

Friday 8 March 2024

Dear Parents,

I am writing to you today to share with you an exciting new initiative that we will be implementing at Grange Park Primary School at the beginning of the summer term to enhance the playtime experience for our children. After careful consideration and consultation with the children, we are introducing a new playtime initiative involving the incorporation of loose parts on the playgrounds. This is part of our ongoing commitment to fostering creativity, imagination, and collaborative play among our children.

Loose parts play involves providing children with open-ended materials such as tyres, crate, fabric scraps, plastic piping, wooden blocks and other items that they can freely manipulate, combine, and transform according to their imagination and interests. By introducing these materials onto our playgrounds, we aim to create environments that inspire curiosity, experimentation, and teamwork among our children. In addition to this, this type of play has been shown to have numerous benefits for children's development, including fostering creativity, problem solving skills, social interaction and physical activity.

The decision to introduce loose parts onto our playgrounds was informed by feedback from the children themselves. Through surveys and pupil voice, School Parliament asked the children what they liked and didn't like about playtime and what ideas they had for improving the playtime experience at school. Many of them expressed a desire for more opportunities for imaginative and creative play, as well as a wish for a greater variety of play materials. These materials will be carefully selected and monitored to ensure that they are safe and suitable for play.

We believe that by incorporating loose parts onto our playgrounds will not only fulfil these wishes but also create dynamic and inclusive play spaces where all children can engage in meaningful and enjoyable play experiences. However, to make this initiative a success, we need your support. While we have already allocated some resources towards acquiring loose parts for our playgrounds, additional donations would greatly enhance our ability to provide a wider range of materials and ensure that all children have access to enriching play experiences. If you would like to contribute, we are accepting donations of gently used or new loose parts.

The items we are looking for will enable us to enjoy a wider range of play experiences during playtime. If you are able to help us in sourcing any of these items below, we would be extremely grateful:

- Suitcases of any size and type
- Anything on wheels/castors
- Large cardboard boxes (broken down)
- Plastic milk, bread crates
- Briefcases, especially hard cased ones
- Road signs and cones

- Tubes of various sizes and various materials
- Buckets
- Nets and ropes
- Fabric (large sheets/brightly coloured fabric that dry easily e.g organza, shower curtains etc)
- Cable drums of any size
- Guttering, tubing
- Noodles (the type you use in the swimming pool!)
- Tyres - especially bicycle tyres
- Plastic pallets
- Lengths of decking planks/scaffold boards (rough edges sanded down and free from nails)
- Lego, small construction, small world toys (eg animals, people etc)
- Dressing up clothes

Items can be dropped off in the meeting area (to the left of Scoffi's) every Tuesday.

We will also be approaching local businesses to support us, so if you have any good contacts or know a business that may be willing to donate, please do let us know.

The main contacts in school for this long-term project are **Rebecca Neale** and **Brogan Richards**.

We are really excited about this project and are looking forward to setting up our loose parts play spaces for the children to explore. We hope that you will support us in our efforts to improve playtime for all children and if you have any questions you are welcome to ask either of us.

Warm regards,

Rebecca Neale (Deputy Headteacher), Brogan Richards(Deputy Senior Playleader) & the PALs

