



# NEWSLETTER

26 MAY 2023

## WELCOME

There's much to celebrate as we reach the halfway point of the summer term!

This week, teams made up from staff across the school have been conducting curriculum reviews in music and PE. This monitoring helps us to understand the provision for each subject, where the teaching is truly impacting the learning and where we can make further improvements. In music, children spoke positively about their music lessons, the range of instruments they were getting to explore and how it was inspiring some to take up a music instrument outside of school. In PE, we observed strong teaching between staff and our Challenge Sport Education coaches. The children shared particular positivity around their recent developments in Tennis. Don't forget that our Challenge Sport Education Coaches host many of our before and after school clubs; look out for more information on our clubs for the end of the summer term.

Our ongoing work around inclusive practice, equity, diversity and inclusion have been showcased in key places this week. Following our visit by Professor Paul Miller last year, he has captured our developments in a case study in an academic paper, titled: School leaders leading anti-racism and inclusion: Evidence from schools in England. Similarly, the work of our EDI Forum has been captured in a new book: Unity in Diversity, by Rachel Macfarlane. We continue to make important steps as a school to support children, parents and staff feel a sense of belonging with the school, which empowers growth for our community.

Thanks to Nick, our lollypop man/road safety attendant. We have one of the busiest roads with a school crossing in Hertfordshire. Following a road study this week, we had 106 cars passing in just 15 minutes around the school drop off time. Whilst we wish to thank Nick for his incredible support of the school community at the beginning and end of each day, this must be an important reminder for us all to remain vigilant around the children's safety whilst crossing roads around school.

Year 6 children have been channeling their inner entrepreneurship through the Enterprise week. They have been inspired by Dragons Den and the Apprentice to create their own businesses, raising funds for charity and their end of term experiences. Thank you to the community for supporting their initiatives and well done to all of our Year 6 children.

## SPOTLIGHT ON LEARNING

This week was my favourite week of the term so far - Music week! On Monday, Mr Banks, Mrs Bukhari and I had the absolute pleasure of completing a subject review and watching music lessons being taught across the school from Nursery all the way to Year 6. The experience did not disappoint! When questioned, the children spoke excitedly about their musical learning using advanced musical vocabulary. Some even commented that music had become a hobby since learning it in school - literal music to my ears! In every class we visited, the children's emotional connection to the music they were learning and their engagement in the activities was fantastic. Thank you to all the children and staff who made our day so wonderful and huge thanks to Mr Banks and Mrs Bukhari; your insights and observations were invaluable.

Becky Makinson  
Music Lead

Do you play an instrument? Would you be interested in playing at our school's 50th Birthday Celebrations taking place later this term? If so, please contact Mrs Makinson at [beckymakinson@lhaines.herts.sch.uk](mailto:beckymakinson@lhaines.herts.sch.uk) with details of the instrument you play.

Thanks to our School Council team and Mrs Woodroffe who planned our Coronation celebrations, following the coronation of King Charles III. Thanks for sharing food and time with us this afternoon. The children thoroughly enjoyed their crown parade and the stunning rendition of God Save the King.

Here's to an enjoyable half term break for all!

Sebastian Gray  
Headteacher

## ODDS FARM PARK

This week, our Reception classes visited Odds Farm Park. They had a fantastic day in the sunshine and even got to feed baby goats! They also got to see newborn calves that were only 2 days old!



## ROCKS AND VOLCANOES

Year 3 have been studying rocks for our latest science topic, we were particularly interested in igneous rock and how it is produced when magma exits and cools above the Earth's surface. We discovered these are the rocks that form at erupting volcanoes. We wanted to create an imitation volcano to witness the eruption and examine how the magma would settle on the volcano, forming the famous cone shape. We used our knowledge of chemical reactions to mix bicarbonate of soda and vinegar to create an explosive reaction, we also added a few drops of red and orange food colouring to give a more realistic outcome!

