



NEWSLETTER

24TH APRIL 2026

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear all,

Lights, Camera, Action — We're Going Global!

What an extraordinary few weeks it has been! Following the tremendous success of our recent visit from Barclays Bank during World Book Day, I am absolutely thrilled to share some wonderful news with you all.

Our school has been specially chosen to be filmed as part of Barclays Bank's celebrated Storytellers Programme — a programme that has been nominated for a prestigious global award. This is a remarkable recognition, and we are incredibly proud to be featured as part of it.

We were honoured to welcome the Director of Blue Peter and Newsround to our school, along with a full film crew and members of the Barclays Bank team. As you can imagine, there was an enormous buzz of excitement throughout the school — and quite rightly so!

I could not be prouder of how our children conducted themselves. The film crew and Barclays representatives were truly astounded — their words, not mine — by the incredible passion, confidence, and articulacy our children showed when speaking about reading. Most movingly of all, our pupils spoke just as enthusiastically about reading at home as they did in school. They were, quite simply, a credit to our school and to every one of your families. Thank you.

A Fresh New Look for Our Website

We have also recently welcomed a professional photographer into school to capture brand new images for our school website. Keep your eyes peeled — these will be appearing online very soon!

We were incredibly fortunate that the sun decided to shine, and the photographs of our children in their learning environment are simply beautiful. We can't wait for you to see them.

Have a truly wonderful weekend

Jo Ball



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Introducing Peer Mediators — Our Newest Leaders

We are thrilled to announce the launch of our Peer Mediator programme this week.

Peer mediators are trained pupils who help their classmates resolve everyday conflicts independently, fairly and calmly. Disagreements are a natural part of childhood, a falling out between friends or a misunderstanding on the playground. Now, our peer mediators who were trained by Mediation Hertfordshire can help.

How Does It Work?

When a conflict arises, pupils can approach a peer mediator for support. The mediator brings both parties together in a safe, neutral space and guides them through a simple but structured conversation. Crucially, the mediator does not take sides or tell anyone what to do. Instead, they help each child express how they are feeling, listen to the other person's point of view, and work together towards a solution that everyone is happy with.

This process is rooted in restorative practice, an approach that focuses on understanding and repair rather than blame. Children leave the conversation feeling heard, respected and in control of their own resolution.

Why Does It Matter?

The benefits are far-reaching for everyone involved. For the children in conflict, mediation offers a calm, dignified route to resolution. It builds emotional literacy and teaches them that disagreements don't have to mean damaged friendships.

For the mediators themselves, the growth is remarkable. They develop active listening, empathy, patience and the confidence to handle difficult situations with maturity. These are qualities that will serve them in secondary school, in the workplace and in life.

We are enormously proud of the pupils who have stepped forward to train as peer mediators. They are already making our school a kinder, calmer place and that is leadership at its very best.

Nicola Furey
Pastoral Lead



CHILDREN'S LEADERSHIP

At Laurance Haines we firmly believe that leadership begins long before adulthood. By giving children real responsibilities and a genuine voice, we are building confidence, empathy, and character — skills that last a lifetime.

Across the school, pupils can take on a range of meaningful leadership roles. Our School Council ensures every child has a democratic voice in school decisions. Our Eco Council drives our sustainability efforts, championing recycling and environmental awareness. Play Leaders support positive, inclusive playtimes for all and our Youth Ambassadors support with whole school wellbeing projects.

Each of these roles teaches children something invaluable: that they can make a difference.

SEND NEWS

Staying Calm in the Chaos: Simple Strategies for Busy Places

Whether it's a packed shopping centre, a noisy school event, or a crowded family gathering, busy environments can quickly tip children — and parents — into overwhelm. The good news is that a little preparation can make a world of difference. Before heading out, try giving your child a "sensory preview": talk through what to expect, how loud it might be, and how long you'll be there. In the moment, having a quiet focus activity on hand — a small fidget toy, a colouring book, or even a simple I-Spy game — can give an overstimulated child something grounding to anchor to. Don't underestimate the power of the planned exit, either; letting your child know in advance that you'll leave after a certain point removes the uncertainty that so often fuels anxiety. Remember that your calm is contagious. Even a few slow, deliberate breaths can shift the atmosphere between you and your child. Small tools, consistently used, can turn overwhelming outings into manageable — even enjoyable — ones.





International Day is back!

TUESDAY 16TH JUNE · TIMINGS TO BE CONFIRMED

Following the huge success of our previous International Days, we are thrilled to announce that this incredible celebration of cultures, flavours, and talents is returning — and we want *you* to be part of it!



Host a food stall

Share a taste of your culture with delicious dishes from around the world.



Perform on stage

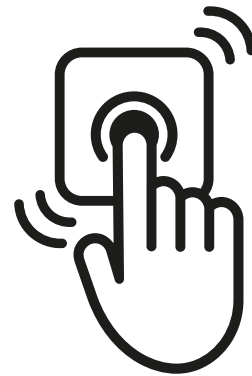
Showcase music, dance, or any performance that celebrates your heritage.

Interested? We'd love to hear from you!
Contact **Mrs Makinson** by email to get involved.

ACCESS INTO SCHOOL

For the safety and wellbeing of our entire school community, we kindly remind all visitors that during school hours, access to the school grounds must be gained by pressing the buzzer at the entrance. This procedure ensures that the school office is always aware of who is on site, which is a vital part of our safeguarding responsibilities for both students and staff.

