



# NEWSLETTER

19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2025



MERRY CHRISTMAS

## A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Families,

As we reach the end of another busy and rewarding term, I wanted to take a moment to thank you for your continued support. Your partnership with us makes such a difference to your children's education and wellbeing, and we're grateful for the trust you place in us every day.

This morning, we held our annual carol service at the church, and what a wonderful occasion it was! The children's singing was, as always, absolutely beautiful. Their enthusiasm, joy, and talent shone through every song, and it was a privilege to see them perform with such confidence and pride. Thank you to everyone who attended and joined us in celebrating the season together. Moments like these remind us why we do what we do—building a community where every child can shine.

Parent Governor Vacancy – Exciting News!

When we advertised for a parent governor position, I am absolutely thrilled to let you know that three parents have come forward to put themselves forward for this important role. This is fantastic news and shows the strength of commitment within our school community.

Please turn to the next page to read their write-ups and bids for the position. In the New Year, we will be hosting a vote, so it's important that you read these carefully so that you can make an informed decision about who you would like to represent the parent voice on our governing body. Each candidate brings valuable experience and perspectives, and we're fortunate to have such strong interest in this role.

Wishing You a Wonderful Break

As this term comes to a close, I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable break. To those families who celebrate Christmas, I wish you a very happy Christmas filled with joy, warmth, and time with loved ones. Whatever your plans, I hope this time brings you rest, laughter, and precious moments together.

Thank you once again for everything you do to support our school. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Tuesday 6th January, ready for another term!

Wishing you a safe and happy holiday,

Jo Ball



# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

## Little Wandle Phonics

If you have a child in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2, you may be aware that since the start of the academic year we have been teaching phonics using the Little Wandle phonics scheme. This replaced the previous scheme 'Read-Write Inc which the school had been using for many years.

Little Wandle is well suited to Laurance Haines school. The children stay in class for the core program each day. In Reception classes, they are taught to blend sounds to read words. As the children become more confident with blending, they are then taught to spot digraphs (two letters that make one sound) and trigraphs (three letters that make one sound) in words. When writing, they use segmenting fingers to spell words. In addition to this they are taught to read and spell tricky words (words that cannot be sounded out) Assessments are then completed every six weeks to help identify children who may require extra support.

Running alongside this each week are the three reading practice sessions. Books are chosen to match the children's phonic stage. Each session focusses on a different aspect of reading, decoding, expression and comprehension. At the end of the week reading practice books are loaded up onto our online reading portal - Collins Hub, to be read at home.

This week in the Reception and Year 1 Little Wandle parent meetings, we shared the successful impact we have had with Little Wandle so far. In January we look forward to working with English Hubs who will support us further in our Little Wandle journey.

Yuk Wharton  
Year 1 class teacher



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# CHRISTMAS DINNER DAY

The children and staff had a truly delightful time at the Christmas Dinner on Wednesday, December 10th. The afternoon was brimming with joy, featuring the excitement of pulling Christmas crackers, festive music, and, of course, a spread of delicious food.



# RECEPTION NATIVITY

What an outstanding performance the Reception team delivered with their nativity show! We are truly proud of each and every one of them!

# NURSERY MEETS SANTA

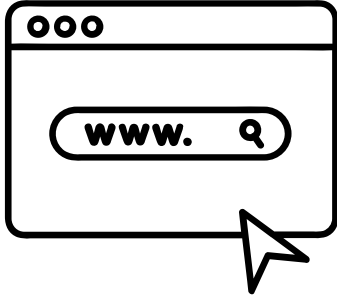
Nursery were very excited to have a surprise visitor stop by nursery this week!



# SEND NEWS

Please below a link to Herts hub a great information source for Hertfordshire's Children and Young People's Mental Health Services (CYPMHS) System

<https://www.hertshub.co.uk/>



# CELEBRATING PAST STUDENTS



Punandi is a student who left us last year - sister of Saven. She won the Hertfordshire Police Christmas card competition. We are all very proud of her

# YEAR SIX GEOGRAPHY FIELD WORK

Last week, Year Six participated in a Geography field study by conducting a local traffic survey in the vicinity of the school. Their goal was to identify the most frequently used modes of transportation and to count the number of cars on the road.

In addition, Year Six contributed to the community by taking part in a litter-picking initiative!



# PROSPECTIVE PARENT GOVERNOR

We are so thrilled to have three prospective parent governors come forward for the role. Please read their write ups carefully and decide who you would like to represent your voice.



