

Carnarvon Primary School

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20th June 2025

Dear parents,

We are about to launch our exciting new project to make our playtimes even better, in conjunction with Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) CIC. In 2018, OPAL won the best active schools' programme in Europe award and has been cited in two parliamentary reports as delivering outstanding practice. OPAL is working closely with Sport England to promote more active childhoods, which is one of the many reasons we are improving our playtime, as well as increasing opportunities for socialisation, cooperation, coordination, resilience, creativity, imagination and enjoyment for your child.

We strongly believe that: **“Play is freely chosen, personally directed, intrinsically motivated behaviour that actively engages the child. Play can be fun or serious. Through play, children explore social, material and imaginary worlds and their relationship with them, elaborating all the while a flexible range of responses to the challenges they encounter. By playing, children learn and develop as individuals, and as members of the community.”** (Children’s Play Council 2001).

The project will start on Friday the 20th June in our launch assembly, and our hopes are that it will change the way we think, and how we play together. To facilitate the launch project, we have already bought some new resources, and we will be moving some things around on the playground. We will require lots and lots of loose parts. Loose parts are any materials that can be easily moved, combined, and incorporated into children's free play. The items we are looking for will enable us to enjoy a wider range of play experiences during playtime. Today, the children have been shown OPAL bingo, which is a fun way for us to gather donations. Each class will be going head-to-head to see who can fill their Bingo card first. Here is the first card:

Get ready to play... OPAL BINGO				
Laundry baskets 	Suitcases 	Wooden spoons 	Action figures 	Plastic crates 
Dress up items 	Cars 	Dinosaurs 	Pans 	Plastic dolls 
Lego 	Pegs 	Watering cans 	Plastic tubes 	Tarpaulin 
Beach spades 	Buckets 	Trowels 	Pushchairs 	Hats/wigs 
Guttering 	Sheets/fabric 	Umbrellas 	Jugs 	Chalk 



We are ready to take donations now, so it's a great time to have a clearout! Please send items into school with your child so they can tick their Bingo card. This collection will last two weeks, Friday 20th June – Friday 4th July. The sooner we can collect loose parts – the sooner we can start playing with them! There will be further whole-school collections of other, larger items in the new school year, but if there is anything in the meantime that crops up that you think might be suitable for our play, then please do feel free to bring it to school and leave it in our new drop off zone just inside the school gates, behind the clothing bank.



For a list of suitable items, please see the OPAL section of our website, which can be found under Parent information. There will also be an OPAL donation point and welly swap at the school fair.

There will be more information to follow at a parents' session later in the next academic year, when you will be invited to come and play with your children. We are really excited about this project and hope that you will support us in our efforts to improve playtime for all children.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mr Board". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Mr Board
Head Teacher