



NEWSLETTER

11TH OCTOBER 2024

WELCOME

Dear Families,

I wanted to take this opportunity to remind our families about some key approaches that we have here at Laurance Haines and explain why they are so valuable for your children's learning and development.

Calm Start - Setting Up for Success

Each day begins with our Calm Start. This is a dedicated time for children to settle, regulate their emotions, and prepare themselves for learning. Research shows that children learn best when they feel calm, safe, and emotionally regulated. Through, mindful moments, and gentle activities, we help pupils develop vital self-regulation skills that not only benefit their learning but also their overall wellbeing.

Network Hands and Protective Behaviours - Staying Safe

Safety is paramount, which is why we teach Network Hands and Protective Behaviours throughout the school. This approach helps children identify trusted adults they can turn to when they need support or feel unsafe. Each finger on their 'Network Hand' represents a different adult they trust - both in and out of school. Alongside this, we teach age-appropriate protective behaviours that empower children to recognise early warning signs that something isn't feeling right, understand their right to feel safe, and know how to seek help when needed.

Weekly Subject Structure - Supporting Learning

We focus on one curriculum subject each week. This structured approach isn't just about organisation. Our curriculum timetable is designed to support your children's cognitive development and executive function skills. By maintaining a consistent pattern, we reduce the cognitive load on pupils, allowing them to focus more energy on learning rather than managing multiple transitions. This predictability helps children plan ahead, develop time management skills, and feel more confident about their school day and week. Some lessons happen weekly – ask your child which subject they have been learning this week.

Retrieval Practice - Building Strong Memories

You might hear your children talk about retrieval activities at the start of lessons and retrieval weeks through the half term. These are examples of retrieval practice - a proven teaching method that helps children remember more of what they learn. By regularly revisiting previous learning in different ways, we strengthen memory pathways in the brain. This isn't about testing; it's about helping information move from short-term to long-term memory, making it easier for children to build upon their existing knowledge.

Each of these approaches has been carefully chosen based on educational research and best practice. Our aim, as always is to ensure your child feels safe and loved and has the opportunity to thrive in every aspect of school life.

If you'd like to learn more about any of these approaches or discuss how you can support them at home, please don't hesitate to speak with your child's class teacher or arrange an appointment with our leadership team.

Wishing you all a safe and happy weekend.

Jo Ball
Headteacher

ATTENDANCE

What an amazing start to the school year! Our overall school attendance is over 96% so we are achieving our target. Thank you to all of you who are helping us to achieve this. We have noticed that fewer medical appointments are being made during school hours and children are being taught resilience by being sent into school with minor ailments.

Just a quick reminder as we approach the half term break..... Absences cannot be authorised retrospectively. Historically, we have seen families extend their time away from school by going away a few days before we break up or returning a few days late. These absences have to be marked as unauthorised. Please refer to the attendance letters emailed to you at the beginning of September for more information. If you have any questions regarding school attendance, please pop in to see me or give me a call.

The children always look forward to seeing which class is leading the termly attendance table. This is shared with them in our celebration assembly on Friday mornings. Congratulations to Team Yew who have a clear lead at the moment with attendance of nearly 99%- outstanding! But, at this point, any class can catch them!

Wendy Gunning
School Administrator/Attendance Manager

Year 3 Yew	98.8%
Year 2 Hazel	98.7%
Year 5 Birch	97.8%
Year 3 Oak	97.7%
Year 4 Palm	97.5%
Year 6 Walnut	96.9%
Year 4 Pine	96.6%
Year 5 Beech	96.5%
Year 6 Willow	95.8%
Year 1 Elder	95.2%
Year 2 Holly	94.9%
Year 1 Elm	94.9%
Reception Plum	93.6%
Reception Pear	92.6%

GUINNESS WORLD RECORD ATTEMPT

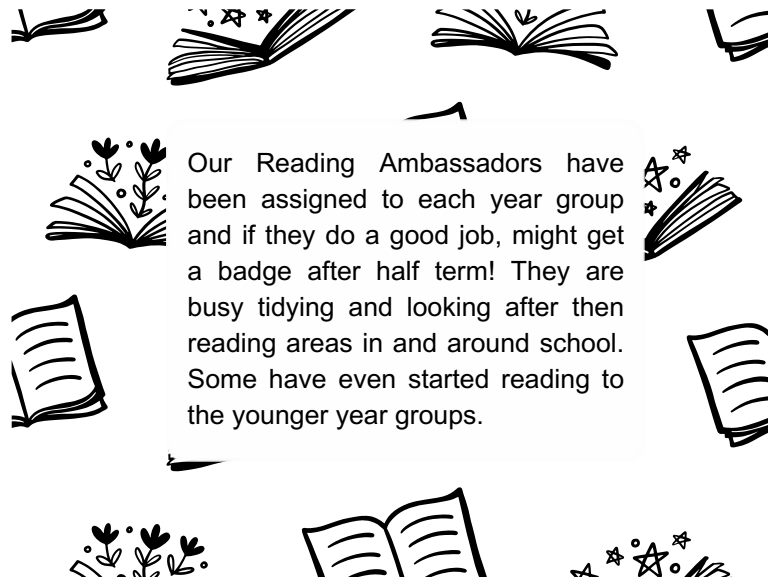
This week our Key Stage 2 students took part in a Guinness World Record attempt for the title of Largest Poetry Lesson (multiple venues) for National Poetry Day. The children had a fantastic time co-writing a poem alongside poet Laura Mucha and other schools nationally. Good luck on the record attempt!



