



NEWSLETTER

20TH DECEMBER 2024

WELCOME

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of our autumn term, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on what has been a wonderful few weeks at our school. The highlight was undoubtedly our Christmas Carol Service at the church today. It was truly heart-warming to see so many of you there supporting our children, who sang beautifully. All the songs were wonderful but a special mention must go to Key Stage 2 for that cracking end of show performance of 'Christmas is here'!

Seeing our school community come together in this way reminded me of why this is such a special time of year and just how wonderful our school community is. As I said in the church, my heart was bursting with pride for all of our children. Thank you to the parents who came to share this with us.

Looking ahead to January, please remember that Monday 6th January is an INSET day, when teachers will be undertaking professional development training. Children will return to school on Tuesday 7th January.

For those of our families celebrating Christmas and those who are not, we wish you a really happy time filled with connection and love.

Wishing you a safe and happy holiday,

Mrs Ball
Headteacher

SPOTLIGHT ON LEARNING

As the Lower Key Stage 2 Phase Leader, it has been an absolute joy to see all the learning taking place across Years 3 and 4. I am immensely proud of our Phase, children and teaching staff. Year 3 is a huge step for children in their learning journey, as they begin their transition into Key Stage 2. As a nurturing school, our priority is to ensure children's social and emotional wellbeing is at the forefront of our curriculum during this transition. It has been amazing to see how well our children have settled into their new classes.

We have had a super busy term in the Phase. Our learning has been vibrant and engaging, and book looks and pupil voice have shown incredible progress with a real focus on learning key skills across the curriculum. In Year 3 a highlight was our trip to the Science Museum, where we took part in a workshop all about forces. The children really enjoyed the day! In English, the children have made amazing progress with their writing. Our most recent unit has been about playscripts, with the children writing a playscript on the Gruffalo. We are moving onto instruction writing, and we are making chocolate treats next week! We enjoy hands on learning through the key stage, we believe that tactile and sensory learning brings the learning to life and is more memorable for children. During retrieval week, Year 3 made play doh and recreated the rock cycle. This has resulted in children being able to remember key vocabulary. In Year 4, we carried out a very messy experiment on the digestive system! Year 4 have been busy writing non chronological reports all about jaguars which links into their term's topic of the rainforest! Year 4 have also been working hard on their multiplications. Next term, there will be an even greater focus on multiplication in Year 3 and 4, as this is so important for developing the children's maths fluency.

We are particularly excited that some of our year 3 and 4 Romanian speakers have featured in a short teaching video using teaching strategies to help bilingual children. Thank you so much to the children involved!

Thank you to everyone for their hard work this term. We hope you enjoy the last week of the Autumn term, and have a restful Christmas break!

Miriam Al-Alousi
Lower KS2 Phase Leader

CELEBRATING ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to Team Hazel who won the attendance award this Term! They were treated to a prize each which this term was a chocolate selection box. Well done to Team Hazel.

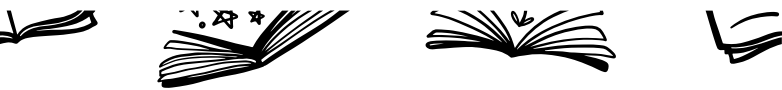
Who will win the award next term!?

WELCOME BACK ALUMNI

It has been amazing to have some of our alumni come back to school to visit our Year 6 children. The children listened to stories of life beyond LHS and our alumni inspired our children by talking about dedication and never giving up!



READING CORNER



Reading Question Time:

What is the last good book you read?
Which book would you recommend to a friend?

Challenge:

Read a book over the holidays that someone had recommended to you!

Write a review or tell your class when you return, all about your book!



TOP TIPS FOR AN INCLUSIVE CHRISTMAS

The Christmas period, with lots of change, social interaction, expectations and demands to negotiate, can be a very exciting but often stressful time of the year for many autistic people. We have put together a brief list of useful resources that we hope may prove helpful in making this festive period as special and as stress free as possible



'How to'... have an autism-friendly Christmas – Autism Together

Christmas tips for autistic people and their families:

- Prepare your child for any changes to the school routine
- Keep a good routine at bedtime
- Be aware your child may need more reminders as they will be tired and routines at school may be altered at the end of term.
- Discuss concerns and formulate a plan during the holidays
- Prepare your child for any visitors
- Ask children prior to the holidays what types of activities they would like to do and plan accordingly
- Use a calendar and mark on important events
- Keep surprise plans to a minimum

PERFECT PIZZAS

Our Year 5 children had a fantastic Design Technology lesson making their own pizzas and even designing the boxes to put their pizzas in! Yum!!



