



# NEWSLETTER

1ST MARCH 2024

## WELCOME

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are so lucky to have such a caring and supportive community. Thank you to the parents who have asked me how I am and that they have missed seeing me. I am pleased to say that I am much better and very much loving being back at school.

We are really excited about developing our curriculum over the next few months. One of the ways we will do this is by looking at the way we set out home learning. Over the next few weeks you may see changes to the way we set homework. Our main aims are to ensure that the main skills of reading, writing and maths are practiced as much as possible, to reduce the mental load for our children and our parents and to ensure that there is a fair balance between reinforcing learning at home and the important social development that children get from playing, relaxing and spending time with family. If you have any questions about your child's home learning, please do speak to their teacher.

Thank you to all our families for ensuring that the children are at school on time and for being prompt to pick up. We do understand the pressures of everyday life and making sure that children are in good routines. We have noticed that on occasions there are a number of children picked up after 3:15pm and are taken to the office to wait. We recognise that there are times when being a little late is unavoidable, but please do contact the office if you think this will happen. Often children will become quite upset and anxious and it is useful if we can let them know. Thank you in advance.

Wishing you all a happy and safe weekend.

Jo Ball

Headteacher

## SPOTLIGHT ON LEARNING

On February 13th, our school hosted a magical Dragon Dance Workshop, in celebration of the Chinese New Year. The workshop, filled with colourful costumes and rhythmic drumbeats, transported everyone into the heart of Chinese culture. Children from Nursery all the way to Year 6 eagerly participated, immersing themselves in the graceful movements of the dragon dance and gaining appreciation for its rich symbolism. Led by an enthusiastic instructor, the workshop sparked joy and curiosity as the children learned about the traditions surrounding the Lunar New Year. The event not only provided a fun and educational experience but also fostered a sense of unity and cultural appreciation within our school community. The children's excitement and enthusiasm were evident, making it a memorable and heartwarming celebration for all involved. It was truly a wonderful opportunity for the children and staff to embrace diversity and learn about cultures beyond their own.

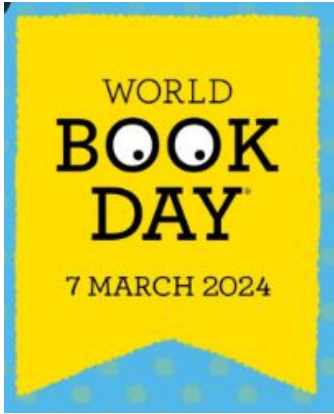
Sana Chaudry

RE Lead



## WORLD BOOK DAY

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 7th March. Our theme this year is 'Read Your Way'. We are inviting our community to dress up in their best way to read. Whether that be as a book character, in your child's most comfortable clothing or simply in pyjamas, the idea is to dress to celebrating the joy of reading in your own unique way. Literally anything goes!



We will also be hosting a 'Great Book Swap' - children may bring in one book in a good condition from home, to swap for another book of their choice, later in the day, in the great book swap. This is a fantastic opportunity to read some new books!

As part of World Book Day, we will be having a special Book Themed lunch! For the full menu please click the link below:

[WORLD BOOK DAY LUNCH MENU](#)

## DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

If your child has a specific dietary requirement, it is essential that you update the school. This can be done by updating the relevant section on your child's Arbor app or by emailing the admin email address at the top of the next page.

## MOTHERS DAY GIFT

An email was sent out before the half term with information about this year's Mothers Day Gifts being organised by our PTA. If you would like to order one, please complete the slip on the letter or write the information on a piece of paper and return to school with the money by Tuesday 5th March.

## FASTING FOR RAMADAN

Earlier this week, a letter was emailed out to prepare for Ramadan. If your child in Key Stage 2 is planning to fast for some or all of Ramadan then this letter must be filled out and returned to the school as without parental permission, we will assume your child is not fasting.

