



Newsletter

26/09/2025 Autumn Issue 2

#shineatpriorweston

Virtual tour @ <https://bit.ly/32RoLWi>

#unitedagainstbullying

We aim high * We are resilient * We are curious learners * We value diversity * We are respectful



Dear Prior Weston families,

Although it has been a dry and sunny week, it definitely feels like autumn is upon us. The weather is distinctly colder and so please make sure your child brings a jacket to school every day. There are lots of spare jackets and coats in the cupboards in the foyer, so please help yourself.

I'm delighted to share some exciting news with you. Because of Prior Weston's strong reputation for inclusion and the excellent work we do every day to ensure that all children belong, achieve and thrive, I have been invited to take on a new role one day a week as an external consultant with Islington's SEND team.

I will be leading a borough-wide review of Islington's Early Years SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) offer, as part of the Department for Education's SEND Change Programme. This is a unique opportunity to contribute to shaping inclusive practice across the borough, and I look forward to bringing back insights that will benefit our school community even further.

At the same time, I want to reassure families and staff that the leadership of Prior Weston remains in safe and experienced hands. Our Senior Leadership Team – Bev, Simone, Aoife and Rae – are well established and highly capable, with the excellent support of Adam and Nicola in the office. They always have my full backing and are committed, as ever, to our shared vision of inclusion, excellence and care.

I hope to see lots of you at next Friday's Macmillan Coffee Morning and, as always, I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

Wishing you a safe and happy weekend.

Fiona 😊
Head Teacher



Dates for your Diary

September 2025	
Tuesday 30th September	Year 6 Secondary Transfer Parent Talk 9am in the Main Hall
October 2025	
Wednesday 1st October	Reception—Year 6 Flu Vaccinations
Friday 3rd October	MacMillan Coffee Morning at 9am
Thursday 9th October	Y7 Tea Party
Thursday 16th October	International Food Evening
Monday 27th - Friday 31st October	Half Term Break
November 2025	
Monday 3rd November	INSET Day for School and Children's Centre
Tuesday 4th November	Welcome Back to School

Year 5 Parliament Class—Science lesson



During our science lesson, we had the exciting opportunity to take our learning outdoors. We explored various objects made from materials like wood, plastic, and metal, drawing and noting our observations. Partnering up, we collaborated to complete the tasks together.





Free toothbrushes!



We all know how important oral health is and to celebrate and support this, there is now a box in the entrance where you can find free toothbrushes and toothpaste for your children.

Please help yourself to one toothpaste and one toothbrush for each child so there is enough for everyone.

These were donated to the school for our families to encourage a healthy oral health care routine in children as early as possible.

Prior Weston book table



Do not forget that we have our wonderful book table in the entrance for all families. If you have appropriate children's books to donate, please bring them to the reception desk and we will ensure that they get displayed on the table for people to take.

If you see a book that you or your child likes, please help yourself and enjoy your story time. Thank you to all the wonderful families that have already donated books for other families to share and enjoy!



Bikes and Scooters Security



Please remember to secure any bikes or scooters left in the bike parking area with a chain or padlock. We do not want anything going missing.

Anything left in this area is done so at the owners own risk. School cannot be responsible for any losses or damages to property left in this area or within the school.

Please do not leave any bikes or scooters in the bike park at weekends or over the holidays as this area is unsecure and encourages intruders on to the site.



Umbrella Donations



Babies and Toddlers rooms in The Children's Centre are in desperate need of umbrellas.

If you have any you can spare, please drop the off to the Reception desk.

They will be very gratefully received!



Spare Winter Coats



Inside the foyer of the Fortune Park entrance, there is a cupboard where families can donate or take jackets and coats for their children or for themselves.

As the days are starting to get colder, please have a look and see if there are any jackets or coats that will fit your child or you before you head off to the expensive shops to buy them.



Every Day Counts: The Importance of Good Attendance



This year the attendance team will be Touvonna and Bev working with Fiona to improve our whole school attendance and punctuality.

At Prior Weston we know that regular attendance makes a huge difference to your child's learning, confidence, and happiness at school.

Every day counts, and every lesson missed is a chance lost to build on skills, make progress, and join in with their classmates.

Children who attend school regularly are far more likely to achieve their best, both academically and socially. For example:

- Missing just one day every two weeks adds up to nearly 20 days across the school year – that's almost a full month of learning lost.
- Attendance that drops to 90% (just one day off every fortnight) means a child misses the equivalent of half a year of school by the time they leave primary.
- National studies show that children with attendance above 95% achieve better in reading, writing, and maths, and are more confident learners.

Good attendance also helps children develop routines, build strong friendships, and take full advantage of the exciting opportunities our school provides.

Last year our average attendance for the school was **88.9%**. The national average was **95.5%**. As a result we are now a focus school for the local authority who will be monitoring our attendance.

We have set a whole school target for the end of the year for our school average to be 93% (above would be even better!)

Of course, we understand that children are sometimes unwell and need to stay at home. But keeping absences to a minimum makes a huge difference to their progress. If you're ever unsure whether your child is well enough for school, please get in touch—we're here to help.

