



NEWSLETTER

16TH JANUARY 2026

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Dear Families,

We are excited to announce our upcoming Parent Governor elections! At the end of last term, we shared information about this important opportunity for parents to join our governing body and help shape the future of our school.

Key Information:

- Full details about the Parent Governor role and candidate statements are included in this newsletter
- Voting will open at the end of this week via a Google Form sent directly to all parents
- Please take time to read through the candidate information and cast your vote

Parent Governors play a vital role in our school's strategic leadership, ensuring that the parent voice is heard in key decisions about our children's education. If you have any questions about the process, please don't hesitate to contact the school office.

ATTENDANCE - Thank You!

We want to take a moment to thank all our families for the excellent attendance we've seen this term after some very low attendance last term. This was down to a few very nasty bugs but it has been wonderful to see our children return to school ready and eager to learn!

Why Every Day Matters:

Regular school attendance is one of the most important factors in your child's success. Children who attend school consistently:

- Make better academic progress and achieve higher results
- Develop stronger friendships and social skills
- Build confidence and resilience
- Establish good habits for their future education and careers

Even a few days of absence can add up quickly. Missing just two days per month means your child misses nearly 10% of their education - that's almost four weeks of learning over a school year.

We understand that illness happens, but wherever possible, please ensure your child attends school every day. If your child is struggling with attendance or you need any support, please reach out to us - we're here to help. We do also have the option to send medication in with your child including over the counter ibuprofen and paracetamol.

Thank you for your continued partnership in your child's education. Together, we can ensure every child has the best possible start.

Wishing you a safe and happy week,

Jo Ball
Headteacher



Welcome Parents and Carers to 2026 – the National Year of Reading, where the message is:

‘If you’re into it, read it!’

[Watch this short video about the campaign – Go All In!](#)

This UK-wide campaign, led by the Department for Education and the National Literacy Trust, represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to transform our relationship with reading. ‘Go all in’, is all about transforming reading from being seen as a chore, to encouraging children to read about the everyday things they already love! Statistics around reading for pleasure show that reading enjoyment is at an all-time low:

- Only **1 in 3 (32.7%)** children and young people aged 8 to 18 say they enjoy reading in their free time - the lowest level recorded since tracking began in 2005.
- Only **18.7%** (less than 1 in 5) of 8 to 18 year-olds report reading something daily in their spare time.
- Reading enjoyment remains significantly lower among boys. In 2025/2026, just **25%** of boys aged 8 to 18 reported enjoying reading, compared to **39%** of girls.
- Over **25%** of all UK children leaving primary school (age 11) currently do not reach the expected reading level for their age.

We at Laurance Haines have been on a mission to change our reading culture for well over a year now and we only want to build on the amazing work we are already doing. But we need your help! We can only do so much with the children in school – we want our reading culture to extend into every corner of our school community – which includes you and what our families are doing at home!

But how do we encourage children to read and get them interested? There is a documented need to align reading with children’s personal interests and media habits in order to encourage a love of reading in their free time (see motivators below). You can also encourage your children to read more through a few simple actions – it doesn’t take much to get them more interested – you could be the key!

Key motivators to Read:	Simple ways to encourage your child to Read:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Books tied to films or TV series.● Books with visually appealing covers.● The freedom to choose what they could read.● Hearing recommendations from friends, family or teachers.● Encouraging reading through a variety of formats.● Consider using digital formats	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Let your children see you reading – newspapers, recipes, articles about your interests.● Connect reading to their passions: Does your child love dinosaurs? Gaming? Space? Find books, magazines, or websites about those topics.● Make it a routine to read. Even 10 minutes of reading together at bedtime makes a difference.● Libraries are treasure troves of free resources and will have special events throughout the year – definitely worth a visit!● Talk about what you’re reading and share what interests you alongside asking your child about their reading.

Our staff at Laurance Haines are dedicated to creating the best reading environment and culture here for your children and we have seen major improvements in fluency, comprehension and interest in books and reading in the last academic year. This year, we will be taking on board this campaign message and be ‘going all in’ with how we continue to approach reading and its importance.

You will be seeing a lot about this campaign over the next year so please look out for information about how to get involved. There will be events, competitions and more! Also, if you have any ideas or suggestions of ways we can improve our reading culture, please do get in touch!

Our next event will be the very popular Winter Bedtime Stories – on Thursday 29th January 2026 in the lower hall at 4.30pm. Please bring your mats, PJs, snacks and a good book, ready to get cosy and enjoy reading altogether again.

We look forward to seeing you there and to all the ways we will enjoy reading this year.

