



Jennett's Park CE Primary School

Head Teacher: Mrs Elizabeth Savage
3 Tawny Owl Square,
Jennett's Park, Bracknell RG12 8EB
T: 01344 301269

secretary@jennetts.bonitas.org.uk

OPAL Parent Information

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Dear parents and carers,

We're really excited to let you know that we're starting a new project at Jennett's Park called OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning). Our aim is simple: we want to make playtime even better for all our children, helping them to be more active, creative, confident and happy at school.

What is OPAL?

OPAL is a programme that's been tried and tested in hundreds of schools in the UK and around the world. It's all about making playtimes more fun, more imaginative, and more inclusive – so every child can join in, make new friends and try new things.

You might be surprised to hear that children spend about 20% of their time at primary school playing – that's over a year of their school life! We want to make sure that time is as enjoyable and valuable as possible.

Why are we doing this?

Childhood has changed a lot over the years, and many children don't get as much chance to play outdoors as they used to. Did you know:

- Children spend an average of 6 hours a day on screens
- They only get about 5 hours of outdoor play a week
- Over half of children in the UK only play outside with other children at school

We want to change that by making our playtimes the best they can be!

What will this mean for your child?

You might notice some changes around school – like children using more of the outdoor space, playing in different ways, or coming home a bit messier than before! We may also ask for things you can donate for play (like old pots, pans, wellies or dressing-up clothes).

Most importantly, your child will have more freedom to play, explore and be creative. Play isn't just 'messing about' – it's how children learn lots of important things that can't always be taught in lessons.



What happens next?

- Please complete this parent survey to help us get started <https://forms.office.com/e/Zcd1BtLd2b> and share your views!
- We'll be working with an OPAL mentor for the next 18 months to help us get the most out of the programme.
- We'll invite you to events so you can see what OPAL is all about and even join in the fun.
- If you want to find out more now, you can visit the [OPAL website](#) for videos and information.

We're really looking forward to getting started and hope you'll support us in making playtime even better for everyone.

If you have any questions or ideas, please do get in touch!

Best wishes,

Carla Szadowski
Deputy Headteacher & OPAL Lead

