



# Opal Newsletter

## Spring Edition 2026



★ Welcome to Our Second OPAL Newsletter! ★

*Dear Parents/ Carers,*

As we reach the end of another fantastic term, it feels like the perfect time to share our Spring OPAL Newsletter and celebrate everything that has been happening outdoors at The Churchill School.

The months from January through to April certainly tested us with every type of weather imaginable! We experienced plenty of rain, muddy conditions, frosty mornings and even a few beautiful sunny days that reminded us spring was finally on its way.

One thing that has stood out this term is the incredible resilience, adaptability and togetherness shown by our children. Thanks to the fantastic support from families providing waterproof clothing, coats and wellies, our children have continued to embrace outdoor play whatever the weather.

This newsletter celebrates the creativity, teamwork and imagination we have seen across our playground this term, as well as sharing some exciting developments and future plans for our OPAL journey.

As always, thank you for your continued support. Together, we are creating play opportunities that help our children become Champions in Play and Leaders in Life.

The OPAL Team ❤️





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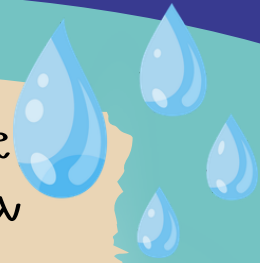
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### Whatever the Weather!



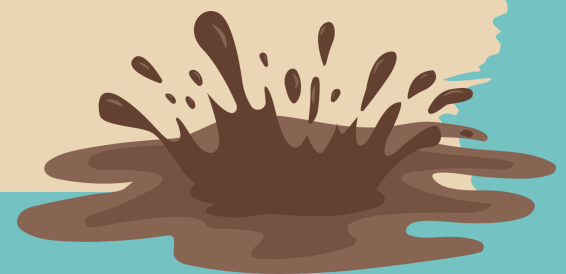
For the first time since beginning our OPAL journey, parts of our field became extremely muddy due to the wet weather conditions. While this created a few challenges, it also created incredible opportunities for play.



We would like to say a huge thank you to all parents and carers who ensured children came to school with waterproof coats, waterproof trousers and wellies. Having the correct clothing made a huge difference and allowed children to continue enjoying meaningful, adventurous play throughout the term.

It has been wonderful to see children helping one another with their waterproof clothing, sharing resources and supporting friends. These simple moments perfectly demonstrate our school values of Togetherness, Adaptability and Resilience.

Thanks to your support, we have been able to keep the vast majority of our play zones open throughout the winter months, ensuring children continued to enjoy a rich and varied play experience every day.



### Den Building, Mud and Adventure

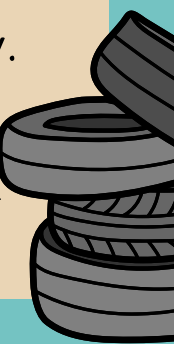


Our Den Building Zone has remained one of the most popular areas at lunchtime this term. The children's creativity has been fantastic, with dens transformed into forts, campsites and even Minecraft-inspired worlds.



Many of our mud kitchen resources also made their way onto the field, where children created campfires, outdoor kitchens and imaginative role-play adventures.

It has been wonderful to see so much teamwork, problem-solving and imagination on display. Children who preferred to stay on firmer ground also enjoyed making the most of the additional playground space, showing that there is something for everyone within our OPAL provision.





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## Spring Edition 2026



### A Fond Farewell... For Now!

Unfortunately, following some safety inspections and required repairs, we were faced with significant costs to maintain our trim trail. After careful consideration, we made the difficult decision to remove the equipment.

Whilst we know many children enjoyed using the trim trail, safety must always come first.

The good news is that we are already exploring exciting ideas for the future. We have begun discussions about potential replacement equipment that could celebrate the unique history and heritage of our school site. We are incredibly excited by some of the possibilities and look forward to sharing more information once plans have progressed further.

Watch this space!

### Our Sensory and Wildlife Garden Begins!

We are delighted to share that work has officially begun on our new sensory and wildlife garden area.

Recently, students from EKC College spent the day working alongside us to help create the foundations for a beautiful willow structure. Their hard work, enthusiasm and support have given the project a fantastic start and we are extremely grateful for everything they achieved.

This area will eventually become a peaceful space where children can connect with nature, explore wildlife and enjoy sensory experiences outdoors.

We are looking forward to welcoming the students back again soon as the project continues to grow.





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### Can You Help Us?

We were thrilled to be selected for the **TESCO** Stronger Starts Blue Token Scheme this term.

The funding raised will go directly towards developing our new sensory and wildlife garden area, helping us create even more opportunities for outdoor learning and play. If you visit Tesco, please look out for The Churchill School and place your blue token in our voting box.



Every token really does make a difference and could help transform this exciting new space for our children.

Thank you for your support!



### Looking Ahead

Some exciting developments are already being planned for the summer term, including further improvements to our sensory garden, new play opportunities and the continued development of our outdoor spaces.

As always, we remain committed to providing high-quality play experiences that develop creativity, independence, resilience and teamwork, we look forward to revealing more to you in the summer term.

Thank you for continuing to support our OPAL journey.  
Together, we are #TeamChurchill ❤️

### Calling All Volunteers

Could you help make play even better at Churchill?

We're always looking for volunteers with practical skills who can support small playground projects. If you'd like to get involved, please contact Mrs Weaver or the school office.

Every helping hand makes a difference. ❤️  
#TeamChurchill

### How you can help



Could you help us add a little more magic to playtimes?

Scan the QR code to take a look at our Amazon Wishlist. Every item donated helps create new adventures, spark imagination and bring even more joy to our playground.

Thank you for your continued support - together we are making play amazing! ❤️ #TeamChurchill

### Our OPAL wish list