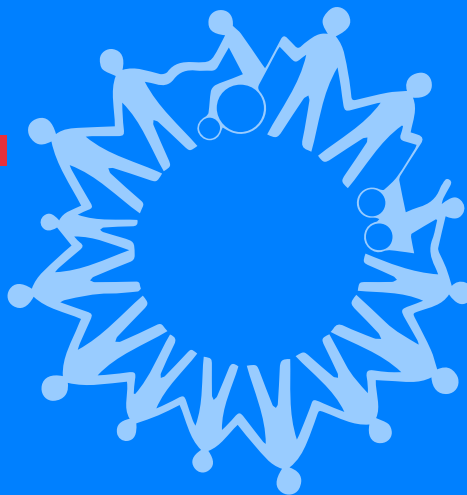


Prior Weston Primary School
& Children's Centre

Tomorrow's calling!



Case study

Amila, Moira, and Koby, aged ten, live in Holloway in Islington.

Koby says:

"As soon as I joined, I found Prior Weston welcoming. My teacher has given me feedback on my creative writing and there have been fantastic things to take part in, such as the concert in St Pancras Station, the fun run and the 'Debate It!' Club."



Koby is now fulfilling his creative potential in the motivating atmosphere of Prior Weston

Enjoying writing

Amila and Moira are delighted with the way Koby is being inspired to develop his talents by the staff at Prior Weston Primary. His father, Amila, says: "Koby is being encouraged with his creative writing and music and is doing very well academically and we are pleased we chose the school for him."

Stepping back

Koby had attended another primary school before the family spent six months out of the country. After they came home, they decided they did not want Koby to go back to his previous school. Amila says: "We were not satisfied with the level of education and felt the school had an increasingly demotivating atmosphere. Although Koby enjoyed writing stories and poetry in addition to his homework, his later teachers gave him no feedback on his efforts, and he was told to stop bringing in extra work. He also enjoys playing and composing music, but his class music teacher showed little interest and there were limited opportunities for him."

Good impression

A former classmate of Koby's joined Prior Weston and his parents had positive things to say about the school. After Amila and Moira visited it themselves, they were impressed. They were pleased the classes weren't too big and that there were opportunities to get involved with music. "Koby has spent nine months there now and we are surprised and pleased with how good the school is," Amila says.

Helpful teachers

Koby's teacher has got to know him as an individual and found out what he likes, his father says. "Because he enjoys writing, his teacher has encouraged him and taken the time to give him extensive feedback, suggesting he could enter writing competitions and taking the time to read and comment on his draft submissions. He is now doing well academically and likes Maths and Science. One of his teaching assistants spotted this and makes up Maths puzzles for him that involve the sort of problems he enjoys solving."

Inclusive events

Koby loves playing the piano and writing and performing his own music and is encouraged to play in assembly and join in with instrumental groups at Prior Weston. "The staff invite him, when children are playing the violin in concerts, to go along to play the piano. When the violinists went to perform at an outdoor concert at St Pancras Station, Koby played alongside, and got the chance to improvise with, the professional pianist," Amila says.



Oasis of green, the school is located in Fortune Park

Worth the journey

Koby loves going to Prior Weston, which is in a great location near the Barbican, his father says. "It is a 30-minute bus ride from where we live, but it is worth it because it is such a good school. They have good cultural and community links and Koby has been involved with local fund-raising events, such as taking part in a fun run to raise money for the area."

Extra activities

There are lots of opportunities offered to the children, such as the after-school debating club, which gives them experience of discussing topics. A local law firm sent professional lawyers into the school to coach the children in debating skills and they have also been taken on a tour of the Houses of Parliament," Amila says.

New friends

"We wanted the best educational option available for our son and we are very happy with Prior Weston. The staff made it an easy transition for Koby and have all been supportive and he has made some good friends there."

Fiona MacCorquodale, Headteacher, says:

Special place

Prior Weston School and Children's Centre is a special place in a unique location. Every morning, I have the pleasure of welcoming the children and families into our amazing building. We truly are a school in the heart of the community it serves in that we open our doors to the school community each and every day.



One of the many outdoor spaces children can access

A long association

I started as Headteacher of Prior Weston in September 2019 and had worked in the local area as a teacher and school leader for 18 years before that, and so I know this neighbourhood very well. There are parents here at the school whom I taught when they were children!



Meet Fiona, the Headteacher

High quality

As a school, we aspire for all of our young learners to aim high, develop resilience, be curious and respectful, and to truly understand and value diversity. We strive to provide the highest quality of a broad and balanced education, and at the same time we also place a lot of importance on our children becoming happy, confident and fulfilled individuals. Each child is unique and we love looking for, and bringing out, their specific talents.

Community links

The campus of school and children's centre provides a seamless service from pre-birth to the end of Year 6 together with comprehensive extended day options available for all families. As Head of both the Children's Centre and primary school, I have the privilege of working with this brilliant community. The campus serves many children and families from a range of backgrounds and cultures and this vibrant blend makes the Prior Weston community a unique and energising place to be.

