



Early Years Newsletter



18/09/2026 Autumn Issue 1

#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 Golden Lane and Prior Weston families,

A very warm welcome to all our children and families as we begin another exciting year in Early Years. We are delighted to have your children with us and look forward to working together to support them as they learn, grow and develop.

Starting school, or returning after a long summer break, is a significant milestone for young children. The first few weeks are all about helping children feel safe, secure and happy in their learning environment. By working together, we can help children settle quickly and develop the skills they need to become confident, independent learners.

Please take a moment to double check the timings for your child's room, and we kindly ask that Children Centre children are in before 10am as it can be disruptive to children's learning when they arrive late. Thank you for your support with this.

Happy reading!

Bev & Rae

Deputy Head & Children's Centre Lead

Dates for your Diary

October 2026

Monday 26th—Friday 30th October

Half term for term time only children

December 2026

Friday 12th December

Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 17th December

Class Parties & Festive performance at 2pm

Thursday 18th December

Festive performance at 9:30am

Friday 18th December

End of Term— term time only children - 2pm finish

Tuesday 22nd December

Children's Centre closing

January 2027

Monday 4th January

INSET day CC and school closed

Every Day Counts: Attendance Matters

Regular attendance is especially important in Early Years. Young children learn through daily experiences, routines, play and interactions with their friends and teachers. When children attend school consistently, they build stronger relationships, develop confidence and make steady progress in their learning.

- Good attendance helps children to:
- Feel secure and settled in school
- Develop friendships and social skills
- Build confidence and independence
- Benefit from all learning opportunities
- Establish positive habits for the future



We appreciate your support in ensuring your child attends school every day unless they are unwell. If your child will not be attending please contact the school office and they can pass the information on.

Starting the Day on Time

A calm and punctual start to the day helps children feel ready to learn. Arriving on time allows children to settle into the classroom, greet their friends and take part in important morning activities.

When children arrive late, they can miss valuable opportunities to connect with others and begin the day confidently.

You can help by:

- Allowing plenty of time in the morning
- Preparing bags, coats and uniforms the night before
- Establishing a consistent morning routine
- Aiming to arrive a few minutes before the school day begins



These simple steps can make a big difference to your child's confidence and well-being.

Timings for the day

Babies – All year round 8-6pm

TTO Monday, Tuesday 9.15-3.20PM & Wednesday 9.15-11.30am

TTO Wednesday 1-3.20pm and Thursday & Friday 9.15-3.20pm

Toddlers – All year round 8-6pm

TTO Monday, Tuesday 9.15-3.20PM & Wednesday 9.15-11.30am

TTO Wednesday 1-3.20pm and Thursday & Friday 9.15-3.20pm

Bunhill - TTO Wednesday 1-3.20pm and Thursday & Friday 9.15-3.20pm

Nursery – All year round 8-6pm

TTO Monday, Tuesday 8.45-3.25PM & Wednesday 8.45-11.30am

TTO Wednesday 1-3.25pm and Thursday & Friday 8.45-3.25pm



NO CHILDREN AFTER 10AM PLEASE as this interrupts children's learning and can be disruptive.
Thank you

Establishing Positive Routines

Young children thrive on routine. Knowing what to expect helps them feel safe, secure and ready for each day.

As we begin the school year, consider establishing routines such as:

- A consistent bedtime and wake-up time
- Packing school belongings together each evening
- Sharing a story before bed
- Talking about the next school day
- Having a calm and organised morning routine

Consistent routines support children's emotional well-being and help them arrive at school ready to learn.

Supporting Independence

One of the most important skills children develop in Early Years is independence. While it can sometimes be quicker to do things for them, giving children opportunities to do things for themselves helps build confidence, resilience and self-esteem.

You can encourage independence by helping your child to:

- Put on and fasten their coat
- Manage their own shoes where possible
- Use the toilet independently
- Wash and dry their hands
- Carry and look after their own belongings
- Tidy away toys and resources
- Make simple choices and solve small problems

Remember, praise and encouragement go a long way. Celebrating the little achievements helps children feel proud of what they can do for themselves.

