



# NEWSLETTER

16 SEPTEMBER 2022

## WELCOME

A very warm welcome to you all for the beginning of the new school year. Although for many the summer holidays will seem like a distant memory, we hope that you were all able to spend time with families and friends and that the children were able to return to school with much excitement. We trust your children are settling into their new teams, getting know new friends and new teachers. We hope too that our parents feel well-supported in these opening weeks and that our teaching team has started to build links with you.

The term for our staff began with two INSET training days. The first was spent with colleagues across the Inclusive MAT with the training centred around collaboration and celebrating diversity, with Diverse Educators. Teams enjoyed productive conversations and planning to ensure the steps we take as individuals, schools and as one trust, are truly inclusive and lead to a sense of belonging for children, parents, staff and the community. Our second day was spent with the Laurance Haines team, with sessions focused on the implementation of the curriculum that has been designed to be more representative of our wider community and workshops for support staff to facilitate academic progress across the core subjects. Your children will be feeling the benefit of the training over the weeks and months to come.

Following a week of team building activities to support the children to form the relationships necessary for successful learning this year, the children have returned to full curriculum lessons this week. Historical learning has been central to the experience where children have been learning about their personal past, the history of Watford, the Tudors and Romans and the industrial revolution. Please do check in with the children to find out what they have remembered of their learning, just as teachers will be doing in the coming weeks. Next week's focus subject is geography!

Since the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, the children have been reflecting on the life of this great monarch and have been commemorating her in various different ways. The teachers have worked with children to provide a space for mourning and celebration. In singing assemblies, the children have been learning our new national anthem, 'God Save the King'. School will be closed on Monday 19th September for the state funeral. Beyond then, the children will be exposed to learning around historical elements of the Royal Family, including some aspects of colonialism and imperialism. These lessons will of course be carried out in a sensitive, respectful and age-appropriate manner.

On Wednesday 28th September, we invite you all to join us for Open Evening. You will all have the opportunity to meet with current and previous teachers and teaching teams. Communal areas of the school will be open again to you so there will be plenty of opportunity to speak with staff across the school and find out the different sorts of things that children have been learning about. We hope to see as many of you there as possible.

Sebastian Gray  
Headteacher

## SPOTLIGHT ON LEARNING

This week we have been busy launching our Laurance Haines Curriculum! This week our whole school community have been exploring the question "Who are we?" If you have any time this weekend, please take a look at Twitter and explore all the incredible learning experiences the children have had this week. History has been the subject of the week with children from Year One to Year Six understanding how events unfold in time order with our older children investigating what 'chronological' means. They have also been understanding how we find out about events that happening the past by using 'historical sources'.

In the Early Years, the children have been discovering what is unique about them and sharing that with each other. The children in Year One have been putting their day's activities on a timeline and learning Makaton for 'past', 'before' and 'now'. Ask any child in Year Two about what has happened to the Watford football club over last 100 years and they will be happy to reel off many facts including that they used to play motorbike football on the pitch!

In Year Three, the children have been learning about some key history of Watford and specifically about the changes to Cassiobury over time. In Year Four, the children have learnt what Roman life was like including what the fashion was like and what hairstyles they had.

In Year Five, the children have been immersed in a Tudor world and even had a visit from Queen Elizabeth II! The children in Year 6 have been discovering how important the Grand Union Canal has been for Watford and industry has thrived because of the ease transporting goods on narrowboats. This is just a snapshot - it's been an absolutely incredible week of learning!

Jo Ball  
Assistant Headteacher

## M&S EAT WELL COMPETITION

If you or your family shop at Marks & Spencer, they are running a competition currently to win sports vouchers for your school. We would love if you would vote for us!

Buy any 'Eat Well' product for the chance to win hundreds of prizes, such as a training masterclass with our national team! Other prizes include merchandise for you and gift vouchers for the school.

Please visit [Sparks | M&S \(marksandspencer.com\)](https://marksandspencer.com/sparks) for more information.

### How It Works

1



Register for the competition by nominating your local school or football club

2



Earn an entry every time you buy an Eat Well product

3



Scan your Sparks card at checkout to register your entries

## FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

We are delighted to see even our youngest children settling into school life so well. Here are some photos of our Nursery children's first day at school.



## PAKISTAN FLOOD RELIEF

On Monday 12th September, staff at Laurance Haines held a cake sale and lunch to raise money for flood victims in Pakistan - raising £300.



## ROAD SAFETY

By now, most of you will have seen our new road signs on Vicarage Road. Safety is key! Please be mindful when dropping off or picking up from school.



## BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

We are excited to be offering an alternative morning multiskills club that is open to all children from Reception to Year 6. You will be able to book single days, weekly or whatever suits your family (subject to availability). The sports coach will choose the sport according to the wishes of the children attending each day. It costs £3 per day per child.

To book go to: [www.challengesportededucation.co.uk](http://www.challengesportededucation.co.uk)

> click book online > Register now > login > Enter child's info > select 'in school sports club and click 'Ad Hoc sessions > select year group > select Laurance Haines > show results > checkout & pay.

As well as these brilliant morning clubs, we have our alternative before and after school clubs available for booking. Please see the club timetable on our website :

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



# SCHOOL OFFICE

For any enquiries, please telephone 01923 233146 or email the school office:

admin@lhaines.herts.sch.uk

## QUEEN ELIZABETH II

Following the news last Thursday of the death of Queen Elizabeth II, we have, as a school, come together to commemorate her long reign. On Friday 9th September, we held a candle-lit assembly for KS1 and KS2 which was incredibly moving.

The children have also had the opportunity to look at newspapers and space was held for reflection, discussion and learning about the most remarkable monarch.

Please note that school will be closed on Monday 19th September for the Queen's State Funeral.



## DATES FOR THE DIARY



- Bank Holiday for the Queen's funeral - Monday 19th September 2022
- Open Evening - Wednesday 28th September 5:30-7:30PM
- Break up for Half Term - Friday 21st October 2022
- Back to School - Monday 31st October 2022

## ANNUAL PARENTAL CONSENT

At the beginning of each school year, we have to ask you to give consent for your child(ren) to take part in activities out side of school - this is called the Annual Parental Consent. Please logon to the Arbor App and read through the Annual Parental Consent form which appears under "Notices". You will then need to scroll down and click on the green "consent" icon at the bottom of the page.

Please remember to do this separately for all of your children in the school. If you need any help please contact the school office.

## VACANCY

We are seeking to recruit a School Business Officer. This is an exciting opportunity for an experienced business professional looking to advance their career into this varied and stimulating role.

For more info, visit this link:

<https://www.mynewterm.com/jobs/143603/EDV-2022-LHS-16629>



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