



NEWSLETTER

10 FEBRUARY 2023

WELCOME

As part of our 50th Birthday Celebrations, the children have taken part in a range of activities in a week of learning around the creative arts. Children have been designing birthday cakes, commemorative school uniforms and even writing and performing raps about life at Laurance Haines across the 50 years. Do check in with Twitter to see a range of these learning experiences.

Feeling Good Week is a Hertfordshire-wide event that encourages schools and the wider community to promote children and young people's emotional wellbeing by raising awareness of mental health and showing where support can be accessed within the community. Across the school this week, children and staff have been exploring the themes of being kind and connecting. Children have explored the protective behaviours, which are ways to stay safe inside and outside of school, and our 6 Principles of Nurture. Online safety has also been a focus this week so please check in with your children about tips they may be able to share with you too. We were again joined by the incredible team from Electric Umbrella who put on an incredible show for our KS2 children yesterday.

At the midway point in the year, children across the school have taken part in assessments across the core subjects. Whilst the teachers are constantly assessing their academic, social and emotional needs, these assessments are intended to provide rich information to guide the teaching and learning over the coming term. To assess the children's progress with writing, the teaching teams worked with colleagues across the Inclusive MAT to moderate the assessment, ensuring that judgements are accurate and consistent. This sort of activity is one of the many benefits of working in a trust with a group of schools.

After half term, we invite you to join us for parent consultation meetings, where you will be able to speak with teachers to find out about your child's experience and progress in school. We invite you to book sessions with the teachers via Arbor, following the instructions sent out in the letter you will have received. Should you have any questions ahead of the consultations or need any support with access to them, please speak with a member of the school team and we'd be happy to help.

The school's relationship with the wider community is absolutely key. Unfortunately, there have been a small number of parents parking illegally at the beginning and end of the day on Rose Gardens. I ask you all to take notice of the parking restrictions and be respectful to our close neighbours - the residents or Rose Gardens. Thank you in advance.

Wishing you all a wonderful half term break. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Tuesday 21st February.

Sebastian Gray
Headteacher

SPOTLIGHT ON LEARNING

Feeling Good Week

As part of children's mental health week, we have been taking part in Hertfordshire's Feeling Good Week with the theme 'be kind and connect'. Have you spotted the new markings on the KS1 playground? We were fortunate to be awarded £500 and this was spent on a positive sayings hopscotch and mirror me game to encourage the children in their play with each other. They have been a huge success! All the children from across the school have been out playing the new games, connecting with each other and having fun. Please take a look at our twitter pages.

The children have been learning about the positive affect of being kind on their mental health and this has included staying safe online during safer internet day on Tuesday. Their online presence is part of how they communicate and socialise, so learning about friendships and being kind online is so important for their mental health. Please talk to your child about how to use their technology safely and to talk to you about any worries they may have when communicating online.

There has been so much going on across the week, such as sharing a house breakfast with children from across the years, so widening friendships and connecting children outside of their Team who they would not usually spend time with, debating questions such as which is better being kind or being happy. We were so excited to welcome back Electric Umbrella as well and have a fabulous sing-a-long which could be heard all over school! Staff have also been connecting and spending time together at a quiz night and with a staff room full of cake! The children made all our new staff who revealed a fun fact about themselves welcome to our Laurance Haines family in celebration assembly today, another example of connecting with others.

Finally to recognise all the work the children have been doing in 'being kind and connecting' they have all received our red connect badge to wear with pride as part of our five ways to wellbeing and Feeling Good Week!

What a fabulous way to end a busy half term!

Nicola Furey
Pastoral Lead

WORLD HIJAB DAY

On Wednesday 22nd February, Laurance Haines will be celebrating World Hijab Day.

Following on from a successful day last year, this year we are welcoming all children and parents to participate in this wonderful event. On the day, girls are invited to wear headscarves and boys are invited to wear any type of suitable head covering such as a woolly hat or a beanie.

Children will be learning about the importance of wearing a hijab for Muslim women. We will also be challenging the thinking of children to question whether it is just Muslim women who wear a head covering and will be exploring women of different religions who cover their hair.

In the morning, the children will be attending a whole school assembly. We would love for any parents that wear a hijab to come in and speak about their experiences of covering their hair. If you would like to come in and speak to the children of Laurance Haines, please contact sanachaudry@lhaines.herts.sch.uk or safianshan@lhaines.herts.sch.uk.

We also welcome parents to participate in World Hijab Day by wearing a head covering when dropping off or picking up your child from school. With your consent, pictures will be taken with the school community, including members of staff, to be published on Laurance Haines social media sites such as Twitter.

This will lead onto Laurance Haines celebrating International Women's Day. On your child's Home Learning, please look out for the extraordinary women we look forward to celebrating!

