



NEW MILTON INFANT SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs Amy Wake

2nd October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to be launching our exciting new OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) project, which will help us make playtimes even richer and more enjoyable for all children. OPAL is a nationally recognised programme that supports schools in creating high-quality play opportunities and was awarded Europe's Best Active School Programme in 2018. Through this initiative, we aim to provide children with increased opportunities to be active, develop friendships, work collaboratively, build resilience, use their imagination and creativity, and most importantly, have fun.

From Monday 10th October, we will begin rolling out Phase 1 of our OPAL project. We are looking forward to developing even more opportunities for children to play collaboratively, creatively and independently. Over the coming weeks, you may notice some changes to our playground as we introduce new resources and adapt our outdoor environment. To support this exciting development, we would be very grateful for donations of loose parts that can be used during playtimes.

Loose parts are objects that children can safely move, collect, stack, sort, build with and incorporate into their own play. They are a key part of the OPAL approach, encouraging creativity, problem-solving and teamwork. To support the start of Phase 1, we are seeking donations of the items listed below:

- Beach toys – buckets, spades, sieves, different shaped moulds
- Trikes, scooters and balance bikes (must be in good working order and suitable for 4-7 year olds)
- Road signs and cones
- Dress up clothes - Hats/scarves/jazzy shirts/elasticated skirts/waistcoats/wedding dresses/character costumes
- Lego, duplo, building blocks, dolls house characters and furniture
- Plastic milk crates/supermarket delivery crates/plastic bread trays
- Fabric (large sheets/brightly coloured fabric)
- Wooden pallets
- Noodles (the type you use in the swimming pool!)
- Pegs (to help to set up dens)

We will be holding our collection week beginning Monday 5th October. Please do not bring your donations in before this date as we will have nowhere to store them. If objects are really large, such as wooden pallets, we will ensure that there is someone available to help you carry them into school.

If you have any items to donate, they will need to be brought to Mrs Jones (Wagtails Teacher) and Mr Tarrant (Site Manager). Staff will be on the main gate at the front of the school and will direct you to where the items need to be left. Please bring your items in between 8:30 and 8:50.

There will be plenty more opportunities to learn about OPAL over the coming months, including a special parent session where you will be invited to come and play alongside your child. We are excited to embark on this project and are grateful for your support in helping us create the very best play experiences for all children.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'A Wake'.

Mrs A Wake
Headteacher