Boxes
- Bird Feeders
- Arch with planting as entry with a gate?



# Revamp forest school for 2026 for all children

## Forest School 2026

- Planting
- Logs for seating
- Fire Pit
- Repair the covered canopy
- Renew mud kitchen
- Small tables with log seats
- Fencing/zoning around the forest school



# Finish the sandpit a wonderful boat

## Sand Pit and Boat 2026

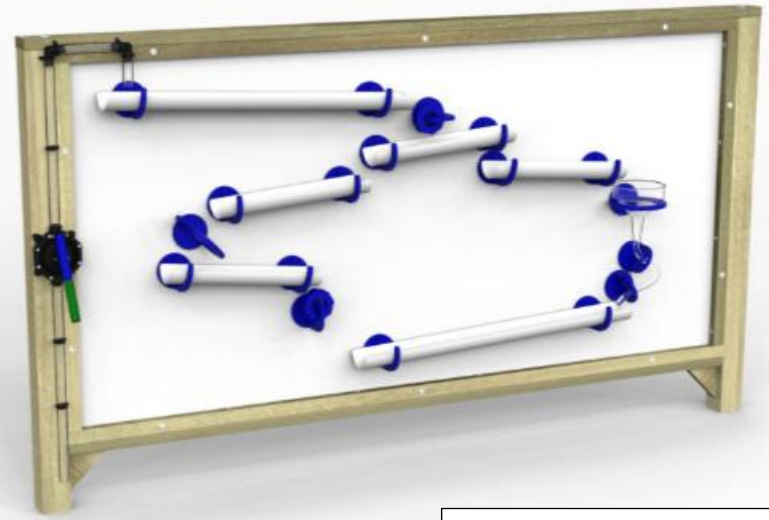
- Raised sand pit
- Planting
- Boat - cleaned, varnished, base for the boat built to raise it off the floor.
- Sand
- Sand toys
- 





## Loose Parts Play 2026 (At least 4 parts per child)

- Cable drums
- Tires
- Planks
- Tubes
- Crates
- Wheelbarrows
- Piping and guttering
- Blankets/tarpallings
- Pushchairs
- Wooden Pallets
- Natural resources -
- Small world cars
- Boxes



- Water Play 2026**
- Water wall
  - Water access
  - Water tray
  - Guttering
  - Guttering holders

- Allotments**
- Gardening club
  - Growing vegetables
  - Growing flowers
  - Learning about plants and minibeasts.





**Different levels and textures**

**Art work and information**

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- Thank you for coming to support our children.