



NEWSLETTER

10TH OCTOBER 2025

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Families,

It's wonderful to see our children flourishing in their learning. Autumn is such a wonderful season full of hope and new beginnings.

At the heart of everything we do is our commitment to providing a rich, engaging curriculum that helps every child thrive. As part of our ongoing development, we regularly conduct subject reviews to ensure we're offering the very best learning experiences for your children.

These reviews are collaborative by nature, bringing together teachers, support staff, governors, and moreover we would love to invite parents and carers. Your insights into your child's learning are invaluable to us, and we would love to hear your perspectives on how subjects are being taught and experienced.

If you would like to be involved in upcoming subject reviews, please do come and see a member of our leadership team. We welcome your participation warmly, though we do need to let you know that we can only accommodate a limited number of parents per review to ensure everyone's voice can be heard meaningfully.

Pupil Premium Support

We want to ensure that every family who is eligible for Pupil Premium funding is able to access this important support. Pupil Premium provides additional funding to schools to support children's learning and can make a real difference to the opportunities available to your child.

You may be eligible if you are a low-income family or claiming certain benefits. This is particularly important for our Year 3 families who have moved on from universal free school meals - you may still be eligible for support.



We understand that financial matters can feel personal, and we want you to know that you don't need to share your personal details with us and you can apply yourselves without having to come into school. However, if you would like support with filling out the application, or if you'd simply like to have a confidential chat about whether you might be eligible, please do come and speak to us. We're here to help, with no judgment - only support.

Please see the link below to see if you are eligible for any support

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/at-school/free-school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx>

Harvest Festival - 24th October

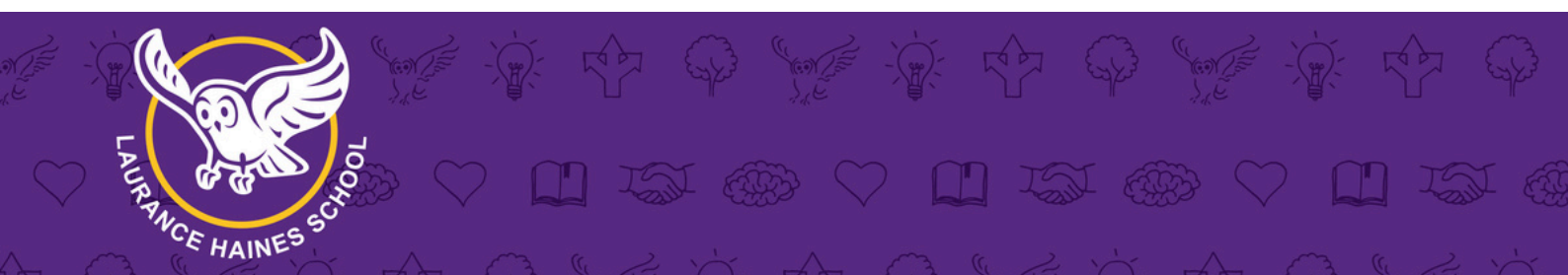
Our Harvest Festival will take place at the St Michael and all Angels church on Thursday, 24th October. This is always such a special occasion where our school community comes together to celebrate and give thanks. We would be absolutely delighted to see as many of you there as possible to share in this lovely tradition with our children.

Reminder: INSET Day - 3rd November

Please note that school will be closed for an INSET day on Monday, 3rd November. Our children will return to school on Tuesday, 4th November.

Wishing you a happy and safe weekend,

Mrs Ball
Headteacher



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Celebrating World Mental Health Day: Hello Yellow! 🌻

For World Mental Health Day, on Friday 10th October, Laurance Haines celebrated Hello Yellow – a national initiative dedicated to supporting young people's mental health and wellbeing. Throughout the day, the children took part in special activities designed to help them understand how to look after their mental health and know where to turn when they need support.

Who Do I Ask for Help? Building Our Safety Network

Every team revisited Protective Behaviours and focused on their Network Hand – a powerful tool that helps children identify five trusted adults they can talk to when they need help. This was particularly important as we have welcomed so many new arrivals to our school community this year. Children traced around their hand and wrote or drew the names of five trusted adults – one on each finger. The key message was simple but vital: you are never alone, and there is always someone ready to listen.

