



NEWSLETTER

3 NOVEMBER 2023

WELCOME

Dear Laurance Haines Family,

A warm welcome back to you all. Autumn has definitely settled in and the colder weather is here to stay. Thank you for ensuring that your children have coats and warm clothing for coming and leaving school and in for outside learning. Should you need any support with this, please see Mrs Fury our Pastoral Leader, who will be more than happy to help you.

The learning behaviours at Laurance Haines are strong. Across the school, the children listen with intent, are eager to participate, show an interest and genuinely have a love of learning. I have the privilege of being able to go into all the classrooms and I am always so impressed with each and every one. This kind of passion for learning does not happen by chance. This is because of the diligence we place on children's social and emotional wellbeing and how everything we do is centred around the 6 principles of nurture. Being a National Nurturing School isn't just a title for us. Nurture is truly embedded in everything we do. Our curriculum promotes a sense of belonging and our staff ensure that the learning is vibrant and engaging. Please do take a look at Twitter (X) for a snapshot of what your child is doing.

This week we have had a visit from a RWI consultant. Mrs Gunner, Ms Banks and Mrs Conway led a remarkable day which proved what an excellent job we are already doing to support children in learning to read. As always we have been inspired with more ways to enhance the offer and we will be working hard to build these in across the coming months. On the same day, we celebrated our Spanish speaking countries. Our children were in a sea of red and yellow and we enjoyed dance workshops, creative activities and enjoyed speaking in Spanish across the day. Thank you to Mrs Al-Alousi for leading the day!

Wishing you a safe and happy weekend

Jo Ball
Headteacher

SPOTLIGHT ON LEARNING

Bienvenido to this week's spotlight! The school was abuzz today with the sound of laughter, music and dance moves as we celebrated Spanish Languages Day! Spanish is the Modern Language that we teach at Laurance Haines. It is a statutory requirement from Key Stage 2, but we are proud to have introduced Spanish in Key Stage 1. Language is celebrated daily at school, and the children have a strong love of language which shows through not only during Spanish lessons, but can also be seen when the children speak their home languages throughout school. The children look forward to their Spanish lessons, and we are immensely happy that we have been able to enrich their learning with an immersive Spanish Languages Day.

The celebrations kicked off with an assembly all about El Dia de Los Muertos. The children learnt about this important Mexican holiday and the significance of celebrating and remembering the life of those who have passed. We found it really interesting learning about offerenos and the Mexican marigold. Next year some of us really want to try making and eating bread of the dead!

Each class right from nursery to Year 6 took part in an South American Dance workshop. These were enthusiastically received by the children, who said "that was so much fun" and "can we do that again next year?". Nursery and Year 1 learnt the Cha Cha, Year 2 focused on Caribbean dance and Key Stage 2 took their dance learning to Brazil where we learnt carnival Samba and even got to use real masks in our dancing!

In each year group, we centred our learning for the afternoon around Spain and South America. Nursery focused their learning on the colours of the Spanish flag. They explored their creative skills through different media and materials. In Key Stage 1, the children created created sugar skull masks. In Lower Key Stage 2, we created sugar skull garlands out of tissue paper, which represents the fragility of life. Year 5 created paper sugar skulls and created their own Papel Picado stories. Papel picado means "punched paper." Year 6 took their learning to Guatemala; where they learnt about the significance about worry dolls. They then went on to create their own worry dolls out of natural resources and fabric.

Miriam Al-Alousi
Bilingual Provision and MfL Lead

CONGRATULATIONS MR ENGLANDER

Over the half term, our Assistant Headteacher, Mr Englander got married. We would like to wish him and his wife every happiness for their future.

wedding day



SPANISH DAY

On Thursday, November 2nd, our students had the chance to immerse themselves in the vibrant and colorful world of Spanish culture. They participated in dance workshops, learned about the Day of the Dead, and celebrated the diverse traditions of Spanish-speaking countries.



¡HOLA!

HARVEST FESTIVAL

On Friday 20th October, we celebrated our annual Harvest Festival held at the wonderful St Michael's Church in Watford.

As always, we are so proud of our children, our school and our community and what a wonderful celebration for Harvest it was.

Thank you for braving the weather and attending what was another spectacular show from our children. Thank you also to all the parents who volunteered to walk to and from the church with us as well as all the donations which will be going to Watford Food Bank to help local families.



RECEPTION ADMISSION WORKSHOPS

The deadline for applying for a Reception place for September 2024 is on January 15th 2024.

We will be running two workshops to assist parents in the application process for Reception. We will be able to help with the application form itself and explain the process and next steps.

The dates we are running workshops on are:

- Tuesday 5th December at 3:30pm
- Tuesday 19th December at 3:30pm

There is a sign up sheet outside of Nursery - please do let us know which workshop you plan to attend.

Applications can be made via Herts County Council at:

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions

YEAR 6 LINCOLNSFIELD TRIP BY DEEMA

On Thursday 19th October, dressed up as evacuees, year 6 went on a school trip to the Lincolnsfield centre to partake in a WW2 experience.

