



Repton Manor Primary School

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Executive Headteacher
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Matt Rawling
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Opal Play at Repton Manor

We will soon be launching our new playtime initiative – Opal Play. OPAL has won the best active schools’ programme in Europe award and been cited in two Parliamentary Reports as outstanding practice. OPAL is working closely with Sport England to promote more active childhoods.

We are extremely excited about this project and we feel that our children and school community will really thrive from the opportunity to have such a rich and varied play approach during every play time. Our hopes are that this project will change the way we think and how we play together. To facilitate this project, we will need to buy some new resources, move some things around on the playground and we will also require some loose parts.

What are Loose Parts?

The idea of playing with scrap materials isn’t new. In fact, we have probably all done it before! Loose parts are any materials that can be moved, carried, combined, re-designed, taken apart and put back together in multiple ways. They are materials with no specific set of directions that can be used alone or combined with other materials to inspire building, fort making, imaginative worlds and active play.

What can you do to help us?

THINK PLAY before you THROW AWAY!

We are currently collecting loose parts for our OPAL program. If you have something old, or taking up space in your home, we want you to think of the potential for loose parts play before you throw it away!

Please consider donating any of the following items to us:

Suitcases (any size and type)	Fabric (sheets/saris/curtains)	Guttering
Cable drums	Plastic crates, bins or boxes (any size)	Noodles (the type you use in the swimming pool!)
Wooden pallets	Old keyboards/mobile phones/torches/calculators/laptops/kettles	Buckets (any size)

Briefcases, especially hard cased ones	Anything made from foam (not polystyrene), e.g. foam sheets / body boards	Nets and ropes
Road signs and cones	Kitchen pots, pans, baking trays, worktables, wooden spoons, chopping boards	Pegs (to help to set up dens)
Tubes of various sizes and various materials	Tools like spades, trowels and brooms	Storage bins
Pushchairs	Sand pit toys and tools	Art easels
Landscaping scraps (wood stumps, cut branches, etc.)	Dressing up clothes and accessories	Small world toys (dinosaurs, lego, duplo, cars, etc)
Old tyres	Large cardboard tubes	Plastic piping tubes / PVC tubes
Wheels	Wood scraps	Pulleys
Tarps	Crutches	Large empty spools (used for wire, chain, rope)

How to donate:

Any collected items may be dropped off to Nicki Pittam or Jackie Chambers at the school office. If your donation is large, please do contact one of us beforehand, so that we can arrange to take the delivery from you:

Nicki Pittam: Nicki.pittam@reptonmanor.kent.sch.uk)

Jackie Chambers: Jackie.chambers@reptonmanor.kent.sch.uk)

You will be hearing more about this project over the coming weeks, but if you would like to find out more in the meantime, please do visit the Opal website: <https://outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk>. We hope that you will be as excited about this project as we are.

Many thanks in advance for your help and support with this project.

Nicki Pittam and Jackie Chambers

Opal Curricular Lead for Play and Head of School
Repton Manor Primary School