I'm interested in the becoming a school parent governor to bring all the skills I have developed over the past two decades to benefit the school which my child attends. Since leaving school myself in 2001 I've worked with young people in a variety of different capacities from mentoring young people, running youth clubs and youth boards. To travelling into schools throughout the UK teaching financial education to young people aged 5 -25, with a charity I worked for, for 9 years. I've also life coached adults for the past 15 years, which will help me connect with other parents from the school and bring ideas and concerns that come from the parents to the school, as well as bringing a reasonable voice from the school to the parents. I'm also aware that there is a proception not enough Black men get involved in contributing to the needs of the schools in the UK. I want to be one of the people that changes that narrative. I hope you consider my expression of interest as I believe having me onboard will elevate the governance within the school. - Carl Clarke

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I have a great passion for working with children, young adults and in the education sector. I currently work as a LSP (Learning Support Practitioner) and have a strong commitment to support children and young adults with both additional needs academically and emotionally. I am passionate and am fully committed to the schools mission and vision to provide a respectful, nurturing and inspirational environment for all learners. As a parent and a Learning Support Practitioner I understand the importance and interest of ensuring every child receives the best possible education required; I believe my viewpoint can help and support a balanced decision. I want to contribute a positive environment where children are able to thrive, be confident and reach their full potential, alongside where families are heard and feel represented. I would love to welcome the great opportunity by becoming a parent governor where I can help strengthen the relationship between the school and parents. I am eager to contribute my skills, enthusiasm, dedication and community focus to the role of Parent Governor and to help support the schools success - Irram Naqvi

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I am excited about the opportunity to serve as a Parent Governor and contribute to the continued success of our school community. With over 15 years of professional experience in finance, planning and institutional management, I bring a wealth of expertise in operational oversight, strategic planning and stakeholder engagement.

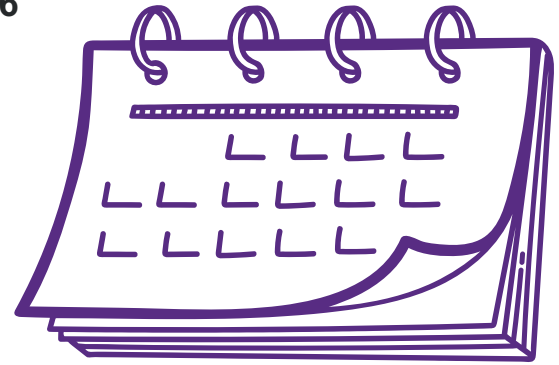
My career has spanned roles in finance, content analysis, and senior leadership within education and various business sectors, where I have managed diverse projects including budgeting, KPI development, IT systems implementation and policy design. I have worked with senior leadership and other organisational teams, contributing to committees focused on organisational performance, transformation and innovation while delivering with efficiency and success.

I pride myself on strong communication, problem-solving and critical thinking skills, combined with the ability to lead teams and collaborate effectively. I am approachable, open-minded and committed to representing parents' voices fairly. My goal is to ensure transparency, inclusivity, and the best outcomes for all children at our school - Jawaria Asad



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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



## December 2025

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

## January 2026

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January - Return to School

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January - Holocaust Memorial Day

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January - World Hijab Day

## February 2026

Week beginning 9<sup>th</sup> February - Feel Good Week

Week beginning 9<sup>th</sup> February - Parent Consultations

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February - Safer Internet Day

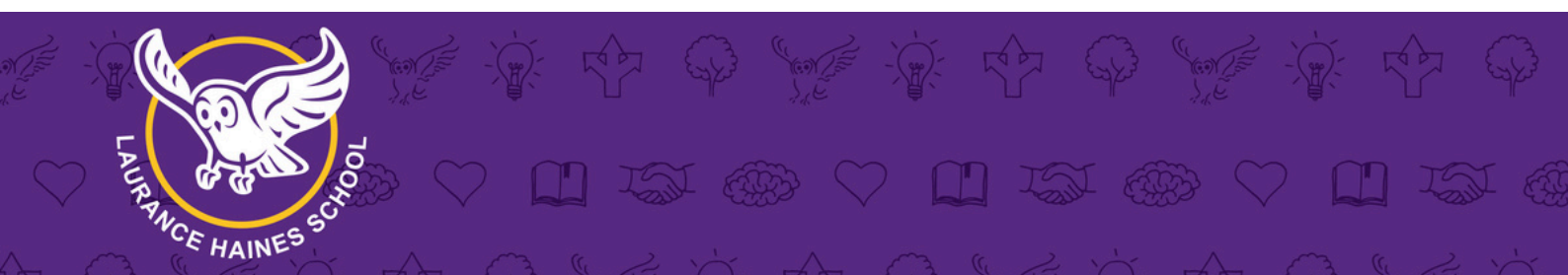
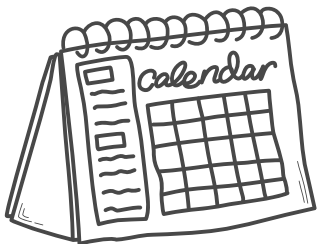
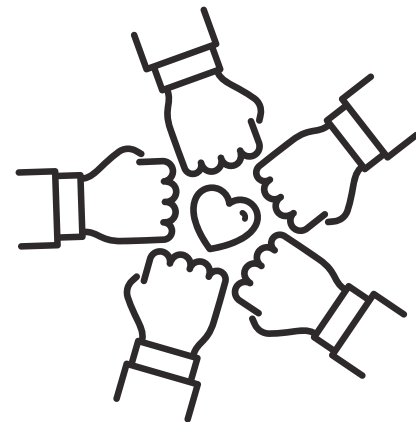
Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February - Chinese New Year

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February - Ramadan

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February - Chinese New Year

Dates may vary

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





# READING CORNER



## Reading Over the Christmas Holidays

The Christmas holidays are the perfect time to curl up somewhere cosy with a good book! Whether you enjoy funny stories, exciting adventures, magical tales or facts about the world, reading a little each day helps keep your imagination growing and your reading skills strong.