How Can I Help Myself? Exploring Self-Care Strategies

Each team explored nurturing strategies and understood why we do the things we do. Children discussed our Calm Start morning routine and how these activities prepare our brains for learning by reducing anxiety and helping us feel grounded, creating their own Calm Start Menu. The menu gives children ownership over activities that help them feel calm and focused. This empowered them to recognise what helps regulate their emotions. A special focus was journalling and doodling for mindfulness. Doodling maybe deemed as time wasting! However it has so many cognitive and emotional benefits for positive mental health. Doodling increases blood flow to the brain, particularly in the prefrontal cortex, which regulates our thoughts, feelings, and actions. It enhances memory, boosts creativity, improves focus and concentration, all while reducing stress. Who knew...give doodling a go at home with your child.

Together, we're building a school community where every child knows they are 'seen, heard and belong'. Through days like Hello Yellow, we reinforce these vital messages and equip our children with practical strategies to support their own mental health and wellbeing, both now and in the future.

Nicola Furey

Pastoral Lead and Mental Health and Attachment Lead



SEND NEWS

Understanding DLD

Developmental Language Disorder

Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) affects approximately 1 in 14 children and impacts how they understand and use language.

Signs include: difficulty finding words, struggling with instructions, using simpler sentences than peers, problems with grammar, and challenges learning new vocabulary.

Early supports makes a significant difference.

Please contact our SENCO for support

senco@lhaines.herts.sch.uk



GOODBYE

We want to extend a heartfelt goodbye and thank you to Mrs. Parveen, our beloved MSA, who will be leaving us before the half-term break.

Mrs. Parveen has played an essential role in our MSA team, lovingly caring for the children during lunchtime in the dinner hall.



COFFEE MORNING

We are delighted that Hertfordshire Step2Skills Adult Learning English courses will be returning to Laurance Haines soon. Please see the invite in the newsletter below to join us, to find out more about which English courses will be on offer, which include half day of learning that will be certificated.

When: Tuesday 14th October
Time 9.00am

Where: Community Room - located by the table tennis tables

This week, we received a delightful phone call from a local resident who praised Mr. Sharkey, our exceptional school crossing patrol. Although they do not have children at the school, they felt compelled to highlight how fantastic Mr. Sharkey is with everyone. The kids absolutely adore him, and he did an outstanding job ensuring everyone's safety during the recent car incident.



THANK YOU!



INFORMATION REGARDING FINES

As you will know from previous letters sent at the beginning of the term, the Government has introduced new attendance rules from the 19th of August 2024. Here are the key points:

Penalty Notices:

Will be issued if a child has 10 unauthorised absences (5 school days) in a 10-week period.

Fines:

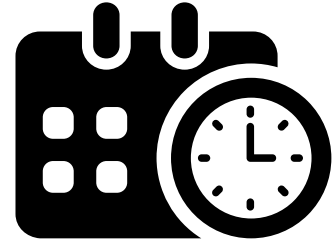
£80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

Increases to £160 if paid between 22-28 days

Repeat offences

Second offence within 3 years: £160 fine (no reduced rate)

Third offence may lead to prosecution.



Persistent Absence:

Below 90% attendance is considered persistent absence

We must report to the Local Authority

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Simmons in the school office - we are here to help!

CELEBRATING ATTENDANCE

What an amazing start to the school year! We are thrilled to tell you that our whole school attendance has been above

95.6% over the last 2 weeks. This is a little short of our target, but a good start!

A few tips to maximise your child's attendance:

1. Children can be sent into school with coughs and colds providing they don't have a fever
2. Medical appointments should be made outside of school hours whenever possible. If necessary to make them in school time, we would urge you to make them in the afternoon (after 2.00pm)
3. We have 13 weeks holiday a year. Please make sure that all travel is done during these weeks and that your child returns to school on time for the return to school every time.

