



**LARKRISE PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
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**Headteacher: Ms Katie Allen**  
Learning Together - Achieving Excellence



23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026

Dear Families,

This week we have been promoting reading across the school in celebration of the National Day of Reading, which is today. Here are some interesting facts about the benefits of children reading taken from the National Literacy Trust :

#### **Reading for pleasure can help grow empathy**

Enjoying books and discovering new perspectives within the pages of a story can be a great way to introduce children to a range of experiences and viewpoints. The more a child reads, the more likely they are to be exposed to new narratives which can help them develop empathy.

#### **Discover more about the relationship between reading and empathy.**

#### **A love of reading can build a child's confidence**

In fact, our [2024 reading for pleasure research](#) showed that 26.0% of children and young people who read in their free time at least once a month said it helps them to be confident.

#### **Reading for enjoyment can spark imagination...**

...and provide escape as well as inspire creativity. Even fantasy can still speak truth to a child about their place in this world.

#### **Reading can expand horizons**

A book can provide children with a way to discover new worlds, meet new people and learn about the past. Whether that's through non-fiction books and autobiographies, or books and magazines exploring historical events or figures.

#### **Discover how non-fiction books are a great way to spark curiosity.**

#### **Reading for pleasure can support your child's learning**

Our recent research also revealed that twice as many children and young people who enjoy reading in their free time have above average reading skills than children who don't enjoy it (34.2% vs 15.7%) - reading skills which will support them in their school journeys and beyond.

What you are doing as parents and carers at home has a significant impact on your child. Finding time to read with your children or encouraging your less-than-enthusiastic readers at home to pick up a book can feel like a challenge. However, there are lots of simple, everyday ways you can encourage your children to grow a love of reading.

There are some helpful tips, guides and booklists to help you to support your child as they grow a love of reading at home on this link: [What Are The Benefits Of Reading? | National Literacy Trust](#)

### **POLLING STATION – CLOSURE OF SCHOOL**

An important date for your diaries – **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **BREAKTIME SNACKS**

Can we please remind you that snacks for break time need to be fruit or veg or crackers and cheese. Crisps and sweets are not acceptable snacks for break time, or for breakfast, so please do not give these to your children. Many thanks.

### **CLUBS – SPRING TERM 2026**

| <b>Monday</b>   | <b>Tuesday</b>   | <b>Wednesday</b>  | <b>Thursday</b>   | <b>Friday</b> |
|---|--|---|---|---------------|
| Lego Club<br>EYFS/Yr1 /Yr 2<br>15 Places<br>Miss Phillips   | Choir Club<br>KS2 (Yrs 3, 4, 5<br>& 6)<br>15 Places<br>Miss Bowers | Dodgeball Club<br>KS1 + Year 3<br>(Yrs 1, 2 and3)<br>26 Places<br>Mr Thomas | Maths Club<br>(TTRS)<br>Yrs 3,4 & 5<br>10 Places<br>Miss Horne                        |               |
| Sewing Club<br>Yrs 2 & 3<br>8 Places<br>Mrs Bacon           |  |   | Craft Club<br>KS1<br>12 places<br>Mrs Lane  |               |
| Gymnastics<br>Club<br>Yrs 5 & 6<br>12 Places<br>Miss Uzzell |  |   | Movie Club<br>KS1 (Yrs 1 & 2)<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Half Term<br>20 Places<br>Ms Hawkins |               |

Club applications for this term have now closed but I have kept this in the newsletter so that you are aware of which clubs are happening when.

### **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.

## **IROCK**

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](mailto:info@irockschool.com) or phone 0330 1742655. Their website is [www.irockschool.com](http://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.

I must also reiterate that the staff car park is for staff only. Unfortunately we do not have parking spaces for parents. Please respect this as some of our staff are not able to park in the mornings and are then not on time to start their day with the children. There are neighbouring streets that can be parked on which only require a short walk to the school entrance – please use those. Many thanks for your cooperation.