VOLCANO  
VIDEO



## THANK A TEACHER DAY

Thank a Teacher Day is on 21st June! It's set to be a nationwide celebration of the UK's teachers and support staff. To find out more and to send a free e-card head to Twitter at:

@UKThankATeacher

or visit <https://mtr.cool/ziwyljocby>



## PEACE TALKS POSTER COMPETITION

Chief Inspector Wiseman from Herts Police visited the school last week to present prizes to the winners of the Peace Talk poster competition. Our Year 6's asked some incredibly thoughtful questions of Chief Inspector Wiseman such as "is there a correlation between mental health and knife crime?"





# BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUB UPDATES

We have some new and exciting clubs starting after half term. Please check your child's Arbor account under "Clubs" to see what is available. The majority of our clubs (Challenge Sports and PSM) are now booked and paid through Arbor. Please see the below step by step guide for how to do this.

Please note that Gymnastics (Watford Gymnastics) and Street Dance (Apex Dance) are still booked externally.

- Log into Arbor using the email address you have provided the school
- Scroll across (on a computer) or down (on a smartphone) until you see 'Clubs'
- Clicking on this you can see the clubs available to your child.
- To sign your child up for a club, click on the relevant club and then the green banner saying 'Register for this club'
- This will then take you to a payment page where you may enter your payment details

# CHARTWELLS SURVEY



Please see the link below for Chartwell's annual parent survey. Chartwells are our provider for school meals and any feedback is so valuable

## PARENT SURVEY

# POLITE REMINDER

A polite reminder to parents and children that the school gates open at 8:40am. There should be no children on the school premises before this time unless they are in a before school club or going to AM Nursery. Thank you.

# ATTENDANCE LEADERBOARD

Please see the summer term class attendance leaderboard so far!

Congratulations to Team Willow who are leading the way with excellent attendance this half term. The winning team at the end of term will be rewarded with a visit from the ice cream van!

CLASS	ATTENDANCE
Y6 Willow	97.1%
Y5 Birch	96.3%
Y2 Holly	95.9%
Y6 Walnut	95.6%
Y3 Oak	95.1%
Y5 Beech	94.5%
Y3 Yew	94.5%
Y1 Elm	92.9%
R Plum	92.6%
Y1 Elder	92.2%
Y4 Palm	91.9%
Y2 Hazel	91.8%
Y4 Pine	91.7%
R Pear	87.8%

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY MR GRAY!

We would like to wish Mr Gray a very happy birthday, his last one celebrating at Laurance Haines School



# 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)

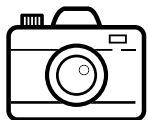
## AUTHOR VISITS

We have several exciting author visits due to happen in the next half term. Please do look out for letters which will be sent via Arbor with more details on each visit and how you may purchase books in advance for the authors to sign.

- 7th June - Laura Mucha visiting Reception and KS1
- 22nd June - the 'Tiger' from 'The Tiger Who Came To Tea' visiting Nursery and Reception
- 28th June - JB Gill visiting Years 2-6

## CLASS PHOTOS

A reminder for all parents that the children will be having their class photos taken on Tuesday 6th June. Please make sure that they are in school in the correct uniform.



## WELL DONE BRUNEL!

Well done to one of our Year 3 children, Brunel, who came third in his first Judo competition! We are very proud of you Brunel!



## DATES FOR THE DIARY

### Diary Dates

- Coronation Celebration - Friday 26th May
- Break up for Half Term - Friday 26th May
- Back to school - Monday 5th June
- Class Photo Day - Tuesday 6th June
- Laura Mucha Author Visit R & KS1 - Wednesday 7th June
- Y5 Trip to Phasels Wood - Monday 12th - Wednesday 14th June
- Y1 Visit to Sea Life Centre - Wednesday 14th June
- Author Visit N and R - Thursday 22nd June
- Wellbeing weekend (no school) - Friday 23rd June - Monday 26th June
- JB Gill Author Visit Y2-6 - Wednesday 28th June
- Welcome to Reception Meeting - Wednesday 28th June
- Welcome to Nursery Meeting - Wednesday 5th July

## 15 HOUR NURSERY PLACES AVAILABLE

We still have a limited number of 15-hour places for our Nursery this coming September. For more information about our Early Years provision and how to apply, please visit our website by clicking the link below:

[EARLY YEARS](#)

[EARLY YEARS BROCHURE](#)



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