

We **LEARN** with **PRIDE**

Priory Junior School, Priory Road, Gedling, Nottingham, NG4 3LE
Head Teacher: Mr. J. Cross

14th July 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to share an exciting opportunity to help shape the future of play at Priory Junior School. As part of our ongoing commitment to improving the quality of children's play, we are working in partnership with **OPAL** (Outdoor Play and Learning) – a nationally recognised organisation that supports schools in creating inclusive, high-quality outdoor play environments. Their child-centred approach is already having a transformational impact in schools across the UK, and we're thrilled to be on this journey with their expert guidance.

Did you know that lunchtime represents around 20% of your child's time in school? That's a significant portion of the day, and a crucial opportunity to enrich children's wellbeing, creativity, social skills, and physical development through play.

To help lead this exciting development, we are establishing an OPAL Play Working Party involving teaching staff, school leaders, Governors — and we are now looking to recruit two Parent Play Champions to join us.

Parent Play Champion Role:

We are looking for enthusiastic and committed parents to join us in shaping and supporting our vision for play. The Parent Play Champions will:

- Observe and assess playtime within the school at least once a year.
- Sit on the OPAL working party and attend development meetings.
- Support other parents in understanding the school's approach to play.
- Advocate for OPAL's approach and champion children's right to play within the wider school community.
- Share feedback, contributions, and ideas from parents and the wider community.
- Support the collection and resourcing of *loose parts* (materials for creative play) from parents and community contacts.

This is a unique opportunity to play an active role in a whole-school initiative that truly supports children's development and happiness.

If you are interested in volunteering as a **Parent Play Champion**, please email us with a little information about yourself and why you would be a good Play Champion for Priory. Send this to us at office@priory-jun.notts.sch.uk by Thursday 24th July.

Thank you, as always, for your support. We're excited to be working together to create a richer, more playful school experience for every child.

Warm regards,
Holly Edwards

[Deputy Head Teacher, RSHE and OPAL Curricular Lead]