We also share the campus with Richard Cloudesley Primary school, who provide outstanding education for children with complex needs.

Family partnership

Another very important part of our school is you, the parent! As you will see, by reading the many family and pupil stories within this prospectus, you and your child are very important to us. We champion the link between school and family and work very hard to involve you in every step of your child's time here... and increase your child's enjoyment of learning.

Get in touch

If you wish to hear more about what we can offer your child, please contact us for more information or an appointment to meet me and look around the school. Get in touch at **020 7786 4800** or **office@priorweston.islington.sch.uk**



A young violinist at Prior Weston



Enjoying learning is the key to success

A little bit different...

From its inception in 1968, the school has always had a reputation for being something a little bit different. Long standing traditions like 'The Happening', International Food Festival and Project Week set the school apart and make the most of its rich cultural surroundings, encouraging children of different ages to work and create together as well as linking with the community. That speaks to me of a school that has something unique about it. A special place.

Case study



Inés is thriving and enjoying a wide range of activities in the nursery at Prior Weston

Beatriz and Luca live in Islington with their children, Inés, aged three, and Pablo, who is three months old.

Beatriz says

“...one of Inés’s favourite activities at nursery is role play, when she can play at being a doctor, caring for babies, or cooking in the play kitchen. She loves learning songs, reading books, playing in the garden and going to the big hall”.

Singing songs

Beatriz says they can tell that their daughter is ‘super happy’ in the nursery. “When Inés is at home, she is singing all the while and we hear all the songs she has learned at school and we can also see that she is developing new skills.”

Learning through play

Every day Inés comes home from the nursery with something new she has made, her mother says. “They do a lot of different activities with the children and Inés is always learning something new and talks to us about what she has been doing. They follow a book together and the children do activities that relate to the book they are reading. We can tell that her vocabulary is growing now and that she is learning to count. She also loves playing with water and colouring and doing cutting and glueing at nursery.”

Making friends

When Inés comes home, she will tell her parents all about the children she has been playing with and which children she likes the best. “She keeps talking about her best friends in nursery and wants to invite them home for playing together”.

Fun outside

“Now she is in the nursery, she loves being in the playground and playing with the sand and the construction toys. She has a good relationship with her teachers and will talk to us about the staff. We are very happy with the school. It is lovely to see how much Inés has progressed since she started. She is always a happy girl at home and we are both very satisfied with how well she is being cared for.”



Encouraging a love of reading from the earliest years

Quick learner

Beatriz and Luca are thrilled with the progress their daughter, Inés, is making in the nursery at Prior Weston Primary. Beatriz says: “We are amazed at how much Inés is learning and all the things she knows now. We are also impressed with how well she speaks English, even though she lives in a Spanish and Italian household.”

Good feeling

Inés started going to the Children’s Centre at Prior Weston Primary when she was 11 months old. “There were several nurseries in the area where we live and we chose this one because we thought it was the best. We especially liked the big space outside where the children play and the feeling of the school, with its different rooms for babies, toddlers, and nursery children. We thought the setting was very good and could tell it was a happy environment,” Beatriz says.

Smooth transitions

“After Inés started in the baby room, she settled in easily and we could tell she was very comfortable with the staff. We were pleased that she never cried when we left her. She moved up into the toddler room when she was two years old, where she was also very happy. Now Inés is in the nursery, she is flourishing and enjoys all the activities,” Beatriz says.

Smiling faces

The couple think the nursery staff are wonderful and very welcoming to parents and children. “They are always very friendly to us and smiley to the children, and this makes you feel comfortable about leaving your child with them while you go to work, because you know she will be well cared for in a happy atmosphere. We appreciate how well they look after Inés,” she says.

School day: settling in

School hours

Classrooms open to our pupils and their parents/carers at 8.45am. The school day starts at 9.00am and ends at 3.30pm.

Extended day: Early Birds

To start the day off in the right way we offer a fantastic breakfast club. Early Birds breakfast is open from 8am for children in Reception to Year 6. Your child can get involved with crafts, art, sports or games in addition to eating a healthy breakfast to prepare themselves for the school day at 8.45am.

Extended day: Night Owls

Night Owls is our after-school provision for children whose families are unable to make the usual pick-up time. The sessions run from 3.30pm till 6.00pm, with pick up any time before 6.00pm.



A wide range of fun activities at Night Owls

Uniform

At Prior Weston, we take pride in being a non-uniform school; it’s a long-standing tradition that we hold dear. We believe that a sense of community and belonging can be created without everyone looking the same. Our diversity and differences are what make Prior Weston a unique and special school, and we embrace and celebrate them. We value each child for their individuality, and not having a school uniform allows them to express themselves freely. Our only proviso is that clothing should be comfortable and appropriate for both the weather and activities.