How to
support
independence
in children?



Working Together

We believe that the strongest foundation for children's success is a positive partnership between home and school. Thank you for your continued support as we help your child develop the confidence, independence and positive habits that will support them throughout their education.

We are looking forward to a wonderful year filled with learning, laughter, friendships and exciting new experiences.

Home Learning Ideas

Learning doesn't just happen at school. The everyday experiences you share at home provide wonderful opportunities for your child to develop language, literacy, mathematical thinking and independence.

Here are some simple activities you can enjoy together:

Read Every Day

Sharing stories is one of the best ways to support your child's learning. Talk about the pictures, predict what might happen next and encourage your child to retell favourite stories.

Talk, Talk, Talk!

Children learn language through conversation. Chat together while walking to school, shopping or eating meals. Encourage your child to talk about their ideas, feelings and experiences.

Count in Everyday Situations

Spot numbers around you, count stairs as you climb them, count pieces of fruit at snack time or compare which pile has more or fewer objects.

Develop Fine Motor Skills

Activities such as drawing, colouring, threading beads, using playdough, cutting with child-safe scissors and building with construction toys help to strengthen the muscles needed for writing.

Encourage Independence

Allow your child to dress themselves, help set the table, tidy away toys or pack their school bag. These tasks build confidence and responsibility.

Explore the Outdoors

Go on nature walks, collect leaves, look for signs of the changing seasons and talk about what you can see, hear and feel. Outdoor experiences provide rich opportunities for learning and discussion.

Play Games Together

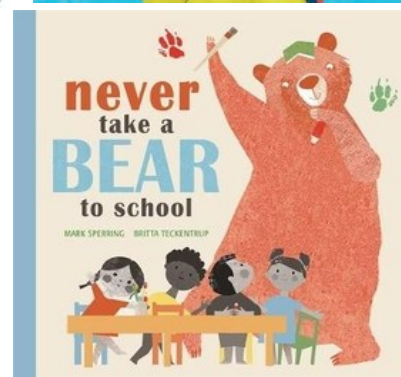
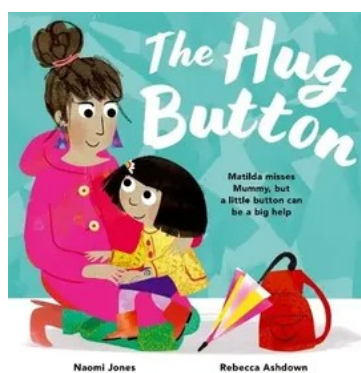
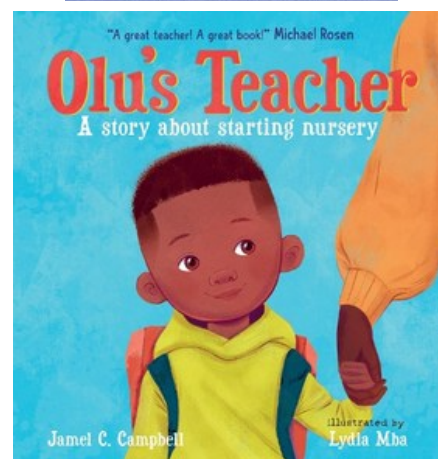
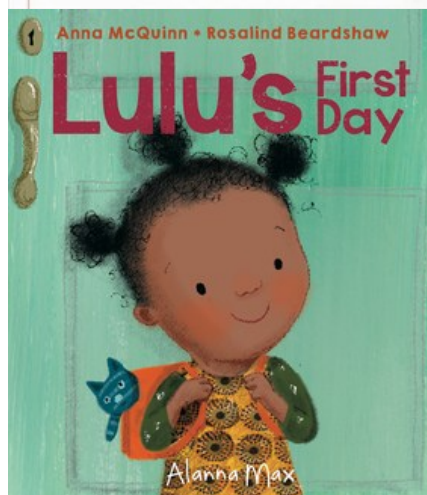
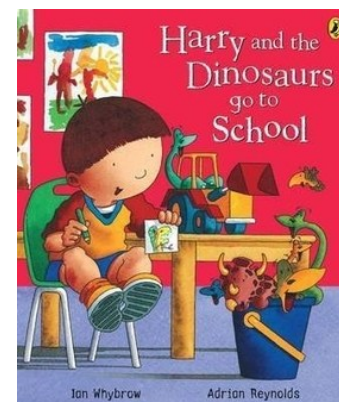
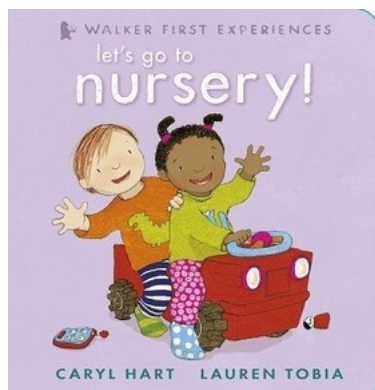
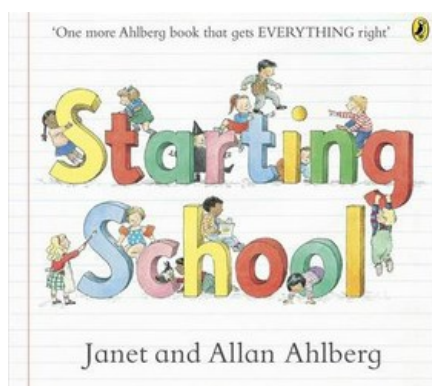
Remember, the most valuable home learning happens through play, conversation and spending quality time together. Little and often is best, and even a few minutes each day can have a positive impact on your child's development.

