

Class Names

At Lime Academy, Ravensbourne we have decided to call our classes after inspirational disabled people. Here are some of the reasons that we chose these class names.



Wonder – Stevie Wonder

– Musician **Stevland Hardaway Morris** (born May 13, 1950), known professionally as **Stevie Wonder**, is an American singer-songwriter and musician, who is credited as a pioneer and influence by musicians across a range of genres that includes [rhythm and blues](#), [pop](#), [soul](#), [gospel](#), [funk](#), and [jazz](#). A virtual [one-man band](#), his use of [synthesizers](#) and other [electronic musical instruments](#) during the 1970s reshaped the conventions of [R&B](#). He also helped drive the genre into the [album era](#), crafting his [LPs](#) as cohesive, consistent socially conscious statements with complex compositions.

He was born six weeks premature which, along with the oxygen-rich atmosphere in the hospital incubator, resulted in [retinopathy of prematurity](#), a condition in which the growth of the eyes is aborted and causes the [retinas](#) to detach, so he became blind.

Weir – David Weir – Paralympic Athlete **David Russell Weir** [CBE](#) (born 5 June 1979) is a British [Paralympic wheelchair athlete](#). He has won a total of six gold medals at the 2008 and 2012 Paralympic Games, and has won the [London Marathon](#) on eight occasions. He was born with a [spinal cord transection](#) that left him unable to use his legs

After the race, Weir said: "It was a childhood dream to win the London Marathon and I'm extremely happy with how the race went. I was sure people were going to catch up with me when I made a break away but they didn't. It was brilliant to cross the line first and with a personal best time

Along with coach Jenny Archer, Weir runs the Weir Archer Academy (launched April 2013). The academy's goal is to increase participation in disability sport and nurture the next generation of Paralympians.





Reeve – Christopher

Reeve – Actor **christopher**

D'Olier Reeve^W (September 25, 1952 – October 10, 2004) was an American actor, director, and activist, best known for playing the [titular main character](#) in the film [Superman](#) (1978) and its first three sequels.

Born in [New York City](#) and raised in [Princeton, New Jersey](#), Reeve discovered a passion for acting and the theater at the age of nine. He studied at [Cornell University](#) and the [Juilliard School](#) and made his Broadway debut in 1976. After his acclaimed performances in *Superman* and *Superman II*, Reeve declined many roles in action movies, choosing instead to work in small films and plays with more complex characters.

On May 27, 1995, Reeve broke his neck when he was thrown from a horse during an equestrian competition in [Culpeper, Virginia](#). The injury paralyzed him from the shoulders down, and he used a wheelchair and ventilator for the rest of his life. From his wheelchair, Reeve returned to creative work, directing [In the Gloaming](#) (1997) and acting in the television remake of [Rear Window](#) (1998)

Keller – Hellen Keller

Born June 27th b 1880 and died June 1st 1968. Writer, journalist, activist, ambassador, deaf, blind... Helen Keller's life was defined by what she *could* do. Illness rendered Keller deaf and blind as a baby, before she could fully grasp the concept of words or what they described. But thanks to the pioneering work of teacher Anne Sullivan, Keller not only learnt to read and write but went on to graduate from University. Keller's writing and activism did much to raise awareness of disability around the globe at a time when a lack of rights and inferior treatment of disabled people was common. Confounding prejudice and changing attitudes, the way she lived her life helped disabled people the world over.





Hawking – Stephen
Hawking CH CBE FRS FRSA
Professor Stephen Hawking
was a very clever scientist.

A theoretical physicist, cosmologist, and author who, **at** the time of his death, was director of research at the Centre for Theoretical Cosmology at the University of Cambridge He wrote many best-selling science books.

At the age of 22, he was only given a few years to live. But he lived to 76 and became one of the world's greatest scientists.

Stephen said he didn't learn to read properly until he was eight years old.

When he was a young man, he liked to drive his electric wheelchair too fast. He ran over the toes of some students!

