Winston Way Academy
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning

28th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: OPAL Playtimes

We are excited to tell you that Winston Way Academy is introducing the **OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) Programme** to make playtimes even better for our children.

Play is an important part of a child's development. Through play, children learn to work together, solve problems, use their imagination, build friendships and stay active. As children spend a large part of their school day at playtime, we want to make sure this time is enjoyable and valuable.

Many children today spend less time playing outdoors than in the past. OPAL helps schools create exciting, active and creative play opportunities that support children's learning and wellbeing.

Schools that use OPAL often see:

- Happier children
- Improved behaviour
- Better friendships
- More confidence and resilience
- Fewer disagreements at playtime

As OPAL develops, children may have access to more areas of the school grounds and a wider range of play activities. This may mean they sometimes get a little muddy or messy while exploring and playing. To help with this, please send your child to school with:

- **A bag of spare clothes**
- **A pair of wellies**

We would also be very grateful for **donations** of:

- Old pots and pans
- Buckets
- Dressing-up clothes
- Aprons
- Garden tools
- Large pieces of fabric
- Pegs
- Other suitable play resources

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Principal: Mr David Booth

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Over the coming months, we will share updates and invite you to events so you can see the exciting changes in action.

Thank you for your support as we begin this exciting journey to improve playtimes for all children.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Rajan-Weare
Vice Principal

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