CHRISTMAS DINNER DAY

On Wednesday 11th December, we held our annual Christmas Dinner Day. Children made their own decorations in the morning - from hats to placemats! The hall looked festive, with lots of music playing and laughter from the children. The children wore their own clothes and shared Christmas Crackers. Lunch was followed by a fun afternoon in class watching films.



DECO DAY IN EARLY YEARS

In Nursery, our youngest children have been busy making decorations. Pinecones were glued to jam jar lids and then the children were free to decorate them using paint, pom poms and glitter. We think they look fantastic!



STAYING SAFE ONLINE - SNAPCHAT

Please see the link below for information about Snapchat and how to keep children safe online and potential dangers such as visible location and inappropriate content:



[SNAPCHAT](#)

CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT

Today we held our annual Christmas Carol Concert at St Michael and All Angel's Church. The children have worked so hard learning their songs and we are so proud of them all! The children behaved impeccably and the Church was full of song and cheer!

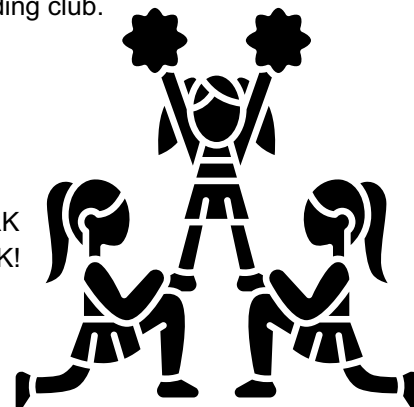
NEW CLUB - CHEERLEADING!

We are excited to announce that from the 15th January we have a new LUNCHTIME Cheerleading club.

STUNTS!
DANCE!
TUMBLE!

NEW SKILLS LEARNT, TEAMWORK
AND POM POM FUN EVERY WEEK!

There will also be an end of term performance for parents!



SIGN UP HERE

<https://forms.gle/MPQ7pEzyehGgDmZ7A>

CONTACT SKYE ON: AZUREDANCE00@GMAIL.COM
@AZUREGYMNASTICSANDCHEER

07802 - 791 - 232

CLUBS

You will receive an email today about before and after school clubs for next term and how to sign up for them. Any club run by Mr C (Challenge Sport) is bookable via Arbor.

Please do book early to ensure you get a space as we have limited numbers.

You can also find the full timetable of clubs on our website by clicking the link below:

[BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS](#)

VACANCIES

We have several vacancies coming up at our school. If you or someone you know are interested in working with us, please click the links below to see the vacancies.

- [SEND Teaching Assistant - 20 Hours per week](#)
- [SEND Teaching Assistant - 30 Hours per week](#)
- [Teaching Assistant - 30 Hours per week](#)



A FOND FAREWELL

We would like to extend our warmest farewell to some departing staff members.

Today, we will say goodbye to Mrs. Eames, our SEND teaching assistant in Early Years. Additionally, our PTA chair and MSA, Mrs. Morrissey, will also be leaving us. Thank you both for all of your hard work. You will be missed!

Additionally, this week, Mrs. Gunning has retired after many dedicated years in the school office. We hope you enjoy your retirement Mrs. Gunning!

We wish each of them the very best in their future endeavours and hope you will join us in expressing our gratitude for all their hard work.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Friday 20th December - 9:30AM - Christmas Carol Concert

Friday 20th December - 1:30PM End of term - Early finish

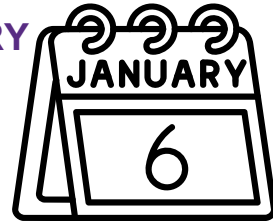
Monday 6th January - INSET Day - No school

Tuesday 7th January - Back to School

Wednesday 15th January - Reception 2025 Admission Deadline

INSET DAY MONDAY 6TH JANUARY

A reminder that there is no school on Monday January 6th as this is a staff training day. We look forward to welcoming you back to school on Tuesday 7th January



PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS SEPTEMBER 2025

For parents of children due to start Reception in September 2025, the deadline to apply for a place is 15th January 2025.

Please note that even if your child has a nursery place with us that you would still need to apply for a reception place as they are not automatically allocated a place in Reception.

Admissions information is available at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions



Tel
01923 233146

Email
admin@lhaines.herts.sch.uk

Web
www.lhaines.herts.sch.uk

Twitter/X
LHS_Watford

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Laurance Haines School

INCLUSIVE | MAT