



## **Our OPAL work has started!**

This week, our new OPAL Working Group started our journey towards transforming playtimes at Christ Church.

Our working party consists of:

- [Alison Richardson](#) (headteacher)
- [Harriet Jackson](#) (Curricular Lead for Play / Assistant Head / Pastoral Lead)
- [Karen Wells](#) (Play Coordinator responsible for school council)
- [Stacey Armstrong](#) (Play Coordinator and part of the midday team)
- [Lee Gaskin](#) (Governor Play Champion)
- [Kristy Sutterby](#) (Parent Play Champion and Christ Church Network rep)
- [Kerrie Ince](#) (Parent Play Champion and part of the midday team)

This week we were joined by an OPAL mentor to complete an audit about play at lunchtimes and to start our action plan; we have officially started our 18-month programme under the OPAL college, which has already been signed-up to by over 2000 schools across several different countries!

Look out for ongoing updates about our OPAL progress – for example, we will be sending out information about a parent survey before half-term. This, plus the results from both staff and pupil surveys being done in school, will help us develop better playtimes for all the children at Christ Church. **We are SUPER excited!**

You may have already spotted our new storage sheds which will help us store and manage the 100s of 'loose parts' that we will need to facilitate child-led play over lunchtimes.

To get a better idea of what this might look like, have a look at this school video about the impact of OPAL in their school: [OPAL Playtime - Hernhill - YouTube](#)

We are already starting to develop a brand new school '*Play Policy*' which will explain some of the theory and rationale behind OPAL, but you are welcome to find out more by visiting and exploring the OPAL website using this link: [Home - Outdoor Play And Learning](#)

We are also going to focus our Christ Church Network fundraising to help provide new resources and equipment to enhance our playtime provision – the more money we raise, the better playtime will be for all our children! Lookout for our 'wishlist' that we will be sharing with you soon 😊