



# **THOMAS WILLINGALE SCHOOL AND NURSERY**

The Broadway, Loughton, Essex. IG10 3SR. Tel: 020 8508 7287 Fax: 020 8502 5364

Headteacher: Miss T. Phillips B.A. (Hons.), PGCE

28.3.25

Dear Parents/Carers

As we are fast approaching the end of the Spring term, we would like to tell you about some of the wonderful things that have been happening with Opal lunchtimes.

Firstly, a big thank you to all of you that joined in with the Opal bingo. We had an enormous number of items donated which enriched the fun the children were already having. Hawthorn Class gathered the most points and were delighted to win an additional playtime. Please look out for another Bingo in the Summer term.

Mr Reinke, our site manager, has been busy making fantastic resources. He has vamped up the mud kitchen and created a restaurant area, we now have our own car made from pallets and old chairs, a music area and even more challenging items for the children to climb over and through. He is always thinking about what he can do next so donations of pallets and wood are always gratefully received.

There are two new tyre swings which the children are having a lot of fun with as well as all the fabulous things we already had in place.

To help get more children into all areas of the site at all times of the year, we have invested some of our money into buying waterproofs and wellies for children that may not have them. This has been a real success and increased the number of children playing on the field during the winter.

The children themselves have come up with some great ideas which we are hoping to put into place, such as a ramp for the wheeled area, a house/den area as well as a multitude of ideas for clubs. The children themselves run a chess club, drama club, dancing clubs and an art club at lunchtimes.

**Website:** [www.thomaswillingaleprimary.co.uk](http://www.thomaswillingaleprimary.co.uk)

**Email address:** [admin@thomaswillingale.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@thomaswillingale.essex.sch.uk)



We also have weekly archery, a slackline and next week there will be a monthly repair shop starting where children can go to learn how to repair broken bikes and scooters – all with the help and close supervision of Mr Gibbs, our playteam lead for Opal.

In addition, we welcomed our reception children, a term earlier than we normally do, to join in with us this term. Only today, a couple of those children came to tell me about the fun things they had been doing at lunchtime. They are loving it!

Some of your children may have told you that they have won a Golden Ticket. We have regular Opal assemblies where the children are nominated by the play team for being helpful with tidying up and for embracing Opal and being particularly creative or supportive of others when they are playing. For this they win a golden ticket which can be swapped for an item from the tuck shop.

During the summer term we will be running an information afternoon followed by a 'Stay and Play', where you can join your children and play alongside them. Please look out for more information regarding this soon.

I have a wonderful time watching the children doing all kinds of magical things, it really is fantastic. I am always delighted to see the new skills and the fun the children are having with all that we have. Your children are learning to ride bikes, skateboard, take turns, balance, play tennis, hockey, cricket, climb, build dens, be creative and negotiate risks safely, amongst many other things, as well as having a fantastic time playing with other children.

Please take a minute or so to look at the pictures we have added to the website.

Once again, thank you for your support, without your donations we could not have made this as successful as it is.

Kind regards, have a wonderful Easter

Mrs Collins and the Play Team.

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