



# NEWSLETTER

9 DECEMBER 2022

## WELCOME

This year, we are celebrating Laurance Haines School's 50th Birthday! Over the course of the year ahead, we will be hosting special, celebratory events with the children and with the community. This term, we commissioned a photograph of the whole school, which was last done 10 years ago. We have also commissioned a special logo as below, which will be used for commemorative items to be made available for the school community in the coming months. Plans are also underway for a birthday celebration event at the end of the summer term, with all of the school to be invited as well as our alumni and wider community members. Please watch this space.

We continue to enhance the curriculum and the pastoral offer for children and parents. Over recent weeks, we have been joined by colleagues from across the Trust and other education professionals to confirm our curriculum designs as well as guide us with our ongoing developments. The Pastoral teams conducted a review of our calm start, the embedded nurturing principles and the initiatives to support social and emotional learning. Similarly, our phonics team enjoyed a development day this week with work around early reading lessons, intervention to support key children and preparing our children as confident readers. As parents, you may see some different approaches to reading support at home in the new year to support these continued developments. Should you need any additional support, the class teacher will always be the first port of call.

As we approach Christmas, we have begun to host a number of events that have become a rite of passage for children at Laurance Haines. Our children in reception visited Watford Palace Theatre for their first experience of a pantomime - oh no they didn't, I hear you cry! They have also been rehearsing for their own performances for the Early Years Nativity - we look forward to being joined by families next week. Children from Year 1 to Year 6 have also been rehearsing for the Carol Concert, which will be held at St Michael & All Angels Church on Tuesday 20th December at 9:30am - we hope to see as many of our families there as possible too.

Laurance Haines hosted the Inclusive MAT AGM last night, which provided a wonderful opportunity for staff, parents, governors and trustees from across Beechfield, Cherry Tree, our school and the Trust to celebrate in the achievements and successes from across the year. Children from Year 6 performed two songs that they had written in the summer term, inspired by the words, "You see me. You hear me. I belong." In all honesty, there was not a dry eye in the house. Children across the trust are getting a great deal at their schools and we're excited about the collaboration in the future.

Sebastian Gray  
Headteacher

## SPOTLIGHT ON LEARNING

From Early Years through to Year 6, writing (along with reading) is at the core of the curriculum. Indeed, the children are building a wealth of essential skills and knowledge which they will take on through secondary school and into their adult life. So, it is obviously vital to support children to reach their potential – but, most importantly, we want them to enjoy the journey!

A visit to Early Years is a treat because their learning environment is literally drenched with letters, sounds and words in every nook and cranny, both inside and out. Fun and real-life writing opportunities are available wherever you look; it is so inspiring to see these very young people independently pick up a pencil and write out their shopping list in their emerging mark making as they develop their understanding of the squiggles, which we have decided are our alphabet!

Move on into Key Stage 1 and you will see children immersing themselves in their texts and topics in fun ways, so that they can develop the necessary language required for their writing through lots of talking. Year 1 children reading 'William's Winter Nap' by Linda Ashman came to school in pyjamas for the day for some hot cocoa – as did their teachers! I was quite jealous – they did look cosy! Inspired by the book 'Monsters: An Owners Guide' by Jonathan Emmett, Year 2 became a group of advisers who had to help a business improve their user guide for looking after their scary monsters – the children were so engaged.

In Key Stage 2, it is important to keep encouraging engagement and enjoyment in the process of writing, even though the curriculum becomes ever more challenging and full of technical terms such as fronted adverbials, subordinating conjunctions, relative clauses and more. (A link is provided below for those interested to have a look at glossary of these terms). Exploring and analysing the text in great books helps children to include the language that is needed to best express their ideas, for example this term: 'Varjak Paw' by S F Said in Year 4 – always one of my favourites! – and 'It's a Natural World' by Jess French in Year 6, a brilliant book about our amazing planet which also considers how to protect it.

There are so many other things to celebrate in writing at Laurance Haines: for example, our daily Read Write Inc sessions, supporting the early development of phonics and, of course, all the fantastic writing which happens in other subjects. I look forward to sharing some of this in the next writing spotlight.

[Writing Glossary](#)

Emma Wilson (Writing Lead)

PANTOMIME

Our reception children thoroughly enjoyed their trip to see the pantomime this week. They saw 'Beauty and the Beast' at Watford Palace Theatre.



WATFORD CENTENARY TIME CAPSULE

Some of our Year 6 children met with Peter Taylor the Mayor of Watford and Claire from Watford museum to undertake some legacy work for the Watford Centenary time capsule.



50 YEARS OF LAURANCE HAINES

As part of the celebrations for the 50th Anniversary of Laurance Haines School, we have commissioned a special logo. Please keep an eye out for this logo appearing on newsletters and correspondence in the coming months.



YEAR 1 PYJAMA DAY

Year 1 have had a special treat for their English lessons - A pyjama day! Complete with hot cocoa to drink, they snuggled with their teddies in their pyjamas and listened to their new English focus text "William's Winter Nap". Even the teachers were in their pyjamas!



TODAY  
is a  
Hot  
CHOCOLATE  
KIND  
of a  
DAY



# SCHOOL OFFICE

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

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

## MILK

If you would like your child to have milk during the Spring Term, then the following arrangements apply:

- Milk is free for all children in Nursery, and those in Reception who were born after 17th April 2018.
- Milk is also free for children in KS2 who receive free school meals.

(Please note that the introduction of universal infant free school meals to all KS1 children does not include free milk.)

For all other children you will need to pay if you wish for them to have milk. The cost of milk for the spring term is: £20.72

Payment must be made online via Arbor (found under "trips") by Wednesday 14th December 2022.



## DATES FOR THE DIARY

### Diary Dates

- PTA Christmas Mini Event - Friday 9th December
- Non School Uniform Day - Friday 9th December
- Y3 Trip to Natural History Museum - Tuesday 13th December
- Deadline for milk for Spring term - Wednesday 14th December
- Nursery Carol Concert - Thursday 15th December
- Christmas Carol Concert at St Michaels Church- Tuesday 20th December
- Nursery visit from Mr Marvel - Wednesday 21st December
- Term Ends - 2PM Finish - Wednesday 21st December
- Back to school - Thursday 5th January 2023

## RECEPTION ADMISSION 2023 NOW OPEN

APPLY FOR A RECEPTION 2023 PLACE TODAY

SCHOOL TOURS AVAILABLE NOW

Applications close 15th January

Accredited The National Nurturing School Award



'For a better future'

## NEW STAFF

We would like to wish a very warm welcome to our new members of staff:

- Mr Brett Hogan - Parent Governor
- Ms Shah - 1:1 Teaching Assistant
- Ms Zamir - 1:1 Teaching Assistant

*welcome*

## VACANCY

We currently have a vacancy for a Midday Supervisory Assistant to join our team here at Laurance Haines. For more details and to apply online please click the link here:

[MSA Vacancy](#)

Applications can be made here: [APPLICATION](#)

School tours can be booked here: [TOURS](#)



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