



Friday 16th October 2026

Update Letter

Dear Parents and Carers,

An energetic and exciting week at school! We had our first visit of the year from our new Hackney Education School Improvement Partner. His name is Calvin Henry, and he spent the day observing teaching, speaking with pupils and leaders and getting to know our setting and our School Development priorities. Calvin was very impressed with what he saw, and he praised the relationships between staff and pupils, the excellent behaviour around the school and the quality of teaching.

We also hosted our first Local School governing body meeting of the year, where we reviewed our school performance data from last year and took the governors through our school development priorities in more detail.

This week has been jam-packed with enrichment activities! Year 2 continue to enjoy Forest School, Year 1 went out to the Postal Museum, Year 5 visited the Hackney Archives, and our school choir went to Daubeney to perform as part of Black History Month. We've also introduced dance sessions during lunchtime which have brought great fun, talent and some humour along the way.

It has also been very pleasing to see such wonderful parental engagement with our School Development priority number 4! This is about developing opportunities to broaden cultural understanding and enhance pupils' personal development. Across the school we have had parents coming in to talk to classes and share their cultural highlights with children and staff. The impact on the children has been wonderful – so thank you for taking the time to support the school with this.

As part of this School Development Priority, the whole school have been learning about the African continent this half-term. This learning will culminate in a whole school Africa Day on Thursday 22nd October. Each year group has been assigned a different African country to explore and will create artwork inspired by artists from that country.

The countries assigned to each year group are:

- Nursery – Morocco
- Reception – South Africa
- Year 1 – Zimbabwe
- Year 2 – Kenya
- Year 3 – Seychelles
- Year 4 – Nigeria
- Year 5 – Algeria
- Year 6 – Senegal

To help make the day even more special, we invite children to come to school dressed either in the colours of their allocated country's flag or in traditional African clothing, if they have access to it. Please do not feel under any pressure to purchase a new outfit—children are welcome to wear clothing in the colours of their country's flag using items they already have at home.

For lunch, we'll be taking our taste buds on a delicious journey with a flavour-packed African Fusion. A fragrant Chicken or Vegetable Tagine, bold flavours of Jollof rice, finished with a sweet Kenyan tea biscuit for the perfect ending to this adventure!

Christmas Trees:

Once again, we will be offering parents the chance to purchase a Christmas Tree through ParentMail. Please look out for the shop items from Monday 19th October. (See attached flyer for further information)

Prices are:

- 4ft - £35
- 5ft - £45
- 6ft - £55
- 7ft - £65

To recap on dates:

- Order deadline 19th November
- Order list to me 20th November
- Delivery to school 3rd December
- Collection day 6th December from Connor Gate

Please see below for list of key dates:

Event	Date / Time / Location
Year 2 trip to London Zoo (Poplar)	19/10/26
Year 2 trip to London Zoo (Hawthorn)	21/10/26
Year 3 Pupil Workshop – Mobile Zoo	21/10/26
Africa Day at Lauriston	22/10/26
Last Day of Half-Term	23/10/26 (3:30pm Finish)
First Day of Autumn 2	Monday 2nd November
Year 6 trip to Imperial War Museum (Oak)	4/11/26
Year 6 Parent Workshop - SATs	4pm on 4/11/26
Year 6 trip to Imperial War Museum (Scots Pine)	5/11/26
Reception and Year 6 Height & Weight Health Check	9/11/26
2nd Flu Vaccine Rec- Year 6	11/11/26
Sports Trip – Netball	12/11/26
Follow up Flu vaccine visit	20/11/26
Year 3 Trip to Hackney Empire (Panto)	25/11/26
Parent Evenings (School Closes at 3pm)	30/11/26
Parent Evenings (School Closes at 3:30pm)	1/12/26
Lauriston Winter Fair	5/12/26
Nursery Christmas Performance	10am on 8/12/26
Reception Christmas Performance	2:15pm on 9/12/26
Year 2 Christmas Performance	2:15pm on 10/12/26
Lauriston Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day	11/12/26
Year 4&6 Festive Singing	3:30pm on 14/12/26
Year 5 Panto Performance for parents	6pm on 15/12/26
Year 1&3 Festive Singing	3:30pm on 16/12/26
Last Day of term	1pm Finish on 18/12/26
Inset Day – School Closed	04/01/27
First Day of Spring 1	05/01/27

Have a wonderful weekend everyone!



Louis Harris
Head of Lauriston School