RavensbourneNews

https://twitter.com/LARavensbourne

www.limeacademyravensbourne.org

Message from SLT

Last reminder for parents that received a letter to let you know you can come in to share the performance from Bamboozle next Wednesday. **Bamboozle Theatre Company ethos** aligns beautifully with our vision of creating meaningful, respectful experiences for our pupils. Parents are invited to share the magic, and we're thrilled that Bamboozle will return in the spring with a new show designed for our ASD learners.

Santa's Grotto – 16th-18th December

Mark your calendars just over one week to go till Santa pitches up camp at Ravensbourne before he sets out on his major work this year. There will be plenty of festive treats for all to enjoy. This is a fantastic way to get into the holiday spirit and support our school community.

Christmas Jumper Day

This was a great way to spread some festive cheer on Thursday this week. It was great to see so many pupils and staff sporting lovely bright Christmas jumpers wearing their favourite Christmas jumper! We raised almost £100 for Save the Children.

Christmas dinner

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On Thursday this week we were treated to a fabulous Christmas dinner by our amazing catering team lead by Lisa Redpath.

She and Jade, our kitchen assistant delivered Christmas dinner in style for pupils and staff. It was a lovely Christmas time together either for those pupils that have lunch as a class and for those too in the Hall.

The SLT team took on the role of front of house on the day and helped by providing waiter services.

Jack and the Beanstalk at Queens

We'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the amazing staff who made it possible for Hamilton Class to attend the Christmas Pantomime *Jack and the Beanstalk* at the

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Queen's Theatre in Hornchurch.

This year's performance was a brand-new reimagining of the classic fairytale, packed with original songs, live music, and plenty of festive fun.

It was wonderful to see our pupils engaging in a show that celebrated creativity and community spirit, offering an inclusive and magical experience for all. Watching the children's faces light up as they connected with the performance was truly a treat!

Thanks to the dedication and care of the staff who accompanied them, the pupils had a safe and enjoyable morning out, creating memories that will last long after the final curtain call

Staff training this week.

This week staff have been working on our physical development work. Specifically, this focused on staff considering how we use the hall space to deliver: Rebound, Sherbourne development movement, sensory circuit work. The staff worked on devising new wauys to remove barriers for pupils with HI VI MSI and encourage engagement when pupils dysregulate. We hope to use the feedback from staff early next term to build a continuous program on two days each week one for young people to come along with staff support and engage in the hall..

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Pupils of the week

Dylan in Keller Class: For fantastic engagement with the cosmo switches and taking turns with one of his peers to play the games.

Anna in Gaffney Class: For engaging in the Christmas art activities and happily exploring the different objects through her senses

dates to Remember

10/12 Bamboozle Theatre 'Airship' performance for some PMLD classes

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16-18/12 Grotto for school classes daytime and open to public 4pm-7pm.
17/12/25 second theatre trip to Queens
19/12/25 Autumn term last day

05/12/26 first day of spring term

Safeguarding

This week, in safeguarding briefing we have been doing meaningful work in understanding the key differences between the umbrella term safeguarding and the specific area of child protection. We did three scenarios with the staff to build confidence and understanding of how they should work towards all pupils being safe and well supported at Ravensbourne. We shared the worksheet and the scenarios via email after the session so that staff had an ongoing reference to draw on.

Welfare

We have been very lucky to engage with three charities this year that have funded Christmas gifts for some pupils at school. We collected gifts from one charity this week and are looking forward to receiving the others next week. We will send these home in the last week of the term.

We had a great coffee this week on Wednesday led by LIsa Webb, our deputy. Lisa talked to parents about our new AAC communication iPad and the GRID software that we have installed to promote better communication across the whole school. The parents were really intrigued and interested in the project and what it will mean to those children that can access the iPad.

Please see the poster at the end of the newsletter with guide to Havering HAFs at Christmas time that you may be able to access.

Family Voice

The following section is new and will feature direct comments and feedback from our parent cohort at Ravensbourne. This week Clair Drummond Hurst has been very kind to start the ball rolling with some exciting news about the coffee morning we put on this week, EfL Family App and with an offer for parents to join in with a WhatsApp group that currently runs for some but not all parents. We really welcome this development in our newsletter and communications between home and school too. We have already seen a couple of things we can address in Claire's feedback below to improve this for our pupils and families.

I'm pleased to share some feedback from parents regarding EFL and the recent coffee morning. "I use EfL and find it great to see what my child is doing in school and also for the school to see what our children do at weekend."