We went by coach, and when we arrived, we met a woman who escorted us to a hall where we left our belongings. After that, we were separated into groups led by ~~teach~~ different teachers. My group were led to a room with an elderly lady waiting for us. She greeted us and explained that she would give us a tour of a 1940's style house. The first room was a small room where the mother typically washed clothes. There was a bucket of water and soap where she would do the washing and a machine called 'the mangle' that ~~was~~ squeezed water out of soaking wet clothes.

After, we were led into ~~a~~ a kitchen/living room. In the kitchen, there were wooden ~~pantries~~ ^{where} canned foods were kept. Then, she showed us the living room with toys on the floor, grey furniture and a working gramophone which she played. It was rather charming. ✓

Afterwards, we thanked the lady and moved on to the next activity which was the cinema. We were led to a small room with chairs and a projector. A lady came in and put on a movie about evacuation. (Between you and me, at first I was impressed but then it got long and boring.) After the tiresome film, we went to an outdoor garden with a small vegetable patch, an Anderson shelter and an air ~~raid~~ siren. A lady let us in and showed us a big, metal shed with an odd looking tube on the roof. She explained that it was a model bomb and we had to squirt it with water to prevent it from "exploding into flames." We all had turns to use a hose on it.



Then, we were showed the Anderson shelter which was filled with muddy ^{water} and I didn't dare step inside. (Rumor has it that there ^{were} slugs and snails all over it.) After that, she sounded the air raid siren by winding up a machine. Rather strangely, it sounded more like a lawnmower than an air raid siren. Next, we were led into a 1940 style classroom where we were introduced to a lady named Ms. Karen who told us she'll be our 'teacher'. She gave us a sheet with random letters and ~~explained~~ explained it was an encrypted message that we had to decode. I managed to solve it before our time was up. When we finished, she handed us an ID card that we could fill in and keep.

Next we were taken back into the hall where we left our belongings and ate our lunch. Then, we went into a room with an elderly man. He showed us a devastating scenery with piles of broken appliances, debris and on top of it all, a bomb. He asked us if there were 3 wires (red, blue and black) on the bomb, which would we cut. After 3 incorrect answers, he said we had to cut all 3 at the same time. Then we were led to an indoor shelter and asked math questions.

Finally, we went to the museum. When we first entered the room, on the door I saw a hand drawn ~~po~~ wanted poster of Adolf Hitler and when I caught a glimpse inside the room, I was dazzled. There were ~~in~~ American military supplies, riches and trinkets and all sorts of interesting items. There was a man who explained that all of the objects belonged to 1 man and gave us a small lecture about him and the items.

Afterwards, we got to hold a gun. (Obviously without ammo.) That was our Lincolnsfield trip. I had a wonderful time and learned a lot about World War 2.



This wonderful piece of work was written by Deema, following their recent trip to Lincolnsfield Childrens Centre last month. Well done Deema!.

As you can tell, Year 6 had a fantastic day with immersive learning and experiences.

SCHOOL OFFICE

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

admin@lhaines.herts.sch.uk

YEAR 6 INTER TRUST FOOTBALL

We're excited to announce the upcoming Inter-Trust Football Tournament for Year 6 students, taking place next Friday 10th November at Cherry Tree School. Please ensure that your child brings their full PE kit and a water bottle to school so that they can participate in this fun event.

GLOW DISCOS KEY STAGE 2

On Friday 10th November our PTA are hosting a Glow Disco for Years 3 and 4. Please see the letter which will be sent home today.

Year 5 and 6 also have an upcoming Glow Disco on November 24th.

Wear your brightest clothes and get ready to dance to music from our DJ. Let's have a blast! Don't forget your pocket money for sweets, snacks and glow novelties!

SEND PARENT COFFEE MORNING

Calling all parents and guardians of children with SEND! We would like to invite you to a coffee morning on Friday, November 24th from 8:45am - 9:45am in the community room. This is an excellent opportunity for parents of children with SEND to come together, share their experiences, and support each other. We hope to see you there!

AUTUMN/WINTER MENU

We have a new menu for school meals from our catering provider Chartwells. To see the new menu please visit our website at:

www.lhaines.herts.sch.uk/school-dinners

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- Individual School Photos - Wednesday 8th November
- Year 6 Football Tournament - Friday 10th November
- Year 3&4 Glow Disco - Friday 10th November 4-5:30
- Odd Socks Day - Monday 13th November
- SEND parent coffee morning - Friday 24th November 8:45-9:45
- Year 5&6 Glow Disco - Friday 24th November 4-5:30
- Reception Admission Workshop 1 - Tuesday 5th December
- Christmas Dinner Day - Wednesday 13th December
- Reception Admission Workshop 2 - Tuesday 19th December
- End of Term - Wednesday 20th December at 2PM
- Back to School - Thursday 4th January 2024
- Reception Application Deadline - Monday 15th January 2024

YEAR 3 BLACK HISTORY MONTH

We were delighted to be joined by Watford Police and Watford Football Club to our Year 3 Black History Showcase. Year 3 were celebrating their work across the curriculum featuring Black women who have inspired them.



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