



NEWSLETTER

23RD JULY 2026

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Dear Parents and Carers,

We want to extend our warmest thanks to our entire school community. It has been a wonderful year filled with growth, laughter, and incredible achievements from all of our children. Your support, partnership, and dedication to Laurance Haines School make our community the wonderful place it is. Looking Ahead: The First Day Back Matters!

As we look forward to the next academic year, we want to make a big push on starting as we mean to go on.

Our first day back in September is incredibly important. The first day sets the tone for the entire term—it is when children establish their new routines, reconnect with friends, meet their new teachers, and ease any transition anxieties. Missing the first day means missing out on vital settling-in time. We want to see every single face shining and ready on day one! Let's work together to make sure every child starts the year with 100% attendance.

Attendance and Persistent Absenteeism: Our Data

We know that for children to thrive socially, emotionally, and academically, they need to be in school. This year, our overall school attendance figures of 93.9% are just above national data of 93.14%, which is a testament to the hard work of so many of our families. Thank you. However, we still have some areas that require our collective focus:

Our Year in Numbers

- Across most of our year groups, our persistent absenteeism rate sat at 11.2%. This means more than 1 in 10 children missed a significant amount of school.
- Two of our year groups in particular had significantly higher rates of persistent absenteeism than the rest of the school, one at 17.5% and the other at 27.6%
- These figures bring our persistence absenteeism figure to 17.8% which is just under national at 18.66% but I know we can do better



Next year, we will be working incredibly hard and closely alongside these two year groups, providing targeted support and partnering with families to ensure we get these figures back on track. Every day of school missed is a missed opportunity for your child to shine.

We always strive to work in partnership with our families in a warm and nurturing way. However, we also have a duty to remind our community of the strict legal frameworks surrounding school attendance.

Following national changes, schools now have significantly less autonomy and flexibility when it comes to authorising absences or managing term-time holidays. The local authority fining system is strictly monitored, and penalty notices are issued under national guidelines for unauthorised absences.

We strongly urge all families to plan holidays and travel strictly within the school holiday periods. We want to avoid any financial penalties for our families, but we must adhere to these national rules. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding in keeping our children in school where they belong.

Finally, we want to wish you and your families a restful, safe, and incredibly happy summer holiday. We hope you get to enjoy some sunshine, some quality family time, and some well-deserved relaxation.

Thank you once again for a brilliant year at Laurance Haines. We cannot wait to welcome you all back, on time and ready to learn, on Wednesday 2nd September 2026

Warmest regards

Jo Ball
Headteacher



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Celebrating an incredible year in PE

As we come to the end of another fantastic **academic year**, we would love to take this opportunity to celebrate the achievements, participation and **the enthusiasm** shown by all of the children in physical education this year. It has been a year filled **with sporting success**, with year groups winning tournaments against other schools from the trust. **Children have showed** consistent teamwork and resilience towards others and have showed fantastic **personal growth within sport**. In PE lessons children have embraced every opportunity to challenge themselves **both in lessons and** extracurricular activities.

Curriculum Highlights

Throughout the year children have experienced a broad and balanced PE curriculum, developing their skills, confidence and understanding across a wide range of sports and physical activity. From invasion games, dance, fitness, striking and fielding and outdoor activities. All children have worked hard to improve their physical and personal skills.

Clubs and extracurricular activities

Our extracurricular programme has continued to thrive, with children attending a wide range of breakfast and after-school clubs. Participation has been outstanding, with many children taking advantage of opportunities to develop new skills, improve fitness, and enjoy being active with their friends.

Sports days

One of the highlights of the year was our annual Sports Days. The event showcased incredible determination, teamwork, and school spirit, with students competing enthusiastically in both track and field events. With the winning house being

1st Gade- 966 points

2nd-Chess- 957 points

3rd-Ebury- 946 points

4th Colne- 911 points



Congratulations to the overall house winner Gade but more importantly, Congratulations to all of the children for their participation in this year's sports days. Thank you to all of the parents and family members that were able to join us for these events. Thank You!



I would like to thank all students, parents, carers, staff, coaches, volunteers, and supporters who have contributed to another successful year. Your encouragement and commitment have helped create a positive sporting environment where every student has had the opportunity to grow and succeed.

We are already looking forward to another exciting year of PE and school sport. We hope to build on this year's successes by introducing new clubs, expanding competitive opportunities, and encouraging even more children to get involved.

