Medical & SEN Newsletter

27/11/26 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 and Golden Lane families,

As we move through this busy term, we would like to share some important health, safety and inclusion updates with our school community.
Recently, we have had a number of incidents where children have brought items containing nuts in their packed lunches. Thankfully no children were affected, but please check items in your child's packed lunch as we do have children who have severe allergies to nuts.
With class celebrations and festive parties coming up, please remember to be allergy aware. If you are providing any food items for a school event, please ensure ingredients are clearly labelled and follow school guidance. By working together, we can make sure every child is able to take part safely and inclusively.
This newsletter also includes information about Benedict's Law. Our allergy policy is available on our website.
We are often sent information about events for children with SEND in the community and workshops for families. Please do regularly check the notice board outside Simone's office. We do include information in this newsletter and try to share via Parentmail as well.
We encourage all families to take a few moments to read the additional information and resources included in this newsletter.

Kind regards,
Simone
Head of Inclusion



Dates for your Diary

December 2026	
Thursday 3rd December	Parent/Carer Evening
Tuesday 8th December	Music Masters Orchestra sharing performance 4.15-4.30pm TBC
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 - Golden Lane Children's Centre
January 2027	
Monday 4th January	INSET day CC and Primary school closed

Festive Dates for your Diary

December 2026	
Tuesday 1st December	1pm Jack and the Beanstalk panto @ Hackney Empire Years 5 & 6 (& ARP children)
Wednesday 2nd December	1pm Jack and the Beanstalk panto @ Hackney Empire Years 2, 3 & 4
Monday 7th December	Music Masters Winter Concert @ Plaisterers' Hall
Wednesday 9th December	Whitecross Street cake sale
Thursday 10th December	Choir Weston to Ecovis Offices
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

Keeping Our School Community Safe: Understanding Benedict's Law

What is Benedict's Law?

Named in memory of five-year-old Benedict Blythe, this new law ensures all schools follow strict, consistent safety standards to protect pupils with severe allergies.

At Prior Weston Primary school and Children's Centre, the health and safety of every child is our top priority.

Following the introduction of **Benedict's Law** across schools in England this academic year, we want to share the steps we are taking to strengthen allergy safety and how families can help.

What we are doing in school:

- **Dedicated Allergy Policy:** We have published our standalone Whole-School Allergy Policy on our website, overseen by Simone.
- **Staff Training:** All school staff—including teachers, lunchtime supervisors, and wraparound care teams receive annual training on recognising allergic reactions and responding to emergencies.
- **Emergency Medication:** Alongside Individual Healthcare Plans for pupils with diagnosed allergies, we hold spare, in-date adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs) on site for emergency use.
- **Allergy-Aware Environment:** Rather than claiming to be strictly "nut-free" (which can create a false sense of security), we operate as an **allergy-aware** school. We actively manage risks in classrooms, during lunchtimes, and on school trips.

How parents and carers can help:

- **Keep us updated:** Please inform the school office immediately if your child is diagnosed with a new allergy, or if their existing allergy action plan or prescribed medication changes.
- **Check medication expiry dates:** If your child keeps a prescribed AAI in school, please ensure it is always in date.
- **Talk about kindness and inclusion:** Help us remind children never to share food at school and to tell an adult straight away if a friend feels unwell.

Healthy school reminder

As we settle into the new school year, I would like to remind families of a few important expectations that help us maintain a safe, healthy and inclusive environment for all.

As a Healthy School, and because some of our children have significant allergies and food intolerances, we ask that **birthday cakes, sweets, party bags and other treats are not brought into school or Children's Centre**. We also ask that **parents do not give children snacks or sweets inside the school building or at drop off and collection points**. We know these gestures are made with the very best intentions, but we want to ensure that all children are safe and included. We are also mindful that party bags and birthday treats can create unnecessary expense and expectations for families, and we do not want anyone to feel under pressure to provide gifts or treats for classmates.

A reminder that **school meals are free for every child**. However, if your child brings a packed lunch, please ensure it is a healthy one and does not contain crisps, sugary drinks, chocolate or sweets. For allergy and safeguarding reasons, **children must not share food with one another**.

