



Thursday 1st May 2025

Dear Parents & Carers,

We hope you have a wonderful half-term break! We are excited to be announcing a new addition to our Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) project starting next week: we will be introducing a bikes trail on part of the field for playtimes. Our fabulous OPAL team with the help of our wonderful PTA have procured bikes for the children. Please see full details [here](#).

Benefits of Wheeled Play

A good selection of wheeled play resources will provide for many kinds of muscle development: arms, legs, shoulders, and core. They will also help increase coordination, balance, spatial awareness, and prediction.

Helmets During Wheeled Play

After careful consideration, children will not be required to wear helmets while using the bike trail at school. The reasons for this decision include:

- **Flexibility:** The benefits of children being able to hop on and off their wheeled play at will, scooting for a few minutes, stopping to play elsewhere, and scooting off again.
- **Helmet Fit:** The dangers presented by ill-fitting helmets; loose chin straps can provide as much, or more, danger than no helmet.
- **Time Efficiency:** The time needed to fit a helmet properly and take it off again at the end of the ride.
- **Safety:** Children should not wear helmets when they are not on their wheeled play because of the entrapment dangers helmets produce.
- **Speed:** The speed children will generally be travelling on a school site is comparable to the speed of two running children colliding heads.
- **Traffic-Free Zone:** Cars and traffic will not be present on the school site.
- **Education:** The need to tell children the difference between riding in school grounds and out in public.
- **Terrain:** The steepness of the site will not allow scooters to reach alarming speeds.

Risk-Benefit Assessment

We will conduct a risk-benefit assessment with the children in a play assembly prior to introducing the bike trail. This will ensure that the children understand the safety guidelines and the benefits of bikes.

Parental Discussion

Should you wish for your child to wear a helmet whilst on the bike trail, please feel free to provide one for them - named to avoid it going missing. Please note that the school will not take responsibility for the helmet provided. Please discuss with your child should you not wish for them to take part in wheeled play. If you have any concerns or questions, feel free to contact us.

We are looking forward to seeing the positive impact that wheeled play will bring to our children's development and enjoyment.



Kind regards,



Kelly Buxton

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If you are coming to Courthouse for the first time, please bring your photo ID and DBS.

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