Together, let's make every day count and give our children the very best start in life!

What sort of start is your child getting?

Just a little bit late doesn't seem much but.....

Just a little bit late doesn't seem much but.....

He/She is only missing just....	That equals....	Which is.....
10 minutes per day	50 minutes per week	Nearly 1.5 weeks per year
20 minutes per day	1 hour 40 mins per week	Over 2.5 Weeks per year
Half an hour per day	Half a day per week	4 Weeks per year
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 Weeks per year

Does your child have a chance of being successful?

1 or 2 days a week doesn't seem much but.....

If your child misses....	That equals....	Which is....
1 day per fortnight	20 Days per year	4 weeks per year
1 day per week	40 Days	8 weeks
2 days per week	80 Days	16 weeks per year
3 days per week	120 Days per year	24 weeks per year

Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.

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Year 6 Young Farmers Take the Reins at Nethercott Farm

Last week, Year 6 pupils embarked on an unforgettable residential trip to Nethercott Farm in Devon, as part of the inspiring Farms for City Children programme. Nestled in the rolling countryside, Nethercott offered the children a rare opportunity to swap city life for muddy boots and early mornings.



From the moment they arrived, the children embraced their new roles as 'young farmers', rising early each day to begin their farm jobs with enthusiasm and care. The week was packed with hands-on experiences that brought them closer to nature, animals, and the food they eat.

Each morning began with feeding and checking the livestock including the poultry and pigs, ensuring every animal was well cared for and accounted for. The children took responsibility for checking the cattle and sheep, learning how to identify and count them across the fields. They also spent time with the equine animals, grooming the horses and ponies and mucking out their stables — a task that built both teamwork and resilience.



In addition to animal care, the children rolled up their sleeves in the kitchen garden, harvesting fresh produce that would later be used in their meals. Under the guidance of the farm staff, they cooked delicious pizzas, pasties, and apple crumbles, using ingredients they had picked themselves. These meals were not only tasty but a true farm-to-table experience.

One of the most memorable moments of the week came when Michael Morpurgo, celebrated author and co-founder of Farms for City Children, visited the farm. He read aloud from one of his newest books, captivating the children with his storytelling. As a special gift, he presented the school with a signed copy, a keepsake that will be treasured for years to come.



Celebrating Our Farmers of the Week



Throughout the week, the children showed incredible dedication, teamwork, and care. Four pupils stood out for their exceptional contributions and were named 'Farmers of the Week':

- **Zain** – for his quiet leadership and commitment to every task.
- **Harper** – for her resilience and kindness towards the animals.
- **Said** – for his curiosity and willingness to learn new skills.
- **Luna** – for her creativity in the kitchen and her gentle care of the horses.



Cross Country Team!

On Tuesday morning, Prior Weston took part in an exciting cross-country competition, with runners representing the school from Year 4 through to Year 6.

Over 900 children competed in the event, making it a truly impressive occasion.

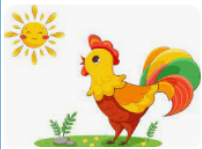
Every member of the team showed incredible determination and perseverance, giving their very best from start to finish.

The atmosphere was full of energy and support, as each runner pushed themselves and encouraged one another along the way.

A special mention goes to Mizzan and Elianna, who both delivered outstanding performances and achieved the highest finishes for the team – a fantastic accomplishment that reflects their dedication and hard work.

Overall, it was a brilliant display of team spirit and individual effort that made the school proud.





Extended Day Programme



Last week was an exciting and successful first week for the after school clubs.

In addition to the clubs already running, Boxercise will be starting on Thursdays from next week October 2nd.

We are hopefully adding a STEM club at the beginning of Autumn 2 so keep an eye out for that.

For enquiries regarding spaces that are still available please contact Daniel.burke@priorweston.islington.sch.uk





Extended Day Programme



Extended Day

Our Extended Day provision is currently compiled of Early Birds breakfast club, Night Owls after school club, Enrichment clubs and Holiday play-schemes.

Opening Times

Monday to Friday (term time only) – excluding bank holidays and school INSET days.

Early Birds Breakfast Club; **8:00am – 8:45am**

Night Owls Afterschool Club; **3:30pm – 6:00pm**

Parentmail

All booking and payments for Early Birds and Night Owls can be made directly through our Parentmail booking form or alternatively you can contact the extended day coordinator directly via email; Extendedday@priorweston.islington.sch.uk.

Please note, we do require at least 2 working days' notice before bookings can be processed.

If you have an emergency situation and you need your child to attend either of our extended day options at short notice, we are very happy to allocate you a space but you will incur an emergency fee. This can also be booked directly via Parentmail or email but please inform a member of staff beforehand. Please be aware that if all of our allocated spaces are taken we may not be able to accept any further short-notice bookings.

Early Birds breakfast club

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. The cut off time for breakfast is **8:35am** and the **last drop offs are at 8:40am** to give the children enough time to prepare for the busy day ahead.