Sing Nursery Rhymes and Songs

Songs and rhymes help children develop listening skills, memory, vocabulary and early phonics awareness.

Play games together

Board games, puzzles and matching activities teach turn-taking, problem-solving, resilience and social skills while having fun.



News from baby room

Hello everyone,

A very warm welcome back to all the families and new families who have just joined us.

Our babies have resettled back beautifully, and our main focus now is to get back into routine and ensure key people are spending quality time with their key children to create a secure and safe environment.

Our book of the month is the Owl Babies this story connects with separation 'no matter what, at the end of the day, our mummy's, daddy's and special people would always come back' This story teaches reassurance, which enhances children's Personal Social Emotional Development.

A few babies are beginning to discover their feet and explore their gross motor skills and sensory skills. It's wonderful to see their increasing independence in learning and development.

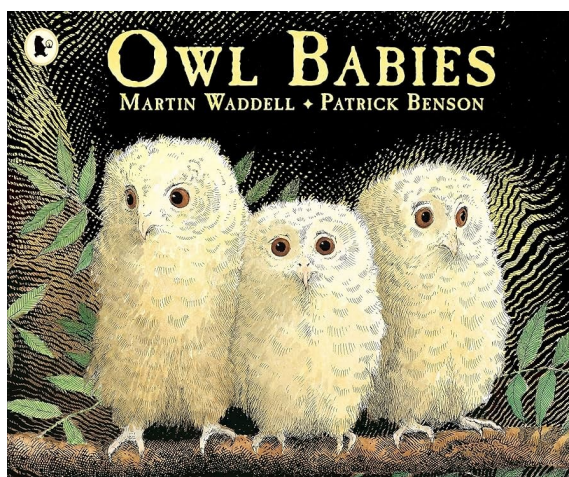


News from Toddler room

Toddler room is blossoming from the return of our lovely toddlers. They have been busy bodies venturing of and exploring all the exciting activities which are on offer.

Our book of the month is 'The Owl Babies' as we feel this would be the best fit easing the children back into settling and new transitions. The story creates an environment of safety and security for both children and parents. The children have really been exploring all the messy play on offer which helps develop on their creativity, imagination and fine motor skills.

The children have loved the physical activities on offer to develop and enhance fine motor skills as well as gross motor skills.



News from Nursery

Our topic this term is "**All About Me**", with a focus on settling into Nursery, building friendships, and learning our classroom rules and routines. The children have been exploring the different areas of provision, becoming familiar with our daily timetable, and learning how we can work and play together safely and respectfully.