Over the holidays, why not visit the library, reread an old favourite, or try a brand-new book you've never read before? You could read on your own, with a grown-up, or even to a younger brother or sister.

We would love you to choose your favourite book you read over the holidays and write a short book review to bring back to school. You could tell us:

- The title and author
- What the book was about
- Your favourite part
- Why you would (or wouldn't!) recommend it to a friend

We can't wait to hear all about the wonderful books you discover. Happy reading and have a magical Christmas holiday!





# PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) CHRISTMAS 2025



[moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free](https://moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free)

## ANGUS STEAKHOUSE

Kids under 8 eat FREE daily, 12pm to 5pm

## ASDA

Kids eat for £1 daily, with no adult spend

## ASK ITALIAN

Kids under 10 eat for £1 during school holidays

## BELLA ITALIA

Children eat free Sunday - Thursday

## BILLS

2 Kids Eat Free on Boxing day 2025

## BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE

2 Kids Eat Free Breakfast with one paying adult

## CAFE ROUGE

Kids Eat FREE 12-4pm every day of the week

## COCONUT TREE

Kids eat FREE from Fri 19th Dec - Sun 6th Jan 2026

## DOBBIES GARDEN CENTRES

Kids eat for £1 with an adult breakfast or lunch

## FUTURE INNS

Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal

## GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS

Kids under 10 eat FREE all day, every day

## IKEA

Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am

## LAS IGUANAS

Kids under 12 eat FREE with 'My Las Iguanas' App

## MARSTONS PUBS

from 29th Dec - Jan 9th 2026 in selected locations

## MARCO PIERRE WHITE

Kids under 12 Eat FREE daily with an adult spend

## MORRISONS

Kids Eat FREE all day, every day with a £5 spend

## PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM

Kids eat FREE with every £4 spend all day

## PREMIER INN

2 kids eat for free with 1 adult breakfast

## PRETO

Kids up to age 10 eat free with 1 paying adult

## PUREZZA

Kids under 10 get free pizza with every adult meal

## SA BRAINS PUBS

Kids eat for £1 on Wednesdays

## SIZZLING PUBS

Kids eat for £1, Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm

## TABLE TABLE

2 Kids Eat free breakfast daily with 1 paying adult

## TGI FRIDAYS

Kids Eat Free with any adult meal (Via App)

## THE REAL GREEK

Kids under 12 eat FREE Sundays with £10 spend

## TRAVELODGE

2 kids eat for free with 1 adult breakfast

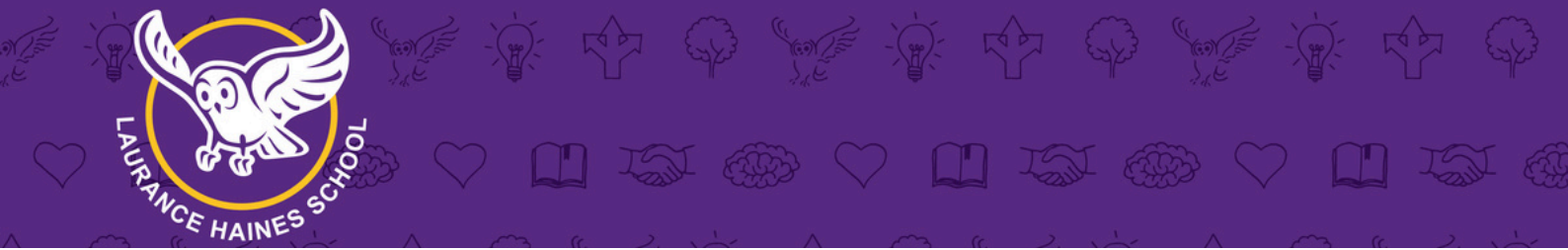
## WHITBREAD INNS

2 kids eat for FREE with 1 adult breakfast

## YO! SUSHI

Kids eat free all day (weekdays) in school holidays

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# 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;

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



# NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION LEVEL UP CODING SKILLS



For Age Group 5 -15, Fully aligned with the UK National Curriculum and enhanced with Python, Machine Learning, and Artificial Intelligence (AI)

EXPLORE A WORLD WHERE  
KIDS PLAY USING CODING



SCAN QR CODE TO  
BOOK FREE TESTER  
SESSION NOW



VISIT OUR WEBSITE

<https://www.codeninjas.co.uk/watford-ldn-uk>