



NEWSLETTER

17TH JANUARY 2025

WELCOME

Dear Families,

Welcome Back and Happy New Year 2025 to all! Who can believe that we are now two weeks into Spring term already.

Reading is always a huge focus for our school. We want our children to love stories and want to read. We also know that reading isn't easy for everyone and also that some children don't like it. What we have found here at Laurance Haines is if we make reading fun, cosy and memorable, it brings those reluctant readers along with us. I know you will all be looking forward to our Winter Bedtime Story event taking place on 30th January 4:30- 5:30pm, but we encourage you to make reading time a cosy time at home too. Maybe snuggle up with a blanket, have a hot drink and a biscuit or even just a cuddle with a story. This will not only support your child with reading but it also creates a huge sense of wellbeing for you and your child.

Your voice matters to us greatly. We do a number of surveys across the year: staff, pupil and parent as three notable ones. Each ones give us an insight into how that group feels about our school, what they love but also what they would change if they could. The parent survey is now live and we would love more of you to tell us what you think. The survey will be used to make positive changes for our school and any feedback is good feedback for us as we are always aspiring to be the best we can be so please take the time to fill it in. <https://edurio.com/poll/RsvhwH>

Finally, we are hoping to relaunch our PTA this term. Last term, I spoke to some incredibly keen parents with many ideas to help support the school with events and fundraising. We will be sending out a letter in the coming weeks with further details so please look out for it.

Wishing you all a safe and happy weekend.

Jo Ball
Headteacher

SPOTLIGHT ON LEARNING

Celebrating Our Hertfordshire Emotional Wellbeing Kitemark Achievement!

We are delighted to announce that Laurance Haines has been awarded the prestigious Herts Emotional Wellbeing Kitemark, a fantastic achievement that recognises our commitment to placing children's social and emotional wellbeing at the heart of everything we do.

During their assessment, the review team was particularly impressed by our pupils' understanding and articulation of therapeutic approaches, such as our Calm Start initiative. They noted how confidently our children spoke about feeling safe at school and having trusted adults who listen to and support them.

While we celebrate this achievement, we remain committed to continuous improvement. We welcome your suggestions and feedback, please email these to nicolafurey@lhaines.herts.sch.uk.

Supporting Your Child's Wellbeing

If you have concerns about your child's emotional wellbeing, we invite you to attend our upcoming workshop:

Date: Monday, 20th January

Time: 9:00 AM

This session will provide valuable insights and strategies to support your child's emotional health and wellbeing.

Nicola Furey

Pastoral Support Team Leader
Mental Health & Attachment Lead

SEND NEWS

Does your child struggle with transitions? Visual schedules can transform challenging moments by showing what happens now and next through pictures instead of words.

Top Tips

- Use simple drawings or photos at child's eye level
- Let your child mark off completed tasks
- Focus on one routine (like mornings) with pictures for: wake up, bathroom, getting dressed, breakfast, packing bag
- Stay consistent and celebrate successes
- Try visual timers for transitions

You don't need special materials - even stick figures work! Learning new routines takes time. Need help? Contact me for support

senco@lhaines.herts.sch.uk



READING CORNER



"Calling all volunteers! We are looking for a parent volunteer to be our school librarian. It could be you or a family member - maybe you used to be one, maybe you used to work with children and want the opportunity to get back into it. Maybe you are just interested in enriching the lives of our young minds and supporting them using our library. Give as much time as you are able to - we can work out what works best for you and for the school.

Please get in touch with the school if this is something you would be interested in doing!"

BIKEABILITY

This week some of our year 6 students have been learning to become confident in riding bikes. . The bikeability programme is designed to teach them essential cycling skills and road safety awareness, . It's wonderful to see them mastering these important life skills while enjoying the fresh air and exercise.



MS GREENS BIG ACHIEVEMENT

Mrs Green celebrated her 40th year working here at Laurance Haines School. Her dedication and passion for education have left a lasting impact on countless students and colleagues. Over the years, Mrs Green has not only witnessed the school's growth and transformation but has also been a pivotal part of its success. Her unwavering commitment to nurturing young minds and fostering a positive learning environment is truly commendable. We are incredibly grateful for her years of service and wish her many more fulfilling years ahead. Here's to celebrating a remarkable journey!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SAVE
THE DATE

- 27th January – Holocaust Memorial Day
- 29th January- Chinese New Year - Children to wear RED please
- 30th January – Winter bedtime stories
- 1st February – World Hijab Day
- W/c 3rd- Feb – Feeling good week
- 11th February - Safer Internet Day
- 15th February – Parinirvana (death of Buddha) Buddhist celebration
- Half Term Break
- 6th March – World Book Day
- 13th /14th Mar – Purim Jewish celebration
- 14th Mar – Holi Hindu/Sikh festival
- 19th – 29th Mar – Laylatul Qadr Islam
- 24th Mar – Purim Jewish celebration
- 30th/31st Mar - Eid al-Fitr Islam
- 3rd April – Eid Picnic
- 14th April – Vaisakhi Sikh
- 18th – 21st - Easter Weekend Christian festival
- 4th April – End of term at 1:30pm



Please join us in welcoming our newest member of staff Mrs Ratnaraj. Mrs Ratnaraj will be joining us as part of our school admin team in the afternoons.



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SAFETY



Recently, there have been a couple of incidents on the road outside school where children and parents pushing buggies have nearly been hit by opening car doors. We would recommend using - and teaching children to use - the Dutch Reach. This is when you open the car door using your hand furthest away from the door. This will mean your body has to twist, allowing you to see anyone walking or cycling past, reducing the number of accidents.



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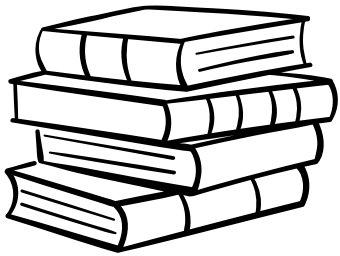
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WINTER BEDTIME STORIES



On Thursday 30th January Laurance Haines School will be hosting a very fun and cosy winter bedtime stories event led by Mrs Goss and Miss McNamara. Please come along in your pyjamas, bring your blankets, cuddly toy and most importantly a book!



4.30pm - Free reading with a drink and snack

4.45pm - Mrs Ball to read to all

4.50pm - Free reading

5.00pm - Peter Taylor to read to all

5.05pm - Free Reading

5.15pm - Mr Roach to read to all

5.20pm - Free read

5.30pm - Mrs Goss/Ms McNamara to read to all and goodbyes!



We hope to see as many of you there as possible!



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