

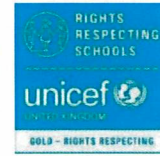
## Trinity School

La Route de la Trinité, Trinity, Jersey, JE3 5JP

Tel: 01534 864085 Fax: 01534 865884

Email: [admin@trinity.sch.je](mailto:admin@trinity.sch.je) Website: [www.trinity.sch.je](http://www.trinity.sch.je)

Headteacher: Mrs Katy McMahon



Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of another busy week, it is hard to believe how much we have packed into a shorter week with the Bank Holiday Monday! The school has been full of energy, excitement and fantastic opportunities for our children.

This week saw the successful completion of our joint Eco Week with St Martin's School. Across the week, children experienced a wide variety of eco-themed activities, visits and collaborative learning opportunities. We were incredibly proud of the conduct of our pupils throughout the week. It was wonderful to see children building new friendships and working together so positively — although it was certainly very strange seeing a mixture of Trinity green and St Martin's red around both schools!

As part of the week:

- Year 4 enjoyed a visit to Harve des Pas, exploring the coastline and learning more about our local environment and marine habitats.
- Year 5 visited Durrell Zoo, taking part in activities linked to conservation, sustainability and protecting wildlife.
- Last week, Nursery had a fabulous visit to Green Island Beach alongside children from St Martin's School, where they explored the rock pools and enjoyed learning about sea life in our local environment.

The week really highlighted the many benefits of collaboration and outdoor learning opportunities, and we are very grateful to all staff involved in organising such a successful week.

In addition to Eco Week, Mrs French and I have now started working with our pupil groups on developing a Play Charter and Play Policy as part of our OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) journey. We continue to work at pace on developing OPAL Play at Trinity and are very excited about the opportunities this will bring for our children. Attached to this newsletter is a letter introducing families to OPAL Play and outlining our vision for outdoor play at Trinity School.

Next week, we will also circulate a parent survey regarding play. We would be extremely grateful if you could take a few moments to complete this, as your views and ideas will play an important part in shaping the future of play at Trinity.

Over the next couple of weeks, there is still so much to look forward to. Year 4 will be heading off on their residential at Durrell Zoo, Year 5 will be visiting the States Chamber as part of their debate work, and Reception are also very excited for their upcoming trip to the zoo. We are incredibly proud of the rich range of opportunities our children experience both inside and outside the classroom.

Just a gentle reminder to please pay all sponsorship money directly via ParentPay by Wednesday 20 May. You will find the donation button under "Pay for other items". Please also return all sponsorship forms to school.

Thank you for helping us raise funds for our OPAL playground project.

**Dates for your diary**

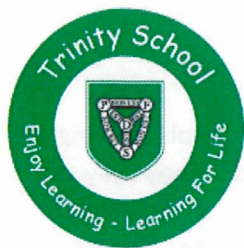
- Open Day and Art Exhibition – Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June 3pm
- Trinity School Summer Fayre – Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June 12pm-3pm
- Nursery and Reception Sports Day – morning of Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June
- KS1 and KS2 Sports Day – afternoon of Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June
- School Transition Days – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July
- Year 6 Leavers Assembly – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July
- End of term 3pm Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July (no After School Club)

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

We hope you all enjoy the weekend ahead.

With best wishes,

**Mrs K. McMahon**  
Headteacher



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8th May 2026

Dear Parents,

We are about to start a programme to improve opportunities for physical activity, socialisation, cooperation, coordination, resilience, creativity, imagination and enjoyment through improved play.

In what ways, if any, do you think you benefited from playtime? Thinking about your own childhood, what did you like playing at school or at home? Children today don't have the same freedoms we once did, so we want to give children back time to really enjoy and learn from play. After all, it's a child's basic human right.

The Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) Primary Programme is the result of over 20 years of testing and development in over 2000 schools and has been used in Spain, Canada, France and New Zealand. The programme has also been adapted and used in schools in Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Austria under the Play Friendly Schools project. In 2018, OPAL won first prize in an EU-funded award for the best active school's programme in Europe and two UK national playwork awards. In 2019, OPAL was awarded a quarter of a million pounds by Sport England to bring the programme to many more schools.

OPAL 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.

One reason the school is carrying out this programme is that childhood has changed, and many children no longer get their play needs met out of school.

- Average screen time per day is six hours.
- Average outdoor play time per week is five hours.
- Percentage of UK children who only play outdoors with other children at school is 56%.

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 to disputes between children, fewer accidents and greatly improved behaviour.

Play is not messing about. It is the process evolution has come up with to enable children to learn all of the things that cannot be taught, while also having so much fun. There are certain things children **must** have in order to be able to play. These include:

- Having clothes that they can play in.
- Having things to play with.
- Having a certain amount of freedom.

As the school improves play opportunities for your children, you may find the school is asking you for resources and is making changes about how the children use the school grounds. They may use more of the grounds, for more of the year. Your children may get a bit messier, be exposed to more challenges and have greater freedoms to play where, with whom and how they like. The experiences the school is fostering are essential for children's physical and mental wellbeing and are in line with all current good practice advice on health and safety, wellbeing and development.

The school will be supported by OPAL for 18 months and there will be an opportunity to come and talk to the OPAL mentor at school. If you would like to learn more about the OPAL Primary Programme, please have a look at the OPAL website ([www.outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk](http://www.outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk)), where you will find lots of useful information and several videos about the programme.

In the coming 18 months you will be invited to events where you can come and see for yourselves what is happening and have the opportunity to join in too.

We are really excited about this project and hope that you will support us in our efforts to improve playtime for all children.

With kind regards

**Mrs K McMahon**  
**Headteacher**