



NEWSLETTER

19TH APRIL 2024

WELCOME

Dear Families,

Welcome to the Summer Term!

It has been wonderful, as always to welcome our families back after the Easter Break. I do hope that everyone had a peaceful and safe break. The past few weeks have been so special for religious festivals. We have had Holi, Easter, Ramadan and Eid! One of the best things about Laurance Haines is how we embrace all religions and we managed to have a couple of 'firsts': our first Holi festival and our first Iftar. I can't begin to tell you how proud I am of how the community come together and the connection we all feel at these events. Thank you.

Summer term is set to be another really busy term. Please check all the dates carefully as there really is so much going. This is the last term for our current year sixes and that brings many things from SATs, transition, parties and more. We also have open evening, finding out new classes, trips and lots of learning! When the terms are busy and there are several events it can put additional pressure onto families. Please do come and speak to us if you need any support.

We will be announcing a rather special trip very soon. Another Laurance Haines 'first!' I am going to leave you in suspense... more to follow soon.

Wishing you all a safe and happy weekend

Jo Ball
Headteacher

SPOTLIGHT ON LEARNING

Step2Skills our community partner

We were so pleased to have Ayesha, from our community partner Step2Skills, share her expertise in supporting children through their SATs exams, both academically and emotionally to Year 5 and 6 parents this week. This was part of the governments Multiply programme for adult learners, that has been very successful over the last two years at Laurance Haines. Her advice and support was invaluable in helping parents to support their child to achieve to the best of their abilities.

Ayesha provided guidance on how SATs work, what the questions may look like, and what is expected from the children. This gave parents better understanding of what their child will experience during the week of the tests. Knowing what to expect can greatly reduce anxiety and boost confidence in the run-up to the SATs.

In addition to practical advice, Ayesha gave insights on managing emotions on the day of the tests. Even though at Laurance Haines we prioritise the children's wellbeing, SATs can be a worrying time for some children, so it's important to have strategies to help them stay calm and focused. By understanding how to support your child emotionally, you can make a significant difference in their overall experience of the week. The children have worked very hard throughout their journey at Laurance Haines and this is just a brief, but important moment in time for them.

We encourage you to engage with Step2Skills' resources and workshops we have on offer, to make the most of this partnership. The support they provide for parents can complement the teaching your child is receiving at school and enhance their chances of success in their education.

We have a further multiply session on how to use Excel and budgeting for all parents from nursery to reception on Tuesday 23rd April 9.15-11.15am. Please book a place by contacting Nicolafurey@lhaines.herts.sch.uk and look out for further courses coming up.

Nicola Furey
Pastoral Lead

HOLI FESTIVAL

Our Holi celebration on March 28th marked a special end to the spring term at our school, where children immersed themselves in the joyous spirit of the Hindu festival. With laughter and colourful enthusiasm, students delighted in throwing vibrant powder paint, while also gaining valuable insights into the significance and traditions of Holi.



EARTH DAY

As part of celebrating Earth Day on Monday 22nd April, we are asking children to think about how sustainable they can make their packed lunch by reducing packaging and thinking about food sources.

Children will be completing lots of other sustainable activities on this day, such as planting sunflowers. Please have a look at some of the wonderful ways our children have reimagined and repurposed plastic bottles!



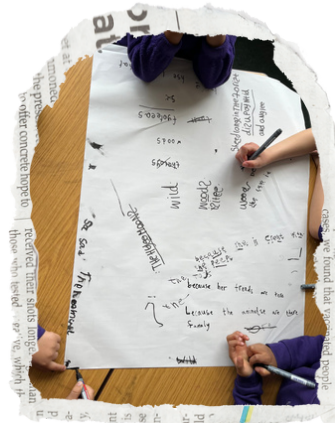
BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

There are still some spaces at some of our before and after school clubs. There are a wide range of activities available from NERF team battles, football, archery, street dance and more. Please see the email sent on 5th April for more details or visit our website by clicking the link below:

[BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS](#)

NEWSPAPER WRITING

Miss Mcnamara and Miss Dunworth would like to celebrate Year 1 for their hard work at the end of last term writing their own newspaper articles about a little girl called Wild who wanted to live in the forest. They explored the reasons she wanted to live there and why she felt happiest there. Well done Year 1 - I think we definitely have some budding journalists amongst you!



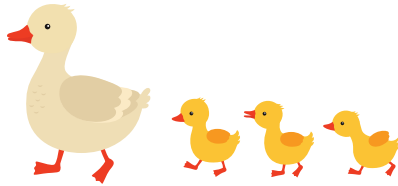
UNIFORM

If anyone is needing any help with getting school uniform, please come and speak to the school office to see how we may be able to help you.



DUCK EGGS EARLY YEARS

We will once again be having ducklings to hatch in Early Years. We are all very excited as the eggs arrived on the 15th April. For photos and videos of the ducklings as they hatch, please check out Nursery's page on X (formerly twitter) by clicking the link - [@NurseryLHS](#)



PROMOTING COMMUNICATION

If you are concerned about your child's development, please contact our SENCO, Michelle Connell by email on:

SENCO@lhaines.herts.sch.uk

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- Earth Day - Monday 22nd April
- Year 4 Buddhism Workshop - Tuesday 23rd April
- May Bank Holiday (No School) - Monday 6th May
- SEN Parent coffee morning - Thursday 9th May
- KS2 SATS - week of Monday 13th May
- May half term - Monday 27th-Friday 31st May
- Back to school - Monday 3rd June
- International Day - Friday 7th June
- Year 5 trip to Phasels Wood - Wednesday 12th - Friday 14th June
- Wellbeing Day (No school) - Friday 21st June
- IMAT Olympic Day - Friday 28th June
- Year 6 Activity week - Week of 1st July
- Year 6 Isle of Wight Trip - Monday 1st July
- Electric Umbrella performance - Monday 8th July
- Transition Day - Thursday 11th July
- End of Term - Friday 19th July 1:30pm

Top Tips for Promoting Communication



Remember to **FOLLOW** with your child through play and everyday activities to help develop speech, language and communication skills!

F	O	L	L	O	W
Face to face Get down to your child's level	Observe Observe what your child is playing with and follow their lead	Label Label what your child is playing with using single words and phrases	Limit questions Limit the number of questions you ask your child - use comments instead	Opportunities Create natural communication opportunities within everyday activities	Wait Wait and pause to give your child the time and chance to communicate



HCT Children & Young People's Therapies Service

Ideas for creating natural opportunities for communication



- Give them choices: "Apple or orange?"
- Try not to anticipate their needs
- Pause in songs and stories so they can fill in the gaps
- Offer them things 'bit by bit'
- Have fun!

How to access further support from the Speech and Language Therapy service

For more information, please watch our FREE Promoting Communication Webinar available at: www.hct.nhs.uk/early-years

You can also visit the service webpages: www.hct.nhs.uk/CYPT-SALT

Click "Information for parents" on the webpages OR scan the QR code for advice sheets, videos and resources.



Information for parents - Speech and language therapy

HCT Children & Young People's Therapies Service



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