LONG HAIR

For health and safety reasons, we ask that all children with long hair have this tied up while at school. This is especially important on PE days.

READING CORNER



Our Reading Ambassadors have been assigned to each year group and if they do a good job, might get a badge after half term! They are busy tidying and looking after their reading areas in and around school. Some have even started reading to the younger year groups.

HELLO YELLOW DAY 2024

On Thursday, the whole school celebrated Hello Yellow Day, coinciding with World Mental Health Day. The event focused on promoting mental health awareness and fostering a sense of identity among the children.

The day began with an assembly led by the school's Education Mental Health Support team. The assembly provided valuable insights into maintaining good mental health and the importance of understanding oneself to contribute to positive wellbeing.

Throughout the day, pupils engaged in activities designed to explore "what makes you, you." The activities encouraged self-reflection and helped students recognise their unique qualities and strengths. By focusing on self-understanding during events like Hello Yellow Day, the children are learning valuable tools for lifelong mental health and wellbeing. These initiatives help our young people develop the self-awareness and emotional intelligence needed to navigate the complexities of growing up and beyond.

The Hello Yellow day initiative alongside World Mental Health Day supports our ongoing commitment to supporting our pupils emotional wellbeing and personal development.

Nicola Furey
Pastoral Lead



PE KITS

Please ensure that your child has their full PE kit in school. You may send them in on a Monday and leave them in school until Friday to be sure that they are here.

YEAR 1 ARTISTS

Year 1 have had an amazing time during Art this week! They have embedded the vocabulary of pressure, blend, whole body movement and line. They practised using whole body movement to make snail spirals, experimenting with chalk and oil pastels!

Well done Year 1!



ANNUAL PARENTAL CONSENT

We still have some parents/carers who have not completed their annual parental consents. This must be done every year and is a permission for your child to go school trips. This permission lasts for the whole school year and covers all off site educational visits.

With the Harvest Festival coming up, it is important that this is completed as soon as possible or your child will be unable to attend this trip. Please follow the instructions below for how to complete this.

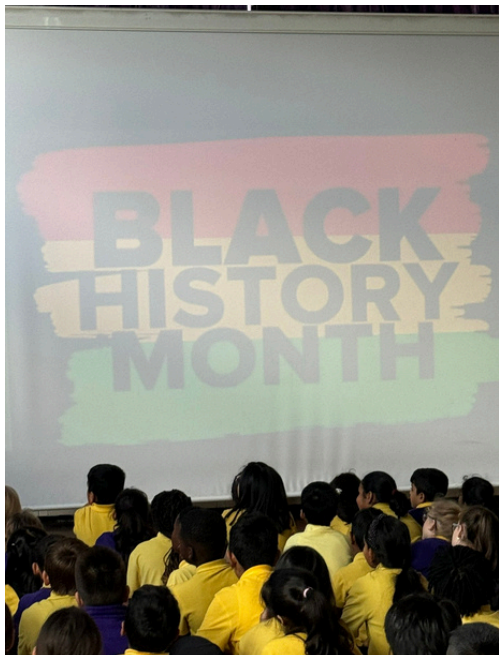
Please log on to the Arbor App and read through the Annual Parental Consent form 2024/25 which appears under "Notices". You will then need to scroll down and click on the green "consent" icon at the bottom of the page.

Please remember to do this for all your children in the school.

If you are having any difficulties with using Arbor or completing the annual parental consent, please contact the office for further assistance.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

As part of Black History Month, our local race hate crime officer PC Murphy came to school to give our Key Stage 2 students an informative assembly on why we celebrate black history month and the importance of doing so.



SECONDARY SCHOOL ADMISSION DEADLINE



A reminder for parents of children in Year 6 - the deadline to apply for a secondary school place is Thursday 31st October 2024.

If you have not already done so, please apply via Herts County Council at the link below:

[SECONDARY SCHOOL ADMISSION](#)



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Friday 25th October - Harvest Festival

Monday 28th October- Friday 1st November - Half Term

Thursday 31st October - Secondary School Admission Deadline

Monday 4th November - Back to School

Monday 4th November - School Photo Day

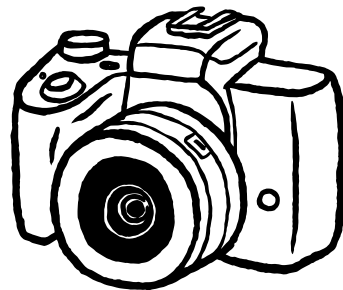
Monday 11th - Friday 15th November - Anti-Bullying week

Monday 11th November - Odd Socks Day

Tuesday 12th November - Safer Internet Day

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY

School photo day will be held on Monday 4th November. This is the day we come back to school after the half term break. Please make sure that you send children to school wearing their full school uniform on this day.



Welcome!

As our new school year starts, we would like to welcome our new members of staff:

- Mrs Fawad - Admin Assistant

Welcome to Laurance Haines!



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