The Opal Primary Programme

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are about to launch our exciting new project to make our playtimes even better. We are lucky in that our outdoor space has two zones, a pirate ship, play leaders, competitions and superb playing fields. However, in conjunction with Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) CIC we aim to improve our playtime by providing more opportunities for inclusion, socialisation, cooperation, coordination, resilience, creativity, imagination and enjoyment for your child. This video is of a school who has also taken on the OPAL project, it should give you an idea of what we will be trying to achieve https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HWz3-wjmbyY

This 18 month project will start this half term and our hopes are that it 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 field and we require some loose parts. Loose parts are any materials that can be easily moved, combined, and incorporated into children's free play. For phase 1 of this project, we are looking for the following items:

What we require:

- Plastic milk crates/supermarket delivery crates/plastic bread trays
- Briefcases, especially hard cased ones
- Baking trays, work tables, wooden spoons, chopping boards
- Tubes of various sizes and various materials
- Buckets
- Nets and thick ropes
- Keyboards/torches/laptops/calculators/mobile phones/desk phones/cameras that are no longer working
- Fabric (large sheets/brightly coloured fabric)
- Any trowels for a digging area

- Camping roll mats/yoga mats
- Wooden pallets
- Cable drums
- Guttering
- Hats/scarves/jazzyshirts/elasticated skirts/waistcoats/wedding dresses/character costumes
- Pegs (to help to set up dens)
- Tyres
- Tarpaulin
- Small world toys eg. Cars, animals, dinosaurs etc.
- Natural loose parts eg. Shells, pine cones, wood off cuts
- Sandpit toys
- Noodles
- Logs and rocks to sit on
- Outdoor bean bags

When to bring in:
We will be holding a collection week beginning Monday 15th May the sooner we do this, the sooner the children will be able to play with the items! Please do not bring your donations in before this date as we will have nowhere to store them. If objects are really large, such as wooden pallets, we will ensure that there is someone available to help you carry them into school.

Even more help!
If your company would like to be involved in anyway such as sponsorship or providing materials e.g. quantities of tyres, cardboard boxes, wellington boots, sheds, shelters, large quantities of sand for a sand pit then please get in touch. One of our aspirations for this project is to build an outdoor performance area so if you can help with this at all or need any more information, please send an email to info@collis.richmond.sch.uk

CSA, Bounceathon and Mufti Day

The CSA have kindly decided to donate profits from the Bounceathon towards this exciting project. The Bounceathon will be a mufti day and encourage donations to be dropped on this day or at any point that week in return for mufti. So please encourage your children to get sponsorship and donate via https://bopp.app/request-details/31593. All this money will go towards setting up the OPAL project here at Collis.

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

Rachel Cronin, Paul Dowsett and Sophie Macartney

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).