



# Aragon Primary School

Aragon Rd, Morden, Surrey, SM4 4QU

Tel: 020 8337 0505

Email: aragon@aragon.merton.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs C. Ryder

Deputy Head Teacher: Mr A. Gilbert

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

Dear Parents and Carers,

There's been a real buzz at lunchtimes this week - some of you might have even heard you children talking about their play. We have just begun a partnership with OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning), who are a company that is an award-winning, mentor supported school improvement programme that addresses all the areas that schools must plan for if they want to strategically and sustainably improve the quality of their play opportunities.

We began this long-term project last week with a whole school staff INSET and this week we introduced all children playing together across the whole site. In addition to this, we have provided the children with small world activities, water play and junk-modelling. This has proved immensely popular, and we have already seen a vast improvement in the way that the children are playing outside. However, we really need to know what you, as parents and carers, feel about our playtime provision. I would be immensely grateful if you could fill in the following survey by 22nd April. You could be in with a chance to win a pair of 'outdoor socks'!

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LWBH923>

We will strive to continually update you on how we are providing the best possible play for the children in the newsletter. Attached is a letter from Cath Prisk, our OPAL mentor, and a parent information pack about what we hope play will look like in a years' time.

To facilitate this project, we will need to buy some new resources, move some things around on the playground and we will also require some loose parts. Loose parts are any materials that can be easily moved, combined, and incorporated into children's free play. The items we are looking for will enable us to enjoy a wider range of play experiences during playtime (see below for some examples):

Suitcases of any size and type	Buckets	Noodles (the type you use in the swimming pool!)
Anything on wheels/castors	Nets and ropes	Wooden pallets
Plastic milk crates	Keyboards	Pegs (to help to set up dens)
Briefcases, especially hard cased one)	Fabric (large sheets/brightly coloured fabric)	Guttering



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Road signs and cones	Foam sheets / body boards	tubes of various sizes and various materials
kitchen pots, pans, baking trays, worktables, wooden spoons, chopping boards	Metal frames	Cable drums
Tools like spades, trowels and brooms	Pop-Up tents	Dressing-up clothes

We will be holding a collection week during the week beginning Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March. The sooner we do this, the sooner the children will be able to play with the items! Please drop them at the front of the school to the left hand side of the office, where there will be a coned-off area to drop your donations.

There will be more information to follow at a parent's session later in the year when you will be invited to come and play with your children. We are really excited about this project and hope that you will support us in our efforts to improve playtime for all children.

Kind regards,

Adam Gilbert

Deputy Headteacher



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