To support the children with the transition back to school, we have been reading *The Colour Monster Goes to School*. Through this story, we have explored the range of emotions children may experience when starting or returning to Nursery. We have spent time discussing how the Colour Monster feels and relating these emotions to our own experiences.

Some of the activities we have enjoyed include:

- Creating our own Colour Monsters using different art materials.
- Sorting and matching colours to different emotions.
- Looking at photographs of facial expressions and discussing how we can tell if someone is feeling happy, sad, worried, excited, or calm.
- Using mirrors to make different facial expressions and identify emotions.

The children have also been busy learning independence skills, such as hanging up their coats, tidying away resources, washing their hands, and following simple classroom routines. It has been lovely to see them growing in confidence each day as they make new friends and explore their learning environment.



News from Reception

We've had a wonderful start to the year in Reception! The children are settling in well and are becoming increasingly familiar with their new routines and surroundings. We have been busy doing lots of mark making, practising our scissor skills, and planting daffodil bulbs, which we hope to see blooming beautifully in the spring.

Thank you to all our parents and carers for your collaboration, support and encouragement during this important first week. We really appreciate your help in making the children's transition into Reception such a positive experience.

A gentle reminder that each child should have two full changes of clothes on their peg at all times, including underwear and socks, so that they are prepared for any accidents or messy play activities.

We would also be very grateful if all belongings are clearly labelled with your child's name, including coats, jumpers, cardigans, water bottles and packed lunches. This helps us to quickly return items to their owners and prevents things from getting misplaced.

Finally, next week your child will receive their school book bag, along with further information about how we support reading and communication in Reception. We look forward to sharing this with you and working together to support your child's learning journey.



Starting Primary School information

If your child was born between 01/09/21 and 31/08/22 you need to apply for a place in Reception to start in September.

All admissions are done online through Islington

<https://www.islington.gov.uk/children-and-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place/apply-for-a-primary-school-place>

The deadline is 15th January 2026

If you have any questions or need support with your application we are happy to help. Please speak to the office.



Apply for a primary school place

If your child is due to start primary school and lives in Islington, you must apply online.

Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow



Every School Day Counts!

Child Absences

We look forward to welcoming in all our children everyday. If your child is unable to attend for any reason, i.e. they are unwell or have an appointment or you they will be in late please contact the office on 0207 786 4800, via parentmail or email office@priorweston.islington.sch.uk and we will pass the information on to their room.

Important Dates

The academic calendar for 2025/26 is available on the school's website. Please check it regularly to stay informed about upcoming closure dates and event days.



VITAMINS FOR MUMS & CHILDREN

Collect your **FREE** Healthy Start vitamins.



Collecting Your Child

If a different adult is collecting your child, please inform a staff member in the room and the receptionist at drop-off. The adult **must** also have your child's password.



What to expect, when?

Guidance to your child's learning and development
in the early years foundation stage



Supported by



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In this guide, your child's first five years have been divided up into six age bands which overlap. This is because every child is different and children do not grow and develop at the same rate. It highlights what you might notice your child doing at these points. Children learn and develop through playing, exploring, being active, creative and being asked questions to help their thinking. After each age band we give you an example of some ideas and tips as to how you can help your child's learning and development. Page 34 details where you can find out more.

https://www.eyalliance.org.uk/sites/default/files/what_to_expect_when._a_parents_guide.pdf

Incredible Years Groups are for parents and carers of children aged 1-10 years. There are three groups depending on your child's age:

Incredible Years Toddler:
Parents of children aged 1-3

Incredible Years Early Childhood:
Parents of children aged 3-6

Incredible Years School Age:
Parents of children aged 6-10

Incredible Years Groups are for parents and carers who want to:

- * Improve their child's behaviour
- * Learn more about what behaviours are normal for children
- * Meet other parents
- * Learn parenting skills
- * Feel more confident as a parent
- * Feel less stressed about parenting

Who is the group run by?