## **DIARY DATES**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> February                                    | Y4 WOW Day PM  |
| Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> February                                    | Reception WOW Day – junk modelling and drive-in cinema       |
| Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> February                                    | Y2 WOW Day – All things Little Red                           |
| Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> February                                    | Y1 WOW Day – Bean Bonanza                                    |
| Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February                                | Y5 WOW Day – International day of women and girls in Science |
| Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February                                | Y3 WOW Day – Code-breaking                                   |
| Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February                                   | Y6 WOW Day – TOP SECRET!                                     |
| <b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> Feb – Fri 20<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>        | <b>HALF TERM</b>   |
| Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March                                    | Y6 WOW Day – Holi Day  |
| Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> March                                    | Y5 WOW Day – Plant a flower day                              |
| Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March                                     | Y1 WOW Day – Junk modelling Castles – parents invited        |
| Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March                                   | Y1 Class Assembly 2.45pm                                     |
| Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March                                     | Y2 WOW Day - Springtime                                      |
| Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March                                   | Reception WOW Day – Easter Fun Day                           |
| Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March                                   | Y3 WOW Day - Romans  |
| Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March                                    | Y4 WOW Day   |
| Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March                                      | Last day of term   |
| <b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April</b> | <b>EASTER BREAK</b>  |
| Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April                                      | Children return to school                                    |
| <b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May</b>     | <b>HALF TERM</b>   |
| Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> 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!



|                 | <b>Monday</b>                           | <b>Tuesday</b> | <b>Wednesday</b>  | <b>Thursday</b>                         | <b>Friday</b> |
|-----------------|---|----------------|---|---|---------------|
| <b>9 -10 am</b> | Pre-loved uniform shop open (Cash only) |                | Coffee morning<br>Pre-loved uniform shop open (Cash only) | Pre-loved uniform shop open (Cash 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 07956211932.

**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 sweets or fruit?'

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 – | 83.5% |
| Year 1 –    | 85.7% |
| Year 2 –    | 98.9% |
| Year 3 –    | 94.5% |
| Year 4 –    | 93.6% |
| Year 5 –    | 92.5% |
| Year 6 –    | 92.6% |

## **CERTIFICATES**

| <b>Class</b>            | <b>Stars of the Week</b> | <b>Mathematician of the Week</b> |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Reception (EYFS)</b> | Rosanna, Alaya-Angel     | Sienna-Rain                      |
| <b>Year 1</b>           | Macie, Eric              | Aaron                            |
| <b>Year 2</b>           | Leah, Taher              | Jenson                           |
| <b>Year 3</b>           | Miles, Fred              | Aria                             |
| <b>Year 4</b>           | Louie, Molly             | Ronnie                           |
| <b>Year 5</b>           | Miriam, Kathryn          | Amelia                           |
| <b>Year 6</b>           | Lilly, Anabel            | Simrita                          |

## **BIRTHDAYS**

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

Bowie, Joshua, Bobby

Many happy returns!

Have a great weekend!

Ms Allen



Headteacher

Larkrise Primary School



**EYFS CAKE SALE**

**TUESDAY 10TH FEBRUARY FROM 3:30-4PM IN THE HALL.**

**WE ARE HOLDING A BAKE SALE TO RAISE MONEY FOR A VERY SPECIAL SURPRISE FOR EYFS.**

**THIS SURPRISE WILL ALSO BE ENJOYED BY THE REST OF THE CHILDREN IN THE SCHOOL.**

**WE WILL ALSO HAVE 'HOOK A DUCK' AND TEMPORARY TATTOOS. WE WILL ALSO BE SELLING EASTER EGG COMPETITION SHEETS.**

**IF ANY OF OUR LOVELY PARENTS/CARERS WOULD LIKE TO BAKE OR BUY SOME LOVELY TREATS TO SELL WE WOULD REALLY APPRECIATE THIS.**

**PLEASE WRITE DOWN ALL INGREDIENTS USED FOR ALLERGY PURPOSES AND BRING THE CAKES TO THE EYFS GATE ON THE TUESDAY MORNING.**

**THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH,  
FOLS AND MISS PHILLIPS**

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

 Essex County Council  
Libraries

**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](https://libraries.essex.gov.uk)