



NEWSLETTER

28TH NOVEMBER 2025

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Families,

I hope this newsletter finds you well as we move through this busy term.

Something special happened today out of something a bit sad. Our Panto company had to reschedule with us as one of their actors was unwell which made understandably made the children and adults quite upset. There are not many schools that would do this but, in true Laurance Haines style, the adults created a last-minute panto using the power of AI which included costumes and music and gave the children a very special experience. Your children may want to talk about Ms Khatoon who was the most excellent Evil Villian! A huge shout out to the other characters too - simply excellent. It was an exceptional show of good over evil and how kindness conquers all. A memory that we will all treasure for a long time to come.

Celebrating Our Diverse Community

Inclusion remains at the heart of everything we do at our school. We are incredibly proud of our multi-faith and multi-cultural community, and throughout the year we celebrate the rich diversity that makes our school so special. From Iftar and Eid to Diwali and Holi, from Christmas to Portuguese Day and our International Days, we ensure that all cultures and faiths are recognised, valued and celebrated. These celebrations provide wonderful opportunities for our children to learn from one another, to appreciate different traditions, and to understand that they truly belong. Our diversity is our strength, and we are committed to fostering an environment where every child and family feels seen, heard and valued. If you have an idea for a celebration or piece of learning we could use please come and share it with us.

Festive Calendar

There are lots of celebrations across the month of December from class parties to carol concerts at the church. Please check the newsletter for dates and times that apply to your child or children.

Parent Governor Vacancy

A few weeks ago, I wrote to you regarding a vacancy for a parent governor. I am writing again as we are still looking for another governor to join our governing body. Being a governor is a wonderful opportunity to understand the inner workings of school and offers you the chance to influence school policy and direction. It is a rewarding role that allows you to contribute meaningfully to our school community and make a real difference to the education and experiences of our children.

If you are interested or would like to find out more, please do come and contact me via email, phone, or if you see me outside at drop-off or pick-up. I would be delighted to discuss the role with you.

Thank you for your continued support.

Wishing you a safe and happy weekend

Jo Ball

Headteacher



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Does Your Child Help Care for Someone at Home?

As parents, we often don't realise that some children take on caring responsibilities that go beyond typical household chores. If your child regularly helps look after a family member who has a disability, illness, special educational need or a mental health condition, they may be a young carer.

What is a Young Carer?

A young carer is someone under 18 that is helping a parent, sibling, or other family member with tasks like cooking, cleaning, personal care, giving emotional support, or translating if English isn't the family's first language.

Many children start caring at a young age without realising they're young carers. They simply want to help their family. However, caring responsibilities can affect school attendance, homework completion, wellbeing and opportunities to spend time with friends which is why it's important these children receive proper support.

Support Available in Hertfordshire

The good news is that excellent free support is available right here in Hertfordshire through Carers in Hertfordshire's Young Carers Service. This service supports young people aged 18 and under who take on additional responsibilities.

The Young Carers Team can offer:

- Young Carer's Assessments to identify what support your child and family need
- Respite activities during school holidays, giving young carers a break and the chance to meet others in similar situations
- Support during big life changes like moving to secondary school
- Visits at home or school to discuss how your child is coping
- Help for families to find local support that can reduce the amount of caring young carers need to do

How to Get Help

If you think your child might be a young carer, please reach out. Early identification means your child can access valuable support sooner.

Contact Herts Young Carers:

Phone: 01992 58 69 69

Email: young_carers@carersinherts.org.uk

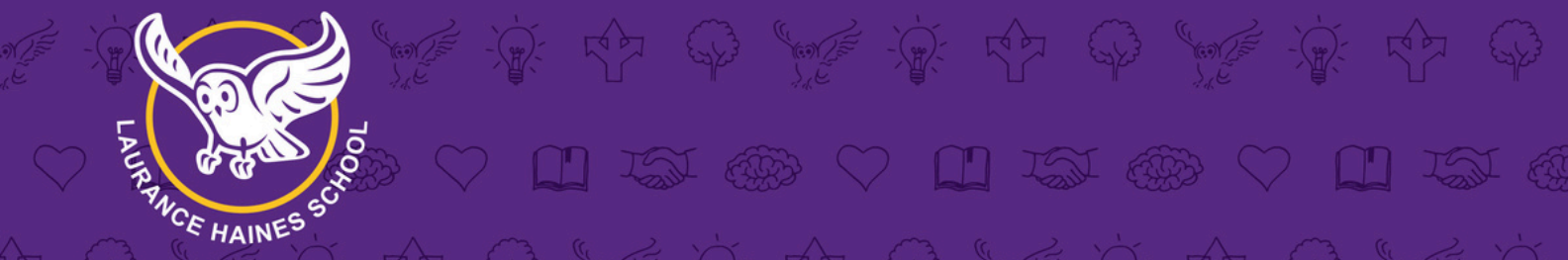
Website: www.carersinherts.org.uk/young-carers

Mrs Furey is happy to help, please contact her at nicolafurey@lhaines.herts.sch.uk for an informal chat or to arrange support from The Young Carers team.

