

### Spring 2022

#### Outdoor Play and Learning Project (OPAL)



We have launched an exciting new project to improve opportunities for physical activity, socialisation, co-operation, coordination, resilience, creativity, imagination and enjoyment through improved play. The OPAL Outdoor Play and Learning Programme is the result of 17 years testing and development in over 500 schools and is now used in Canada, France and New Zealand as well as across the UK. Work has started to adapt the programme for schools in Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Austria. In 2018 OPAL won first prize in an EU funded award for the best active school's programme in Europe and two UK national play work awards.

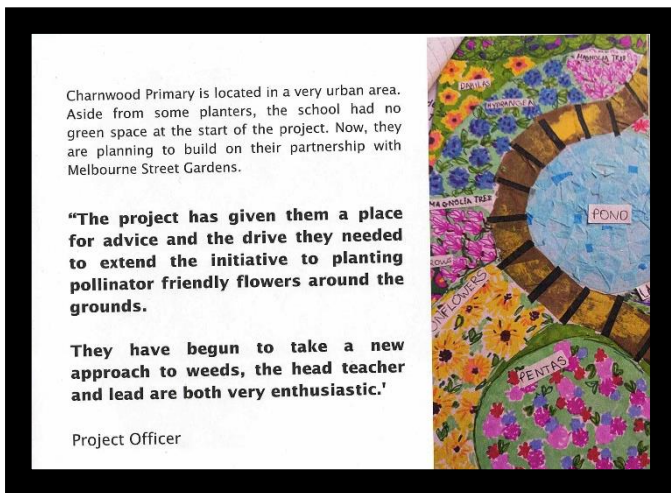
OPAL is based on the idea that as well as learning through good teaching, your children also learn when they play, and as 20% of their time in school is playtime, we want to make sure that this amount of time (equivalent to 1.4 years of primary school) is as good as possible.

One reason the school is carrying out this programme is that childhood has changed, and many children no longer get their play needs met out of school.

There are many proven benefits for schools which carry out the OPAL Programme. They usually include: more enjoyment of school, less teaching time lost to disputes between children, less accidents and greatly improved behaviour.

As we improve play opportunities for our children, you may find that we are asking you for resources and making changes about how the children use the school grounds. They may use more of the grounds, for more of the year. Your children may get a bit messier, be exposed to more challenges and have greater freedoms to play where, with whom and how they like. The experiences the school is fostering are essential for children's physical and mental well-being and healthy and in line with all current good practice advice on health safety, well-being and development.

Thank you to all the parents who completed our play survey last year. The results have really helped us to plan and organise our playtimes. Your suggestions were very useful. We hope to invite parents into school soon to see for yourselves what is happening and join in too. We will be writing to you soon with more information about the programme and to ask for some help to collect some resources for children to use during their play.



## Cooking at Charnwood

We have created a page on the website with recipe ideas you can enjoy making with your child.  
<https://www.charnwood.leicester.sch.uk/parentvisitors/cooking>

Have a go and make savoury muffins with your child.



### Savoury Muffins

#### Ingredients

Makes 12 muffins

200g Self Raising Flour

150ml milk

1 egg

45ml sunflower oil

100g grated cheddar cheese

½ tsp mustard powder

OPTIONAL: 2 or 3tbs of sweet corn or spring onions.

#### Method

- 1) Put the oven on at 180°C or Gas mark 5
- 2) Weigh the flour and put in the bowl
- 3) Mix the mustard powder into the flour.
- 4) Grate the cheese into the flour mixture.
- 5) Add the sweet corn and spring onions that you want to use & mix well with the spatula.
- 6) Measure the milk in the jug and add the egg & the oil (Use the measuring spoons to measure the oil).
- 7) Mix the liquid into the dry ingredients and stir with the spatula.
- 8) Use the 2 spoons to half fill the muffin cases & place them on a muffin tray.
- 9) Bake for 20-25 minutes until golden & a skewer comes out clean.

Please send your photos with your child to your class teacher. Have fun cooking!

## Educational Visits

This term our children have had the following opportunities to enhance their learning on educational visits: -

Year/Class	Venue
Y2	MultiSkills Festival - Moat Community College
Y5/6 x 12 Pupils	Saffron Acres - Pollination Project
Y1	Leicester Museum & Art Gallery
Y5	Belvoir Art Gallery
Y2 Selected pupils	Leicester Museum & Art Gallery
FS2 Selected pupils	MultiSkills Festival - Moat CC

## Vacancies

We have the following vacancies: -

- Admin Assistant (temporary to cover maternity leave)

Please visit the Eteach website for more information on <https://www.eteach.com>

## Attendance

Please visit our school website for further information about attendance:

<http://charnwood.leicester.sch.uk>

Please could parents inform the office before 9.00am if your child has an appointment and will be absent or is arriving late. You may phone the school office on **0116 251 6574**

### Teachers 2 Parents Texting Service

If you wish to send a text message to the school please use the following number:-

**07786 208 889**

## Lunchtime arrangements

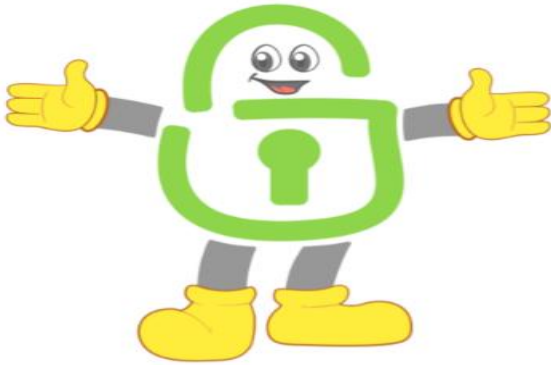
Please note that school lunchtime arrangements cannot be changed during term time. If you would like to make a change, please inform the office **before** the end of term for the following term. Please find the lunch menu attached with this newsletter.

The menu is also available on the school's website.

If your child will be having school dinners, please ensure payment is made by **Monday** morning for the commencing week. Payments can be made weekly, monthly or termly



# YOUR DATA MATTERS



For information about how we handle your data please refer to our Privacy Notice.

You can obtain a copy from the school office, ask for copy to be sent home with your child or download it from the school website.



## GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION

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### Cool Milk

If you would like your child to have milk in school, please register online on the following Cool Milk website: [www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com)

Please note that payments must also be made online on the same website.

**This newsletter can be provided in large print format on request and is also available on the school website.**