



# NEWSLETTER

6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026

## A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Laurance Haines families,

What a special couple of weeks it has been! Our school has been full of colour, warmth, stories and people. Events like the ones we have shared recently are a reminder of just how special this community is, and I wanted to take a moment to celebrate everything that has happened together.

One of the most beautiful evenings recently was our Iftar celebration, and it was everything we had hoped it would be and more. Families joined us from such a wonderfully wide range of backgrounds and cultures and what struck me most was the ease and warmth with which everyone came together, sharing food and connecting whatever their belief or culture.

It was a powerful reminder that our diversity is not something we simply acknowledge; it is something we genuinely celebrate and are enriched by. Ramadan Mubarak to those families celebrating.

This Thursday, our children had a brilliant time learning about Holi, one of the most joyful and vibrant festivals in the world. We explored the story behind the festival: the triumph of good over evil, the arrival of spring, and the spirit of new beginnings that comes with it. Holi Ki Shubhkamnayein to those families celebrating.

Children engaged with the colours, the stories and the meaning behind this beautiful tradition. Learning about celebrations from cultures across our community is not an add-on to what we do, it is central to who we are. We want every child at Laurance Haines to grow up feeling that their heritage is seen and valued, and that the world beyond their own front door is full of wonder worth knowing.

World Book Day this year was, quite simply, wonderful. As always, dressing up was completely optional — and we want to say again how much we mean that. We know that costumes can be expensive and stressful to organise, and we never want any family to feel under pressure.

This year's theme was wear what makes you feel comfortable and it was genuinely lovely to see. Children came in their own clothes, their own costumes, their favourite outfits. What mattered was that every single child felt relaxed, happy and ready to celebrate books.

Across the whole week, children have taken part in book swaps, extended reading breakfasts, special assemblies and much more. The energy and enthusiasm around stories has been a joy to see in every classroom.

Just 10 minutes of reading to or with your child can make such a difference. It doesn't only improve their reading ability, it supports their cognitive development, builds concentration, sparks creativity, and even helps with emotional regulation. Ten minutes. That's it. And it counts whether you're reading to them, listening to them read, or sharing a book together on the sofa.

Wishing you a safe and happy weekend,  
Jo Ball



# IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Over the past few weeks, our school community has been busy celebrating and learning about a range of cultures and religions from around the world. These experiences help our children develop respect, curiosity and understanding of the diverse world we live in.

We began by marking Lunar New Year, where pupils learned about the traditions, symbols and celebrations associated with the festival. It was a wonderful opportunity for children to explore how families around the world welcome a new year with joy and good fortune.

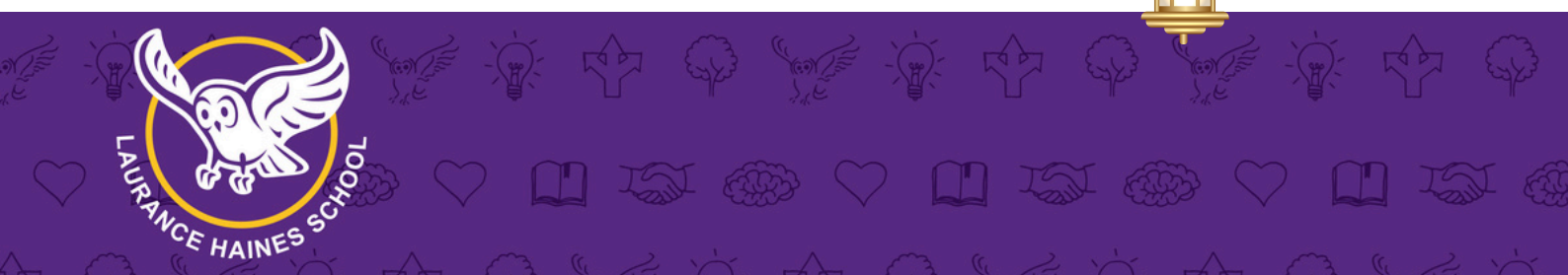
More recently, we were delighted to host our whole-school Community Iftar. Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make the evening so special. It was fantastic to see so many families come together to break the fast, share food and enjoy time as a community. The turnout was amazing and the atmosphere was warm, welcoming and truly memorable. As part of this event, we are also holding a charity collection, so please consider donating using this link: [Sana -](#).

We also brought colour and excitement into school by celebrating the Holi Festival. The children had great fun taking part in this vibrant celebration of spring, throwing coloured powder paint and learning about the meaning of Holi as a festival of joy, renewal and togetherness.

Looking ahead, we are excited for the celebrations still to come. In the coming weeks, we will be learning about and celebrating Easter and the Sikh festival of Vaisakhi, continuing our journey of exploring different faiths and traditions together.

These celebrations are an important part of our school life, helping children learn about different cultures while building a strong sense of community. Thank you to all families and staff who helped make these events such a success!

