

What is Global School Play Day?

Since the 1950s there has been a downward trend in childhood play in many nations, meaning that children do not experience the same opportunities for 'risky' outdoor physical play that promotes independence, resourcefulness and self-regulation. GSPD aims to reverse this trend and encourages free unstructured play in schools, across all stages, and is promoted by 'Psychology Today'. The first annual GSPD took place in 2015 with over 65,000 students from six continents taking part. This number has risen steadily with over 385,000 students participating last year. This year they are aiming for 500,000 students to join in.

Further information can be found at:
<https://www.globalschoolplayday.com/>

Why is Play Important?

The benefits of play have been widely researched with the general consensus agreeing that play develops children's language skills, gross and fine motor skills, resilience, self-reliance, emotional wellbeing, creativity, imagination, risk management, problem solving and helps them to make sense of the world around them. Research states children will benefit from environments that are natural and 'unplanned', allowing them to create their own spaces using a range of materials. (Dr David Whitebread, 'The Importance of Play', 2012.)

"Scientists have recently discovered that it takes approximately 400 repetitions to create a new synapse in the brain—unless it is done with play, in which case it takes between 10–20 repetitions." Dr Karyn Purvis.

Global School Play Day, Wednesday 6th February 2019

What is Broughton Primary School Doing for GSPD?

All children are invited to bring an idea of a playground game or something to play with, e.g. lego, cardboard boxes, board games, cards, puppets, puzzles, etc. (the only restriction is that the games may NOT require batteries or electricity, **no devices allowed!**). Class teachers will dedicate all or part of their day, as appropriate, to free play and adopt more playful learning approaches. Please note that while staff will not be leading the children's play, they will still be supervising and getting involved as necessary. Each class will have a timetabled slot for Loose Parts Play in the playground. Keep an eye on our school website and Twitter page to see how we celebrate this event.

Thank-you for your support.