The group is run by either a Family Support Practitioner or Family Engagement Worker and a CAMHS Clinician from Islington CAMHS. Both facilitators are experienced in running groups and helping families.

Islington CAMHS
Phone: 020 3316 1824
Date published: 06/09/2023

**Bright Start Central
Toddler 1 - 3 years**
Tuesday mornings from 30th September - 20th January
New River Green Children Centre
Brightstartcentral@islington.gov.uk
020 7527 8465
Amanda Lydon (Family Engagement Worker)
Jill Cheever (CAMHS Clinician)
jillian.cheever@nhs.net

**Bright Start South
Toddler 1 - 3 years**
Thursday mornings from 2nd October - 22nd January
Bemerton Children Centre
Brightstartsouth@islington.gov.uk
0207 527 4089
Tina Bailey (Family Engagement Worker)
Anne-Marie Reid (CAMHS Clinician)
anne-marie.reid3@nhs.net

**Bright Start North
Early Childhood 3 - 6 years**
Friday mornings from 3rd October - 23rd January
Ambler Children's Centre
Brightstartnorth@islington.gov.uk
020 7527 8441
Daniqua Chen (Parent Programme Coordinator)
Maria-Clara Vejarano-Brill (CAMHS Clinician)
m.vejarano-brill@nhs.net

**Bright Futures 5-19
School Age group 6-10 years old**
Tuesday mornings 7th October - 27th January
Dame Geraldine Hall, Manor Gardens
Emma Clarke (Family Support Practitioner)
Amal Ali (CAMHS Clinician)
amal.ali10@nhs.net

Incredible Years Parenting Groups

A course for parents who want to learn how to get the best behaviour out of their children

Incredible Years Toddler:
Parents of children aged 1-3

Incredible Years Early Childhood:
Parents of children aged 3-6

Incredible Years School Age:
Parents of children aged 6-10



What parents have said about the groups

"This course is not a lesson on what as a parent we are doing wrong - more so an insight as to how we can improve"

"Oh my! What changes haven't I seen?! It has become a joy to be a parent again and to enjoy my children the best way"

"I am feeling much more confident as a parent. I know how to react to specific situations. My child is behaving better. It was life changing for me"

"I have learned so much from sharing with the group and hearing about their experiences"

How can I find out more?

To register your interest you can contact talk to a Family Engagement Worker at your local children's centre stating the group you are interested in. The timetable is also on the Family Information Service website.

About Incredible Years

Programme aims

- * Promote children's all round development (social, emotional, language & behaviour)
- * Support parents' developing effective parenting strategies
- * Increase parents' support networks
- * Strengthen parents and children's relationships
- * Provide a safe, non-judgemental space to think about and share ideas with other parents

Topics

- * Parental attention and child directed play (promoting positive relationships)
- * Child-directed coaching
- * Social and emotional coaching
- * Praise and encouragement
- * Rewards & Incentives
- * Rules & Routines
- * Effective Limit Setting
- * Handling misbehaviour

About the group

- * The group will run for 13 or 14 weeks, term time only, at the same time each week
- * There will be a maximum of 12 parents in the group

Before the group

- * A group facilitator will contact you to think about whether the Incredible Years Group would be suitable.

During the group

- * Each week we will focus on a topic, using a mixture of group discussion, watching DVD's of parents with their children and role playing ourselves
- * There will be a home task each week to practice the strategies
- * The facilitators will call you in the middle of the week to check how you are getting on and whether you have any questions about the material covered in the group
- * As the group goes on, when you know one another a little more, we will encourage you to also make calls to a 'buddy' to help support each other.



NO BIKES **TO BE BOUGHT** **INTO** **GOLDEN LANE CAMPUS**

- **PLEASE PUT THEM IN THE BIKE PARK AT FRONT OF SCHOOL •**

**NO BIKES INSIDE
THE CAMPUS**



**For everyone's safety,
please do not bring bikes
into the campus.**

**USE THE BIKE PARK
AT FRONT OF SCHOOL**



**Thank you for helping
keep our campus safe
and tidy.**



THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION