



# NEWSLETTER

7TH MARCH 2025

Dear Families,

We are delighted to share some wonderful news with our school community! Our beloved school crossing patrol officer, Mr. Sharkey, has received official recognition from the local authority for his exceptional service and dedication to keeping our children safe. He was invited to Recognition of Service breakfast on Friday 14th February.

Many of you have commented on how Mr. Sharkey goes above and beyond in his role - always greeting everyone with a smile, remembering children's names, and ensuring their safety regardless of weather conditions. We've always known how fortunate we are to have him, and now the local authority has formally acknowledged what we've known all along - that Mr. Sharkey is truly the best!

This recognition reflects not only on Mr. Sharkey's personal commitment but also on our wonderful school community that appreciates and supports his important work. We are so grateful for everything he does.

We would also like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to all the families who took the time to complete the Ofsted parent survey. Your thoughtful responses and feedback provided valuable insights that supported our recent inspection.

We also celebrated World Book Day this week and it was wonderful to come to school in what we felt comfortable and enjoy stories. It was so special to see children swapping books today and so excited about taking them home. Thank you to Mrs Goss and Ms McNamara for organising such a special and memorable day.

Wishing you all a safe and happy weekend.

Mrs Ball  
Headteacher

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Welcome to the spotlight section of the newsletter, which this week will focus on World Book Day!

We were absolutely bowled over to see everyone altogether in the hall first thing on Thursday to kick off another extremely successful book day! Assembly gave us the opportunity to not only look at what everyone wears to read in, (we had everything from superheroes to pyjamas to uniform to home clothes – a real mixture!) we also had an opportunity to talk about where we like to read, how we like to read and best of all, give book recommendations. All the children turned to the person next to them and recommended a book they liked – that was around 400 simultaneous recommendations – WOW!

Once back in classrooms, the children experienced several different online events such as the Booky and Footy Quiz, hosted by Kit Brown, A BBC live World Book Day event, a virtual author visit from Benjamin Dean and another virtual reading by none other than Michael Rosen! The children were excited to be so immersed in the different activities and opportunities on offer throughout the day.

Year 2 hosted a book tasting, complete with gingham tablecloths, candles and vases of fresh foliage! They were able to read and discuss books with their peers and choose what they would like to read next! We plan on all the children having the opportunity to participate in book tastings throughout the school over the coming weeks.

Steve from Barclays came in to read to all the children in their classes as part of the Inspire World Book Day Event where local Barclays employees visited Primary Schools to both encourage children to 'read their way' and make links for further life lessons around money and 'smart shopping' in the future.

Lastly, we held a hugely successful Book Swap where we gathered as many books as we could and offered for every child at Laurance Haines the opportunity to take home a 'new-to-them' book! The children were beaming at the prospect and it was a true joy to see how excited they were by their new finds. Thank you to the children of Walnut class for supporting the children with finding new books and books suitable to their ages and tastes! Then on Friday we continued this theme of 'finding new books to read' by holding a cake and book sale! You came in your droves and bought us out of all our delicious treats and bakes within about 20mins! It was a joy to see the school community coming together to celebrate books and reading, as well supporting the school to raise over £250 for our class and school libraries! Thank you so much!

We hope to be able to sell a few more books after school on Monday so please bring some change if you didn't get a chance on Friday.

Thank you to everyone -parents, staff and children - who supported LHS this week to make World Book Day and all associated events a real success! We better get planning for next year!

Mrs Goss and Miss McNamara


## SEND NEWS

### SEND NEWS

Does your child regularly get upset or angry? Do you feel like they explode without any warning? In school, we use a scale to support the children to recognise when their emotions are starting to bubble.

Top tips for using an emotions scale;

- Make checking feelings a daily routine
- Ask "Where are you on the chart?"
- Encourage self-reflection
- Validate their emotional experience
- Help name and understand each emotion
- Keep it positive and judgment-free

5 Point Scale	
5	
4	
3	
2	
1	

If you think this could help your child and you need some help making one, send an email to [senco@lhaines.herts.sch.uk](mailto:senco@lhaines.herts.sch.uk)

## OFSTED

This week, we had the pleasure of welcoming Mark Sim from Ofsted to our school. Both staff and students had the opportunity to highlight the amazing work happening within our school community.



