



LARKRISE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Ms Katie Allen

Learning Together - Achieving Excellence



9th January 2026

Dear Families,

Welcome to 2026!

We hope you had a wonderful Christmas break and we wish you all the success possible in 2026.

The children have come back with some lovely stories to tell of their time away from school, and are now all raring to go with their learning.

We have wow days and assemblies to look forward to over the coming weeks so please keep an eye on the newsletter for dates for your diary. I have also added the 2026-27 term and holiday dates to the website so please take a look.

RECEPTION ADMISSIONS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR STARTING IN SEPTEMBER 2026

As you may be aware, the primary school (Reception) admission round opened on **Monday 10 November 2025**, for parents of children to apply for a Reception school place for the academic year that starts in September 2026.

The statutory national closing date for applications is **15 January 2026**.

Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions. 99% of parents in Essex applied online last year.

All of the application information is available on the website above.

Even if a parent already has a sibling at the school, they need to apply if they have a child due to start Reception next September.

The website www.essex.gov.uk/admissions also has a copy of the Primary Education in Essex 2026-27 booklet and the Schools Admissions Policies Directories contain details of all admission policies.

We have a tour available on Tuesday 13th January at 9.30am.

POLLING STATION – CLOSURE OF SCHOOL

An important date for your diaries – **Thursday 7th May** is a polling day where Larkrise will be used as a polling station. This means we will be closed to children on this day. On **Thursday 7th May school will be closed**.

DOJO/PHONE CALLS FOR TEACHERS

Just a reminder that dojos and phone calls to parents from and to class teachers can only happen when the teacher is NOT TEACHING. We are happy for you to send messages via dojo at any time, but please do not expect immediate answers or phone calls back when teachers are teaching the children. If you have an emergency, then please leave a message with the office staff and they will find an adult who can respond more immediately if it is needed. Thank you for your understanding.

CLUBS – SPRING TERM 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lego Club EYFS/Yr1 /Yr 2 15 Places Miss Phillips	Choir Club KS2 (Yrs 3, 4, 5 & 6) 15 Places Miss Bowers	Dodgeball Club KS1 + Year 3 (Yrs 1, 2 and 3) 26 Places Mr Thomas	Maths Club (TTRS) Yrs 3, 4 & 5 10 Places Miss Horne	
Sewing Club Years 2 & 3 8 Places Mrs Bacon			Craft Club KS1 12 places Mrs Lane	
Gymnastics Club Years 5 & 6 12 Places Miss Uzzell			Movie Club KS1 (Yrs 1 & 2) 1 st Half Term 20 Places Ms Hawkins	

Please note that Football Club on a Wednesday will change to Dodgeball Club for the Spring term, the first half term it will be open to Yrs 1, 2 and 3, the second half term it will be open to Yrs 4, 5 and 6.

Movie Club will be KS1 first half term, then after the half term it will be KS2 children.

COLLECTION OF CHILDREN FROM THE PLAYGROUND

For parents of year 2 – 6 who collect their children from the top playground, please can you stand back and away from the pathway leading up to the playground. We do need access to allow the classes to get to their circles so that the teachers can easily dismiss the children to you. Thank you for your co-operation.

I ROCK

We have a new band coach, Ben, and he will be coaching on a Monday afternoon. If you are interested in your child joining IRock to play the drums, the keyboard, the guitar, or sing, please do let us know or contact IRock at info@irockschool.com or phone 0330 1742655. Their website is www.irockschool.com if you would like to find out more.

FACEBOOK

Please have a look at our Facebook page where we try to upload photos from each of the classes across the school weekly to share what we have all been up to. Please like and comment too!

PARKING

Can parents please be mindful of where they are parking to drop off and collect children at the start and end of the school day. We have residents and resident only parking in several places around the school and we have already received several complaints. Our neighbours have not

been able to access their parking spots or their cars, and parents have been particularly rude to them. Please show some kindness and responsibility and park your car in a sensible place if you do indeed need to bring your car. Thank you for your understanding.

DIARY DATES

Wednesday 14 th January	Y5 Class Assembly
Monday 19 th January	Book Fair in school
Friday 6 th February	Y4 WOW Day PM
Friday 6 th February	Reception WOW Day – junk modelling and drive-in cinema
Wednesday 11 th February	Y5 WOW Day – International day of women and girls in Science
Monday 16th Feb – Fri 20th Feb	HALF TERM
Thursday 12 th March	Y5 WOW Day – Plant a flower day
Wednesday 25 th March	Reception WOW Day – Easter Fun Day
Thursday 26 th March	Y4 WOW Day
Friday 27 th March	Last day of term
Monday 30th March – Friday 10th April	EASTER BREAK
Monday 13 th April	Children return to school
Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May	HALF TERM
Monday 1 st June	Children return to school

VOLUNTEERS – HELPING HANDS

Do you have some free time on your hands and would you like to come and help out at Larkrise?

We are looking for parents, grandparents, aunties, uncles etc. who have some free time who might be able to help us out in the coming months. This could involve;

- reading with the children
- attending educational visits
- cutting and sticking work into books
- helping to make displays around the school
- running small clubs after school or at lunchtimes
- or any other skill you may have that you would like to share with the children.

