



Opal Newsletter

Term 5



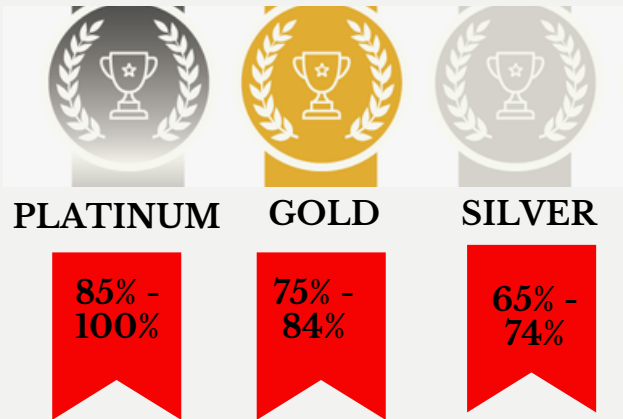
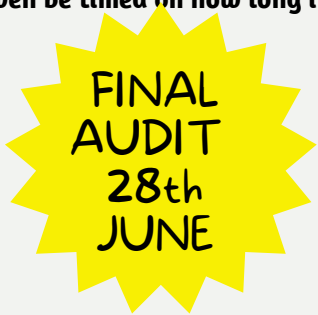
Happy Birthday OPAL



ONE WHOLE YEAR OF AMAZING PLAYTIMES!

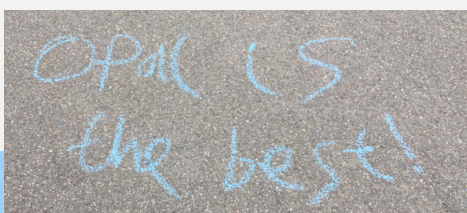
This term marks a whole year since we introduced OPAL at Repton Manor Primary School, and it's hard to think back to how things were before. We've come such an incredibly long way due to the support from our children, staff and families. **THANK YOU.** We look forward to continuing to grow over the next two terms in preparation for our final audit.

We recently had a visit from our OPAL mentor, Cath Prisk, who was very pleased with how we are developing in our OPAL journey. During her visit, she ran through a pre-audit with us - we are already doing very well, but we want the Platinum rating! We already have lots of plans in place to help us to achieve this goal. During our final audit the auditors will speak to staff and children, they will assess our children's knowledge and understanding of dynamic risk assessment and will even be timed on how long it takes us to tidy up!



Last term we introduced lots of large loose parts play. It has been fantastic seeing some of the builds that the children have created. The children continue to wow us with their ability to dynamically risk assess, and on occasions they have proved us wrong - showing how they have carefully thought through, tested and adapted their play to keep themselves and others safe. We are extremely proud of them.

We have seen some really creative use of loose parts - the children are really delving into their imagination and thinking outside the box as to how to use items in new and exciting ways. They are building on their combinatorial flexibility by using numerous different small and large loose parts together to create a whole new piece.



After the huge success of the introduction of our large loose parts, we are now ready to progress onto our next big project - wheels! We are very excited to announce that we have made some amazing purchases with the money raised from the Valentines Disco to enable the children to wheel around our play space. Due to some longer lead times on some of these items, these will be introduced slowly over the next two terms but we're sure you will agree that these super fun items are worth the wait!



We hope to run some more fundraising events over the next two terms to allow for even more opportunities like this. Your help and support is much appreciated.

Donations

Our theme for term 5 is creativity which falls hand in hand with OPAL. With the change in weather, we hope to start bringing back some more of our dry weather items, such as the dress-up and soft toys. We will also start to see more access to our green areas and some more opportunities to interact with nature. What we are still on the look out for is some unusual items to create more awe and wonder during our playtimes. If you have something bizarre sitting around at home that you'd like to donate, or if you work with a company that would be willing to help us, please do get in touch. Items that we have thought of include: an old telephone box, a canoe, an old fairground ride, an old tank (something Mr Wells was desperate to find us!).



Next OPAL lunchtime - 17th May

Don't forget to check the Opal Playtimes section of our website for updates:

<https://www.reptonmanorprimary.co.uk/our-children/opal-playtimes/>

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