Message from SLT

As we move further into this very rapidly progressing half term, it has been wonderful to reflect on the energy and enthusiasm shown across the school. After the excitement of **National Careers Week** and **World Book Day** last week, the momentum has certainly not slowed—our learners and staff continue to fill each day with meaningful, enriching experiences as we head toward the end of term on **26.03.26**.

Although this has been a slightly quieter week in comparison, the learning has been no less vibrant. Many classes have been taking every opportunity to support our young people in accessing the **local community**, helping them build confidence, independence, and real-world engagement. These outings remain an important and joyful part of our curriculum offer for pupils.

We are also delighted with the progression of our **new sensory routines** in the hall space. Staff have reported increased levels of engagement and regulation, and our updated **Rebound Therapy** and **Liquid Listening** timetables are running exceptionally well. These carefully planned sessions continue to provide highly personalised sensory input that supports communication, emotional wellbeing, and physical development.

In addition, we are delighted to remind families that our next **Shared Learning session** will take place **in school next Friday** to mark **Red Nose Day**. We hope this will be a fun and creative opportunity for families to take part in hands-on activities alongside their children. These sessions are always a cherished part of our school community calendar, offering a chance to celebrate learning, laughter, and connection together.

As always, we remain incredibly proud of the determination, curiosity, and progress shown by our learners each week—and deeply grateful for the continued support of our staff team and families.

Mother's Day Message

Happy Mother's Day for Sunday to all the families who will be coming together and celebrating the wonderful work you do. Our warmest thanks go out to all the amazing women at the heart of our families and staff teams—you are truly appreciated.

Postural Management Training

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Ravensbourne News

This week in training, we were delighted to welcome **Peter from Loakman**, who delivered an incredibly informative session on **chair positioning and equipment management** for our learners. He explored a range of practical considerations around seating, mobility aids, and supportive equipment, helping staff build confidence in making safe and effective adjustments. Peter also took time to respond to staff questions and concerns, ensuring everyone felt clear about how to promote comfort, safety, and independence for our pupils.

We also discussed **why postural management is so important for children with PMLD**. Many of our learners rely on specialised positioning to support their breathing, digestion, joint health, communication, and overall comfort throughout the school day. Good postural management helps prevent long-term complications such as pain, contractures, and scoliosis, and enables pupils to participate more fully in learning and sensory activities. Ensuring correct seating, standing, and lying positions is a crucial part of their health, wellbeing, and daily engagement.

This training has strengthened our shared approach to supporting each child's physical needs, and we are grateful to Peter for his expertise and guidance

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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Ravensbourne News

Pupils of the week

Fatima in Grey Thompson class - For a smooth return to school and wonderful participation in our sensory activities.

Fope in Hawking class - For engaging in lots of activities in the hall for physical development.

Kayleigh in Gaffney class - For self-propelling (with verbal encouragement) out in the wider community.

dates to Remember

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
26.03.26 Spring term ends
27.03 Inset Day
30.03-10.04 **Holiday Easter**
13.04.26 Summer term begins

Welfare

We are pleased to share that the next **Parents' Coffee Morning** will take place on **24th March**. We are delighted to be welcoming **Alexander Leatherbarrow**, a passionate advocate from Havering who is currently working to strengthen and reshape the **Havering Local Offer**. His focus is on ensuring that services across the borough are clearer, more accessible, and—crucially—responsive to the needs of the families who rely on them most.

This includes families like ours, supporting children with complex needs, SEND pathways, and varied barriers to access. Alexander brings a warm, grounded approach and a genuine commitment to improving support for learners and their families. We hope this session will be both informative and reassuring, offering parents the chance to ask questions, share experiences, and gain insight into upcoming improvements within the Local Offer.

We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible. These sessions continue to be a lovely opportunity to build community, share ideas, and work together to advocate for the very best outcomes for our children.

Sign-In and Sign-Out Procedures

We have now started using our **Inventory system** to sign learners **in** and **out** of school. To help us keep accurate safeguarding and attendance records, we kindly ask parents and carers to follow the updated procedures:

Signing in:
Please sign your child in using the Inventory system if they arrive **after 9:00am** or return from an appointment.

Signing out:
If your child needs to leave school **before**

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2:45pm, please ensure they are signed out through the system.

These steps help us keep all pupils safe and ensure our records remain up to date. Thank you for your support with this

Safeguarding

This week in school, we revisited our procedures for managing **first aid situations**, with a particular focus on **head injuries**. It is essential that staff follow the correct steps every time, as even minor bumps require careful monitoring.

To keep everyone safe, we reaffirmed the following expectations:

Immediate assessment: Staff should assess the child's alertness, behaviour, and physical symptoms straight away. NHS guidance highlights that symptoms such as persistent headache, repeated vomiting, confusion, unusual sleepiness, or changes in balance or behaviour may indicate a more serious injury. [nhs.uk]

Immediate parent contact: Parents and carers must be notified **as soon as a head injury occurs**, even if symptoms appear mild.

Head injury form: A completed **Head Injury Form** will always be sent home so families know what happened and what to look out for.

Clear monitoring expectations: NHS advice recommends observing children closely over the next 24–48 hours and seeking medical help if concerning symptoms develop, such as worsening headache, difficulty waking, confusion, or clear fluid from the nose or ears. [healthiert...don.nhs.uk]

This refresher ensures all staff remain confident in responding quickly and consistently, keeping children safe and ensuring families have the information they need after any head injury.

Support Services for Families

As we approach the Spring half-term break, we are mindful that though we all want the holiday time fun and happiness, it can also be stressful and very busy for many families. There is also the financial burden it can have on us. Below is a list of trusted services that may be helpful:

NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children)

The NSPCC provides support and resources for families, focusing on the safety and well-being of children.

- **Helpline:** 0808 800 5000
- **Email:** help@nspcc.org.uk
- **Website:** www.nspcc.org.uk

MIND (Mental Health Support)

MIND offers support for mental health challenges, providing resources for both parents and young people.

- **Helpline:** 0300 123 3393
- **Email:** info@mind.org.uk
- **Website:** www.mind.org.uk

SCOPE

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SCOPE supports individuals and families affected by disabilities, offering practical advice and assistance.

- **Helpline:** 0808 800 3333
- **Email:** helpline@scope.org.uk
- **Website:** www.scope.org.uk

SENDIASS (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information, Advice, and Support Service)

SENDIASS provides free, impartial advice for families navigating SEND-related matters.

- **Contact Number**: 01245 204338
- **Email**: send.iass@essex.gov.uk
- **Website**: Essex SENDIASS

Samaritans Havering:

- **Address:** 107 North Street, Romford, Essex, RM1 1ER
- **Phone:** 116 123 (Free to call, available 24/7)
- **Email:** jo@samaritans.org
- **Website:** www.samaritans.org

This branch offers 24/7 emotional support via telephone and email for anyone experiencing distress or needing someone to talk to. Their location is accessible, with some facilities for those with disabilities We encourage parents and carers to reach out to these

organizations if you require support or have questions about your child's well-being. Our school team is also here to help—please don't hesitate to contact us if you need further guidance.

Around school this week…

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

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

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