Later on, because of his disease, he was only able to speak with a special computer. He controlled it by moving his cheek.

He was responsible for new theories about the Big Bang and wrote the book A Brief History of Time.

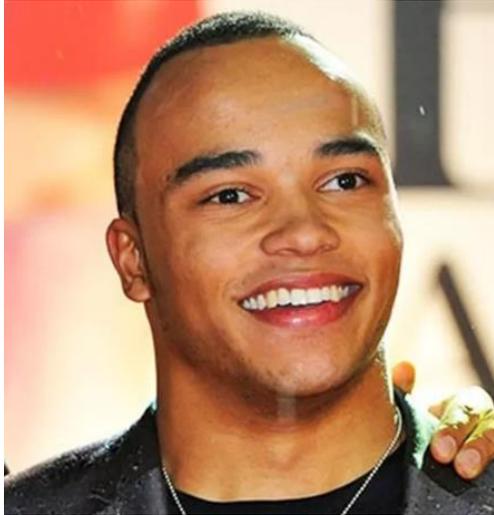
Simmonds – Ellie
Simmonds OBE–
Paralympic Swimmer

Eleanor May Simmonds, [OBE](#) (born 11 November 1994^[1]) is a British former [Paralympian](#) swimmer who competed in [S6](#) events. She came to national attention when she competed in the [2008 Summer Paralympics](#) in Beijing, winning two gold medals for Great Britain, despite being the youngest member of the team, at the age of 13. In 2012, she was again selected for the Great Britain squad, this time swimming at a [home games in London](#). She won another two golds in London, including setting a World Record in the 400m freestyle, and a further gold medal at the [Rio Paralympics in 2016](#), this time setting a world record for the 200m medley.

Simmonds has three sisters and a brother.^[6] She studied Psychology at [Loughborough University](#)

She won the 2008 [BBC Young Sports Personality of the Year](#) award. She is an ambassador for [The Scout Association](#) and is very involved with charity work, with much of her focus being on sports, young people and water.





Hamilton – Nicolas Hamilton (Lewis's brother)

Nicolas Hamilton grew up around the racetrack. But unlike his older half-brother Lewis, who is a six-time Formula One world champion, Nicolas never thought he'd get the chance to race competitively.

The younger Hamilton has cerebral palsy -- a disorder which affects around [one in every 400 children](#) in the UK and is the [most common](#) childhood motor disability, globally.

"I didn't think I would have the opportunity to race," explains Hamilton, who is now 28, seven years younger than Lewis.

The condition affects Hamilton's legs and balance, preventing him from being able to flex his ankles and use conventional foot pedals when driving.

Yet, this season, he became the first disabled driver to score points in the [British Touring Car Championship](#) -- a racing series established in 1958.

Hamilton can compete thanks to a specially modified car.

Gaffney – Julia Gaffney – Paralympic Swimmer

Julia spent early childhood in a Russian orphanage, where she had both legs amputated due to congenital limb differences (proximal femoral deficiency in her right leg, fibular hemimelia in her left). Adopted by American parents at age five, she began swimming competitively at age 15 and achieved world-class status within two years, winning six medals at the 2017 World Para Swimming Championships. Two years later she set a world record

Away from the pool: Julia was inspired to start swimming by Jessica Long. She loves to read, fish, and play basketball.

In her own words: "Being a Paralympian is an amazing experience. There are some amazing Paralympic athletes. They are just really cool. I feel like I have a family there. It has been so rewarding. I've learned to be a leader, I've learned confidence, I've learned to value myself."





Bayley - Will Bayley MBE – Paralympian Table Tennis World Champion

Will was born on 17th November 1988 in Tunbridge Wells. He was born with arthrogyriposis, a rare congenital disorder that affected all four of his limbs, Will underwent numerous operations at Great Ormond Street Hospital from the age of three months old.

