



# SUPERSTAR

# Windy Ways

## Organiser's Card



## About the activity

This activity is designed to get children thinking about wind patterns and directions. Bubbles provide an interesting and engaging way for children to investigate wind speed and direction. They can make simple measurements of the time it takes for bubbles to travel a set distance to get wind speed, and can plot the movement of bubbles to get the wind direction.

The children are asked to read a news article: Startown Primary School has been invited by an organisation called OPAL to take part in an exciting new weather survey. It has asked the school to see if they can find out about the wind using bubbles! Can they help?

Through this activity you will support your group to:

- Think about how the wind behaves
- Investigate wind speed and direction using bubbles
- Record and present their results to the group

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## Kit list

- Bubble blowers and solution
- Pens or pencils
- Paper
- Compasses
- Timers
- Measuring tapes or sticks

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## What to do

1. Introduce the activity using the story. Set the scene by discussing the weather and how it is measured and get the children to think about their own experiences of things blowing in the wind (balloons, dandelion seeds etc).
2. Give out activity cards and equipment to the children. Let them practice blowing bubbles.
3. Explain that they will be trying to measure wind direction and the speed that the bubbles travel.
4. Encourage children to discuss their ideas and how they will use the resources to carry out their investigations.
5. Support children to conduct their investigation and make their own records of their results. Go outside to carry out the investigation. Make sure groups are not too close together.
6. Ask the children to present their findings to the rest of the group. They can be as creative in their presentation as they want. They could record their findings by making a chart or presentation.

# Things to think about

Make sure that the bubble solution is a good strength so that bubbles are easy to blow. Try it before the children use it.

The children are likely to be excited at first and chase bubbles. This is normal. Once they have done this they should be ready to focus on solving the problem. They can do this without running around frantically.

Encourage children not to use too many bubbles at once. A few at a time are generally easier to investigate.

Avoid very windy days. The bubbles will move too quickly and erratically. A gentle breeze is best.



## Keywords

- Weather
- Wind
- Surveys
- Bubbles

## Take it further

Children can draw a labelled picture depicting the movement of their bubbles.

They can create a chart showing their findings.

They can make a guide for someone who wants to find out more about the wind.

## Watch out!

Ensure children do not swallow the bubble solution or get it in their eyes.

Children can become excited when blowing bubbles. It should be safe for them to chase the bubbles in an open area if they are well spread out, but remind them about behaving sensibly to avoid bumps and falls.

## Find out more

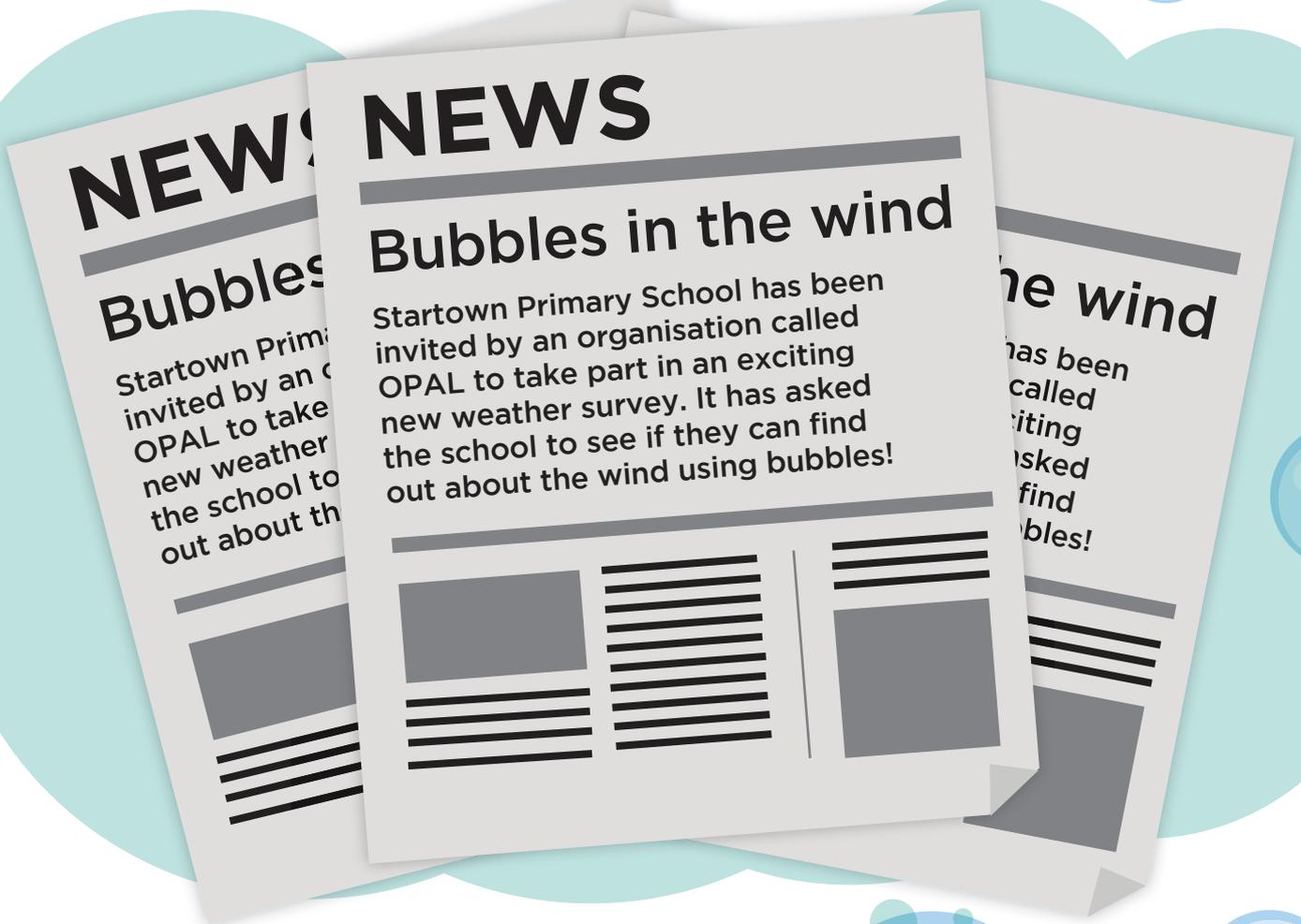
For more information see [www.opalexplornature.org](http://www.opalexplornature.org)



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## Windy ways

Activity Card



### Your challenge

Can you help the children of Startown Primary find out how to use bubbles to show how the wind moves?

### Discuss

What happens to the bubbles when the wind blows?  
How could you use bubbles to help you learn about the wind?

# Getting started

Practice blowing bubbles and look at how they move.

**You will need a bubble blower and solution. You can also use a timer, compass, measuring tape, sticks or anything else you choose.**

Try to use the bubbles to find out which direction the wind is blowing.

Try to use the bubbles to find out how fast the wind is blowing.

Can you use your bubbles to find out anything else about the wind?

It is easier to investigate the wind if you use a few bubbles at a time.

## Test your ideas

You might like to record your results in a table like this.

	Bubble Movement
No wind	
Wind	
Fast wind	

## Share your ideas

Make a chart to show your findings.

Draw a picture of bubbles to show how they move in the wind.

Create a 'wind guide' for someone else who wants to find out more about the wind.

## Extra things to do

Make a wind sock.

Make a daily record of the wind.

Find out if the wind blows differently in different places.