Chickenpox

Chickenpox is a mild and common childhood illness that most children catch at some point. It causes a rash of red, itchy spots that turn into fluid-filled blisters. They then crust over to form scabs, which eventually drop off. To prevent spreading the infection, keep children off nursery or school until all the spots have crusted over. For most children, chickenpox is a mild illness that gets better on its own. But some children can become more seriously ill and need to see a doctor. Contact your GP straight away if your child develops any abnormal symptoms, for example:

- if the blisters on their skin become infected
- if your child has a pain in their chest or has difficulty breathing

Children who have had chickenpox recently are more likely to develop more serious infection during an outbreak of scarlet fever and so parents should remain vigilant for symptoms such as a persistent high fever, cellulitis (skin infection) and joint pain (varicella arthritis). If you are concerned for any reason, please seek medical assistance immediately. If your child has an underlying condition which affects their immune system, you should contact your GP or hospital doctor to discuss whether any additional measures are needed. You can find more information on chickenpox and scarlet fever on NHS choices: www.nhs.uk

ISLINGTON
For a more equal future

SEND Local Offer

Information, advice and services for Islington children and young people aged 0-25 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

What is the Local Offer?

Since September 2014 every Local Authority has been required to publish information about services they expect to be available in their area for children and young people from birth to 25 who have SEND and also services outside of the area which they expect children and young people from their area will use. This is known as the 'Local Offer.'

The Local Offer puts all the information about education, health and care services, leisure activities and support groups in one place. It has two main purposes:

- To provide clear, comprehensive and accessible information about the support and opportunities that are available; and
- To make provision more responsive to local needs and aspirations.

The Government says the Local Offer must be developed and reviewed in partnership with children and young people, parents, and local services, including schools, colleges, health and social care agencies.

In Islington, we have worked with parent representatives from local parent forums, the SENCo Network, other service providers and children and young people to plan exactly what should be included in our Local Offer and the best way to present information.

Local Offer Tag

LOCAL OFFER

You will come across the Local Offer tag within your searches, this symbol means the service provider has supplied Local Offer information about how they will support your child.

If you would like to search only for services which have provided Local Offer information use the filter 'Service has Local Offer – Yes'.

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Local community news and events

Relaxed and autism-friendly pantos 2026–27

Hackney Empire - Jack and the Beanstalk

Saturday 5 December at 13:30



Stratford East -Robin Hood and the Merry Mandem

Saturday 2 January at 12:00



Lyric Hammersmith Theatre - Cinderella

Tuesday 1 December at 10:00



North Central London Health and Care Integrated Care System

NHS

Autism and ADHD
Neurodevelopmental Site for 0-18yrs

Information and support for **children, young people, parents, carers** and **professionals** in North Central London (NCL)

Camden | Islington | Barnet | Enfield | Haringey

Find autism and ADHD support groups & organisations in your local area via our online calendar

Things to LEARN
What you can DO
Places to GO

Professional advice and guidance on Autism & ADHD symptoms

Find out more about a diagnosis – what it means for you / your child

SCAN ME

Help with finding a local NHS service for a diagnostic assessment

Downloadable neurodevelopmental resources

Hear the voices of young people, parents and carers

CLICK ME FOR WEBSITE

https://londonwaitingroom.nhs.uk/autism-adhd-support-ncl

Ofsted Good Provider

Advice and support for parents and carers

SENDIAS

SENDIAS provide SEND advice for parents and carers. This can include help with applications and support during meetings. SENDIAS also run coffee mornings and themed workshops for parents/ carers to connect and receive practical advice: Click here

Support for parents and carers of children known to the SCT

SCT Community Coffee Club Join our informal drop-in coffee club to meet other parents, share experiences and find out more about assessment, support and local services. Click here

Developing Skills sessions: Sign up for our interactive parent groups on topics including communication, play, sensory needs, behaviour, sleep, eating and toileting. Ask questions, gain advice from the SCT, and connect with other parents. Available online and in person. Click here

Growing Together

Growing together offer support around mental health and wellbeing for families with children aged 0-5years in Islington Click here

Look out for free workshops which can be booked via Eventbrite by clicking here

Websites about autism:

- Ambitious about autism: click here
- National Autistic Society: click here
- Autistic Girls Network: click here

Bright Start family support

The service is for all parents-to-be and parents and carers of children under 5 years in Islington. They can support you with any question by providing advice and/or signposting to other services. Click here