



# NEWSLETTER

17 MARCH 2023

## WELCOME

I've been reflecting on my growing sense of belonging within the school community. Whilst we have the summer term ahead of us to reflect further celebrate our time together, I wanted to thank you for all of the positive messages in light of my decision to move on at the end of the academic year. 'Family first' is a phrase that has been repeated in many a conversation, which is exactly the reason for the change. As my letter said last week, I am fully committed to the ongoing leadership and development of the school.

This week, some of our curriculum was put on hold due to the disruptions and partial school closure caused by industrial action. A number of our teaching team took to the streets of London to join tens of thousands of teachers, junior doctors and civil servants in demonstration of the need for governmental funding to support teachers' pay and funding to support this generation of children. Thank you for your patience throughout the industrial action; we are all hopeful of further support for the profession from the government.

On Wednesday this week, Herts For Learning Education hosted a national conference on Race Equity. One of the workshops for school leaders, representing schools up and down the country, was a showcase of the work at Laurance Haines School. The creation of and commitment to the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Forum which has led to transformational work across the school and this was celebrated as an example of how schools can become more inclusive for children, staff and parents. There is not a single member of the Laurance Haines team that believes our work is complete, but we understand we have taken some essential steps to making the school truly inclusive for all.

The celebrations for International Day today have been a great reflection of our inclusive initiatives. The day has been full of personal celebration of identity, culture, heritage and nationality. Children and staff have taken part in dance workshops with international dances from Jamaica and South Africa. We have also enjoyed an incredible range of international cuisine - thank you to all parents who were able to provide dishes. Thank you to all the staff for their involvement, including the support of the PTA. Our school is truly diverse and days like today are a celebration of that.

Sebastian Gray  
Headteacher

## SPOTLIGHT ON LEARNING

We are ready to celebrate International Day at LHS! The children (and adults!) have been very excited in the run up to International Day. I am very proud to be the Bilingual Lead at school. Our community comprises of 65% bilingual speakers. We speak over 50 languages amongst us, and International Day is a joyous event at Laurance Haines, to bring our community together to celebrate our rich and diverse cultural backgrounds.

The children were welcomed to wear home clothes today representing their home countries and cultures, and the school was awash with bright and beautiful clothing! The children were beaming from ear to ear, and it was so wonderful to hear them tell each other and the adults in school all about what the clothes represent, and where they come from. During the afternoon, the children from Reception to Year 6 were able to take place in an African dance workshop run by Ms Moyo and Mrs Adegun. They had great fun learning dance through storytelling!

Thank you so much to the parents and carers who have brought in dishes from their home countries. The food is certainly the absolute highlight of our day! The food was so delicious, and it was incredible to be able to taste food from all around the world! This year alone we had 3 tables full of savoury and sweet dishes!

A special thank you to the Friends of Laurance Haines, our PTA and the teachers who ran stalls at the fair. We had henna designs, tattoos, face painting, arts and crafts. The children always look forward to connecting at our community events, and without the help of the PTA this amazing event would not have been able to take place.

Miriam Al-Alousi  
Bilingual Provision and Mfl Lead

## EARLY YEARS

Early Years have been busy making their Mother's Day cards this week and last. They have also been creating healthy plates of food for our topic and thinking about what foods are good for us and what are not.

This week Reception have been practising their cutting skills using a variety of different materials such as pasta and leaves!



## KEY STAGE ONE

### Year 1

Last week Year 1 learned about healthy eating in DT. We practised skills such as cutting fruit and vegetables safely and even got to taste a variety of fruits and vegetables before making delicious smoothies!

### Year 2

In maths we have started to learn about fractions. We have been looking at halves and quarters of shapes and amounts. It would be lovely if Year 2 parents could join us for another maths workshop on Friday 24th March. We will recap addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division then teach you all about fractions.