Sana Chaudry  
Year 3 Class Teacher  
Religious Education Lead




# SEND NEWS

EDUCATION UPDATE · FEBRUARY 2026

## Schools White Paper: *Every Child Achieving and Thriving*

The Government published its Schools White Paper, *Every Child Achieving and Thriving*, on **23 February 2026**, setting out a 10-year plan to reform education and SEND support in England. Key proposals include a broader curriculum, a new four-layer SEND support model replacing EHC Plans with Individual Support Plans, fairer disadvantage funding based on household income, **6,500 additional teachers**, and stronger school-parent partnerships. Implementation will be phased between 2025 and 2030 — **nothing has changed yet**, and existing SEND law remains fully in place until Parliament passes any legislation. A 12-week public consultation is open to everyone — parents, carers, teachers and pupils are all encouraged to take part.


 Read the full White Paper — [gov.uk/government/publications/every-child-achieving-and-thriving](https://gov.uk/government/publications/every-child-achieving-and-thriving)



### HAVE YOUR SAY

**Online:** [gov.uk/government/consultations](https://gov.uk/government/consultations) · **Email:** [SENDAP.Reform@education.gov.uk](mailto:SENDAP.Reform@education.gov.uk)

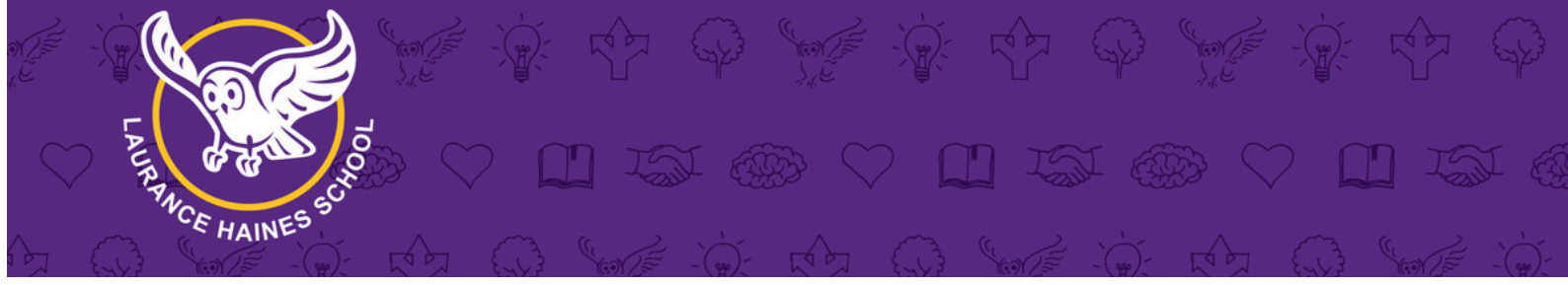
**Post:** SENDAP Reform, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT

 **Deadline:** 18 May 2026 at 11:59pm

# HOLI FESTIVAL



On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> the children enjoyed celebrating Holi which is a major Hindu festival, celebrated as the festival of Colours, Love and Spring



goodbye

## GOODBYE AND THANK YOU

Miss Zamir, our wonderful SEN Teaching Assistant, will be leaving us on 13th March. She has been such an important part of our school community and will be greatly missed by both staff and pupils alike.

We will also be saying a fond farewell to Ms Rachel, who will be leaving us on 27th March. She has been a cherished member of our school family and will be greatly missed.

Both Miss Zamir and Ms Rachel have made a lasting impact during their time at Laurance Haines School, and we are incredibly grateful for their dedication and care.

We wish them every happiness and success as they begin their new adventures — they will always be part of our Laurance Haines family.

## WHOLE SCHOOL IFTAR

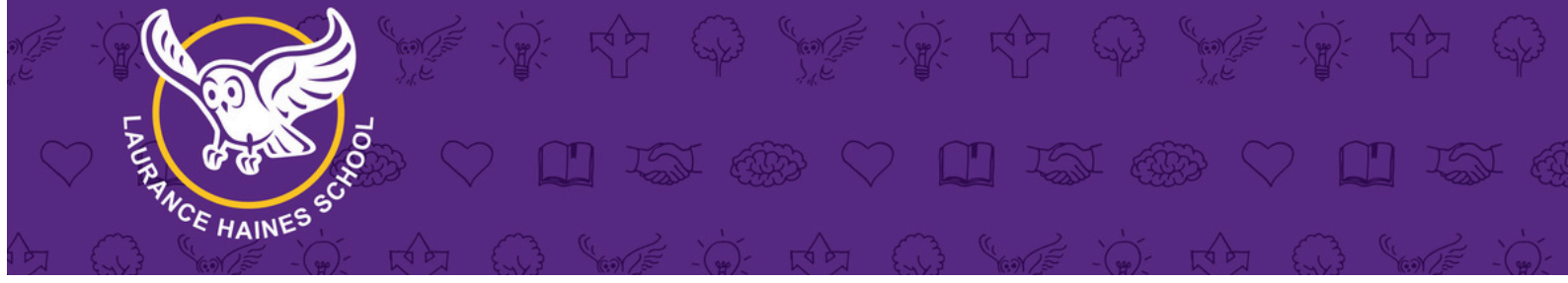
It was truly wonderful to see so many of our families come together to celebrate our whole-school Iftar on 27th February. The evening was a beautiful reflection of our strong community spirit, as students, parents, and staff gathered in unity to mark such a meaningful and special occasion.

