Friday 6th February 2026

Ravensbourne News

https://twitter.com/LARavensbourne

www.limeacademyravensbourne.org

Message from SLT

Final Final Reminder – Parent Survey

We want to hear from you! Tell us what you love about our school and how we can make it even better for your child. Please complete the survey using the link below.

LINK TO-Parent Experience Survey 2026

The closing date for survey submissions is Friday, 13th February 2026. We would like to remind all parents and carers to complete the **Parent Survey** that has recently been sent out. Your feedback is incredibly important to us, as it helps shape our school development, informs future planning, and ensures that we continue to provide the very best experiences for our pupils and families.

The survey should only take a few minutes to complete, and we truly value every response.
Thank you in advance for taking the time to share your thoughts and help us continue to grow as a school community.

Creativity in the Classroom: Inspired by Gillian Ayres

This week, our teachers took part in an engaging *Creativity in the Classroom* session inspired by the vibrant work of focus artist **Gillian Ayres**. The team collaborated to design a shared canvas that will be used to spark interaction and exploration with our learners.

During the session, teachers reflected on how **colour and texture** can be used to meaningfully engage our **PMLD and ASD pupils**, creating stimulating sensory experiences that motivate learning. We are committed to empowering staff to work collaboratively, sharing ideas and developing unique, bespoke approaches that meet the individual needs of their classes.

The workshop was exceptionally well received and linked beautifully with the creativity-focused session we delivered for parents on Friday morning, helping to strengthen the connection between

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classroom practice and home engagement.

Update on Governance Update:

This message below went out last week too. Please be aware that the Lime Trust board is looking for two parents from across the whole Trust which is 9 schools not just from Ravensbourne. WE do already Have Jo Cripps. She is now a Trustee on the Lime Board and is also our link trustee. She was previously our chair of governors which we are very pleased about. Lime Trust Board Vacancies for 2 Parent Trustees.

You have recently received notification of our 2 Parent Trustee vacancies on our Trust Board.

Should you wish to apply, please complete the candidate application form and return this to

Kelly Smith, kelly.smith@limetrust.org – Our deadline for applications is Friday 6th February 2026.

Shared Learning – Friday 13th February

London Marathon Fundraiser for Our Hydro Pool

We are delighted to share some wonderful news from within our school community. The mother of one of our staff members is running the **London Marathon** this year and has very kindly chosen our school as the charity she will be fundraising for. Her goal is to help us raise money to support the **renovation of our hydrotherapy pool**, a vital resource that plays an important role in our students' physical development, wellbeing, and enjoyment.

This incredibly generous offer reflects the strong sense of care and connection that exists within our community, and we are truly grateful for her commitment to supporting our pupils in such a meaningful way.

If anyone would like to donate or share the fundraising link, it would be very much appreciated—but there is absolutely no pressure at all. Every contribution, big or small, goes directly towards enhancing the experiences we can offer our learners.

You can find the link here:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/helen-murphy-219?utm_medium=CF&utm_source=CL

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We received the following poster through Havering communications it may be something that some families may want to investigate.

Pupils of the week

Elias in Grey Thompson class - for great communication through his sounds and actively joining in with new activities.

Jonah in Hawking class- for walking to Tesco and collecting the shopping from the shopping list.

Temi in Keller class- For vocalising and communicating her choices every day.

dates to Remember

13.02.26 Family shared learning
16.02-20.02 school closed Half term
24.02- Bamboozle for some ASD pupils
05.03-World Book Day
06.03- coffee morning
17.03 St Patrick's Day
Please see poster at end of newsletter with all dates and information.
20.03 Comic Relief
24.03 -parental coffee morning: finance and legal advice
27.03 Inset Day
30.03-10.04 school **closed Easter**

Safeguarding

Reminder: Please Check Bags and Coats

Can all parents please remember to check pupils' bags and coats for any items that may have been left in flaps or pockets. We know that bags and coats are sometimes shared between siblings or other family members, and mistakes can happen.

Recently, we have had a couple of instances where items were left in a pupil's bag or coat by accident. It is very important that we avoid anything being brought onto site inadvertently, as this can pose a risk to our pupils.

