



NEWSLETTER

21 JULY 2023

WELCOME

We've all enjoyed a jam-packed end to the Summer term. Over recent weeks, there's been so much to celebrate and enjoy for children, parents and staff.

Our children have been enjoying transition activities, meeting their new teachers and visiting their new classrooms. Our Year 6 children visited their new schools to get a taste of what life will be like beyond the summer. Parents from Nursery were able to join us for the Nursery graduation ceremonies, celebrating the children's progress and, for many, their readiness for Reception.

In their final week of life at Laurance Haines, the Year 6 children have continued to make a great, and what will be a long-lasting impression on the school. They tested their sporting and competitive talents against the teachers in the annual 'Year 6 v Staff' rounders match. Year 6 demonstrated skill, determination and great teamwork yet it was not quite enough to see off the teachers, who were victorious with 30 rounders to their 28. They then set task to preparing a simply brilliant production of Mary Poppins. Parents and families thoroughly enjoyed singing along to 'Feed the birds' and 'Let's go fly a kite'. There's no doubt we have a hugely talented bunch of actors, singers and stagehands across Year 6! Wishing our leavers every success and happiness for their bright futures!

After months of planning and despite the rain, parts of the Laurance Haines Community gathered together for a truly special celebration of the school's 50 years. With so many special words shared by members of the Laurance Haines Family, incredible musical performances from children and staff and the fun and games offered by the PTA, we were overwhelmed with the support and for all the love shared for the school. Thank you to absolutely everyone of you. Here's to the next 50 years!

As I reach the end of my wonderful time here at the school, I wanted to thank you all for your unwavering support; you've certainly all made me feel part of the family. It has been the biggest privilege to have played a small part in this school's great history. We've been together through a great mix of challenging and truly exciting times. I will miss you all dearly but will no doubt look back on my time at Laurance Haines so fondly and with some pride for so many years to come. I see you. I hear you. We belong.

Have a terrific summer holidays.

Sebastian Gray
Headteacher

SPOTLIGHT ON LEARNING

Who better to write our final spotlight of the school year than some of our fabulous Year 6 students who we will miss very much! We would like to wish all of our Year 6 children all the very best of luck for the future.

Hello my name is Erin and I am in Year 6. I have been at Laurance Haines School for 7 years and have never been happier. My proudest moment must have been when I achieved the Jean Branigan Award, whereas my most challenging moment must have been the days I had to do the SATs. My funniest moment was when we were on our World War 2 trip to the Lincoln's Centre. My group were in the "school" and the teacher lifted the lid of the desk and SLAMMED it down and I screamed! Laurance Haines School means the world to me. Without their support and nurturing teachers I wouldn't be able to write this now.

Hello my name is Kumayl and I am in Year 6. I have been at Laurance Haines School for 8 years and I couldn't be happier. My proudest moment is when I finished Read Write Inc. One of the most challenging moments is when we were in a football competition against Cherry Tree and Beechfield. I am very sad to be leaving this loving, nurturing school.

Hello my name is Maryam and I am in Year 6. I joined Laurance Haines School in Year 4 and even though I haven't been here for long, I absolutely love this school and I wish I could stay here for longer. A memory that makes me feel proud but at the same time was difficult is doing my SATs and then finding out the results. I will miss this school and will never forget the school and all of the fun times I have had here.

KS2 HERTS POLICE VISIT

Herts Police came to visit our Key Stage 2 children this week to deliver a vital session about how to keep themselves safe online.



NURSERY GRADUATION

Last week we held our Nursery Graduations for our youngest children. There was not a dry eye in the house as we celebrated their achievements over this year!



TEACHERS VS STUDENTS ROUNDERS

This week we held our annual Teachers Vs Year 6 Rounders tournament. Cheered on by fellow students, not even the rain could stop the fun. A highlight of the summer term for everyone involved! This year was a very close contest with the teachers just winning out 30-28.



A FOND FAREWELL

This week we bid a fond farewell to Mr Gray who is leaving Laurance Haines to take a headship role in a school nearer his home. We would like to wish him all the very best in his new job and to thank him for all that he has done over the last six years - for our parents, our staff and our children. He leaves behind an incredible legacy of inclusion, well-being and support. On Wednesday, we managed to surprise Mr Gray with an assembly, where the whole school sang a special song which the children performed for him.