Remember, young carers provide wonderful support to their families, but they shouldn't miss out on their childhood, education, or opportunities because of their caring role. With the right support in place, young carers can thrive both at home and at school.

Nicola Furey

Pastoral Support Team Leader/Mental Health & Attachment Lead



STAFF CHRISTMAS PANTO

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CHICKEN POX

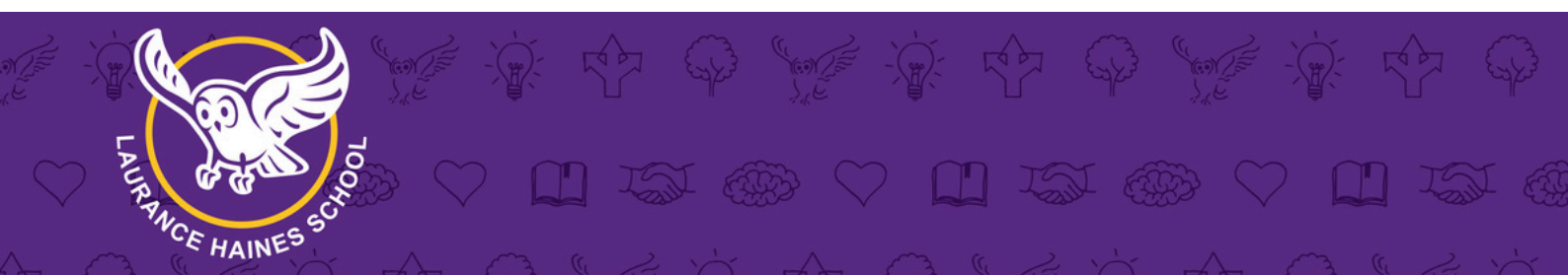
We have several cases of chicken pox reported in our school over the past week. This is a very common childhood illness. Please see the link below for the NHS guidelines on chicken pox.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/chickenpox/>



We are delighted to introduce some new members to our team this term:

Mrs. Walsh - SEN Teaching Assistant
Mrs. Bhatt - SEN Teaching Assistant




SEND NEWS



Supporting Siblings of SEN Children

Siblings of children with SEND may need extra support too. They might have questions, feel overlooked, or need help understanding their brother's or sister's needs. We're here to help your whole family thrive!

 **Need support?** Please speak to Michelle Connell (SENCO) or Nicola Furey (Pastoral Lead).



Books

"My Brother is Different" - Louise Gorrod

"Can I Tell You About Autism?" - Jude Welton

"All My Stripes" - Shaina Rudolph



Websites

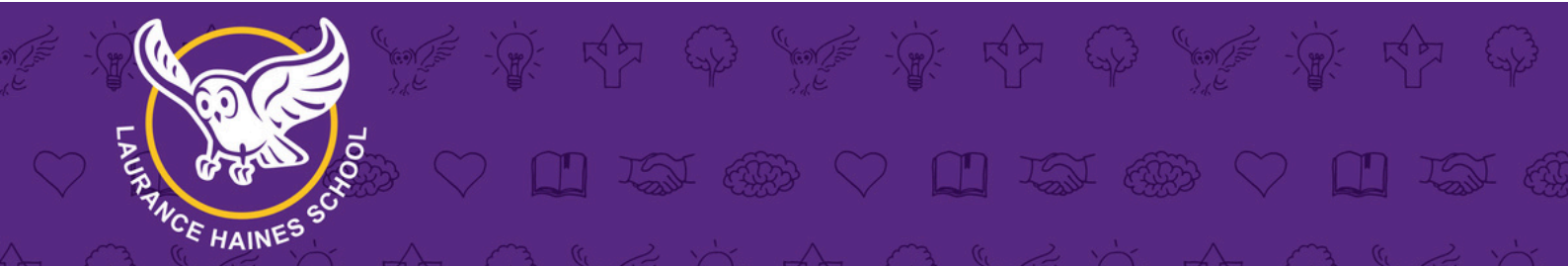
sibs.org.uk

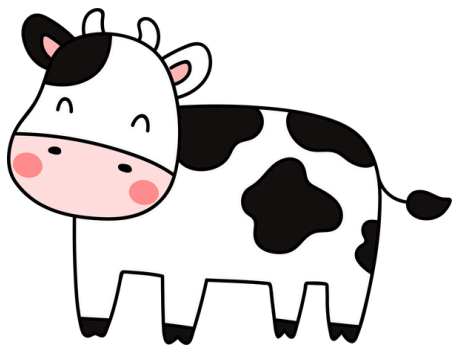
contact.org.uk

youngminds.org.uk

NURSERY POPPY ART

This week, the Nursery has been creating some beautiful poppy art.





MILK SPRING 2026

Please note that the introduction of free school meals to all KS1 children does not include free milk.