Behaviour at Prior Weston is excellent

Food in school

As part of the Prior Weston’s healthy school programme children are made aware of how they can improve their own health and well-being.



A multi-sensory approach to learning



Learning together in the Children’s Centre

Packed lunches

Children may bring a packed lunch from home if they prefer. We ask that families follow our healthy eating policy when preparing lunch boxes.

Free school meals

All children in Reception and Key Stage 1 are entitled to universal infant free school meals. Key Stage 2 children whose parents

are in receipt of certain benefits may also be entitled to free school meals. Details are available at school if you feel that you may be eligible.



Learning through play in Early Years



Practical technology in action with BeeBots

Curriculum: gaining a deeper understanding

Thematic learning

Our curriculum is taught through thematic based learning. A high-quality text has been selected to sit at the heart of each unit. This enables the children to explore a range of subjects and make connections in their learning. The theme runs right across all subjects wherever possible so that our children have a deeper understanding of what they are learning about and can apply their skills in a range of meaningful ways.

Embedding key skills

The themed units have been planned to ensure that all key skills and knowledge are taught for each year group over the academic year. These are regularly reviewed to ensure we are representing our school community and global issues.

Modern foreign language

Our modern foreign language is Spanish. This is taught by a specialist Spanish teacher to all children in Key Stage 2.



All pupils in Year 1 and 2 learn the violin or cello

Music and P.E.

The creative arts and P.E. are a focus at Prior Weston. We are a partner school with Music Masters. Through this award-winning music programme children are taught a wide range of skills from Reception to Year 6. From Year 1 all children start to learn the violin or cello, enabling them to build their musical skills.



Sports day at HAC

Our extensive sports programme is supported by TeamKickStart. Their specialist coaches deliver high quality sessions across a wide range of sporting activities in school. They also support with a wide range of team sports and competitions outside of school.

Enrichment — Forest School

We are delighted to be running Forest School at Prior Weston. This year, we have been supported by The Garden Classroom who have been running some sessions for our Year 1 – Year 4 children. The Garden Classroom is a charity dedicated to reconnecting people with nature. Climate change and sustainability are themes that run through all TGC programmes.

We are also incredibly lucky to have two accredited Forest School Lead teachers (Hannah & Asma) who have been running our Year 5 and Year 6 sessions. The sessions have been running at the local Radnor Street Gardens.



Forest School is an integral part of Prior Weston Life

Visits, visitors and extra-curricular activities

We offer a very extensive range of enrichment opportunities for children across all year groups. This is just a small example of our current provision:

- Year 6 residential farm trip to Nethercott House, Devon
- Year 4 residential two-night adventure trip
- STEAM workshops
- Transport Museum
- Sports competitions and tournaments – football, cricket, gymnastics, swimming, basketball, tennis, netball, athletics, cross-country
- Bikeability
- Poetry workshop
- Music Masters concert at Plaisterers' Hall
- Bletchley Park biometrics workshops

Many other events are held throughout the year and parents will be informed of these in advance.



Learning through nature

Admissions and getting involved

Admissions to Children's Centre and Nursery

Prior Weston School and Children's Centre is in the London Borough of Islington. We work to the Islington Council's Admissions Policy, and our fee charges are set by Islington Council.

Application forms can be collected from the Reception desk or downloaded from our website. Once the form is completed, please return it to the Reception desk. Places are offered to children on the application list according to the Council's admissions policy. Siblings are priority followed by distance to the Centre. We do not operate a waiting list. The Centre will contact you by phone and email if your child is allocated a place.



Team Kick Start support PE provision



Modern, bright facilities

Admissions to School Reception

Admission is managed by Islington, and parents and carers should apply through the council, although we welcome children and families from all London boroughs. Please contact the office for more information. For technical help with the admissions process, parents can contact the London eAdmissions support helpdesk on 020 8255 55 55 or support@eadmissions.org.uk.

If parents wish to apply online and don't have a computer at home, they can come and use a computer here at school. Alternatively there are computers that are free to use at local libraries. Families may also contact their local adult and community learning centre to find out more about computer training courses.

Please call Contact Islington on 020 7527 2000 for more information on these services.

Getting involved – Volunteers

Within the school we have a number of family and community members who volunteer their time and effort in various ways for the children. Whether it is spending precious moments with pupils in the mornings during reading sessions, or at clubs before and after school, the time that you give us is invaluable.



Superb facilities to support all children

Getting involved – Governors

Prior Weston has a strong Governing Body made up of teachers, parents, LA (Local Authority) representatives and members of the local community. The primary purpose of our school's Governing Body is to ensure

the quality of the education provision. When carrying out their responsibilities, our governing body acts in the interests of the children and young people in the school and in the wider community. We are always looking for people to add to the expertise of our Governing Body. If you would like to find out more about the role, please contact the school.



Skilled teachers support pupils to do their best



A young cellist at Prior Weston



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