



NEWSLETTER

9TH FEBRUARY 2024

WELCOME

Dear Parents/Carers,

Can you believe that we are nearly halfway through the year already? The terms seem to be just flying by.

As ever, it has been a busy and exciting week at Laurance Haines. The children have been embracing Feeling Good Week, which aims to immerse them in an environmental project that boosts their emotional and mental wellbeing. Additionally, during Online Safety Day, the children learnt about different ways that they can stay safe online. It is so important that we discuss this regularly with our children and put safety measures in place to protect them – please refer to Mrs Ball's guidance in the previous newsletter. Today we joined our sister schools for an online assembly, where it was brilliant to see the range of learning that different classes have done around online safety.

A highlight for us was the Laurance Haines presentation, which came from some of our Year 3 children; they wrote and performed an informative and entertaining rap, which was brilliant. As well as that, this week, we held our first parent consultation meetings of the year. It was wonderful to see so many of you in attendance and to hear the positive feedback. These meetings are such important opportunities that aid collaboration between school and our families, which truly supports the progress that our children make and their wellbeing. If you were unable to attend, please do speak to your child's class teacher and arrange a time to have a conversation with them.

With just one week of term remaining, I wish you not only a great weekend but a restful and enjoyable half term break when it arrives.

Warm regards,

Mr Englander

SPOTLIGHT ON LEARNING

Hertfordshire Feeling Good Week

This is an event we have celebrated for many years to support the children's understanding of their mental health and how to look after their own wellbeing. This year's theme is 'Kindness in Nature' and we were fortunate to be successful in applying for a £500 grant.

In researching and hearing the children's opinions we decided to focus the learning on the impact that birds have on our wellbeing. We discovered that birdsong can reduce stress, focus attention, improve listening skills and help calmness. To encourage more birds into school there will be birdboxes, bird tables and bird feeders located around the outside area.

We are also very excited to have a wi-fi enabled bird box to see birds nesting and view this in classes! In addition, the children have been making bird cakes to feed the birds and ensure we have more birds visiting the playground to hear the birdsong that will improve our mood and wellbeing. It would be wonderful if you can support your child's learning by looking out for birds you see out and about or in your gardens and listening to the birds singing, drawing your child's attention to really listen.

Mrs Furey
Pastoral Lead



BORDER COLLIES

Over the last few weeks, Year 1 have been working hard to write a fact file about Border Collies, based on the book Floss. They have learnt lots of skills like using 'because' to join sentences and looking closely at the punctuation that they use. They have also been looking at the book Jabari Jumps and practicing reading with expression - ask your child to read you a book and notice where the punctuation is! We are so proud of the children's hard work and are super impressed that they were able to create their very own fact file using all of the skills and facts that they have learnt. I wonder if your child can remember any facts about Border Collies!



WOMEN IN SPACE

Year 5 have been looking into the history of women in space this week and have been uncovering the hidden stories of Dorothy Vaughan, Katherine Johnson and Mary Jackson. They created posters and researched how these incredible women overcame inequalities and adversity because of their race and their gender.



ATTENDANCE

Attendance Ladder



Statutory Attendance and Participation Team

Where is your child on the Attendance Ladder? Feedback from you child's class teacher this week will have told you how your child's attendance could be affecting their success in school. Every day counts!

Many congratulations to team Palm who are leading the way on the Termly Attendance Leaderboard. Their attendance is an impressive 97.4%!!

EARLY YEARS DISCO

Our wonderful PTA are hosting a disco for children in Nursery and Reception on Friday 16th February. Please see the letter emailed earlier this week for more information.

If you do not have access to a printer to complete the reply slip, please do write the information down on a piece of paper and put this in an envelope with payment and return to the class teacher.

SCHOOL OFFICE

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

admin@lhaines.herts.sch.uk

ONE WAY SYSTEM

A reminder that the one way system around school is still in place. This is to ease the flow of traffic. Please could we ask that parents and carers follow the one way system for the comfort of all.

GYMNASTICS

Thanks to our partnership with the wonderful team at Watford Gymnastics, our Year 4 children are provided with the opportunity to use their state of the art gymnasium for their PE lessons. Here is a photo from one of Team Palm's last sessions - we are sure Team Pine will have just as much fun as they start their time at Watford Gymnastics!



MEDICINES

A reminder that no medicine should be kept in school in your child's possession. Both prescribed and over the counter medication must be brought to the school office and the relevant paperwork filled out. This medication will then stay in the office and must be collected by a parent or guardian at the end of the school day.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- Feeling Good Week - Monday 5th February - Friday 9th February
- PTA Jumble Sale - Monday 5th Feb - Fri 9th Feb
- Safer Internet Day - Friday 9th February
- Chinese New Year Dragon Dance Workshop - Tuesday 13th February
- Nursery and Reception Disco - Friday 16th February 3:30pm -4:30pm
- Half term (no school) - 19th-26th February
- Back to School - Tuesday 27th February
- Y3 Trip to British Museum - Wednesday 13th March

CHINESE NEW YEAR

In Woodland, the children have been learning about Chinese New Year and why animals are used to represent their years. The children made masks of the different animals then used them to act out the story.



NEW CLUBS!

We have some fantastic new before and after school clubs starting after half term including spy club, ninja warrior and archery! Please keep an eye out for an email which will be going out next week!



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