

Stanhope Barrington C of E  
Primary School



Westcroft  
Stanhope  
Bishop Auckland  
Co Durham  
DL13 2NU

Head Teacher: Mrs D Cross

School Number 840 3087

Tel: 01388 528218

Email: [admin@stanhopebarrington.org.uk](mailto:admin@stanhopebarrington.org.uk)

Website: [stanhopebarrington.org.uk](http://stanhopebarrington.org.uk)

Dear Parent/Carer,

8<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Exciting playtimes coming soon!

We would like to tell you about an exciting new opportunity that our school is about to embark on, which will help improve the quality of play for all of our children. Over the past few weeks we have been planning a new approach which will provide children with opportunities for more physical activity, socialisation, co-operation, resilience, creativity, imagination and enjoyment through improved play.

We have initially introduced the prospect of rejuvenating play times with the children by introducing different play zones in our outdoor area, and this was met with rapturous anticipation. We want the children to have ownership of this development and for their voices to influence how we take it forward. Therefore, the children were challenged to create an exciting name and offer potential ideas for the different zones prior to half-term. After much consideration from the staff, the winning name has been selected, play times will now be known as Power Play. With the help of the children we have already identified our first zones that will be implemented in the outdoor area. These include:

- Construction Zone
- Mud Kitchen
- Lego Zone
- Reading Zone
- Chill Zone

Our vision for Power Play is to provide our children with resilience and risk assessment skills that are essential for their physical and mental well-being. In addition, research shows that this approach to play benefits the enjoyment of school for all and promotes positive relationships. The new ways to play will be introduced slowly and the development of a Playtime Policy will ensure all children and staff are positively motivated to support play. We feel this is an exciting time at Stanhope Barrington and hope you will support our changes as we aim to improve the school for everyone.

We are now seeking donations to kick-start our project, and a lot of the equipment we require may be classed as junk. On the reverse of this letter I have attached a list of items which, if you have

---

Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Learning Trust is a company limited by guarantee (company number [10847279](#)) and exempt charity registered in England and Wales at Cuthbert House, Stonebridge, Durham, DH1 3RY



spare, we will put to good use. A collection box, marked Power Play, will be placed at the entrance of the school on a morning from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November and smaller items can be donated at this point. If you have any larger items you wish to donate, please contact the school office on 01388 528218 to arrange an appropriate time and location for drop off. Please be reassured that ALL items will be put into isolation for 48 hours prior to being inspected. ALL items will then be inspected and added to an asset register with a comprehensive safety inspection carried out before any item is put into the play zones.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school, and I look forward to seeing the impact our new play approach will have on our children. Please keep an eye on our website which will show how this plan will grow and develop over time.

Kind regards,

Mr Storey

EYFS Team Leader

<u>Donations</u>	
Boards, Old Cabinet Doors, Panels	Old Household Appliances, Hoovers, Fax Machines, Microwaves etc
Buggies, Push Chairs	Pallets
Cable Drums	Phones
Carpet	Planks, Decking
Cars and Vehicles	Plastic Chairs and bins
Fabrics - all shapes and sizes	Reading Books
Foam Pipe Covers and Noodles	Small Children's Bike Wheels, Wheels
Guttering	Small Wheelie Bins
Hoses	Sofa and Chair Cushions or bean bags
Keyboards	Steering Wheels
Lego	Suitcases - all sizes
Metal Pots, Pans, Trays etc. Especially Catering Sizes	Sheets, Rugs, Tarpaulin
Nets (Fishing, Cargo, Football)	Tubes - of all kinds
Old Clothes (Jackets, Overalls, Hats) Bags	Wooden blocks and off cuts
<i>Plus, anything else you feel might promote imaginative play</i>	

Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Learning Trust is a company limited by guarantee (company number [10847279](#)) and exempt charity registered in England and Wales at Cuthbert House, Stonebridge, Durham, DH1 3RY

