



# NEWSLETTER

26TH SEPTEMBER 2025

## A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

### **Mrs Ball's School Open Evening Speech for those who could not attend.**

Good evening, and welcome to our wonderful school. I'm Jo Ball, and I have the absolute privilege of being the headteacher of this remarkable community.

At Laurance Haines, we aspire for every child to be 'a good and happy person' – and I'm delighted to say that our pupils truly live up to this vision every single day. We are different to other schools, and we are incredibly proud to be so.

In March, we welcomed Ofsted who confirmed that "Laurance Haines School has taken effective action to maintain the standards identified at the previous inspection." They found that our pupils "come to school each day ready to learn" in an environment where children are "happy and feel safe." The inspectors recognised our ambitious curriculum and noted how our pupils "learn well in lessons" with teachers who "explain things clearly and ensure pupils have appropriate and interesting learning tasks." Ofsted state in our inspection notes that 'there is no complacency from the school. Leaders continue to evaluate and develop their approach to delivering the curriculum.' We are always finding new ways that we can better serve our children and community.

But perhaps what I'm most proud of is that our results speak for themselves. In our recent SATs we excelled and whilst we wait for those results to be published, we are thrilled to be significantly above the national average for reading, writing and maths combined.

You might wonder how we achieve these results while maintaining our focus on happiness and wellbeing. The answer lies in our core beliefs and approach.

We have developed an ambitious curriculum that is ever-evolving, designed to ensure that our children have as much agency as possible in their learning. We hold high expectations – not just for our children, but for our staff and ourselves as leaders. This creates a culture where excellence becomes the natural expectation.





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We place enormous emphasis on social and emotional learning because we know that when we get that foundation right, our children excel academically. Happy children learn – it's as simple and as profound as that.

I'm particularly proud of our unique approach to SEND provision. Under the exceptional leadership of our SENCo, Mrs Connell, we have created something truly special that has gained wide acclaim. We've been honoured to welcome many visitors who come to see our innovative practice, including most recently a second visit from Tony Fitzpatrick, the Director for Education in Hertfordshire – a testament to the quality and impact of our work.

Our Woodland and Seedlings provisions offer a curriculum built on the foundations of success, maintaining high ambitions for every child. Here, our children thrive through personalised learning journeys that support their physical, emotional, and academic progress in equal measure. This holistic approach ensures that every child, regardless of their starting point or specific needs, can achieve their full potential.

We care deeply about our staff, investing in their development and wellbeing by ensuring they can access the tools and training they need to perform to the highest standards. Happy staff thrive, and that energy flows directly to our children. You will see a few new faces across school – we are so proud to have a strong teaching team. Our leadership team has also developed, with Mrs Makinson taking the role of Assistant Head and Mrs Wood as the Early Years Lead. Both bring a wealth of expertise and talent to our leadership team.

We work tirelessly with our families, supporting them in improving living conditions where needed, helping with referrals, and connecting them with professionals. We understand that happy people build a stronger community, and a strong community supports every child's success.

We are incredibly proud to have been accredited for a third time as a National Nurturing School, recognising the wonderful work of our pastoral team led by Mrs Furey, our Pastoral Lead. Some may think 'it's just what we do here,' but to continue to be recognised at this level, we must constantly build upon our work, adding further thought, detail, and progress in different areas.





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Currently, our focus is on ensuring that our curriculum is right for our community and that everyone is represented. We are also exploring what 'nurture' feels like for different cultures and ensuring that we incorporate and blend this understanding throughout our ethos, creating an even more inclusive and culturally responsive environment for all our families. This work has also been recognised by a recent visit from Lord Mott from the House of Lords who was incredibly impressed with our exceptional nurture provision.

Above everything else, we are passionate about ensuring everyone is heard and seen, creating an authentic sense of belonging for every member of our school family. Whether you're a parent, child, or member of staff, you matter here, and your voice counts.

If you are already a parent at our school, please explore with pride as you visit your child's classroom tonight. See the learning environment we've created together, meet the dedicated teachers who know and cherish your child, and celebrate the community we've built.

If you are a prospective parent, you have the wonderful opportunity tonight to meet our incredible team. Speak with our teachers, see our learning spaces, and experience firsthand the warmth and ambition that defines Laurance Haines.

Thank you for choosing Laurance Haines School. Whether you're already part of our family or considering joining us, know that you are welcomed, valued, and supported here. Together, we are creating not just successful learners, but good and happy people who will make a positive difference in the world.

