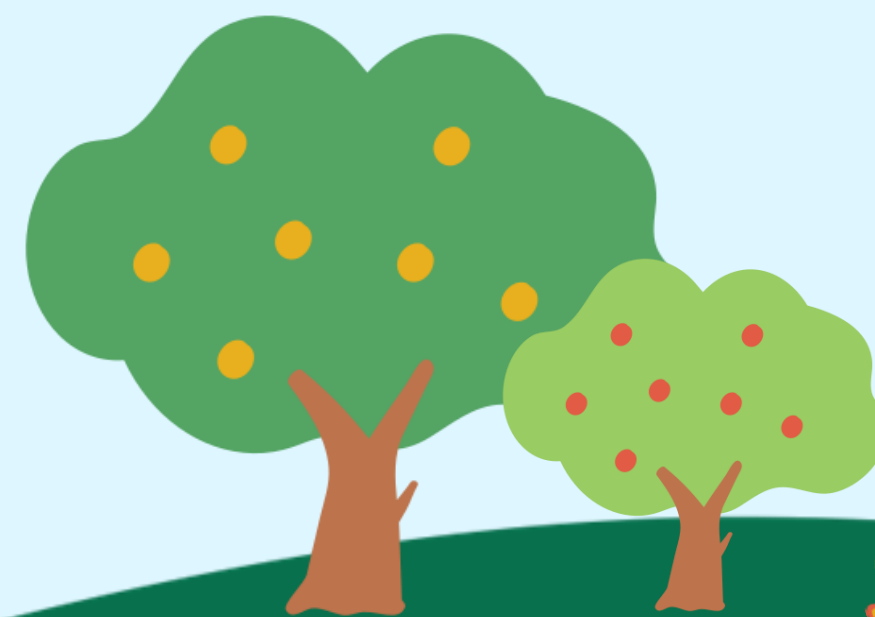




# OPAL Play at St. John's Primary





# **The Working Party, Play Team and Play Coordinators**

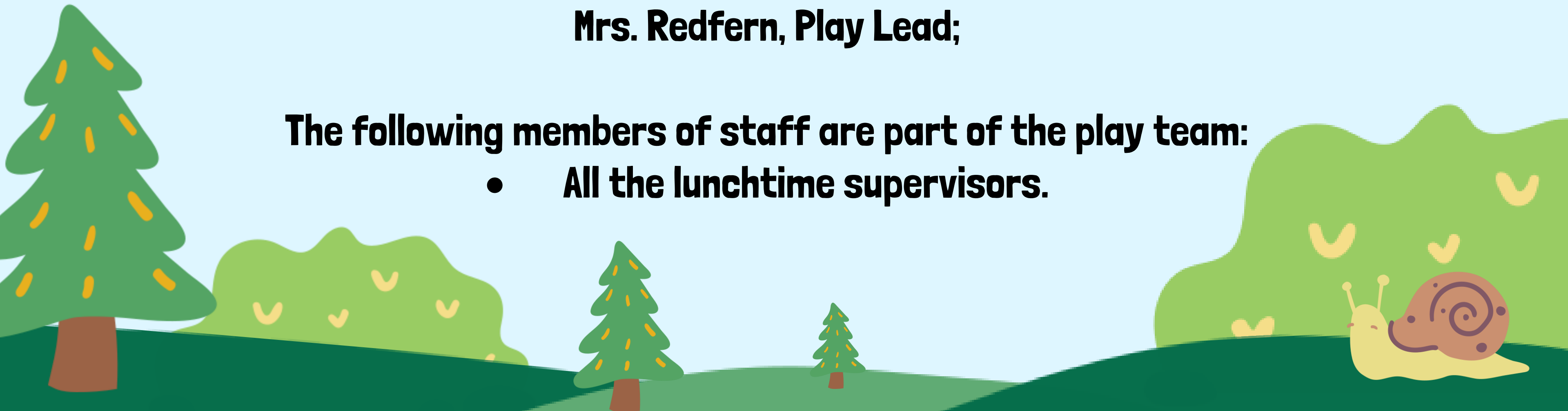
**We have created a team of staff members committed to supporting the development of play through the OPAL**

