



Merry Christmas!

We on the Grove Park OPAL Team wish you happy holidays and a fantastic New Year! As you may have noticed, 2024 has brought a number of new additions to the playground as part of OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning), such as our new wooden play area, mud kitchen, pallet houses and a variety of other pieces of equipment which the children enjoy and use every break and lunch. We've been working as hard as possible to not only engage children on the playgrounds during these times, but provide them with playtime opportunities that they have not had the chance to experience before. However, this is just the beginning, and we are hoping to make significant additions to our playgrounds and fields in 2025. First though, we need your help!

In order to carry out some of our plans, we are in need of materials and equipment, and any donations would contribute greatly to these, and will help provide greater opportunities for your children during playtime. With that in mind, we are kindly asking for any of the following if you can provide them:

- **Wellies** One of our earliest targets is to have our children back on the fields and playing in the mud kitchen amongst other things, and we need wellies of all sizes (children's sizes of course).
- **Tires** Den building is one of the most anticipated additions to our playtimes, and in order to build dens, we need tires (which work perfectly when stacked). We're not picky either, tires of all sizes are greatly appreciated!
- **Pallets** Like tires, pallets will be a major part of den building, and the more the merrier. Ideally, we are looking for newer pallets in good condition, as they are safer for the children to use and last longer.
- **Tarpaulins** Tarpaulins are key to den building, as they can be used as roofing, walls or flooring. All tarpaulins are great, no matter the size. And even better, if you have camouflage netting that you are looking to get rid of, that would be amazing!
- **Costumes** For a long time, we have had a stage on our main playground, but rarely has it been used to its potential. We are really hoping to turn it into a theatre for children to use, and for that we need costumes for the 'actors' to wear! So if you have any fancy dress that's perhaps too small for your children or you're getting rid of, we will gladly accept them.

We appreciate all the support and any donations you are able to provide, as they go a long way in ensuring the success of OPAL within Grove Park, and of course ensure that children are having the best playtimes possible. If you are able and willing to donate any of the things above, there will be designated areas for you to drop things off.

Wellies, tarps and costumes can be placed outside Snow Leopard and Reindeer class (there will be signs that you will see as you walk onto the main playground, you won't miss them!). We kindly ask that if you are donating pallets or tires, please place them next to the red clothes bin by the car park.

Thank you very much!

Mr Day, Mrs Mannering & Mrs Fosbraey