Enjoy exploring our school this evening. I look forward to meeting you all and answering any questions you may have.

'You see me. You hear me. I belong.'

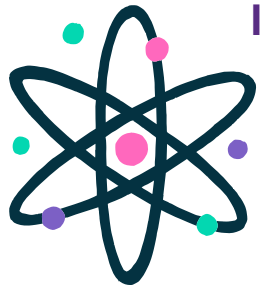
Jo Ball  
Headteacher





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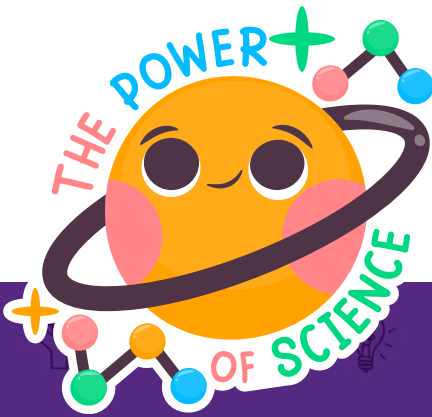
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## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

This week has been Science Week! The children have been doing lots of investigations and enquiries to find out more about how the world works. Nursery has been exploring the school grounds and looking for signs of Autumn. The children enjoyed searching for leaves and creating autumn leaf collages. In Year 1, the children learned about the five senses. They identified different objects and materials using their senses. They also learned to say which part of the body is associated with each sense. Year 5 have enjoyed learning about human development and the stage of the human life cycle. They completed a growth survey to investigate how rapidly humans grow during childhood and adulthood. Year 6 have been learning about the heart and how it works. They have looked at ways of keeping our heart healthy and the effects of exercise.

Tiffany Dunworth - Year 5 Teacher



# SEND NEWS

## Young Carers Support

A young carer is a child who helps look after a family member with an illness, disability, mental health condition, or addiction. Many children take on caring responsibilities without realizing they're young carers.

### Benefits of registering your child:

- Access to specialized support and advice
- Connection with other young carers
- Regular check-ins from trained professionals
- Additional school support when needed
- Fun activities and respite opportunities

### How to register:

Contact me or visit Carers in Hertfordshire at

[www.carersinherts.org.uk/register-or-refer](http://www.carersinherts.org.uk/register-or-refer) to complete an online registration form. Registration is free and confidential.

*Early support helps young carers thrive academically and personally while managing their caring responsibilities.*



## PE

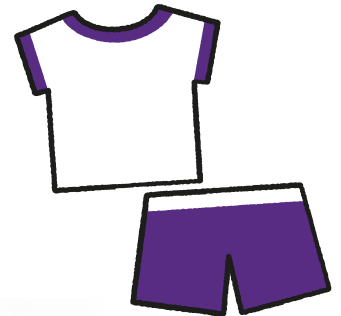
- **\*\*Reception:\*\*** Monday
- **\*\*Year 1 & 2:\*\*** Tuesday
- **\*\*Year 3 & 4:\*\*** Wednesday
- **\*\*Year 5 & 6:\*\*** Thursday

Please see the schedule above for the days your child will have PE. Ensure that they bring their PE kits to school for these days.

The PE kit should consist of House colour top, jogging bottoms/shorts and trainers.

## GYMNASTICS

Year 4 Pine has been thoroughly enjoying their time at Watford Gymnastics Club, where they are learning a variety of gymnastics skills.



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

## October

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October – Harvest Festival

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October - Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October - Half Term

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November - Staff Training - NO SCHOOL

## November

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November - 1<sup>st</sup> round of flu jabs

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November – Celebrating SEND day

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November - School Photos

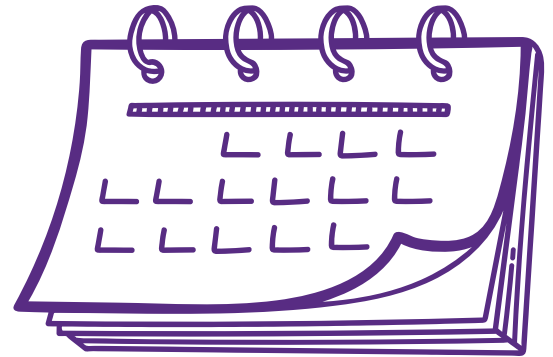
Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November - Odd Socks Day