A special thank you to The Trust for providing the drinks and desserts and also a big thank you to Mr and Mrs Farooq for providing the delicious food



## NURSERY

This week the nursery children have been helping Spring along by sticking blossom to branches for the window display.



# 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

## March 2026

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March - Secondary School Allocation Day

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March - Celebrating SEND Day

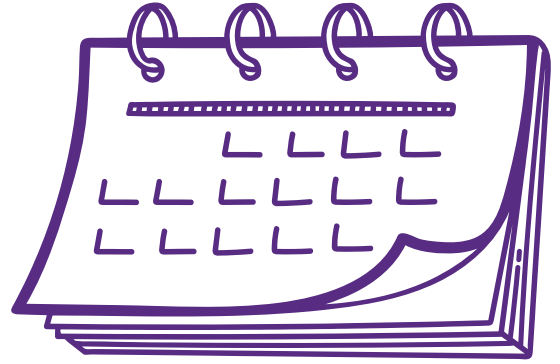
Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March - World Book Day

W/C 9<sup>th</sup> March - Year 6 MOCK SATS Week

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March - Watford FC trip for Year 5

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March - Year 4 Trust Tournament

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March - Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April - Easter Holidays - No School



## APRIL 2026

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April - Back to school

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April - NHS Team to see Reception children - hearing test

## MAY 2026

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May - Year 3 Trust Tournament

W/C 11<sup>th</sup> May - Year 6 SATS



## CELEBRATING ATTENDANCE

Our attendance has continued to improve week on week this term.  
Attendance today is 98% Thank you to all of our children and  
families for working with us to improve our attendance.





# READING PAGE

We had a truly fantastic book day yesterday. The assembly hall was filled with Harry Potters, princesses and even a solar system! We also had a huge number of children who clearly love to read wearing pyjamas - myself included! I was thrilled to see everyone excited and joining in with the day which celebrates reading!

Please remember some of the key messages from assembly: Reading can be fun and can be a hobby.; you can read about your hobbies too! Reading can also be hard but that just makes it all the more rewarding! And lastly, if you're into it - read it!

Have a great weekend and maybe use some of it to read!

Mrs Goss - Reading Lead



# WORLD BOOK DAY TOKEN



**WORLD BOOK DAY**

5 March 2026

## £1 Book Token



Uski Uski Uski Uski is exclusive to Wales only. Against All Odds is not suitable for younger readers.

### Choose your £1 book for free!

**Children, families & educators:** This token is for single-use only and entitles children (under 18) to **ONE FREE World Book Day 2026 book** or £1 off a book or audiobook costing £2.99 or more in participating booksellers only, subject to stock availability.

Find your nearest participating bookseller at [worldbookday.com/books-and-tokens/participating-retailers/](https://worldbookday.com/books-and-tokens/participating-retailers/)

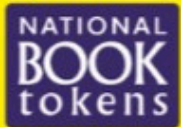
Full terms and conditions: [worldbookday.com/terms-conditions](https://worldbookday.com/terms-conditions)

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Valid from 12 February – 15 March 2026



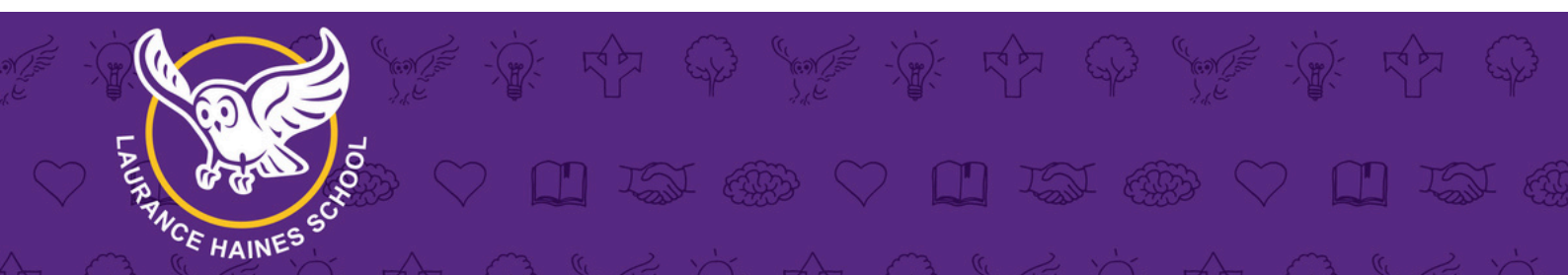
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Discover the incredible world of audiobooks with Yoto. Win a **Yoto Player** and **up to £200** worth of Yoto cards from the large library selection in Yoto's card store.

To enter and for full terms and conditions go to [worldbookday.com/yoto-competition](https://worldbookday.com/yoto-competition).

One entry per person. Winners will be notified shortly after 15 March 2026.

Prize promotion runs from 12 February to 15 March 2026.



# 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