Thank you for your support in keeping everyone safe.

Welfare

Parents' Coffee Morning – Friday 6th February

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Parent Engagement Morning

This morning, we were pleased to welcome families to a highly successful **Parent Engagement Morning**, where the focus was on collaboration, voice, and support for our wider community. During the first part of the session, parents worked together on the final draft of a letter that will be sent to our local MP, **Mr Risingdell**, advocating for improved provision at our local hospital for families of children and young people with **SEND needs**.

A copy of the letter can be found at the end of this newsletter. If you would like to offer any comments, ideas, or contributions before it is submitted, please speak with the parents' group or get in touch with us directly.

In the second half of the morning, parents were invited to take part in an **exploratory play workshop** led by our staff team. This interactive session aimed to strengthen parents' skills and confidence in using play as a meaningful way to support their children's learning, emotional regulation, and engagement. The workshop sparked thoughtful discussion, practical ideas, and plenty of hands-on activity.

We look forward to offering further sessions like this in the future and hope they continue to be a valuable and supportive experience for our families.

We have added the dough recipes to the end of the newsletter for you to try.

Parents group Coffee Morning 12.02.26

We are delighted to share with you the Parents group Coffee Morning Being held next Thursday morning at JJ Moons in Hornchurch. It is great to see and ever-growing group of parents supporting each other and engaging in this way to promote all kinds of progress and positivity for our young people and our community as a school.t

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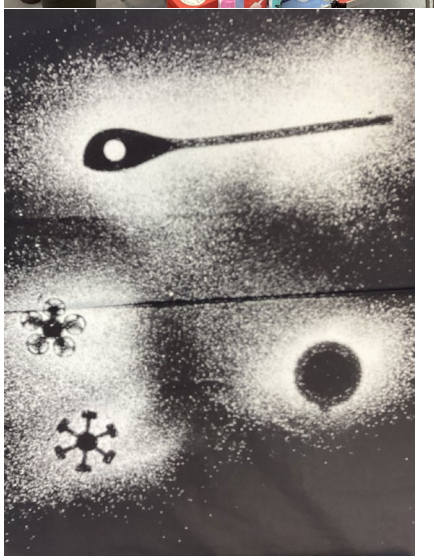

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Following on from the Coffee Morning session, parents have asked for dough recipes:

Activities with Families: Spring 2026

Date	Time	Event	Details
Tuesday 13th January	10 – 11.30	Coffee Morning for Families	Post-Christmas catch up, hospital passports & write to MP about safe spaces in hospitals for all children with complex needs
Thursday 22nd January	10 – 11.30	Coffee Morning for Families	Continence Nurse
Friday 6th February	10 – 11.30	Play Session for Families	An opportunity for parents and carers to work with school staff to develop strategies for exploratory play.
Friday 13th February	Time tbc	Shared Learning and refreshments with SLT	Families welcome to join their child's class for activities
Half Term (16.02.26 - 20.02.26)			
Tuesday 24th February	Times tbc	Bamboozle for some ASD learners	Details of classes and times to follow
Thursday 5th March	All day	World Book Day	Dress up as a book character
Friday 6th March	10 – 11.30	Coffee Morning for Families	Guest tbc
Tuesday 17th March	All day	**St Patrick's Day**	**A chance to dress in green!**
	10 – 11.00	Stay & Play	Guest under 2s families to explore the Sensory Room
Friday 20th March	Time tbc	Comic Relief Shared Learning	Dress in red and send a £1 in for Comic Relief Families are welcome to join their child's class for activities
Tuesday 24th March	10 – 11.30	Coffee Morning for Families	Finance and legal - Support with benefits, charities, and legal advice regarding power of attorney – more information to come
Friday 27th March	**School Closed**	**INSET DAY**	**All staff to Milton Keynes for a whole Trust training day**
Easter Break (30.03.26 - 10.04.25) Summer Term begins on 13.04.26			

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Non-Edible Doughs

Shaving foam and baking soda (bicarb of soda) - keep adding bicarb to shaving foam until you get a dry dough that forms a ball.