We wish all of our children and families a safe, enjoyable, and active summer break. Keep moving, stay healthy, and we look forward to seeing everyone back next academic year, ready for another fantastic year of sport!

Mr Confait
PE Lead

SEND NEWS

ALL PARENTS & CARERS WELCOME

SEND Coffee Morning

Come for a chat, stay for the support

A relaxed drop-in for any parent or carer who'd like to meet others, share experiences, and find out how we support children with special educational needs and disabilities at our school. No question is too big or too small — just come along, grab a coffee, and say hello.

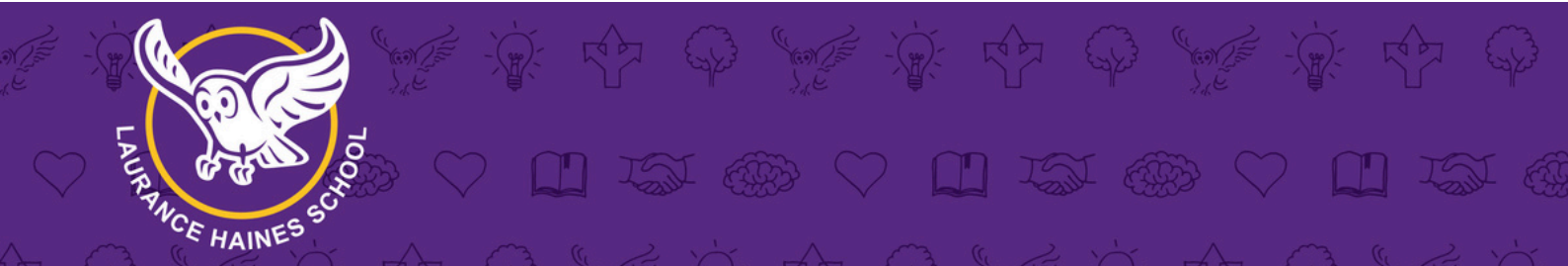
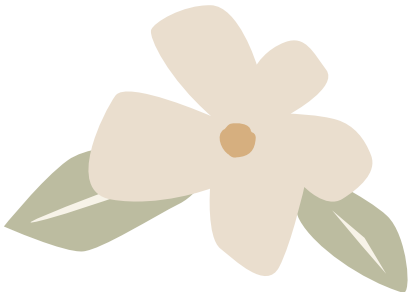
DATE	Friday 25th September
TIME	8.45 – 9.30am
WHERE	The Community Room

What to expect

- A friendly, informal space — no need to book, just turn up
- A chance to meet other parents on a similar journey
- Information on the support and resources available to your child
- Tea, coffee, and good company

Everyone is welcome — whether your child has a diagnosis, is going through the assessment process, or you simply have questions about SEND support at school.

We'd love to see you there.



GOODBYE YEAR 6

Goodbye and good luck to our wonderful Year 6 pupils as you leave Laurance Haines and begin your exciting next chapter at secondary school.

It has been a privilege to watch each and every one of you grow into such kind, caring, and thoughtful young people. We are incredibly proud of all that you have achieved and the amazing individuals you have become.

Although you're moving on, remember that you will always be part of the Laurance Haines family. Our doors will always be open, and we would love for you to come back and visit us to share your news and say hello.

As you embark on this new adventure, we hope your time at secondary school is filled with exciting opportunities, wonderful friendships, and memories that will last a lifetime. Believe in yourselves, embrace every challenge, and continue to grow, shine, and thrive.

Good luck, Year 6 – we can't wait to see all the incredible things your future holds! 🌟



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 in class on
Wednesday mornings for reading breakfast 8.45am - 9.05am

JULY 2026

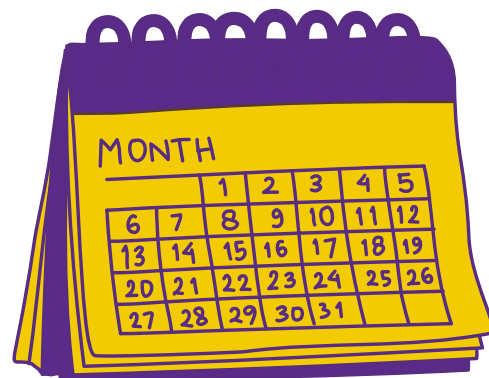
Tuesday 21st July - Year 6 Leavers Play - Check your emails for details
Wednesday 22nd July - Year 6 Leavers Party - Check your emails for details
Thursday 23rd July - Year 6 Leavers Assembly - Check your emails for details
Thursday 23rd July - Last Day of Term finish at 1.30pm

