



# NEWSLETTER

23RD OCTOBER 2020

## WELCOME

Well what a joy it has been to have our school community back together over the past half term!

The children have responded brilliantly to the changes that we have had to have in place to keep everyone as safe as possible during this pandemic. They have shown a great resilience and have nurtured each other in times of need. Across recent weeks, the teachers have been gradually building up the academic focus in the classroom, whilst maintaining a keen eye on supporting the children's wellbeing. Following a series of baseline assessments across the school, our team have developed a clear strategy for our ongoing commitment to school improvement for the coming months. Our efforts will be focused on three main areas: wellbeing, social development and academic recovery. We look forward to keeping you informed of these developments.

On Monday, Laurance Haines turned Hollywood as we invited a film crew in to work with our children and teachers. Over the course of a very exciting day, the children showcased the best of Laurance Haines whilst enjoying some truly innovative learning facilitated by our teaching team. Our children commented throughout the day that they felt like celebrities. The shots will be edited together for a promotional video for our school, to be shared with the wider community. We look forward to being able to share this with you all. We have brought our half term to a close in more normal fashion today yet with a slight twist.

We held our Harvest Celebration via zoom and we were delighted that Father Geoff could join us for the occasion. This year's celebration has provided opportunity for reflection on the COVID-19 global health crisis and we have shared our thanks for our food heroes, farmers and workers throughout the food industry, who have kept us fed throughout difficult times. Similarly, we have also thanked the remarkable individuals across our school community who have, and continue to deliver food parcels to those in need.

Continue to support each other over the half term break and we look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 2nd November.

Mr Gray  
**Headteacher**

## SPOTLIGHT ON LEARNING

The learning at Laurance Haines has been as inspiring as ever over the last two weeks - we have had so much going on! Jigsaw is our PSHE curriculum and this half term the children have been learning about 'Being Me!'

Year 3 have been thinking about how they are proud of themselves. In Year 4 the children have been considering what the school beliefs and promises mean to them. The children in Year 5 have been working on building relationships with each other and teamwork and in Year 6 have created leaflets around the school triangle behaviour rules: be kind, be respectful, work hard and be safe.

Across the school growing our children emotionally and socially remains to be the focus at Laurance Haines and wherever possible the children are learning collaboratively. For example, in the Early Years, the children have been making music and exploring Harvest fruit and vegetables. In Year 1, the children have been combining nature with royalty but creating a bug hotel called 'Btingham Palace'.

In Year 2, the children have been learning how to work together to build a fire and how enjoying time together is important to have a sense of belonging. Children in Year 3 have been using the Lego wall to build masterpieces and collaborative working in year 4 has enabled the children to build character profiles about their class text.

In Year 5, the children have been debating events in history – some of which got quite heated! Children in Year 6 have been enjoying playing together when learning about wartime games including hopscotch.

## CHILDREN IN NEED DAY

On Friday 13th November we will be celebrating Children in Need.

The theme is 5 to Thrive and is based on the 5 ways to wellbeing. Children can wear the colours red, yellow, purple, green or blue from our 5 badges of honour.

Connect Be Active Keep Learning Give and Take Notices In return for a donation of 50p. The children will take part in a range of activities to support their physical and mental health.

More details will follow after half term.



## ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

We start Anti bullying week off by encouraging the children to wear odd socks to school on the Monday to celebrate diversity, what makes us all unique and it's an opportunity to express individuality.

Anti-bullying week 2020 theme is 'United against Bullying' - The children will take part in a number of activities during the week and will be learning about internet safety and the effects of cyberbullying.

Year 6 will be working with PCSO Thomas on updating our cyberbullying leaflet



## YEAR 6 PARENTS - DEADLINE TODAY!

REMINDER: Secondary & Upper School Admissions 2021

Please be aware that the deadline for applications to secondary and upper schools is fast approaching.

Parents will need to make an application online or on paper by the closing date of Saturday 31st October 2020. But we would recommend that parents complete it by Friday 23rd October, so that if there are any queries, they can be dealt with by the Admissions Team ahead of the deadline.

