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Dear Race Leys Infant School,

I would like to convey how positive I found my recent visit to your school; and to see the transformation that has recently taken place in the school's approach to the provision of quality play!

On my first visit, back in September 2023, children were queuing up to get off the playground 10 minutes before the end of playtimes, there needed to be more for them to do and the school used only a fraction of the available space. As a result, playtimes were noisy, crowded and boring for most children.

The school has implemented many of the cultural and practical changes recommended in the OPAL Primary Programme and the results are beginning to shape. Play is taken seriously at the school and is given appropriate leadership, planning, evaluation and resources. Playtimes at Race Leys Infant School are becoming more inclusive, and joyful and they provide a wider variety of types of play.

The children spoke with confidence about what they were learning when playing, how they used dynamic risk assessment to identify and mitigate against risk, and genuine love of their school experience(s).

I very much look forward to visiting again.

Yours truly,

Rob Francksen NPQH | MA | PGCE | QTS | BSc (Hons)
OPAL Consultant
Former Executive Headteacher

OPAL Leicester Ltd Play Consultancy

OPAL works with schools, EY providers, councils and organisations to improve all aspects of children's opportunities to play and learn outdoors.

OPAL enables its clients to understand what children need, what they are doing well already and how they can plan and design better play opportunities.
