



NEWSLETTER

17TH JANUARY 2025

WELCOME

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful week of community celebrations we've had at Laurance Haines! On Wednesday, we had our amazing Chinese New Year celebrations in classes and in the playground. Our pupils put on a spectacular dragon dance performance that was a joy to watch. The children's dedication to learning the intricate movements really shone through, it wasn't an easy dance to master but they did wonderfully well!

Last night, we hosted our first Winter Bedtime Stories event, and we were honoured to welcome Mayor Peter Taylor as our special guest. Children arrived in their cosiest pyjamas, clutching their favourite teddy bears, ready for an evening of storytelling magic. It was so lovely to see our families reading together in small groups surrounded by blankets and cushions - the hot chocolate and biscuits helped too!

Thank you to Ms Chaudry and Mrs Goss for organising our special events this week.

These events exemplify what makes our school community so special – the coming together of families, staff, and local leaders to create memorable experiences for our children. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making both events such a success.

Wishing you all a safe and happy weekend,

Mrs Ball
Headteacher

SPOTLIGHT ON LEARNING

Lunar New Year Celebration:

Laurance Haines had an amazing time celebrating Lunar New Year on Wednesday, 29th January, and it was fantastic to see so many parents joining in to make the day extra special!

Our celebrations began at lunchtime with a delicious Chinese meal, lovingly prepared by Candi and her fantastic team in the kitchen. A huge thank you to Candi and her team for putting so much effort into creating such a special meal!

In the afternoon, we were delighted to welcome parents into school to join their children for some Lunar New Year activities. In the afternoon, we welcomed parents into school for some Year of the Snake themed activities. The classrooms were full of excitement as children and their families got creative, making lanterns, snake fans, and other snake-inspired crafts. It was lovely to see everyone working together, with the children proudly sharing their knowledge about the Year of the Snake and its significance.

To round off the celebrations, we all gathered outside for a spectacular dance performance by the school. The children were captivated by the energy and movement of the performance, and it was a wonderful way to bring the festival to life. Finally, in a heartfelt moment, we all released bubbles into the air, symbolising our hopes and wishes for the year ahead. Watching the bubbles float up into the sky was a magical way to end the day.

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us—it was such a joyful occasion, and we loved celebrating together. Wishing you all happiness, good fortune, and a wonderful year ahead!

Sana Chaudry
Year 2 Class Teacher
Religious Education Lead

SEND NEWS

Top Tips for Promoting Communication

Remember to **FOLLOW!**



Does your child have difficulties communicating or making their wants known? Do they get frustrated if you cannot understand what they want?

Try these tips above from Herts Speech and Language Team

If you do have concerns about your child's language development, please do contact Michelle Connell at senco@lhaines.herts.sch.uk

MARY FENNEL

We are sad to announce the passing of Mary Fennell who was our first headteacher at Laurance Haines Infant School.



Mary was a lovely lady much admired and respected; she did so much for the education of children in West Watford. She opened Laurance Haines infant school building in Victoria Passage before it moved to its current LHS site a year before the junior school opened.

She was very child centred and expected to hear every child in the school reading to her at least once a term. Mary employed the first bilingual classroom assistant to work in the nursery.

She organised the planting of dozens of daffodil bulbs in the grounds of the school. Mary loved music and played the guitar and piano in assemblies. She really enjoyed nursery picnics, summer and Christmas fairs with staff, children and their families.

Mary had strong principles and fought hard to get provision at the time when education was poorly resourced.

She loved Laurance Haines and was proud of everyone at her school.

Rest in Peace Mary and thank you for starting the family that we now continue. What a wonderful legacy.

SAVE THE DATE

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

PARENT SURVEY

if you have not already please could you take the time to fill out the parent survey, please use the QR code above which will take you straight to the survey site.



- 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
- 17th February - 21st February - Half Term Break
- 6th March – World Book Day
- 13th /14th Mar – Purim Jewish celebration
- 14th Mar – Holi Hindu/Sikh festival
- 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 Clay, Mrs Clay will be joining our MSA team.

CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

This week our children have been diving into the vibrant festivities of Chinese new year it's been a whirlwind of artsy crafts and dance moves, all in the name of celebrations!



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CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

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BOOK AT BEDTIME



Last night, we held our very first Bedtime Stories event. It was incredibly well turned out - there wasn't room for everyone to even sit down; literally standing room only! I was so pleased to see so many of our Laurance Haines community there. There was an incredible buzz in the room - families and friends coming together to share a love of reading! People brought their blankets, snacks and cuddly toys and huddled together to enjoy a good book - it was a wonderful experience for everyone.

We were very lucky to also be joined by some guest readers - our very own Mrs Ball and rather excitingly, The Mayor of Watford, Peter Taylor! Mrs Ball got everyone reading together with her book 'Don't let the Pigeon Drive the Bus' by Mo Willems and also read an extract from one of her favourite books - The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe - truly magical! Peter Taylor read a firm modern, childhood classic - Giraffes can't Dance by Giles Andreae which the children enjoyed hearing immensely.

I need to say a heartfelt thank you to each and every one of you who came along last night. Events like this only happen with the support of the community! I would also like to take the opportunity to thank all the parents and staff who supported me in the running of the event and tidying up afterwards! Despite our electricians cutting the lights to the hall while everyone was leaving (!), it didn't deter everyone from getting the job done. Thank you so, so much.

I very much hope to run another event like this soon and if you couldn't make this one, hope you can come along to the next one! Thank you once again from everyone here at Laurance Haines!

Much love and keep reading!

Mrs Goss



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