## TOOTHBRUSHING PROGRAMME

We are very excited to welcome Herts Special Care Dental Service to school on March 12th to visit our reception children and to offer free dental screening. Each child participating will also receive a free toothbrush and toothpaste!

If you haven't already please return your consent forms as soon as possible.



# ATTENDANCE

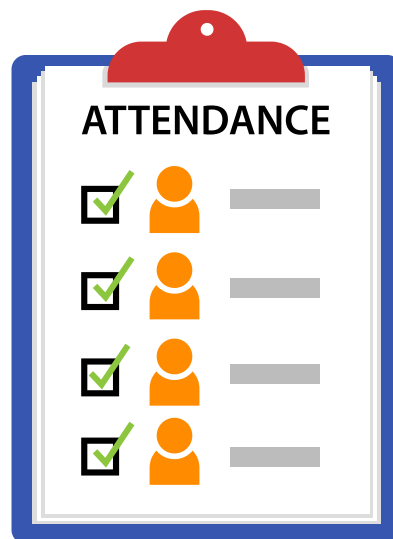
A reminder that when your child is absent from school, you must contact the school to update the reason why as soon as possible. If we do not hear from you, then this mark may be counted as unauthorised.

You can check your child's attendance for the academic year on the Arbor app. We are here to help and if you have any concerns about your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Simmons in the office to see how we can help.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 13th /14th Mar – Purim Jewish celebration
- 14th Mar – Holi Hindu/Sikh festival
- 21st Mar - Whole school iftar
- 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
- 23rd April - Back to School
- 5th May - Bank Holiday
- 26th May - 30th May - Half Term Break
- 20th June - Teacher Training No School
- 23rd June - Occasional Day - No School
- 10th July - Secondary Transition Day



# ≡ Welcome ≡

We would like to wish a warm welcome to the newest member of our team, Miss Smith will be joining our MSA team.



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## Bikeability cycle training for Year 5 pupils

Year 5 children are invited to take part in Bikeability cycle training at school during the week commencing Monday 16th June 2025. The course is designed to improve cycle control, not to teach children to ride. Each child will receive a certificate and badge for the level that they have achieved.

The course will be led by qualified instructors from Hertfordshire County Council, Children must have their own correctly sized bicycle in full working order and must wear their own cycle helmet as these are not provided.

Due to Government funding and a subsidy from the school, the cost of the course is excellent value at £12.50 per child. If your child is eligible for the pupil premium grant, then please choose this payment option when booking. Booking closes on Friday 4th April 2025

For further information please see letter sent by email



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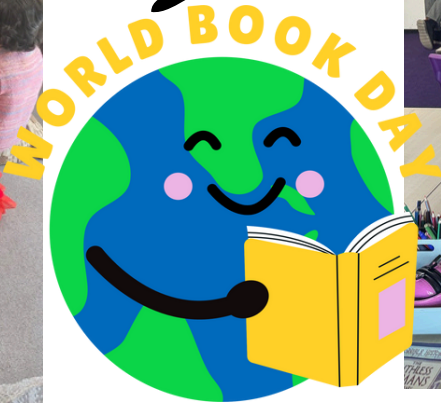
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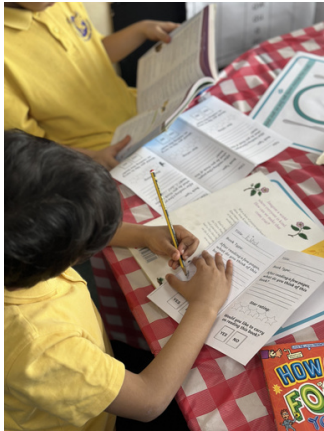
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We loved seeing the children in their 'comfy' reading clothes for world book day



We had the pleasure of welcoming Steve Owens from Barclays who was our guest reader. He kindly read to every child in school on World Book Day



Year 2 had a fun afternoon doing some book tasting,



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