Do you know what your child's attendance is? Just log onto Arbor and it will be right there for you to see on the front page!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please look on the school website for all term dates of the
academic year 2025/2026

October

Friday 24th October – Harvest Festival

Monday 27th October - Friday 31st October - Half Term

Monday 3rd November - Staff Training - NO SCHOOL

November

Tuesday 4th November - 1st round of flu jabs

Thursday 6th November – Celebrating SEND day

Monday 10th November - School Photo Day

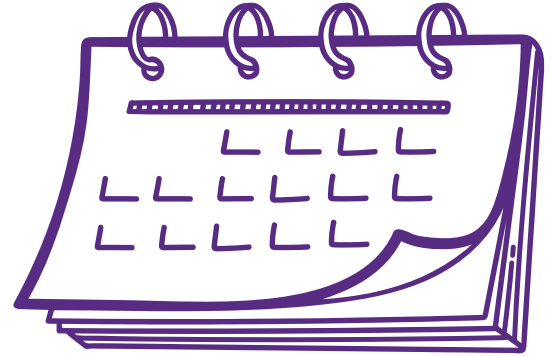
Monday 10th November - Odd Socks Day

Tuesday 11th November – Remembrance Day

10th - 14th November - Anti-Bullying Week

Wednesday 12th November – Safer Internet Day

Friday 28th November - Deco Day PM



December

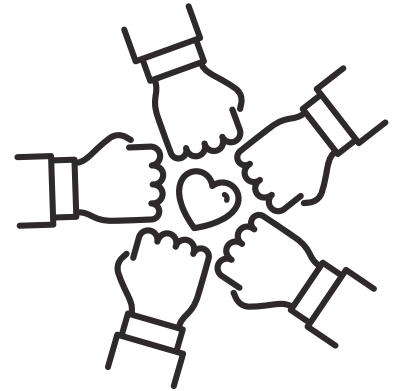
Thursday 4th December - 2nd round of flu jabs

Wednesday 10th December – Christmas Dinner Day

Tuesday 16th December – KS1 Nativity AM & PM Performances

Friday 19th December – Carol Concert KS1+ KS2

Friday 19th December – End of term finish at 1:30pm



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 permission for your child to go on school trips. This permission lasts for the whole school year and covers all off site educational visits.

REMINDER

Please log onto Arbor App and read through the Annual Parental Consent form 2025/26 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.





READING CORNER



Ways to Support your Child and the School with Reading

READING BREAKFAST: Every Wednesday morning, 8.45am - 9.05am. Come into your child's classroom and share a book and some toast together with them!

READING VOLUNTEERS - If you are interested in being a reading volunteer and can give one or two (or more) afternoons or mornings every week to read with our children - we would be so grateful. Please look out for the application form coming to your inbox soon!

READING AT HOME - If you can find any spare minutes to sit and read with your child, please do. This is invaluable experience for both your child and yourselves! Being a mum myself, I completely understand the time pressures of a school week but if you can allocate even 10 minutes somewhere to sit with them and a book, you won't regret it!

READING PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT MEETING - In that same vein, please look out for further information on a reading engagement meeting I will be running hopefully this or early next term. It will contain information on how best to support our children to engage in reading at home, the importance of reading and hopefully be a forum to answer any questions you may have.

Keep up the good work everyone and happy reading!

Mrs Goss



Apply for school on time

Applying for a school place for September 2026

Secondary/Upper/Studio/University Technical
College Application deadline: Friday 31 October 2025

Primary (Reception)/Junior/Middle
Application deadline: Thursday 15 January 2026


Apply online at
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions





Coffee Morning Invitation

Meet Maria & Charlotte from Step2Skills

Come along to **Laurance Haines School Community Room** to hear about a great opportunity for adults to **boost their English skills** to progress towards **Functional Skills English Qualification**.

 **Location:** Laurance Haines School Community Room

 **Date & Time:** Tuesday 14th October 9am

 **Who:** Parents and carers from Laurance Haines & Holywell School

We will tell you more about learning with us and guide you through taking an assessment to get started.

Pop in for a chat and a cuppa – we'd love to see you!

SAFETY AROUND OUR SCHOOL

Laurance Haines School has received a number of letters from local residents living in 'Rose Gardens' expressing their on going safety concerns for irresponsible and unsafe parking around our school.



A few reminders for our school community;

**STAY
SAFE**

DO NOT PARK ON PAVEMENTS

DO NOT BLOCK DRIVEWAYS



DO NOT PARK ON DOUBLE YELLOW LINES

Please be more considerate when parking for drop off before school and after school and use designated parking spaces over the bridge



The best solution is to
WALK TO SCHOOL

