



OPAL Newsletter

no. 25

25th April 2025



Invitation

We are very excited to be able to introduce the OPAL Primary Programme to families on **Monday, 12th May from 2:30pm.**

You are invited to come and play with your child/children in the school grounds. We will be making dens, dressing up, digging in mud, playing with water and much more.

Please make sure you are suitably dressed to play and for the weather.

We hope you have fun and consider ways you may be able to support our children's' play. For example, you may have some empty boxes, old suitcases, cable reels or plants to donate.

Health and Safety Executive (HSE) -The Importance of Risk

'Play is great for children's well-being and development. When planning and providing play opportunities, the goal is not to eliminate risk, but to weigh up the risks and benefits. No child will learn about risk if they are wrapped in cotton wool'.

HSE fully recognises that play brings the world to life for children. It provides for an exploration and understanding of their abilities; helps them to learn and develop; and exposes them to the realities of the world in which they will live, which is a world not free from risk but rather one where risk is ever present. The opportunity for play develops a child's risk awareness and prepares them for their future lives.

Striking the right balance between protecting children from the most serious risks and allowing them to reap the benefits of play is not always easy. It is not about eliminating risk. Nor is it about complicated methods of calculating risks or benefits.

At Herne Bay Infants we-

- Weigh up risks and benefits when designing and providing play opportunities and activities.
- Focus on and control the most serious risks, and those that are not beneficial to the play activity or foreseeable by the user.
- Recognise that the introduction of risk might form part of play opportunities and activity.
- Understand that the purpose of risk control is not the elimination of all risk, and so accepting that the possibility of even serious injuries cannot be eliminated, though it should be managed.
- Ensure that the benefits of play are experienced to the full.



[Free play is fundamental to children's physical, social, mental and emotional development and intrinsic to their health and happiness in the present moment.](#)