



NEWSLETTER

8 SEPTEMBER 2023

WELCOME

Dear Laurance Haines Family,

Welcome back! I do hope that you have had a safe and happy summer with time to spend with family and friends. It has been a terrific week back at school! As always, our first week back is about building relationships and setting our expectations for the year. Transition is important and we will continue to work hard over the coming weeks to ensure that your children are feeling safe and are learning well in their teams. It can take time to settle into new routines and build relationships with teachers and we are ready for the excitement and anxiety that can bring. Please speak to your child's teacher if you are worried about anything.

This year we are all about the children learning more and remembering more! Please ask the children questions about their learning at home and encourage them to deepen their understanding by using technology, if it is available, to do extra research. This week the children have also been immersed in DT and have created some wonderful pieces of learning. Please check our X (formally known as Twitter!) for photos of what your child has been up to.

Thank you to the members of our community who have congratulated me and offered support as I journey into being the headteacher of our amazing school. I feel so privileged. Please remember that wherever I can, I shall be outside at the start and end of the day - please do feel that you can come and speak to me about anything at all. We will also be holding our annual open evening on Thursday 28th September which is an opportunity to meet with your child's new teacher and see their previous one should you wish to. We love to see our families at open day so please save the date and come along! It is also a great opportunity for prospective parents to view our school. Should you have any family or friends who are looking for a school for their child, please let them know we are open on that day as we would love to meet them.

Wishing you a happy weekend - please stay safe in the sun!

Jo Ball
Headteacher

SPOTLIGHT ON LEARNING

What a wonderful first week it has been! I would like to thank you all for the lovely, warm welcome you have given me. I am already feeling a part of the Laurance Haines family and am looking forward to working with you and the children and getting to know you all.

The year has begun with Nurture Week and the exploration of the 6 principles of nurture. It has been embraced and implemented in various, exciting ways across the school. Year 1 have explored 'uh-oh' feelings, learning how to identify them in their bodies. They created their 'network hands,' helping them see that there are lots of people they can talk to when they get an 'uh-oh' feeling. The book *The Dot* by Peter Reynolds helped children in Year 2 learn the importance of perseverance and resilience. Inspired by the story and the character Vashti, the children went on to create some of their own beautiful artwork. The importance of having a growth mindset was a major focus in Year 3, with children creating fabulous animals – like a hope-opotamus – along with growth mindset messages. In Year 4, an array of delicious-looking structures were created; children used sweets and cocktail sticks to create pavilions. It was brilliant to see the children working collaboratively and displaying impressive teamwork. The heartwarming story *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse* inspired children in Year 5 to not only create eye-catching pieces of art, but to write their very own inspirational quotes to guide each other through the year. Finally, Year 6 discussed some of their life experiences thus far, reflecting on times when they have adopted a growth mindset and how this has benefitted them.

We are proud of how quickly our Reception children have settled, displaying a readiness to learn, making new friends and eating in the lunch hall for the very first time. We are so excited for them to begin full days at school from next week.

Throughout the school, it has been tremendous to see how well the children have worked and how happy they have been. I have no doubt that the array of activities the children have been immersed in this week will set them up for a great year!

Simon Englander
Assistant Headteacher



Mr Englander

BIKEABILITY

Bikeability - Cycle training for Year 5 pupils

We are pleased to offer the opportunity for children in Year 5 to take part in training at school the week commencing Monday 6th November. The course is designed to improve cycle control, not to teach children to ride. The cost is excellent value at £12.50 per child. For further information, please see letter emailed on the 5th September.



Bikeability - Further training for Year 6 pupils who passed Level 2 in the spring

We are pleased to offer the opportunity of taking part in the Bikeability level 3 course at school, week commencing Monday 6th November. The cost is excellent value at £12.50 per child. Details were emailed out to parents/carers of eligible children on the 6th September.

SECONDARY TRANSFER 2024

Please click on the link below for information about secondary school admission 2024:

Secondary Transfer 2024 - This leaflet explains how to apply for a secondary school place for children born between 1 September 2012 and 31 August 2013.

Apply online at:
[Hertfordshire Admissions](#)

WELCOME

As well as welcoming a new Assistant Headteacher, Mr Englander, we are also welcoming Miss Khatoon who is Y4 Pine's Class Teacher and Ms Sterpu who has joined us as a cleaner.

Welcome!

REPORTING A CHILD'S ABSENCE

If your child is unable to attend school, please call the office on 01923 233146 or send an email to admin@lhaines.herts.sch.uk by 9am on the morning of their absence.

ANNUAL PARENTAL CONSENT

Each year we have to ask Parents and Carers to give consent for trips.

Please logon to the Arbor App and read through the Annual Parental Consent form 2023/24 which appears under "Notices".

You will then need to scroll down and click on the green "consent" icon at the bottom of the page.

Please remember to do this for all your children in the school.
If you need any help please contact the school office.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

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.

PE KITS

All children should bring their PE kit to school on a Monday morning, regardless of when their PE day will be. These can be stored on the child's peg when not in use and taken home to be washed when needed.

SCHOOL OFFICE

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

admin@lhaines.herts.sch.uk

STEP2SKILLS

Step2Skills run free adult learner courses at school in English and Maths. To find out more, please visit [Step2Skills Website](#) or come into school to meet with course leaders. They are currently running the following:

- English (Functional Skills) Wednesday mornings
- Maths (Functional Skills) Wednesday afternoons



ARBOR APP

As a school, we use Arbor for many things such as consent forms, before and after school clubs, milk and school trips.

You can download the app on the Google Playstore/Apple store or alternatively you may login on an internet browser at the following website: [ARBOR](#)

Please do make sure you login using the email address you have provided the school. If you require support in logging into Arbor, please contact the school office.

NESSie ONLINE PEER SUPPORT GROUP

On Tuesday you will have received an email about an online peer support group for Parents/Carers of children struggling to attend school. This is an 8 week free online course providing the opportunity to discuss your current situation and find support from others going through the same thing. The course will be running on Wednesdays from 9:30-11:00am. For more information about NESSie and to book a place, please visit:

nessieined.com



DATES FOR THE DIARY

- Secondary Transfer Meeting for Y6 - Thursday 14th September
- Open Evening - Thursday 28th September
- Hello Yellow Day - Tuesday 10th October
- Harvest Festival - Friday 20th October
- Break up for Half Term - Friday 20th October
- INSET day (No school) - Monday 30th October
- Back to School - Tuesday 31st October
- Secondary School Application Deadline - Tuesday 31st October
- End of Term - Wednesday 20th December at 2PM

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Our before and after school clubs return next week.

Please check your Arbor app for details of which clubs are available for your child. Alternatively, you may click the link to see the range of clubs on offer - [CLUBS](#)

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 your Arbor app. Watford Gymnastics and APEX will be paid through their respective websites. All information including how to pay will be available on the Arbor app.



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