Night Owls after school club

At Prior Weston, Night Owl's is our after school provision for children whose parents are unable to make the usual pick up time.

We have a bustling range of exciting, focused and also less structured activities for the Night Owls to take part in.

We are committed to providing this service not only to help support families but to also enrich our children's day outside of normal school hours.

The sessions run from **3:30pm till 6pm**, with pick up any time before 6pm.

We do provide hot food and snacks at around **4:45**, so pick up just before or just after is recommended



Celebration Assembly

12th September 2025

Our shining stars were:

St Pauls– Darcey & Callie

Piccadilly– Teddy & Ronnie

Kew– Hiram & Myla

Parliament- Parker & Maya

Westminster– Meherajul & Amelia

Tower– Brooke & Oscar



Celebration Assembly

19th September 2025

Our shining stars were:

St Pauls– Frankie & Anisa

Piccadilly– Aavya & Asiya

Kew– Indiana & Roman

Parliament- Maysa & Marco



This week's Shining Stars results to be announced today. See next edition.



Weather appropriate clothing

As the days are getting colder and wetter, please send your child in with the appropriate clothing and for the weather each day.

As more children start to bring in hats, scarfs and gloves, please ensure these are labelled by sewing or sticking in a name tag or writing your child's name in them, This will help to identify the owners of any lost items a lot easier and quicker.



Issues in Fortune Park

With the days getting shorter and the weather quickly getting darker and colder, you may well be spending less time outdoors. However, you may still be using the park for as long as you can. As with any issues that might occur externally, please do note whilst we will support where we can, the school does not have the capacity to manage disagreements that may take place in Fortune Park. If you do experience issues, you may wish to contact the parks or community police directly. To report antisocial behaviour, you may find the following link useful:

<https://www.islington.gov.uk/physical-activity-parks-and-trees/parks-and-green-space/managing-parks-and-green-space/tell-us-about-a-problem-in-a-park>

The Flu

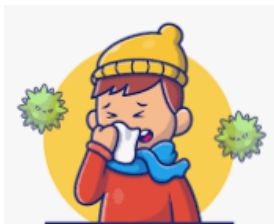


For Families of all children from Reception class to Year 6

At this time of year when the sun is starting to hide and the weather is getting cooler, we start to see bugs, viruses, colds and flu cases rise.



Please remember that the Flu Vaccinations will be given on
Wednesday 1st October 2025.



If you have not yet given permission, there is still time!





COME ALONG TO OUR MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Place: The Prior Weston Central Area

Date: Friday 3rd October

Time: 9am start



Please, please donate cakes and bakes from your family to sell on the day to raise funds for this amazing charity.

Home-made or shop-bought cakes, all sizes from mini cupcakes to family size tray-bakes are welcome.

Please remember we are a nut-free school!





The Parent Place

A peer-led group. By parents, for parents.

Are you an Islington parent or carer of children aged 5-19?

Are you interested in learning about parenting from trained peer parents?

Would you like the opportunity to discuss a range of parenting topics in a safe space?

Would you like to share stories and learn in a mutual environment?

Bright Futures are piloting our first peer-led parent group, facilitated by our trained Parent Champions!

For more information, please email Lucy.Pollock@islington.gov.uk

When: Wednesday mornings from September–November 2025, 10am – 1pm
Where: Conewood Children's Centre

Self-referral required, please email Lucy.Pollock@islington.gov.uk with your name and contact details





FIRST CITY OF LONDON (LORD MAYOR'S OWN) SCOUT GROUP



Information for New Group Members

Scouting is a world-wide movement, with the aim of developing young people into responsible citizens through a lot of fun, challenge, and adventurous activities.

This Scout Group operates in three sections, covering the age range of 6 to 14 years. The two senior sections (Explorers & Network) operate at District level. Age ranges covered are:

Beaver Scouts	(6 – 8-year-olds)
Cub Scouts	(8 - 10½ year olds)
Scouts	(10½ - 14-year-olds)
Explorer Scouts	(14 – 18-year-olds)
Scout Network	(18 – 25-year-olds)

Membership in all sections is open to both boys and girls.

The underlying values of Scouting are laid down in the Scout Promise and Scout Law, and all young people who join the Scout Movement will work to develop these values. *Please note that there are variations of the promise for all faith groups – as well as for those who do not follow any religious path.*

The Traditional Scout Promise

On my honour, I promise that I will do my best to do my duty to God and to The King, to help other people and to keep the Scout Law.

The Scout Law

1. A Scout is to be trusted.
2. A Scout is loyal.
3. A Scout is friendly and considerate.
4. A Scout belongs to the world-wide family of Scouts.
5. A Scout has courage in all difficulties.
6. A Scout makes good use of time and is careful of possessions and property.
7. A Scout has self-respect and respect for others.

Website

The group operates www.cityoflondonscouts.org.uk where more information is available together with spare activity consent forms.

All enquiries can be directed to John Cronin – gsl@cityoflondonscouts.org.uk



Make all the difference.

Help young people
step up and dream big.
Call us on 07774-426966

www.cityoflondoncouts.org.uk
#SkillsForLife



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