## LOWER KEY STAGE 2

Children in Lower Key Stage 2 have continued to be busy this fortnight with their curriculum focusses of DT and Science. Year 3 were transported back in time 5000 years, to meet their brief of designing and constructing Egyptian collars, where attention to detail was imperative and Year 4 learnt about the process of making slingshot cars, where careful consideration of aerodynamics was needed.

We would also like to wish Year 4 all the best for Tuesday 21st where their big rounders tournament will be played. Have a ball children!



## UPPER KEY STAGE 2

Year 5 - In Year 5 we have been bringing the murderous Macbeth alive with dramatization! We recorded some hilarious news reports which you can see on Twitter. Acting out the play has really helped with our writing this week which some of us have shared with Mr Gray and Mrs Ball.

Year 6 - In Year 6 we are busy preparing for our SATS. It has been quite an interesting time! Since the last news letter, we have found out our secondary school places and now everything is starting to feel very real. Some of us are feeling excited and others of us will be sad to leave our LHS family. To protect our mental health during this time we have been having weekly meetings with Watford Community Trust who have taught us different ways of looking after our wellbeing.



Please follow this link to Watford Community Trust's Twitter page to find out more information about the work that they do.

[TWITTER](#)



# INTERNATIONAL DAY

Please see a selection of photos taken from today's celebrations around school. Please also see the below link to 'Jerusalem' which the children danced to this afternoon in their African Dance Workshops held by Ms Moyo and Mrs Adegun.

## JERUSALEMA





# 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 Summer Term, then the following arrangements apply:

Milk is free for all children in Nursery, and those in Reception who were born after 21st July 2018.

Milk is also free for children in KS2 who receive free school meals.

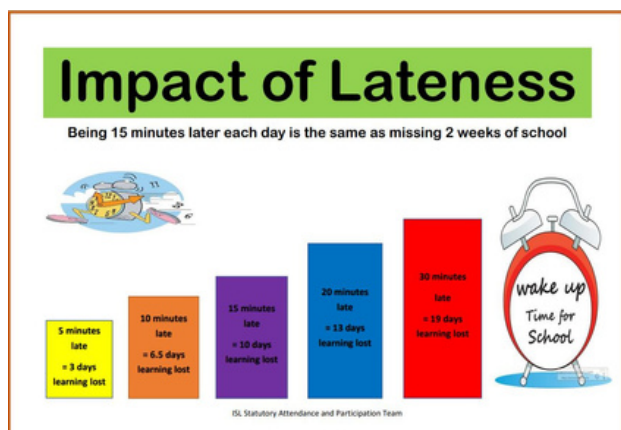
Please note that the introduction of universal infant free school meals to all KS1 children does not include free milk.

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: £22.20

Payment must be made online via Arbor (found under "trips") by Wednesday 29th March 2023.

## IMPACT OF LATENESS

Is your child on time for school every day? Every minute counts and soon adds up!



## DATES FOR THE DIARY

### Diary Dates

- International Day - Friday 17th March
- Y6 Mock SATs week - Monday 20th-Friday 24th March
- Y4 Rounders Tournament - Tuesday 21st March
- Nursery Acceptance Deadline - Friday 24th March
- Y2 Maths Workshop - Friday 24th March
- Break up for Easter - 2PM Finish - Friday 31st March
- INSET Day - Monday 17th April
- Back to School - Tuesday 18th April
- Eid Picnic - Friday 21st April

## VACANCIES

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

CLEANER (MATERNITY COVER) - 12.5 hours per week - flexible before or after school. Term time + 6 weeks. Vacancy closes Midday on the 26th March

HEADTEACHER - Vacancy closes Midday on the 24th March.

**LAURANCE HAINES SCHOOL**

"A school where everyone is welcome and every step to success is celebrated."

[www.lhaines.herts.sch.uk](http://www.lhaines.herts.sch.uk)  
Contact James Roach for further information on 01923 589 980  
**APPLY NOW**

**HEADTEACHER**  
vacancy available



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