Parents should apply online at [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions)

If you need any help or support making your application please do let us know and we will be happy to help.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 25th October - Friday 30th October - Half Term

Wednesday 4th November - PTA Annual General Meeting (AGM) - 7pm via Zoom

Thursday 5th November - Flu Vaccinations Reception to Year 6

Thursday 12th November - Photo Day

Friday 13th November - Children In Need Day

Monday 16th November - Odd Socks Day

16th to 20th November - Anti-Bullying Week

Friday 30th November - School Disco Year 5 (3.30-4.30pm) and Year 6 (5-6pm) More Details to follow.

Friday 18th December - End of Term 2pm

## SCHOOL OFFICE

As outlined in our re-opening plan, the school office remains closed to parents/visitors unless by appointment only, For any enquiries, please telephone 01923 233146 or email the school office: [admin@lhaines.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@lhaines.herts.sch.uk)

## NOTICES FOR PARENTS

### ARBOR - ACTION NEEDED

Earlier in the year we began using Arbor to communicate and interact with all parents and carers. It is essential that all parents/carers are signed up to Arbor.

We send out all letters via Arbor, you can make payments (school meals etc) and update your contract information in case of an emergency.

If you do not have access to Arbor, or are not receiving your emailed letters please contact the school office to provide your email address.

### PARKING SAFELY AROUND THE SCHOOL

We have had a number calls regarding concerns from local residents and parents/carers about parking on Rose Gardens. For the safety of all our pupils, parents/carers and local residents please ensure that you are not blocking pavements or driveways. Please can everyone ensure that they are parking in accordance with the highways restrictions in place on this road and all roads around the school.

### MOBILE PHONES

As outlined in our Parent Handbook, please note that the school recognises that as technology has changed more pupils have access to mobile phones.

We will take steps to guide children to help them understand that this technology should be used responsibly.

We are happy for mobile phones to be brought into school for children in year 5 and 6; however, we ask that children hand them to their class teacher at the beginning of the school day for safe keeping.

Laurance Haines School cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage to mobile phones.

### INTERNET ACCESS AND TECHNOLOGY

In case we have to implement remote learning, we are asking all parents about their internet and technology (laptops, tablets etc) at home.

Please speak to the school office if there are any barriers using technology at home for remote learning.

## BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Please note that the free clubs run by Mr Kelly from Apex finished this week, and will start again after half term.

If you would like your child to continue in a free club you will need to re-apply. Spaces are available For children wishing to join. Paid for clubs will continue as before with no action required.

Full details will be emailed separately.

## BIKEABILITY - YEAR 5

We are excited to offer children in year 5 the opportunity to improve their cycle skills with Bikeability training.

To take part they will need their own correctly sized cycle and helmet. The course will cost £13.50. Full details will be sent by email early next week.

The deadline for applications is Monday 2nd November. Don't delay and secure your child's place today!



# HARVEST DAY

## FINAL MESSAGE

Thank you to everyone, pupils, teachers, support staff, parents/carers and our volunteers for their hard work this term. Your flexibility and understanding approach to the new way of life at the school during these uncertain times is greatly appreciated.

We would like to wish you a happy half term, stay safe and have fun.



## ABSENCES

If your child is unable to attend school, please telephone 01923 233146 or email [sickness@lhaines.herts.sch.uk](mailto:sickness@lhaines.herts.sch.uk)

It is essential to advise the school if your child or family member of your household is suspected or confirmed as having COVID-19.

## WE HAVE SPACES AVAILABLE

We are very proud at Laurance Haines of the amazing, diverse and inclusive community we have built. We especially value the positive views that our parents /carers share with us.

Do you know of anyone in your family, friends or community with children that are looking to join a school like ours? If so we have spaces available for more students across all year groups.

They are very welcome to contact our school office and arrange a visit to see the wonderful environment your children are already learning in and help us expand and enhance our school community even further.



**Tel**  
01923 233146

**Email**  
[admin@lhaines.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@lhaines.herts.sch.uk)

**Web**  
[www.lhaines.herts.sch.uk](http://www.lhaines.herts.sch.uk)

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Laurance Haines School

**INCLUSIVE | MAT**