If you are interested, please get in touch with Trish Hill in the office, or your child's class teacher, and we will give you some more information. Thank you!



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9 -10 am	Pre-loved uniform shop open (Cash only)		Coffee morning Pre-loved uniform shop open (Cash only)	TPP for Families course (application only)	

10 – 12am	Mel available for 1:1 conversations		Mel available for 1:1 conversations	Mel available for 1:1 conversations	
1 – 4pm	Mel available for 1:1 conversations		Mel available for 1:1 conversations	Mel available for 1:1 conversations	

1:1 conversations – I am always happy to talk to parents 1:1. Where possible, can you text me for 1:1 conversations so I can ensure my availability, however, if something unexpected has happened and you need to talk about it on the day, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Mel Pointon, Child and Family Support Worker, will be available in 'The Hive,' our parent hub which is in the bungalow situated on the school driveway, every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday to meet with parents and carers. This is also where our pre-loved uniform is available for a small fee. Please feel free to go across on any of these days and Mel will help you out. Mel can also issue food bank vouchers should you need them. Mel can also be contacted on 079562111932.

WORKSHOP – Understanding your child's anxiety workshop for parents. Taking place in 28/1/26 at 9am until 10.30am. See the poster at the end of the newsletter for more details.

PHILOSOPHY FOR CHILDREN

Our 'P4C question of the week' that we'd like you and your children to discuss is this: 'Would you rather have sunshine or snow?'

The important thing to ask is 'why?' Do let us know what you and your children discuss.

FAMILY FRIDAYS

Parents and carers are welcome to come into school at 8.40am **every Friday**, alongside their child, to read in their classroom. We will do this **EVERY Friday** so please do come along and join in. If children see us working together, they will do so much better in their learning! Please do come in, if only for 10 minutes! Younger siblings are welcome to come too as long as you keep them close to you whilst reading. We ask you all to have left the classroom by 9am so the children can then proceed with their class learning.

ATTENDANCE NEWS

Attendance was a reason that Larkrise did not reach the 'outstanding' grade from Ofsted last year. There are too many families who fall under the 90% attendance bracket and are so deemed to be 'persistently absent'. Children should be attending school every day. Your child can only miss school if they are too ill to attend or school have given advance permission. Can you please ensure you contact the school office to explain any absence from your child **on the day they are going to be absent before 9am**. The national attendance target is **95%** and we would really like to achieve that this year.

Reception – 84.8%
Year 1 – 88.7%
Year 2 – 90.3%
Year 3 – 96.0%
Year 4 – 96.9%
Year 5 – 87.0%
Year 6 – 90.9%

CERTIFICATES

Class	Stars of the Week	Mathematician of the Week
Reception (EYFS)	Robert P, Alexander	Elodie
Year 1	Aaron, Jasmine	Sophia
Year 2	Jenson, Dana	Gabriella
Year 3	Buster, Mason	Buster
Year 4	Joy, Layla, Sai	Joy
Year 5	Alivia, Daisy	Sonny
Year 6	Nathan, Leah	Albie

Most Active on TTRS Year 4 50%

BIRTHDAYS

A very happy birthday to the following children for this week and for over the Christmas break:

Joseph, Rafaella, Ayla, Lyla, Indy, Isha, Stefan, Annabelle T, Ana, Skyla, Charlie, Daisy

Many happy returns!

Have a wonderful Christmas break and we will see you back at school on Tuesday 6th January 2026!

Ms Allen



Headteacher

Larkrise Primary School



Quantum Multi-Academy Trust
Registered Address: Duffield Road | Chelmsford | Essex | CM2 9RZ
Company Number: 16466679



Mental Health Support Teams work across education and healthcare to provide early intervention mental health support to whole school communities and are excited to be working together with

Larkrise Primary School

'Understanding Your Child's Anxiety' Workshop For Parents

Helping you to understand your child's fears and worries and add new ideas to your parenting toolkit.



This workshop will provide an introduction to understanding your child's anxiety and will provide you with skills and strategies to help you support your child when they experience fears and worries



When: 28/01/2026 9:00am-10:30am

Where: Larkrise Primary School

Length: 1.5 hours



NELFT **NHS**
NHS Foundation Trust

**10 January
to 22 February
2026**



Winter Reading Challenge

Children across Essex are being challenged to read and get creative at their local library this winter!

Explore our Pawfessionals' amazing careers as you progress through the challenge.

Choose from twelve fun activities to complete. For each one, you'll get a sticker! Complete six, and you'll receive a certificate and get to enter our prize draw for the chance to win some incredible goodies!

Plus, you can join in with themed events and activities at the library!



Find out more about how to take part in this free activity on our website: libraries.essex.gov.uk



**OPENING
SOON**

PRE-SALE IS OPEN

Quote **SAVE50** to
get **50% off!***

*T&Cs apply



Dovedale Leisure Centre is coming back!

Dovedale Leisure Centre Reopens February 2026!

Exciting news – our upgraded centre is almost ready! Join now and enjoy two months half price, plus free access to Riverside Gym until we open.

What's new?

- State-of-the-art gym with Technogym & Exigo equipment
- Refurbished studios & sports hall
- Improved lighting, sound, and changing facilities
- More public access hours & member parking permits

Don't miss out – secure your early bird membership today!