



Priory Junior School

Longsands Road, St Neots. Cambs PE19 1TF

Email: office@priory.cambs.sch.uk

Tel: 01480 226730

Fax: 01480 226731

Headteacher: Tracy Keefe B.Ed (Hons) NPQH

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have recently started a new programme to improve lunchtimes at Priory Junior School. The Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) Programme is based on the idea that, as well as learning through good teaching, your children also learn when they play. As 20% of their time in school is playtime, we want to make sure that this amount of time (equivalent to 1.4 years of primary school) is as good as possible.

There are many proven benefits for schools that carry out the OPAL Primary Programme. They usually include: more enjoyment of school, less teaching time lost due to disputes between children, fewer accidents and greatly improved behaviour.

We are in the early stages of this programme and have started implementing some small changes – the addition of music at lunchtimes has already been a big hit! This week, we also have our new shed has arrived to store the 'loose parts' that will be used at lunch times. We are very excited to see how this improves lunchtimes for our pupils over the next 18 months.

As part of the programme, we complete pre and post surveys of all stakeholders. Pupils have been completing surveys in school to share their current thoughts about lunch times and it would be really helpful to gain parents view also. Click on the link below which will take you directly to the survey.

<https://forms.office.com/e/ggTPAcM0tY>

As we move through the programme, we will be emailing from time to time to see if there are any resources that you might be able to donate to school. Our next stage is to develop a quieter zone that offers various small world toys for children to play with. If you have any good-quality items from the list below that you no longer require, please consider donating them to us.

- Lego
- Vehicles – small cars, trucks, planes etc
- Train sets
- Dinosaur play sets
- Plastic animals
- Barbies/Action figures
- Miniature play figures

There will be black donation tubs on the playground at the start and end of school if you have any donations. Thank you in advance for your support. I look forward to sharing more updates with you as we proceed through the programme.

Best wishes,

Emma Welch
Deputy Headteacher

