



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

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

Newsletter – 16.1.26

Key Dates – Spring Term

Wednesday 14th Jan: Meeting for Bushcraft Residential (3:30pm)

Wednesday 28th Jan: Y3 Magna Trip

Monday 23rd – Wednesday 25th Feb: Rand Farm Residential

Thursday 5th March: World Book Day

Friday 20th March: Rock Steady Concert

Friday 27th March: Easter Egg Raffle

Monday 9th March: Assessment Week

Monday 16th March: Assessment Week

Tuesday 24th March – Thursday 26th March: Parents' Evening

Additional dates for Year 6 (Sorry Year 6!)

Year 6 Assessment Week: Week Beginning 9.02.2026

Year 6 Assessment Week: Week Beginning 23.03.2026

Year 6 Mock SATs week: Week Beginning 27.04.2026

Welcome Back

Welcome back and a very happy New Year to all our children, families and staff! We hope you had a joyful Christmas break and enjoyed some special time together. It's lovely to see everyone back in school, rested, refreshed and ready for a new term of learning and fun at Priory.

As we start the term, just a few gentle reminders: please ensure children are wearing the correct school uniform each day, including suitable black shoes and any required PE kit on their PE days. With the weather still cold and often wet, it's really important that children have a warm coat in school, as well as hats, gloves and wellies if needed, so they can continue to enjoy playtimes and outdoor learning. Items need to be named and a spare pair of socks can't hurt!

If anything has changed over the holidays – such as contact details, medical information, or collection arrangements – please let the school office know as soon as possible so that we can keep our records up to date and continue to keep everyone safe.



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Exciting OPAL News!

A quick reminder for our OPAL adventurers – don't forget your wellies and waterproofs! Welly racks are now in place for all children, and our next step is adding waterproof storage cupboards so clothes can dry safely – just not *in* school!

The children are loving OPAL! They're buzzing to take part in the weekly OPAL assembly, excited to show off their outdoor adventures. Whether it's football on the field or exploring the quieter corners, they're enjoying extra space, freedom, and fun with friends.

And the wheels keep turning! The scooters are a massive hit, but we could use more scooter donations – or even wheelbarrows, suitcases, old hoovers... anything with wheels!

We need more tyres for the field so keep them coming or anything you can donate that we can roll in e.g barrels. We need many more play items for the field to build dens with, dig with, roll in or jump on!

Thank you for helping make OPAL so much fun – we can't wait to see what the children get up to this term!



Forest School



Year 3 have had a lovely time in Forest School making bird feeders, and it's been a real joy to watch from the window of my office. There was lots of excitement (and a bit of mess!) as the children measured, threaded and tied their materials together — but what really stood out was their focus. They quickly discovered that getting a feeder to hang just right takes concentration and, most importantly, patience.

Along the way, they practised so many Forest School skills without even realising: using tools safely, following steps carefully, solving problems when something slipped or snapped, and helping friends who needed an extra pair of hands. Best of all, they've made something kind and purposeful for local wildlife — keep an eye out around the grounds for their feeders hanging proudly!



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Talking of mess...

OPAL and Forest School has so many benefits. I also know that it can mean that children (and their uniform!) may be a bit muddy; the cleaners are working over-time here, too! Please read the information that has come out with the newsletter about equipment that needs to be in school to ensure that play can be muddy but also allow children the right conditions for learning for the remainder of the day.

Have an amazing weekend,

Mr. Cross