SEPTEMBER 2026

Wednesday 2nd September - Back to School
Thursday 3rd September - Nurture Day

OCTOBER 2026

Tuesday 6th October - Open evening
Friday 9th October - Hello Yellow Day
Wednesday 21st October - Flu Vaccines First Round
Friday 23rd October - Harvest Festival
w/c 26th October - HALF TERM - NO SCHOOL



NOVEMBER 2026

Monday 2nd November - INSET DAY - NO SCHOOL
Wednesday 11th November - Remembrance Day
Monday 16th November - Odd Socks Day
Thursday 26th November - Flu Vaccines Second Round
Monday 30th November - Deco Day

DECEMBER 2026

Wednesday 9th December - Christmas Dinner Day
Friday 18th December - End of Term - Finish at 1.30pm





READING PAGE



SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Year 1 and 2 - Our Summer Reading Challenge is to 'read as much as you can' Each time you read, colour part of their Rainbow Reading Log, try and colour as many rows as you can.

Year 3 - Read as many books as the letter in your name, if you want an extra challenge read the amount of books in your middle and last name too!

Year 4 - This summer, children are invited to take part in a fun and flexible Reading Challenge! With a range of creative tasks — from reading outside to following a recipe — pupils can use books and materials they already have at home. They're encouraged to keep a simple record with short reviews or drawings to celebrate and share their reading in September. Details posted on Google Classroom!

Year 5 - We are inviting all children joining Year 5 to take part in our Summer Reading Bingo Challenge! Complete fun reading activities on your Bingo card to earn a Bronze, Silver, or Gold award. Bring your completed card back in September so we can celebrate your fantastic reading achievements. We can't wait to hear about all the amazing books you've enjoyed. Happy reading!

Year 6 - Our Summer Reading Challenge is to 'read our teachers height'! We will measure the width of the spines of all the books we read over the summer, add the totals and see if we can get it close to (or even more than) our teachers height in cm.

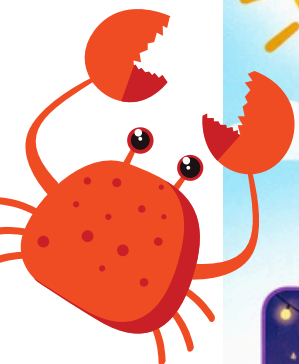
Remember - everything you read counts, so get measuring!

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/news-and-campaigns/summer-reading-challenge.aspx>



READ -a- BOOK





FREE SUMMER FUN IN WATFORD!

PERFECT
FOR FAMILIES,
KIDS & TEENS!

Exciting, family-friendly activities right on our doorstep
this summer – and they're all completely **FREE!**



THE BIG SCREEN IN WATFORD (TOWN CENTRE & WOODSIDE)

Enjoy free, family-friendly outdoor cinema screenings.

Town Centre: 3rd – 9th August

Woodside: 10th – 16th August

No booking required!



THE BIG BEACH (WATFORD TOWN CENTRE)

From 14th – 30th August, the seaside
is coming to Watford!

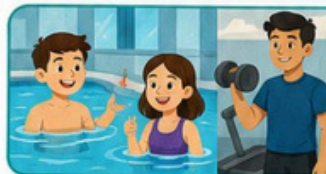
Complete with sand, deckchairs, and
beach toys by the Central Library.



CASSIOBURY PARK SPLASH POOLS & BANDSTAND

Pack a picnic and head to our local gem.

- Enjoy the splash pads (no booking needed)
- Free live music at the bandstand on Sunday afternoons!



UNDER 19s FREE SWIM & GYM

Watford Leisure Centres are offering free
gym and swimming sessions for young
residents under 19.

27th July – 28th August



WAT'S ON SUMMER

A fantastic programme of free supervised holiday
activities, sports, and crafts for ages 5–15
running across various Watford parks.

★ Pre-booking is required on their website.

AGES
5–15

☀️ HAPPY HOLIDAYS! ☀️

We wish you and your families a restful, safe, and incredibly happy summer holiday.
We hope you get to enjoy some sunshine, some quality family time, and some well-deserved relaxation.

♥️ THANK YOU FOR A BRILLIANT YEAR – SEE YOU SOON! ♥️



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