"I do use it, love seeing the photos."

"I use the EfL and love all the photos and videos on what my child does and what I can try at home. "

"I can't wait to see my child's communication improve once the AAC devices are in use"

"Yes, we use EfL too, but mostly just watching the amazing videos, although sometimes I put a little comment if I know

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that activity is challenging for my child... Or, was challenging... because he is enjoying it now. "

"I love the EfL app; it's lovely to see how our child communicates with the teacher and what she is learning. I have even used the same as the teacher, so the work is consistent. Got to admit, our child's teacher is brilliant, I have seen so much improvement. It's amazing. "

"I could do with EfL information being shared more regularly; it's too random; I have not had anything since mid-October. Perhaps teachers could all share, say every Tue or Fri, just so it's regular."

I love getting videos and photos on the EfL app. It's great to see what my child has been up to. I also try and upload so the teacher can see any progress he's made at, or, if it's something he is finding difficult his teacher can suggest a different way or something else. I have just had his EHCP review meeting and what I had shared on EfL made it easier.

If you still need help using the EfL app, email: lisa.webb@limetrust.org She will be able to check your email address is correct on EfL and send you a link for logging in.

With regards to the Communication Coffee Morning session:

"Communication is key!"

"The AAC devices in school... I think it is great and we hope this will help going forward with communication."

"It's an eye opener, what our child might be able to do in the future."

I really enjoyed the last coffee morning; it's always friendly and welcoming and we have a laugh. Learning about the new AAC communication devices that the school have purchased was really good. My son is non-verbal and to be able to see the devices with the GRID app on and have a go ourselves was a great help in understanding what our children will be learning and to see what might be possible for them.

And generally…

Firstly, how great is it that the newsletter is back! Parents mentioned it was easier when they knew a newsletter was coming on a Friday; they would check their emails and to find a newsletter when they want to check back on something was easier than a random email. This was mentioned at a recent coffee morning and you brought the newsletter back! Thank you.

Parents, please try and come to a parent workshop we are holding soon- date TBC. Lisa Webb (Deputy Headteacher) and Carlette Londjoka (Family Support Worker) are going to be on hand to offer help and support with writing Hospital Passports. Unfortunately, our children are too often at the hospital, and let's face it, not all hospitals are designed for children with special needs. So, additionally, we will be thinking about a second topic - what changes do you know are needed in hospitals? Safe beds, proper changing rooms, more hoists, better understanding of our children? Have anything to add? Please come and have your say at that session, so we can draft a letter to our MP.

Finally, there is a Ravensbourne parents' WhatsApp group and all parents and

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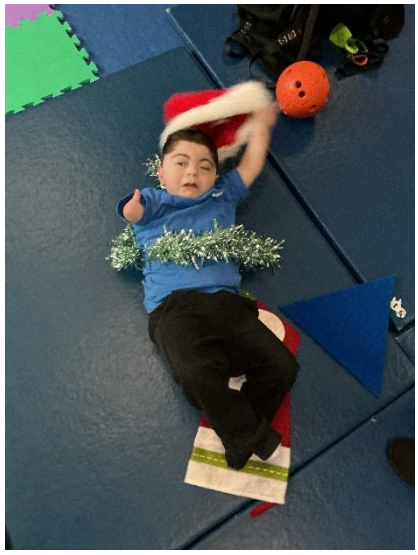
carers are welcome to join. We try and post reminders of school events like the coffee mornings but it's also somewhere you can ask if someone for information such as wheelchair services phone number or if the school bus is on time!

If you would like to join, please use the following link: https://chat.whatsapp.com/FpMhSLGUTMl0xsaVbgelCQ?mode=hqrt3

Claire Drummond-Hurst

The children explored a range of festive activities and used their senses—sound, smell, and touch—to investigate different Christmas-themed resources.



From listening to jingle bells and seasonal music, smelling cinnamon and pine, to feeling tinsel, baubles, and soft 'snow',

And Finally…

Alexander Class
Today we had great fun getting into the Christmas season.

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the class were fully engaged and excited.

It was a wonderful sensory experience that truly brought the magic of Christmas to life in our classroom.