ALLERGIES

If your child has any allergies please contact the office by emailing: admin@lhaines.herts.sch.uk

Information that the school needs to know:

- What the allergy is
- Any medication prescribed
- Severity
- Symptoms

All medicine needs to come to the school office as there is a form which needs to be filled in before this can be administered.

ROAD SAFETY

Vicarage Road is a very busy road with lots of traffic, Please could we ask all parents, carers and children to follow good road safety and only cross at the crossing manned by our wonderful Safety Crossing Officer Mr Sharkey.



SPRING TERM AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Some of the clubs were set up for the first half of the Spring Term only. They are:

- Monday - Street Dance for Reception, Year 1 and 2
- Tuesday - Multiskills for Reception, Year 1 and 2
- Wednesday - Football for Reception to Year 6
- Thursday - Tag Rugby for Reception to Year 6
- Friday - Basketball for Years 3 to 6

If you would like to sign your child up for the 2nd half of the Spring Term (up to the Easter holidays) then you will need to re-book. Further details will be emailed soon.

All other clubs (including the morning clubs) will carry on as before until the Easter holiday.

NEW STAFF

Welcome

This half term we have welcomed several new members of staff. We would like to welcome:

- Fouzia Balmane (Midday Supervisory Assistant)
- Risla Rifai (Midday Supervisory Assistant)
- Aneesa Hussain (1:1 Teaching Assistant)
- Debra Ridout (1:1 Teaching Assistant)
- Gloria Lam (Teaching Assistant)
- Samana Syed (1:1 Teaching Assistant).
- Kirsty Milnes (Office Manager)

VACANCIES

We currently have two vacancies in our school. Please click the links below to view each vacancy and share these with anyone you know who may be interested.

[KS2 Teaching Assistant](#)

[Early Years Assistant \(Mondays and Tuesdays only\)](#)

[SEN 1:1 Teaching Assistant \(25 hrs\)](#)

SCHOOL OFFICE

For any enquiries, please telephone 01923 233146 or email the school office:
admin@lhaines.herts.sch.uk

ATTENDANCE

Last week we were visited by Vanessa Curtis, our Local Authority Attendance Improvement Officer. She will be coming in regularly to address the attendance of all children whose attendance is less than 90%. Vanessa will be contacting some of you over the coming weeks if we are not seeing an improvement in your child's attendance rate.

Please check attendance figures on Arbor regularly. If there is anything affecting your child's attendance that you would like to discuss, please contact the office. Wendy Gunning (attendance officer) is here to help with anything that may be keeping your child away from school unnecessarily.

You can see from the chart below that anything below 90% attendance means at least 19 days of valuable learning missed over the year. Every day counts!

Days off school add up to lost learning

175 NON SCHOOL DAYS IN A YEAR

175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping, household jobs and other appointments

190 DAYS FOR YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION EACH YEAR	10 DAYS ABSENCE	19 DAYS ABSENCE	29 DAYS ABSENCE (A TERM MISSED)	38 DAYS ABSENCE	47 DAYS ABSENCE
180 DAYS OF EDUCATION	171 DAYS OF EDUCATION	161 DAYS OF EDUCATION	152 DAYS OF EDUCATION	143 DAYS OF EDUCATION	
100%	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%
Good Best chance of success. Gets your child off to a flying start	Worrying Less chance of success. Makes it harder to make progress	Persistent Absence		Serious Concern Not fair on your child.	

ONLINE SAFETY NEWSLETTER

Please see the link below for the Spring Term Online Safety newsletter. This newsletter has helpful guidance to keeping children safe online.

ONLINE SAFETY

DATES FOR THE DIARY



- Y1/Y2 Disco - Friday 10th February
- Break up for Half Term - Friday 10th February
- No school (INSET) - Monday 20th February
- Back to School - Tuesday 21st February
- World Hijab Day - Wednesday 22nd February
- Parent Consultations - Tuesday 28th February & Thursday 2nd March
- Nursery/Reception Disco - Friday 3rd March
- International Day - Friday 17th March

PARENT CONSULTATIONS

You will shortly be receiving a letter about our upcoming parent consultations. Bookings will be open from this evening until the day before the consultation and can be made via Arbor.

YEAR 6 LINCOLNSFIELD TRIP

On Tuesday 31st January, Year 6 visited the Lincolnsfield Centre in Bushey. They had a fun filled day exploring what life would have been like in 1940's Wartime Britain. They visited a 1940's school room, took a walk through a 1940's house and gardens, explored an air raid shelter and visited the museum there, which housed many interesting, original artefacts. The children were enraptured hearing stories and first-hand accounts of the people living at the time of the war.

Please check out Twitter for photos from this wonderful trip:

[MRS GOSS' TWITTER](#)



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Web
www.lhaines.herts.sch.uk

Twitter
LHS_Watford

Facebook
Laurance Haines School

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