Early Years Newsletter

13/10/2026 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 Golden Lane families,
The festive season is fast approaching, and we are excited to share a range of special events below for our children and families to enjoy. Join us for our heart-warming **Festive Performance**, where the Nursery children and primary school children will showcase their singing, dancing and seasonal cheer. We are also delighted to be bringing the magic of ***Jack and the Beanstalk*** into school with a live pantomime performance full of laughter, adventure and festive fun. More information about these events will follow in the coming weeks on parent mail. We look forward to celebrating this special time of year together and creating wonderful memories for everyone involved!
Best wishes,
Bev Deputy Head

December 2026	Festive Dates for your Diary
Thursday 3rd December	Nursery Parent's Evening
Wednesday 9th December	Whitecross Street cake sale (cake donations
Friday 11th December	Christmas Jumper day & Christmas Lunch
Tuesday 15th December	PM Festive performance Including children from Nursery to Y6
Wednesday 16th December	AM Festive performance Including children from Nursery to Y6
Wednesday 16th December	PM Jack and the Beanstalk panto @ Prior Weston (Children's Centre, Rec and Year 1)
Thursday 17th December	Class Parties PM
Friday 18th December	End of Term – Primary school children and Term time only children in Children's centre- 2pm finish
Tuesday 22nd December	End of Term - All year round children—Golden Lane

Toddler room News

What a busy and exciting term we have had in the Toddler Room! The children have been enjoying lots of fun activities, exploring new experiences and learning new things along the way.

Firstly, we would like to give a very warm welcome to all our new families and little ones who have recently joined us. We are so happy to have you as part of our Toddler Room family!

This term, we have enjoyed celebrating and taking part in lots of special occasions, including Black History Month, Diwali, Halloween, Guy Fawkes Night and Bonfire Night.

For Black History Month, the children enjoyed a lovely cooking activity where they made

'Chin biscuits' a popular West African snack. They had lots of fun exploring the ingredients, mixing and getting involved in the preparation. We also played some cultural music, which the children really enjoyed listening and moving along to while making their biscuits.

We also had a wonderful 'Halloween party', where parents joined in the celebrations. The children looked adorable in their Halloween costumes and had so much fun! It was lovely to see everyone getting involved, sharing smiles and making special memories together. Thank you to all the

parents who joined us and helped make the day so enjoyable.

Throughout our celebrations, the children have been given opportunities to explore different

cultures and traditions, helping them develop an awareness of the world around them. They have also been developing their social skills by playing alongside their friends, sharing resources and

taking part in group activities.

We have also enjoyed watching the children explore different colours, lights, sounds and textures. Through our everyday activities and play, they are building their confidence, developing their

communication and language skills, becoming more independent and learning new skills every day.

It has been lovely to see how much the children have grown and developed this term. We are so proud of all their little achievements and look forward to making many more happy memories

together!



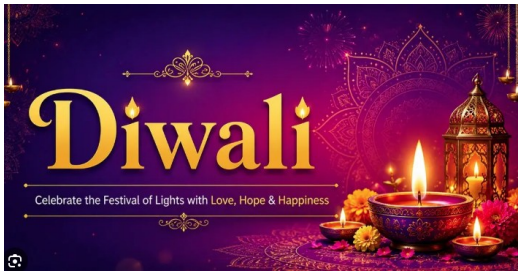
Baby room News

The babies in the room have been curious and creative as we explored celebrations and events from around the world. These included Diwali, Remembrance Day and Black History Month.
We also incorporated our book of the month, the delightful story Handa's Surprise. One of our parents also joined us to prepare fried plantain (Amaya's Mum Peace) and explored a basket of exotic fruits with the babies. We also enjoyed a lovely Halloween party and had a wonderful time.

This term, the babies have shown an interest in exploring real-food play, supporting the development of their exploratory and sensory skills in line with the EYFS guidelines: Sensory play is any activity that stimulates a child's senses — touch, smell, taste, sight, hearing, movement, and balance. It's one of the most effective ways children learn about their environment during the early years. Additionally, Sensory play provides a strengths-based, accessible entry point to engagement, supporting multi-sensory impairment, physical needs, or emotional regulation.

Lastly, congratulations to our two babies, Zaccai and Amaya, and their family, as they are moving up to the toddler room. They are both settling in well and are in the process of the transition to their new toddler room.

We look forward to the end-of-year celebration, including Christmas activities and our graduation party.















Nursery News

What We Have Been Learning

*T*his term, our topic is **People Who Help Us**. We have been learning about the different people who help us in our community and how they make a difference.

Over the past two weeks, our focus has been on **the police**. The children have been learning about what police officers do and how they help to keep us safe. We have enjoyed making our own police hats and badges and talking about the important jobs police officers do. Our focus story has been *Cats and Robbers*, which has given us lots of opportunities to talk about the story, share ideas and use our imagination.

Maths

In maths, we have been learning about **cardinality**. This means understanding that the last number we say when counting tells us how many objects there are altogether. We have been practising counting different objects and matching numbers to amounts through fun, hands-on activities.

Phonics and Communication

During our phonics sessions, we have been using **Colourful Semantics** to help children build sentences. This encourages the children to put words together, use longer sentences and become more confident when talking and sharing their ideas.

Toddler Transitions

We have also welcomed some of our toddlers as they begin moving into their new room. This transition has been going really well! The children are settling into their new surroundings, getting to know the adults and making new friends. We are very proud of how well they are doing.

A Little Reminder for Families

We kindly ask that all families remember to label their child's clothing, coats and water bottles with their name. Items can sometimes get mixed up or misplaced during busy nursery days, and having names clearly labelled helps us to return belongings to the correct child. This is especially important for children who are not yet able to tell us which belongings are theirs. Thank you for your help and support with this!

Well done to all the children for their enthusiasm and lovely learning this term. We look forward to sharing more of our adventures with you!







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.

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.

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.



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