Happy reading! **Mrs Goss, Reading Lead**

SEND NEWS

F

Face to face



Get down to your child's level

O

Observe



Observe what your child is playing with and follow their lead

L

Label



Label what your child is playing with using single words and phrases

L

Limit questions



Limit the number of questions you ask your child - use comments instead

O

Opportunities



Create natural communication opportunities within everyday activities

W

Wait



Wait and pause to give your child the time and chance to communicate

This is a great website to get information about your child's language development with lots of lovely games and activities to try

https://linktr.ee/EYFOLLOW?utm_source=linktree_profile_share&sid=2e3cf738-f4f7-4ef3-8e3f-f5e7f2dc1a29

PARENT CONSULTATIONS

An email has been sent on the 16th of January to all parents and carers with information regarding the upcoming parent consultations which will be held from Monday 9th February - Thursday 12th February. Please take some time out to read the 'how to guide' on booking your consultation with your child's class teacher. The booking system will go live at 6.00pm on Thursday 22nd January.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

January 2026

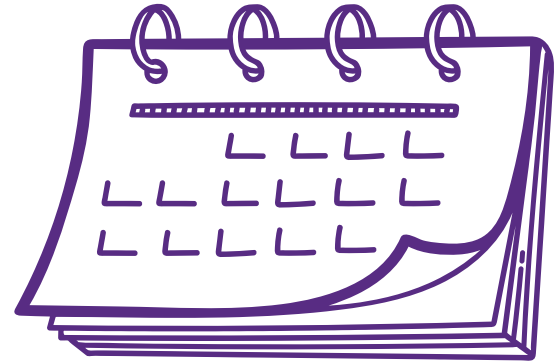
Tuesday 27th January - Holocaust Memorial Day
Friday 30th January - World Hijab Day
Friday 30th January - Author Visit

February 2026

Week beginning 9th February - Feel Good Week
Week beginning 9th February - Parent Consultations
Tuesday 10th February - Safer Internet Day
Monday 16th February - Friday 20th February - Half Term - No School
Tuesday 17th February - Chinese New Year
Tuesday 17th February - Ramadan
Friday 27th February - Community Iftar

March 2026

Tuesday 3rd March - Celebrating SEND Day
Thursday 5th March - World Book Day
Week beginning 23rd March - Eid Picnic
Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April - Easter Holidays - No School



Don't
Forget!

A reminder to Reception and 30 hour nursery parents, if you haven't already done so please complete the toothbrushing consent form and hand into the school office. Thank you!



MR GORTON



It is with deep sadness that we inform you of the passing of Norman Gorton, who died recently at the age of 94.

Many of you will remember Norman, who served our school community with great dedication as our caretaker for many years. Even after his retirement, Norman continued to support our children and families as a lollipop man, ensuring their safe passage to and from school each day. His commitment to Laurance Haines School and the warmth he showed to everyone he encountered left a lasting impression on generations of pupils, staff, and parents.



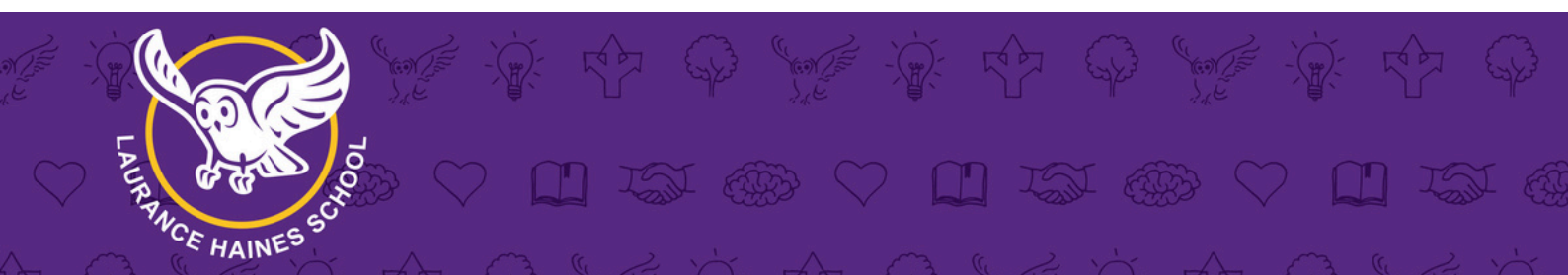
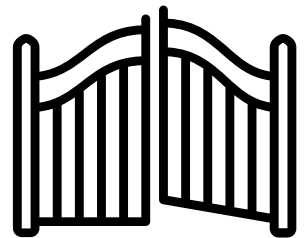
Our thoughts are with Norman's family and all who knew and loved him during this difficult time.

GATE SAFETY

We kindly ask that all parents and carers ensure the school gate is closed securely when entering and exiting the school grounds during school hours.

