



NEWSLETTER

17 NOVEMBER 2023

WELCOME

Dear Families,

Across this week, during Anti-Bullying Week, our school community came together to nurture an environment of inclusion, kindness and support. We have encouraged students to uplift one another through empathy and compassion. In class, our children have participated in nurturing activities focused on building strong relationships, understanding feelings and celebrating diversity. We have read uplifting stories about friendship, had caring conversations about respecting differences, and did teambuilding projects to foster connections.

We also celebrated this incredible learning, by coming together with our Trust friends, Cherry Tree and Beechfield to share our thoughts, feelings and learning from the week. Mr Roach a fabulous online assembly where all three schools shared common themes like being safe online, celebrating difference and what to do if we see or experience bullying.

Bullying prevention starts with nurturing trust, open communication and collaboration between school and home. We strive to cultivate partnerships with families so we can lovingly support each student's growth and wellbeing together. We have a zero-tolerance to any kind of discrimination, bullying and peer-on-peer abuse and we encourage our children to speak up.

Here are some additional tips to share at home with your child:

- Have gentle talks with your child about addressing bullying by speaking to an adult in school
- Model warm, inclusive behavior of others as a family
- Notify us immediately of any concerns so we can respond with care

During Anti-Bullying Week and beyond, we are committed to ensuring that Laurance Haines is a safe and nurturing environment for all.

Wishing you a safe and happy weekend.

Jo Ball
Headteacher

SPOTLIGHT ON LEARNING

What incredible experiences and learning the children have had during Anti-Bullying Week's 'make some noise'. It has been an invaluable opportunity for all children to learn about the negative impacts of bullying and understand the importance of promoting kindness and respect. The week began with "Odd Socks Day," a fantastic event that celebrated individuality and diversity. By wearing odd socks, our school community showed solidarity and acceptance towards one another. It was a delight to see the children embracing their unique qualities and appreciating the differences amongst their friends.

During the week, the children engaged in various activities that helped them distinguish between banter and bullying. We wanted them to understand the fine line between friendly teasing and hurtful behaviour. Through interactive class discussions and workshops, the children gained a deeper understanding of the emotions that bullying can evoke and learnt how their words and actions impact on others. Furthermore, we focused on educating the children about online bullying, a prevalent issue in today's digital age. They participated in informative sessions that highlighted the consequences of cyberbullying and provided strategies to stay safe online. Our aim was to equip our students with the knowledge to protect themselves and others from online harm. Additionally, we were fortunate to have a visit from Emily, from the Mental Health Support Team who spoke to parents and then Year 5 and 6 children about the impact of social media on their mental wellbeing. They provided guidance on how to navigate social media platforms responsibly and how to seek help if they encounter negative experiences online. We truly believe that fostering a healthy relationship with social media is crucial for our the children's overall well-being. Year 3 spent a morning at Watford FC, learning about being an upstander not a bystander and speaking out about bullying. A wonderful learning experience with a treat of a tour of the stadium included!

Throughout Anti-Bullying Week, we emphasised the importance of kindness and the role it plays in creating a positive school environment. It was heartwarming to witness their enthusiasm and dedication towards spreading positivity and supporting their peers. We commend the children for their participation and engagement during Anti-Bullying Week. It was inspiring to witness their commitment towards promoting inclusivity and compassion within our school community. We believe that their understanding of bullying will continue to grow, setting a foundation for a safe and respectful school environment. As parents, we kindly request your continued support in reinforcing these important messages at home. Encourage your child to treat others with respect, both in person and online. Reinforce the idea that they have the power to make a positive difference in someone's life through simple acts of kindness. Thank you for your cooperation and ongoing support in creating a nurturing and caring environment for all children at home and at school.

Nicola Furey
Pastoral Lead

ODD SOCKS DAY



On Monday 13th November, children and staff across the school wore odd socks as part of anti-bullying week as a way to celebrate what makes us all unique. Odd Socks Day is a day when schools, workplaces and individuals join together to stand up against bullying and discrimination.

For more information about Odd Socks Day and anti-bullying week, please click the link below to visit the Anti Bullying Alliance:

[What Is Odd Socks Day?](#)

YEAR 3 VISIT TO WATFORD FOOTBALL CLUB

This week, Year 3 visited Watford Football Club to take part in an anti-bullying event. They were treated to a tour of the stadium followed by workshops where the children acted out scenarios of how to resolve conflict which occurs due to bullying.



DIWALI CELEBRATIONS

This year, Laurance Haines transformed into a vibrant tapestry of colours as we came together to celebrate Diwali - the Festival of Lights. It was heartwarming to see the enthusiasm and creativity that our students poured into making this Diwali truly special. Each year group showcased their unique talents and contributions to the festivities with beautiful creations such as lanterns, diya lamps and cards. The collaborative effort of our dedicated teachers and the enthusiasm of our students made this Diwali celebration a tremendous success! We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the parents who supported their children in bringing the essence of Diwali into our school community. We wish you and your loved ones continued joy and light in the days ahead.



RECEPTION APPLICATION 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

If you or someone you know are interested in taking a School Tour, please note that these can be booked on our website by clicking the link below.

[School Tours at Laurance Haines School](#)

SCHOOL OFFICE

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

admin@lhaines.herts.sch.uk

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!

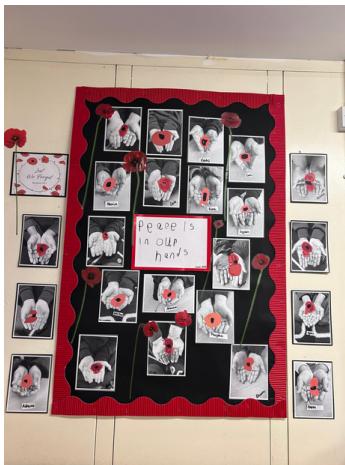
GLOW DISCO YEARS 5 AND 6

On Friday 24th November our PTA are hosting a Glow Disco for Years 5 and 6. Please see the letter which was sent by email on Tuesday.

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!

REMEMBRANCE DAY

On Friday 10th November, across the school the children took part in activities to commemorate Remembrance Day. The children learnt about the different colours of poppy and what they represent. Children created their own poppies and took part in a 2 minutes silence.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

- SEND parent coffee morning - Friday 24th November 8:45-9:45
- Year 5&6 Glow Disco - Friday 24th November 4-530
- 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

OUTDOOR LEARNING ON X (FORMERLY TWITTER)

We would just like to let our parents know about a new account on X (formerly Twitter) which has been set up to celebrate outdoor learning at Laurance Haines. Please feel free to follow the account to see some of the wonderful learning which takes place.

[@LHSOutdoorLearn](https://twitter.com/LHSOutdoorLearn)



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