Some images from Jack and the Beanstalk…

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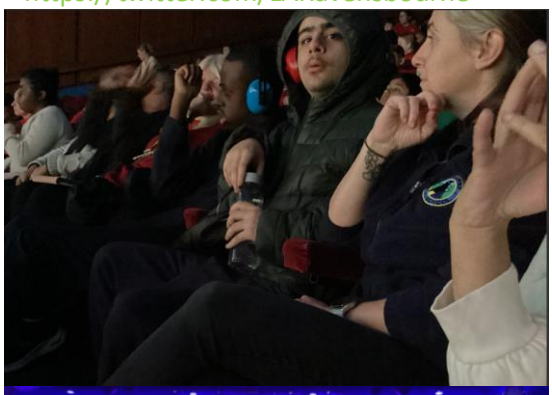

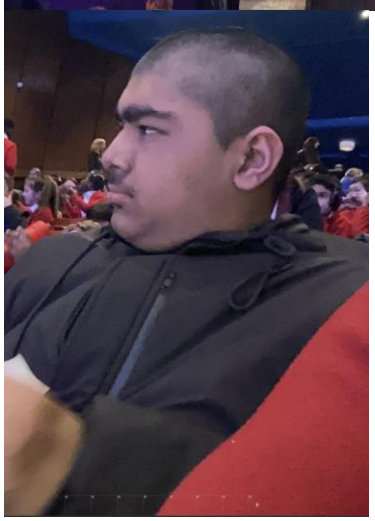

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Lime Academy Ravensbourne
Putting Learners First

Unconditional

Positive

Regard

A sense of worth and belonging for everyone all the time

Recognising the smallest things

Be counter intuitive:
Sometimes we must respond to what someone needs regardless of how they communicate it.

Promote and grow independence.

All moments of the day are important moments!

Anticipate a good time.

Take time and give time.

Understand what frustration and discomfort looks in every child and do all you can to avoid it!

Be open minded. Have no judgement

Gain trust don't expect it!

Celebrate our pupils 'YOUness'!

Expect the best.

Don't let me be Invisible or unimportant to you!

Make sure every experience is a positive experience.

BE: Patient Respectful Comforting Reassuring and Kind

Understand the vibes coming off the young person.

Equity

Compassionate

Valued

Consistent

unconditional "No conditions of acceptance...It is at the opposite pole from a selective evaluating attitude."
Carl Rogers

positive "A warm acceptance of the person. A genuine caring"
Carl Rogers

regard "caring for another with permission to have their own feelings, their own experiences."
Carl Rogers

Unconditional Positive Regard for Ravensbourne Pupils

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- **Respecting Individuality**: Each of our pupil has unique ways of communicating and interacting. By tuning into their individual needs, we can affirm their worth and treat every form of expression—whether verbal, physical, or behavioural—as valuable.
- **Patience and Positive Reinforcement**: Whether a child takes time to respond or communicates non-verbally, patience shows them that they are valued. Celebrate every step of progress, no matter how small, and create an environment of encouragement.
- **Non-Judgmental Responses**: When a pupil has a challenging day, we respond calmly and consistently, focusing on understanding their needs rather than judging behaviours.

Key Takeaway: Every pupil deserves to feel accepted, valued, and safe, no matter their ability or challenges.

Unconditional Positive Regard for Staff

- **Supporting Each Other**: Working with PMLD and complex needs pupils can be emotionally and physically demanding. It's important to support our colleagues by offering help, listening, and refraining from judgment during stressful times.
- **Creating a Positive Work Culture**: Instead of focusing on mistakes, we emphasize progress and collective problem-solving. We assume the best in each other, trust our colleagues' intentions, and work together towards shared goals.

Key Takeaway: A supportive, non-judgmental approach towards colleagues creates a positive and collaborative atmosphere that benefits everyone, especially our pupils.

Unconditional Positive Regard for Families

- **Partnership and Empathy**: Families of PMLD and complex needs pupils may face significant challenges. By listening and showing empathy, we build trust. When they know we respect and understand their journey, they feel more comfortable collaborating with us on their child's care and education.
- **Non-Judgmental Communication**: Sometimes families may express frustration or concern. We respond with understanding, offering support rather than criticism, and involving them in decisions regarding their child's progress.

Key Takeaway: Families should always feel respected, understood, and valued as partners in their child's education.

Unconditional Positive Regard for Visitors

- **Creating a Welcoming Environment**: All visitors, whether professionals or guests, should experience a welcoming, respectful atmosphere. We make sure they feel comfortable, valued, and respected, showcasing the ethos of our school.
- **Professionalism and Respect**: Treating visitors with the same professionalism and care that we show to pupils and staff reinforces a culture of unconditional positive regard across all interactions.

Key Takeaway: Our school's inclusive and respectful values should be evident in every interaction, including with visitors.

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