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November – Remembrance Day

10<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> November - Anti-Bullying Week

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November – Safer Internet Day

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November - Deco Day PM



## December

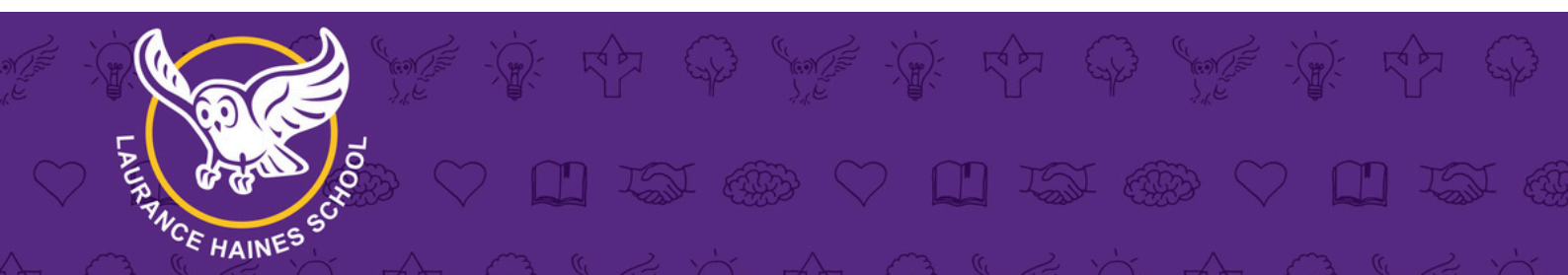
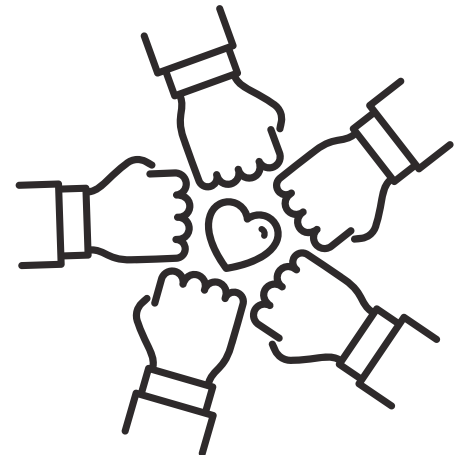
Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December - 2<sup>nd</sup> Round of flu jabs

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Dinner Day

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December – KS1 Nativity AM & PM Performances

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December – Carol Concert KS1+ KS2

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December – End of term finish at 1:30pm





# READING CORNER

## READING AMBASSADORS

Mrs Goss is looking for all enthusiastic readers in Year 5 and Year 6!

We need children who will promote reading to all, read with younger children, advertise and help at events, help organise book corners and generally sing the praises of reading to everyone!

Look out for applications forms coming around to you soon and in the meantime, consider the reasons you think you would be good for the job!



## NATIONAL POETRY DAY

It is National Poetry Day on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October, have a think about your favourite poems, share them with a friend or maybe even write your own!

If you are interested you can enter a poetry competition from Watford FC 'Greatness Comes from Everywhere' you can get a form from your class teacher but entries **MUST BE IN** by Monday lunchtime!



# 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](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions)



# Halloween at church farm



Visit  
Church Farm  
Ardeley  
*A real working  
farm!*



- \* Spooky Farm Trail to see the farm animals & Halloween Décor
- \* Big Bale Play
- \* Tractors & Digger Ride-Ons
- \* Creepy Fairy Woodland Play
- \* Spooky Photo Opportunities
- \* Spot the Pumpkin & sweet treat prizes
- \* Scarecrow Trail
- \* Find the Spooky Fairy Doors
- \* Find your unique Witch and Halloween name
- \* Spooktacular Costume Stickers for the best dressed boys, girls & dogs
- \* Halloween Activity Pack, 'I've Been to Church Farm' Sticker
- \* Puzzles and Colouring-in fun
- \* Farm Sensory Trail

## Additional Activities

- Pumpkin Picking & Carving
- Trick or Treating in our Spooky Wood (4-6pm)
- Horrid Hay Tractor & Trailer Rides
- Eerie Egg Collecting
- Ghoulish Goat Walking

Book online [www.churchfarmardeley.co.uk](http://www.churchfarmardeley.co.uk)



CHURCH FARM, ARDELEY  
A Free Range Experience



# 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