The following arrangements apply:

Milk is free for all children in Nursery, and those in Reception who were born after 27th March 2021

Milk is also free for children in KS2 who receive free school meals.

For all other children you will need to pay if you wish for them to have milk.

Payment must be made online via Arbor by Monday 15th December. Please make payment on Arbor you will now need to:

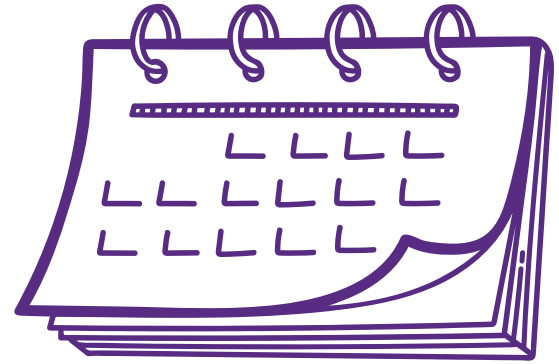
Go to "School Shop"
Select "School Shop Products"
Select "Milk for Spring 2025"
Click on quantity and select "1"
Select "Buy Product"
Select "Pay Now" and then make payment.

Please contact the school office if you have any problems.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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



November 2025

Friday 28th November - Beauty and the Beast Pantomime

Friday 28th November - Deco Day PM

December 2025

Thursday 4th December - 2nd Round of Flu Jabs

Wednesday 10th December – Christmas Dinner Day

Monday 15th December - Nursery Christmas Concert (10.30am -11.00am & 2.30pm - 3.00pm)

Tuesday 16th December – KS1 Nativity AM & PM Performances (Timings to be confirmed)

Wednesday 17th December - Reception Christmas Play (9.15am)

Friday 19th December – Carol Concert KS1+ KS2 (Timings to be confirmed)

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

January 2026

Tuesday 6th January - Return to School

Tuesday 27th January - Holocaust Memorial Day

Friday 30th January - World Hijab Day

February 2026

Week beginning 9th February - Feel Good Week

Week beginning 9th February - Parent Consultations

Tuesday 10th February - Safer Internet Day

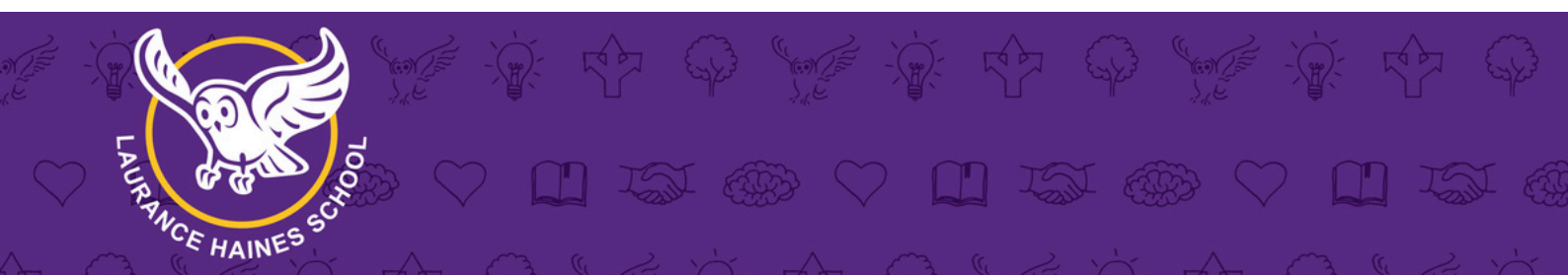
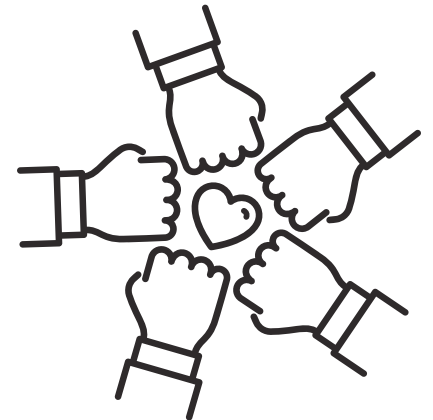
Tuesday 17th February - Chinese New Year

Tuesday 17th February - Ramadan

Tuesday 17th February - Chinese New Year

Dates may vary

Further dates and times to be shared with parents in due course

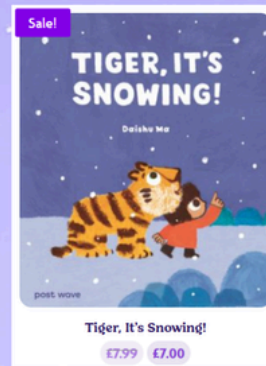


READING CORNER



Help us earn books for school!

Here's a few of the books on offer in this festive book fair! There are lots of other great books to see there, too. Simply order online and books will be delivered free to school by 17th December. For every 10 books you buy, our school earns two books FREE!!



**ORDER BY
12th DECEMBER**



Scan the QR code to visit the Book Fair



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