**Programme in our school:**

- **Mrs. Stone, Headteacher;**
- **Mrs. Poynton Assistant Headteacher;**
- **Mrs. Redfern, Play Lead;**

**The following members of staff are part of the play team:**

- **All the lunchtime supervisors.**



# Play Policy

**Our school's commitment to ensuring that quality environments for play and informal recreation are available for all our children. We aim to improve the way we think about and provide opportunities for play. All of our children will have the opportunity to flourish during their play (free) time.**

***"The main characteristic of play – child or adult – is not its content, but its mode. Play is an approach to action, not a form of activity".***

***Jerome Bruner, quoted in Moyles (1989)***

# Introduction–Why Opal Play?



## OPAL- Outdoor Play and Learning

We have decided to set up Opal play here at St. John's because we believe that play is amazing, important, fun and good for children in so many ways.

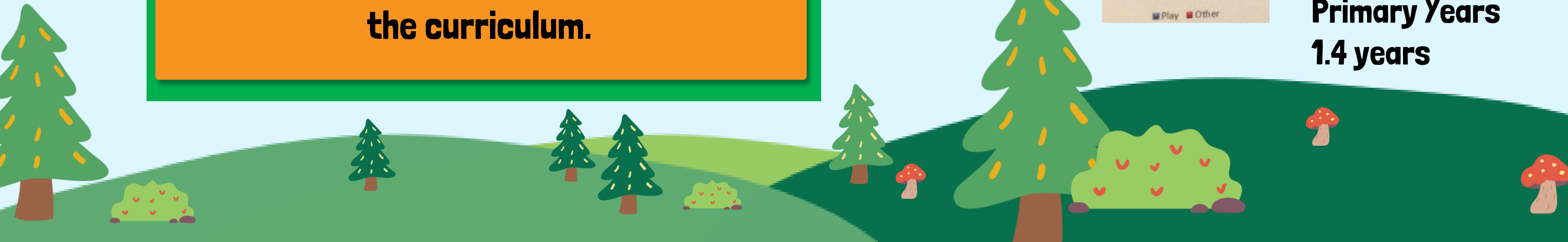
**Children attend primary school for seven years. Of those seven years, around 1.4 years will be spent outside actively playing, making 'playtime' by far the most dominant element within the curriculum.**

## **Play makes up 20% of school life**



**Per Year**  
**231 hours**  
**37 days**  
**7.4 weeks**

**Primary Years**  
**1.4 years**

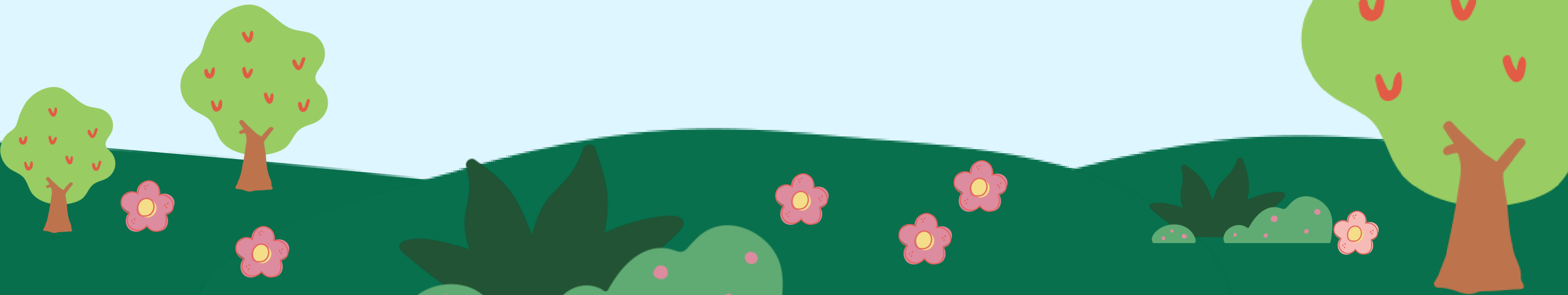




## The OPAL Programme rationale is that:



*...“better, more active and creative play times can mean happier and healthier children, and having happier, healthier, more active children USUALLY RESULTS in a more positive ATTITUDE to learning in school, with more effective classroom lessons, less staff time spent resolving UNNECESSARY BEHAVIOURAL problems, fewer playtime accidents, happier staff and a healthier ATTITUDE to life”.*