Keeping the gate closed is essential for the safety of our children and help us monitor visitors on site at all times.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued support in helping us keep our school community safe.



LITTER PICKING



Three lovely students spent a considerable amount of time picking up litter from the school entrance and pathway.

Please help keep our school clean by not dropping or throwing rubbish on the ground and by using the bins provided.

Thank you for your cooperation and care for our school environment.



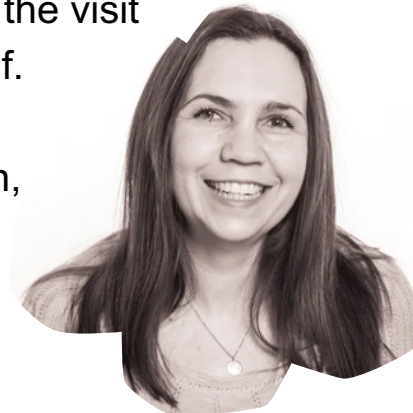
AUTHOR VISIT

We are planning a visit from the award-winning poet, Sarah Ziman on Friday 30th January. Sarah will be in school to discuss her poetry work, deliver some workshops and read to all the children.

The school budget does not cover the cost of this visit and we very much rely on parental contributions. On this occasion we are asking for a voluntary of £1 per child to cover the cost of the visit, which is payable through Arbor.

However, please note that no pupil will be denied participation in the visit on the grounds that no contribution has been made on their behalf.

Please see our email sent on 31st December for more information, including details of the opportunity to buy a copy of Sarah's book for her to sign should you wish.



PIZZA MAKING WORKSHOP

The kitchen company Aspens have been delivering numerous food workshops for our children. Last week, the Year 3 students had the opportunity to make their own pizza's this week.



PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE

We'd really value your thoughts on how we're doing and how we can do better. We've put together a short survey that asks about communication between home and school, how confident you feel about what we're doing, and other aspects of school life. Your honest feedback will help us improve parental engagement at Laurance Haines and across the Inclusive Multi Academy Trust.

Complete the survey here: <https://edurio.com/poll/vxsEVP>

Need to translate this letter? Paste this into the Google Translate website:
<https://translate.google.com/?sl=auto&tl=en&op=websites>



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



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 - Iram Naqvi



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



READING PAGE

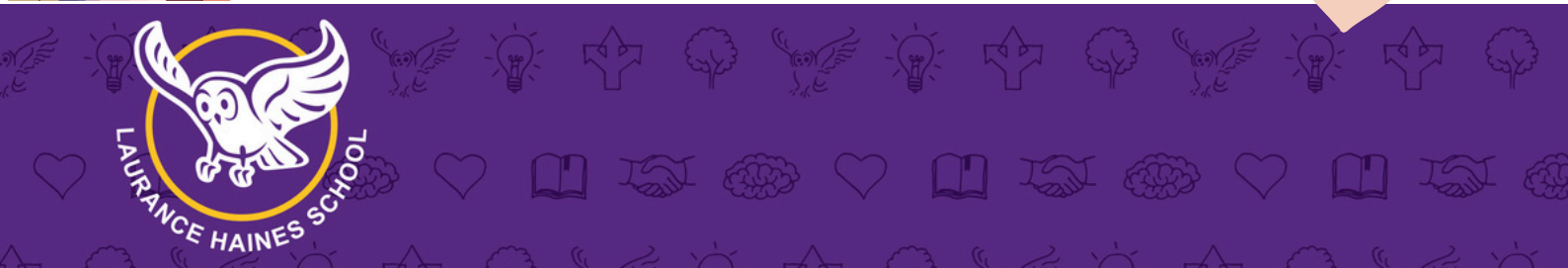


'GO ALL IN' WEBSITE - the main website for the National Year of Reading Campaign - <https://goallin.org.uk/>

PURPLE MASH LIBRARY - To celebrate the National Year of Reading, Purple Mash are gifting users a Library; an online reading platform that's now yours to enjoy at no extra cost, not just for this year, but forever!

- What's inside your gift?
- Over 250 eBooks in a range of genres and topics
- Exciting stories and engaging pictures to motivate all readers
- Home and school access to keep reading going after school
- Included with Purple Mash - built in, with no additional cost
- High-quality non-fiction books from DK Learning
- Online reading journals built in, saving schools even more money
- **HOW TO ACCESS IT?**
- Log in to Purple Mash as usual and click on the Reading icon. From there, you'll find the Purple Mash Library, where you can enjoy the wide range of books.

WINTER BEDTIME STORIES: Thursday 29th January 2026 @ 4.30pm - 5.30pm in the Lower Hall. Bring blankets, something to sit on, comfy clothes/PJs, snacks and most importantly a book to read! Come and enjoy the joy of reading, and share a book with friends and family.



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

