



Harrietsham Church of England Primary School

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Nurtured We Flourish

OPAL Playtime Parent Play Sessions

Monday 6th July and Friday 10th July 2026: 12pm – 1pm

(Please note: With the potential heat wave next week, this event is very much weather dependent. If the weather is too hot, we will not be playing outside and the event will need to be cancelled)

Dear Families,

We are writing to invite you all to come along to school and to join your children in a playtime session to see how OPAL play works.

Before I started at the school, the children only had the playground to play on and there was only the fixed equipment for them to enjoy. How our playground has transformed! With our amazing OPAL team, led by Mrs Mannering, we now have:

- A playing field with a nature area, a slide, a car, a digging pit, loose parts play and a football area.
- A wonderful small world area.
- A stage and dressing up area.
- A giant mud-kitchen, and cosy huts to play in.
- A ball pit (soon to be re-opened).
- A playground which includes a designated scooter and trike area, an arts and crafts gazebo, a shop, a cosy cabin, sand pits, a loose parts areas and designated sports areas.

Our children now have wonderful playtimes, where they have fun alongside developing a multitude of life skills.

We are very excited to invite you to come and share in a lunchtime play with your child/children in the school playground on **Monday 6th July** and / or **Friday 10th July (weather dependent)**. Lunchtime runs from **12pm to 1pm** and there is a short time where your child will be called into the lunch hall. Unfortunately, you will not be able to enter the lunch hall due to space restrictions, but we are sure there will be lots for you to do outside whilst your child eats.

To make this a safe experience for all, there are certain **rules and procedures that must be followed:**

- Unfortunately, we will not be able to allow any pre-school aged siblings to attend. The playground is a busy place and we would hate for anyone to be injured.
- All adults visiting must have completed the online form with their registration details before attending.
- For important safeguarding reasons, we cannot allow mobile phones on the playground or anywhere within the school. Please leave these at home or in a pocket.
- Unfortunately, we cannot have adult toilets open on the day, and we cannot allow adults and children to share toilets. For that reason, we will be unable to provide a toilet for any visiting adults.
- Adults are not permitted to enter the school building for any reason – this includes entering the lunch hall.
- Your children know the “do’s and don’ts” for outside play. These are their rules. Please do follow the rules of play that your children will explain to you.

- Please do not allow children to engage in rough play with you. Please do not lift any child under any circumstances.
- If you have any concerns during your visit, inclusive of what may be perceived as behaviour incidents, please raise these with a member of the play team (with a purple high-vis jacket) and do not try to resolve these yourself.

Please indicate on the below link if you are able to attend one of our play sessions, and sign to say that you agree to follow the rules.

Sign-up here: <https://forms.gle/2znp8YTccEUk4XJAA>

If possible, we would love you to please bring along a play donation.

For example:

- **Loose parts:** clean wood (no nails), plastic pipe / guttering (no sharp edges), plastic crates (no sharp broken bits).
- **Den making equipment:** tarpaulins, old bed sheets, clothes pegs.
- **Small world toys:** fairies, knights, dolls, cars, animals etc.
- **Wheeled toys:** suitcases, unbroken buggies, bikes, scooters.
- **Arts and Crafts:** paper, pens and pencils, craft materials, chalks.
- **Dressing up:** any clothes that children may want to dress-up in (can be normal clothes e.g. hats, suit jackets, dresses, cultural wear – not necessarily fancy dress)

Please bring any donations to the school gate. Items will be safety checked before going onto the playground.

Please dress for all weathers and for play!

For more information about our OPAL journey so far, please see the link on our website: [Harrietsham Church of England Primary School - OPAL \(Outdoor Play and Learning\) at Harrietsham](#)

Please give us your feedback following your visit:

Following your visit, we would love to hear your feedback via the link to the google form here: <https://forms.gle/RoXcjb3XLP8XaZfFA>.

Yours sincerely,

The OPAL Team

Mrs Mannering – OPAL Leader
Mrs Tipple – OPAL Assistant
Mrs Chambers