In addition to Mr Gray leaving the school we are also very sadly saying goodbye to some other members of staff - to whom we would like to thank for their hard work and dedication to the school as well as wishing them all the very best in the future:

- Mrs Adegun
- Ms Lai
- Mrs Tolliday
- Mrs Woodroffe

To our leavers, we would like to say - We see you, we hear you and you will always belong!

SCHOOL MEALS FOR CHILDREN MOVING FROM YEAR 2 TO YEAR 3

During their time in Reception to Year 2, the children enjoyed school dinners free of charge under the Universal Free School Meal scheme. Unfortunately, this scheme does not include children in KS2. Therefore, if you would like your child to continue having school meals you will need to pay for them. School meals are to be paid using Arbor.

However, your child may be able to continue to eat for free if you are in receipt of any of benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and you have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit - your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

To register you can apply online at www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals

It only takes 5 minutes, and in most cases you will be told straightaway if your child can get free meals at school. You will need to have your National Insurance number when you apply.

COMMUNITY PARTNER OF THE YEAR 2023

Last week, we were honoured to collect an award for Community Partner of the Year 2023 from Step2Skills.

Step2Skills run courses at school in English and Maths. To find out more, please visit Step2Skills Website or come into school to meet with course leaders. Please keep an eye out for information about their coffee morning's in the new school year!



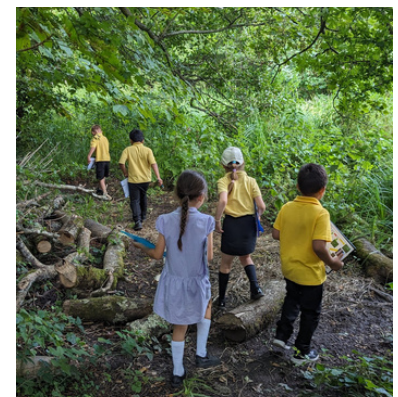
50TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Last week we held our 50th Birthday Bonanza! Whilst the weather may have let us down, the joy and excitement from the children more than made up for it. With so many special words shared by members of the Laurance Haines Family, incredible musical performances from children and staff and the fun and games offered by the PTA, we were overwhelmed with the support and for all the love shared for the school.



YEAR 2 TRIP TO CASSIOBURY PARK

This week, Year 2 had an adventure filled trip to Cassiobury Park, identifying trees and practicing their map reading skills!



SCHOOL OFFICE

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

admin@lhaines.herts.sch.uk

END OF TERM AWARDS

Our deserved winners of the End of Term Awards are:

Ashton Award - Foundation Stage - Best performing, all-round, role model student across the Early Years (Nursery and Reception) - Aaliyah (Nursery)

Slade Award - Year 1, 2 or 3 - Best performing, all-round, role model student - Matilda (Hazel)

Lassman Award - Year 4, 5 or 6 - Best performing, all-round, role model student - Leonor (Palm)

RWI Award - a reading award for a child currently in the RWI programme - Elisha (Oak)

Platt Reading Award - a reading award for a child not in the RWI programme - Emiola (Oak)

Maureen Leo Kitchen Team Award- children nominated by the kitchen team - Safoorah (Plum) and Muhammad (Holly)

Ridyard Eco Award - an award for environmental awareness and excellence - Haleema (Oak)

Jean Branigan Award - A child who demonstrates they are able to look after their own wellbeing and also notice and help others to look after their mental, social and physical health. - Delilah (Palm)

Heath Award - For outstanding effort or achievement for the Laurance Haines community - Jannah (Oak)

Congratulations to all of our winners!

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- School finishes for Summer - 2pm Finish - Friday 22nd July
- INSET Day (no school) - Friday 1st September
- Back to School - Monday 4th September

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Please look out for an email that will be sent shortly regarding before and after school clubs for the autumn term.

This will include our outside agencies (Watford Gymnastics, APEX dance and PSM) as well as our Challenge Sport clubs run by our sports coach Mr C.

Clubs which are run by Mr C (Challenge Sport) are paid on an adhoc basis, meaning you can pay for just the weeks you wish your child to attend, rather than committing to a full term.

Challenge Sport and PSM clubs are paid for via Arbor. Watford Gymnastics and APEX will be paid through their respective websites. All information including how to pay will be on the timetable and email which you will shortly receive.



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