He returned to Great Ormond Street for chemotherapy when he was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma at the age of seven and it was while recovering from cancer that his grandmother bought him a table tennis table.

The rest, as they say, is history. Will won his first major title at the European Championships in 2011 then took silver in London 2012 and followed that by becoming World champion in 2014 and Paralympic champion in 2016.

In December 2016 Will was awarded the Bill McGowran Trophy for 'outstanding achievement in Paralympic sport by a male athlete' by the Sports Journalists Association and he received an MBE in the New Year Honours List. He reclaimed the World number one ranking in men's class 7 after winning tournaments in Italy, Slovenia and Japan in 2019 and later that year won the hearts of the nation as a contestant on BBC TV's Strictly Come Dancing. He then went on to win 2 silver medals at Tokyo 2020.

Grey-Thompson - Tanni Grey-Thompson DBE

is a Welsh [politician](#), [television presenter](#) and former [wheelchair racer](#) who suffers with Spina Bifida

Grey-Thompson's [Paralympic](#) career started in the 100m at the Junior National Games for Wales in 1984.

Her international career began in 1988 in [Seoul](#), where she won a bronze medal in the 400m. As a young athlete she also competed in [wheelchair basketball](#). Her fifth and last Paralympic Games were in Athens (2004) where she won two gold medals in [wheelchair racing](#) in the 100m and 400m. In total in her Paralympic career she won 16 medals (11 gold, four silver and a bronze) and also 13 World Championship medals (six gold, five silver and two bronze).

Over her career, she won a total of 16 Paralympic medals, including 11 golds, held over 30 [world records](#) and won the [London Marathon](#) six times between 1992 and 2002.





Ade Adepitan - Ade Adepitan MBE – wheelchair basketball medalist, TV presenter

As a presenter, he has hosted a range of travel documentaries and sports programmes for [BBC](#) television. Adepitan is an award-winning disability advocate and one of the first physically disabled television presenters in the UK, with a career that spans 21 years.

Adepitan was born in [Lagos](#). As an infant, he contracted [polio](#), resulting in damage to his legs that left him a wheelchair user. At the age of three, he moved with his family to the United Kingdom, where he grew up in [East London](#). Becoming a wheelchair basketball player, he was part of the British team that played at the [2004 Summer Paralympics](#), securing a bronze medal. Involved in a range of charities promoting access to sport for disabled people, in 2005 was made a [Member of the Order of the British Empire](#) (MBE) for services to disability sport.

At the age of three, Adepitan and his mother emigrated to the [United Kingdom](#) to join his father; who lived in the [London Borough of Newham](#). He was educated at Southern Road Primary School in [Plaistow](#) which he credits with helping him with his disability and problems at home. From an early age, he had aspirations of becoming an international sportsman.

Kitty Alexander

Aged seven, Kitty was like any other young girl her age: full of life with a passion for sport. Then one seemingly normal day, Kitty was taken to hospital after a virus began attacking her spinal cord, leading to permanent damage.

“It was all such a huge shock to start with,” remembers Lucy Alexander, who was working on the popular BBC show, *Homes Under the Hammer* at the time

Spending time on a life support machine in intensive care at Evelina St Thomas Hospital, Kitty was diagnosed with transverse myelitis. The condition leads to inflammation of both sides of one section of the spinal cord, for Kitty she experienced the inflammation on her T10 vertebra causing paralysis from the waist down.

For Kitty, being only seven, she explains illness so early on. “I just got on with it. I think had I been older, it would have been so much harder. I learnt to adapt to my surroundings and challenges.

“It was hard but I had positivity around me, and I always tried to make the best of a bad situation and feel I’ve come out stronger as a person. I worked so hard with all my physios to practice wheelchair skills and transfers,” adds Kitty.

Nearly ten years later, Kitty has been determined not to let anything hold her back; instead adapting and flourishing. One way the family has worked together to overcome the challenges they faced was to continue life as normal.