# What are the Benefits?

More Teaching Time

Social Skills

Improved Behaviour

Faster core skills  
development

Inclusion

Happiness and  
Wellbeing



# Suggestion Box:

**We asked the children to post ideas for future development:**

The most popular suggestion was rotating ball games on the MUGA

Monkey bars

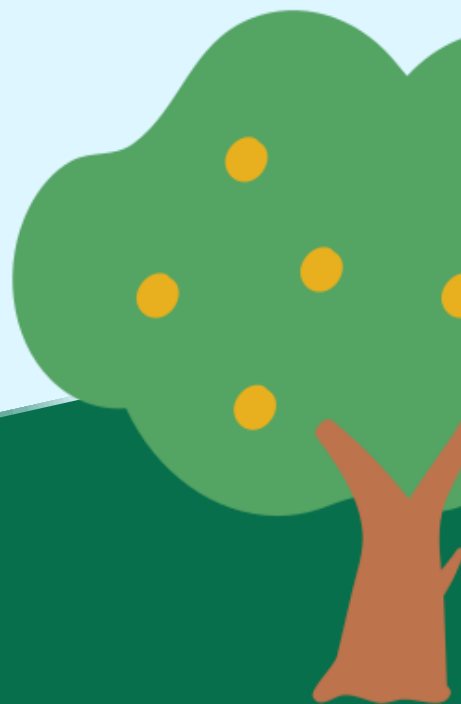
A swing or a bucket swing.

SLIDE

Please keep adding your suggestions to the box.



# How it looks now!





# Our first stage of development.



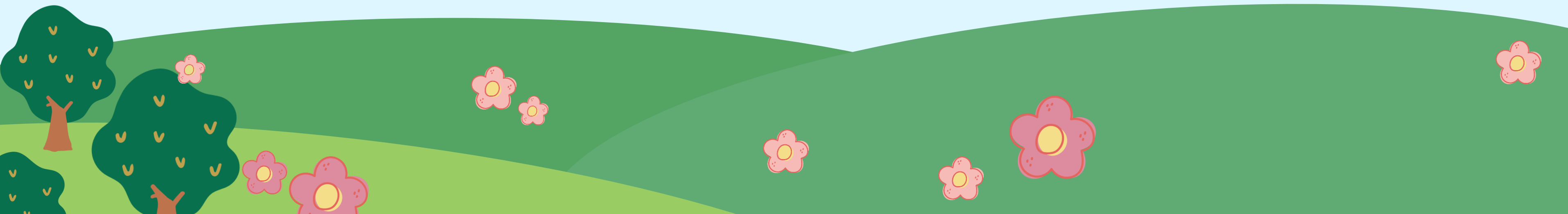


# Freedom Friday



As part of our OPAL programme, we are launching 'Freedom Friday' in Summer 2. All children from Year 1 to Year 6 will have the opportunity to play across both key stage 1 and 2 playgrounds during the lunchtime break, exploring different areas of the school grounds together.

We will speak to the children in assembly and talk to them about risk. We will also conduct a Freedom Friday Risk Assessment.







# Dream list for Opal play



**Sandpit that could fit a class in.**

**Bouldering wall**

**Built stage so that children can perform.**

**Music area for dancing and performance.**

**Spiritual/ Calm area**

**Wildflower garden /possibly in planters in calm area**

**Teepees for shaded resting areas.**

**Small world and Lego construction area.**

**Mud kitchen and café.**

**Tunnels and climbing areas on the lower field area.**

**Running track around the field.**