## SECONDARY SCHOOL ALLOCATION DAY

Today is the allocation day for our current Year 6's to find out what secondary school they will be attending. We hope that all of our children get schools they are happy with!

## ATTENDANCE

Here is a look at the attendance leaderboard this week!

Many congratulations to team Palm who are leading the way with 96.8% attendance! But look how close team Beech are!

Every mark counts towards this attendance percentage and every Term the class with the highest attendance receives a special prize! Could it be your class this Term?

Team	Attendance
Palm	96.80%
Beech	96.70%
Pine	96.30%
Yew	95%
Elm	94.90%
Birch	94.30%
Walnut	94%
Elder	93.80%
Willow	93.50%
Hazel	93.30%
Oak	92.20%
Pear	92%
Holly	91.90%
Plum	91.30%

## MILK FOR SUMMER TERM

The cost of milk for the Spring Term is £24.32.

Please note that the introduction of free school meals to all KS1 children does not include free milk. The following arrangements apply:

Milk is free for all children in Nursery, and those in Reception who were born after 1st April 2019.

Milk is also free for children in KS2 who receive free school meals.

For all other children you will need to pay if you wish for them to have milk.

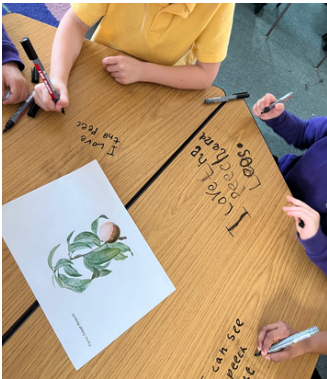
Payment must be made online via Arbor by Monday 25th March 2024, BUT IMPORTANT PLEASE NOTE that on Arbor you will now need to:

- 1) Go to "School Shop"
- 2) Select "School Shop Products"
- 3) Select "Milk for Summer 2024"
- 4) Click on the quantity and select "1"
- 5) Select "Buy Product"
- 6) Select "Pay Now" and then make payment.

Please contact the school office if you have any problems.

## THE NIGHT GARDENER

This week Year 1 have been really enjoying the story 'The Night Gardener'. They have been answering questions and writing about the main character in the story. This has been a great introduction to their question for this half term which is 'is nature creative'? They have also enjoyed looking at flora and fauna paintings this week in art!





# SCHOOL OFFICE

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

[admin@lhaines.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@lhaines.herts.sch.uk)

## TAG RUGBY COMPETITION

Last month, Year 5 took part in a Trust Tag Rugby competition, coming second. We are so proud of their incredible sportsmanship, team work and enthusiasm! Well done Year 5!



## GOODBYE MISS DEMARIA!

As we broke up for half term, we said goodbye to one of our Midday Supervisors, Miss DeMaria who has worked for Laurance Haines for an incredible 16 years. We would like to take this opportunity to wish Miss DeMaria the best and to thank her for all of her hard work over the last 16 years!

## WELCOME NEW STAFF

We would like to take the opportunity to welcome Mrs Zeoli who will be joining our Early Years Team as an SEN Teaching Assistant!

# =Welcome=

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

- Secondary School Allocation Day - Friday 1st March 2024
- Deadline for Mother's Day Gifts - Tuesday 5th March 2024
- World Book Day - Thursday 7th March 2024
- Y3 Trip to British Museum - Wednesday 13th March 2024
- Nursery Closed - Monday 25th March
- Early Years Easter Bonnet Parade - Thursday 28th March - 9:15
- School Finishes Early - 1:30pm - Thursday 28th March
- Back to school - Monday 15th April
- Nursery Closed - Monday 15th April
- Nursery Closed - Tuesday 16th April

## BIRD FEEDERS

As part of Feeling Good Week last half term, our children across the school made bird cakes and we have been delighted to already be seeing birds using our new bird feeders!



## NURSERY CLOSURE DATES

Nursery will be closed on the following dates due to stay and plays and home visits:

Monday 25th March  
Monday 15th April  
Tuesday 16th April



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