Conditioner and cornflour: 3 cups of cornflour to one of conditioner. Keep adding either ingredient until the chosen consistency.

Edible doughs

Flour, water and colour and/or flavourings

Moon Sands

Flour and vegetable oil - mix until there are fine breadcrumbs
Flour and coconut oil **-** mix until there are fine breadcrumbs

Cornflour or Custard Powder Gloop
Start with cornflour or custard powder, add small amounts of water at a time until there is a thick liquid cornflour which can be picked up and rolled into balls, which then turn into liquid when put on a tray.

Other doughs
Buy or make stretchy pizza doughs
Use bought pastry
Mix Paxo into a sensory dough
Use slices of bread - white or brown - mixed with water to make a dough

Parents /carers of

Lime Academy Ravensbourne school
Neave Cresent

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Romford
Essex
RM3 8HN

Andrew Rosindell
Margaret Thatcher House
85 Western Road
Romford
RM1 3LS

Subject: Urgent concerns regarding hospital facilities to accommodate children with profound medical learning disabilities (PMLD), severe learning disabilities (SLD) autism, special educational needs (SEN) and complex medical needs.

Dear Mr Rosindell,

We are a group of parents/carers from Lime Academy, Ravensbourne which is a specialist school in Romford.
We are writing to you as we would like to address concerns regarding inadequate facilities and support available that we have experienced in hospitals, with our children who have PMLD,SLD,SEN,Autism and complex medical needs.

Children with these complex needs often require regular hospitalisation and highly specialist care and environments that accommodate sensory sensitivities, communication and behavioural challenges and medical vulnerabilities.
From first hand experiences many of us feel that unfortunately current hospital provisions frequently fall short and this can lead to distress for children and families and in some cases lead to accidents and compromised health outcomes.
Key issues include;
- lack of accessible facilities
- no larger changing facilities/tables for larger children, especially in outpatients, many parents have said they often have to change their children on toilet floors
- no quiet rooms to help with self regulating
- no sensory friendly areas, especially in outpatients
- insufficient staff training in particular in supporting children with PMLD, SLD, SEN, Autism and complex conditions. This results in misunderstandings and increased anxieties for families, for example, children with specialist medical devices, tube feeding, vulnerable children with no balance, no fear , no co-ordination and no sense of danger.
- limited equipment and resources, for example, hoists, specialist beds (safe sleep beds), and communication aids
- Impact on families
these shortcomings place enormous emotional and practical strain on families who are already coping with complex care needs and its already stressful to have a child in hospital but to add to this is hard for these families to cope with.

What we are asking for

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We urge you to

- Advocate for improved facilities that meet the needs of these children
- Allow extra time in clinic so they feel not rushed at appointments to allow extra times to see doctors
- Support mandatory training for healthcare staff in understanding and managing these complex cases, for example, to provide all sen,pmld,sld,austistic and complex medical needs children with hospital passports which will provide healthcare professionals with instant information on these children making hospital visits and hospitalisations less stressful.
- To provide quiet rooms , hoists and appropriate changing facilities
- To provide safe space beds to prevent falls, injuries, and accidents from children falling out of beds inappropriate for their needs
- Allowing 1-1 care whilst inpatients to keep these children safe
- Finally , we would like you to push for extra funding to ensure this specialist equipment and sensory friendly facilities are available at all hospitals by allowing a separate ward/hospital budget for SEND children to enable this

Why this matters
Every child deserves equitable access to healthcare that respects their dignity and meet their needs. Addressing these concerns will not only improve health outcomes but also uphold the principles of inclusion and equality and lead to less stress and strain on families when their child with complex needs, PMLD, SLD, and Autism are hospitalised.

Finally we would be happy to invite you to our school to meet these fantastic children and their families to see for yourself how this impacts our lives, if this would be helpful.
Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter and we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this further to provide additional information.
Please let us know how you intend to address these concerns, and we look forward to hearing from you in the near future.
Yours sincerely
Om behalf of Parents/carers Lime academy, Ravensbourne school
Lynn Walker

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