

we realised that we needed to improve our playtimes in order to have happy, engaged children with good behaviour and an attitude to taking risk that they could then apply to their learning in the classroom. Previously at playtimes, children had few resources on a largely tarmac and artificial grass playground. Over the past year we have been working with Michael Follett from OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning). As part of the project we have improved our playtimes in many different ways. We started by consulting with our School Council to ask them how we could improve our playtimes. We visited other schools and picked out the best bits that we wanted for our school.

The adults wrote a new Play Policy and we now include information about Play at Paulton Infants in our School Prospectus. The school bought waterproof coats and trousers for all children and adults in our school so that we could play in all weathers! Lunchtime staff are now Play Makers, and we appointed a Play Leader to promote better play at lunchtimes and playtimes. We are developing our grounds to include different levels, textures, pathways and journeys for us to play on and explore. Donations were sent in of old toys that we can use in different ways in our play and we painted a wall black so that we can chalk it! We take cardboard rubbish onto the playground to use in our creative play. One parent made us a mud kitchen - we love it! We hold Play Days with parents - they get invited for lunch, to take part in play activities with us, and to listen to a talk about Risk/Benefit from Michael Follett. We have after school 'Stay and Play' sessions to fundraise for more play resources - we joined Scrapstore with the money raised which means we can access even more scrap to play with.

Play and Outdoor Learning is now a massive part of our curriculum and ethos and we are seeing a hugely positive impact on the children's behaviour and attitude to learning. Playtimes are fun and creative with less behaviour issues. Our children are happier and healthier!

How we made Paulton Infant School healthier!
(Criteria 1 - Promotes an ethos of positive mental health and wellbeing across the school.)



"I like the bucket and spades in the mud kitchen and making mud pies!"

"I like the monkey bars - I am getting better and better."

"Everyday we go in the mud kitchen, we have to wear our waterproofs."

"I liked making friendship bracelets for my friends."