We greatly appreciate your cooperation and continued support in helping us maintain a safe and secure environment for everyone.



HAVE YOU SEEN OUR NEW SIGN OUTSIDE SCHOOL



You may have noticed a new sign installed outside the school gates. This sign is part of our ongoing effort to create a healthier and safer environment for all our pupils.

The message is simple but important:

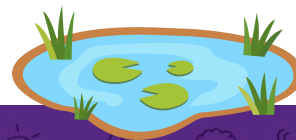
“Don't forget, turn off your engines outside our schools.” Leaving car engines running while parked contributes to unnecessary air pollution. These fumes can build up both inside and outside vehicles, affecting the air our children breathe at the start and end of each day.

By switching off your engine while waiting, you can help reduce pollution and protect the health and wellbeing of everyone in our school community.

We appreciate your support in helping us keep our school environment clean and safe for all.

NURSERY VISIT ALLOTMENTS

This week Nursery took a trip down to the school allotment and talked about what grows. They were looking out for flowers, trees and even noticed plants in the pond growing.



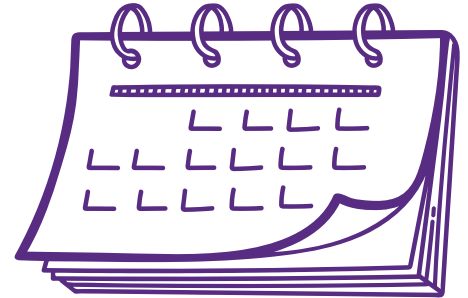
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

Parents are encouraged to join their children on Wednesday mornings for reading breakfast 8.45am - 9.05am

APRIL 2026

Tuesday 21st April - NHS Team to see Reception children - hearing test



MAY 2026

Friday 1st May - School Class Group Photos

Wednesday 6th May - Year 3 Trust Tournament

W/C 11th May - Year 6 SATS

25th May - 29th May - Half Term Break

JUNE 2026

9th June - Portugal Day

16th June - International Day

A Reminder as the Warmer Weather Arrives

With the warmer weather finally making an appearance, please do remember to:

Send your child to school with a water bottle every day — staying hydrated is so important for focus and wellbeing.

Ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the warmer temperatures — comfortable clothing will help them make the most of their day.





READING PAGE



World Book Night

It was a real pleasure to see so many of you on our Google Meet yesterday for World Book Night - we have already had photos in of families reading during the Reading Hour; it is truly magical to see our Laurance Haines community coming together to share such a special and important skill - reading!

Future Plans

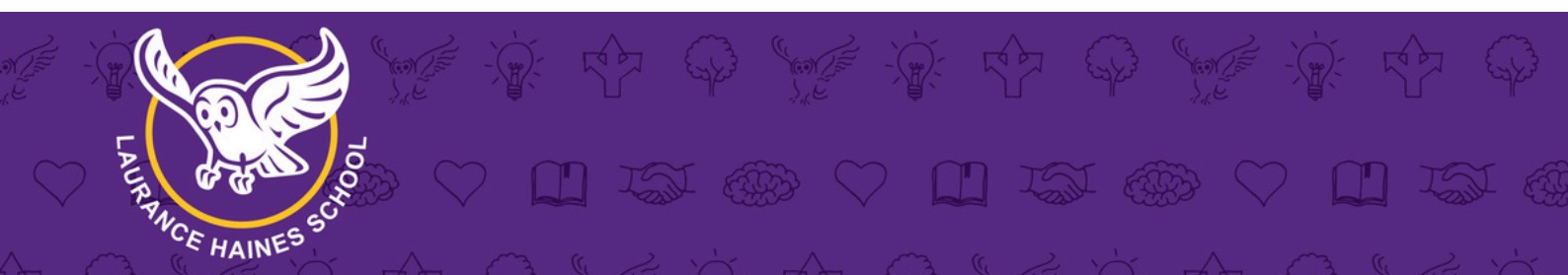
Following the huge success of our Cake and Bake sale for World Book Day, we will be holding another small event to raise money for the school just before half term - look out for posters and further information!

We are also thrilled to announce that we are going to be visiting Watford Central Library again this year! Every child in the school will have an opportunity to visit and experience the library itself. If you/your children are members of Hertfordshire libraries already, your child is welcome to bring their card and borrow books. If you aren't yet - please do ask either at any Hertfordshire library itself or speak to a member of LHS staff - we would be more than happy to support you in joining their free service and allow you and your children to borrow books.

Lastly, I hope to organise a Reading Picnic for families in Summer 2 - again, please look out for further information coming to you after the May half term.

Please continue to read as widely and often as you can - read what you love and go all in! See you all at our next Reading Breakfast on Wednesday.

Mrs Goss



the amateur
RADLETT MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY'S
production of

THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME

© Disney

MUSIC BY ALAN MENKEN LYRICS BY STEPHEN SCHWARTZ BOOK BY PETER PARNELL

BASED ON THE VICTOR HUGO NOVEL
AND SONGS FROM THE DISNEY FILM
ORIGINALLY DEVELOPED BY
DISNEY THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS

13th-17th OCTOBER 2026
THE RADLETT CENTRE
www.rmtc.org.uk/tickets



This amateur production is presented by arrangement
with Music Theatre International.
All authorised performance materials are also supplied
by MTI. www.mtishows.co.uk



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

