



Artsmark
Silver Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England



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Dear Parents and Carers,

I cannot believe it is the Summer Term! Christmas seems only a few weeks ago! Again, a sign of a very busy school with so much going on.

Hats:

As we enter a summer of yet more exciting events and key milestones for children such as transition between Key Stages and SATs, we follow the important Jesse Gray tradition of wearing our hats outside. As I have said before this is an important issue for me, ask your children about what happened to my dad; therefore, the school will be monitoring this rigorously. The hat is considered uniform, red legionnaire hat for Foundation and Key Stage 1 and the choice of the black baseball cap for Key Stage 2. I have been delighted to see some children wearing these out at the weekends and after school, demonstrating their pride in the school. I have been pleased so far; with how many children have just automatically started wearing them, as ever please ensure that they are named clearly.

Mealtimes:

Firstly, an apology. Due to a mechanical fault that should be rectified this week, we have been unable to cook meals on site. We are very grateful to Nottinghamshire County Council for bringing hot meals in but they are frankly no-where near as good as the ones Mrs Dooley and her team normally prepare. Thank you for your patience with this and normal service will resume as soon as possible. If your child has reported that I am on their case about table manners, then it is probably true! I have been reinforcing some very basic behaviours at lunchtime and would appreciate your support with this, key messages being:

- Use a knife and fork
- Not eating with your fingers
- Not getting up from the table before you have finished
- Not throwing your packed lunch away
- Not wearing your hat at the table
- Being appreciative of the food provided and trying things

These basic expectations align with our school values and make a much more pleasurable lunchtime experience.

Eid celebrations:

A huge thank you to the team of parents who worked with Mrs Warren (RE lead) to run a great Eid celebration day for all of our children. The day had a real buzz about it and allowed the children who do celebrate to share their experience and knowledge with their friends. On behalf of the staff, I would also like to thank the parents for the lovely staffroom treats.

Soap Box Challenge:

The Soap Box Challenge that I planned to run three years ago is FINALLY going to happen! The prototype go-karts were on display at the recent parents evening and further vehicles are being built. Detailed information about this event will accompany this newsletter as we work toward a series of races, which will form the centerpiece of this year's Mid-summer Madness event on the evening of July the 14th. The weeks prior to the event will involve STEM activities in each class building up to it. As you will see from the information attached there is a plan for the event, I am however open to ideas as to how we can make this bigger and better in both the educational activities running up to it and the race itself. I am therefore holding an informal meeting at school on Tuesday 9th May at 17.30 for anyone who wishes to be involved or help in any way. So, if you are able to run a relevant STEM/ motoring/ engineering talk or assembly, can help with materials, sponsorship, marshaling or most importantly, wish to enter a home build vehicle in the open class please come along. If you cannot make the meeting, please get in touch through the usual channels.... It is going to be fun!

Exciting news from Mrs Viggars

Coronation Activities

Next week all children will be taking part in some activities to mark the Coronation of King Charles III. Thank you to all of you who have helped us by donating items for our 'Sustainable Art Work Project', which the children will be competing next week. Each class has designed their own piece of work, which will be used to decorate our newly named 'King Charles III Way'. On Friday, we will all be enjoying a special 'Afternoon Tea' for our lunch followed by the opening of King Charles III way. This is due to be opened by a past Jesse Gray pupil, who has shown what a powerful part of learning play is, and how it has helped him create a fantastic career. After this, the children will be allowed a special afternoon of play using our new OPAL system – see below! All children will also receive a special Jesse Gray Coronation Badge to add to their collection of badges.

OPAL Play

Over the next few weeks, months and year we will be introducing a new system of play at lunchtime for all of our children. OPAL play embraces our setting, the UK weather system and allows children to play by engaging their preferred style of the 15 types of play. We will be introducing the system very slowly at first with our first trial on Friday 5th May in the afternoon as part of our Coronation Celebrations.

Some of the benefits of OPAL play are:

- **Behaviour** - happy children don't cause nearly as much trouble as bored children
- **Accidents** - OPAL schools have up to 80% less reported accidents
- **Staff well-being** - Supervising happier children leads to happier staff



- **SLT time** - senior leaders report a dramatic reduction in the time they spend on resolving play conflicts
- **Teachers** - consistently report more teaching time in afternoon lessons
- **Self-regulation** - children in OPAL schools learn to self-regulate through practice, trust and freedom
- **Physical activity** - all children, including girls, SEN and non-sporty children are significantly more active
- **Mental well-being** - Research shows OPAL children are happier and self-reporting improved mental health
- **Social and emotional development** - Good play in the laboratory of life where relationships are practiced
- **Links to formal learning** - Many OPAL schools report increased creativity, imagination and collaborative skills
- **Attendance** - children can't wait to come to OPAL schools because they have such fun
- **Parents** - we all want our children to be happy. Well informed parents at OPAL schools love it that their children are happier
- **Rights** - Play is a child's right as recognised by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- **OFSTED** - OPAL schools can easily provide evidence on their approach to wellbeing and inclusion
- **Risk** - OPAL schools report significant improvements in children's ability to identify and manage risk

To make OPAL as exciting for the children as possible, over the next few weeks we will be asking for donations of things you may have lying around your house e.g. old dressing up, pots and pans, drain pipes etc. These will all be detailed on the weekly newsletter so please keep your eyes peeled for our newest requests!

To allow us to measure the impact of OPAL Play, we would love it if you could complete a short survey all about play. Please click on the following link to take part. <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/TJYX6F6>

If you wish to learn more about OPAL Play please visit their website <https://outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk/>
You will be able to see our school developments through our Jesse Gray OPAL Play Twitter account (link coming soon!)

Thanks,



C Belton – Headteacher



L Viggars – Deputy Headteacher

