



LARKRISE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Ms Katie Allen

Learning Together - Achieving Excellence



30th January 2026

Dear Families,

Another busy week at Larkrise! We have been working hard on our reading, writing and maths as we have our assessment week next week. The children are making lots of progress and this can clearly be seen in a lot of their books – well done all!

Lots of WOW days to look forward to next week too – keep an eye on the diary dates and the dojo for more information.

We have had to CHANGE THE DATE of the EYFS WOW day to Thursday 5th February rather than Friday 6th February. We apologise for this late change but hope that parents are still able to come along to help build those vehicles!

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 TO 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.

BREAK TIME 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.

ORBIS

Can we ask you not to allow your children to bring in sensory toys that contain orbis – the small gel like balls. When these sensory toys break they spill out and look very enticing to eat for some of our younger children. This can be very dangerous so much better not to have them in school at all please. Thank you.

CLUBS – SPRING TERM 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lego Club EYFS/Yr1 /Yr 2	Choir Club KS2 (Yrs 3, 4, 5	Dodgeball Club KS1 + Year 3	Maths Club (TTRS)	

15 Places Miss Phillips	& 6) 15 Places Miss Bowers	(Yrs 1, 2 and3) 26 Places Mr Thomas	Yrs 3,4 & 5 10 Places Miss Horne	
Sewing Club Yrs 2 & 3 8 Places Mrs Bacon			Craft Club KS1 12 places Mrs Lane	
Gymnastics Club Yrs 5 & 6 12 Places Miss Uzzell			Movie Club KS1 (Yrs 1 & 2) 1 st Half Term 20 Places 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 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.

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

Thursday 5 th February <u>CHANGE OF DATE</u>	Reception WOW Day – junk modelling and drive-in cinema
Friday 6 th February	Y4 WOW Day PM
Friday 6 th February	Y2 WOW Day – All things Little Red
Friday 6 th February	Y1 WOW Day – Bean Bonanza
Wednesday 11 th February	Y5 WOW Day – International day of women and girls in Science
Wednesday 11 th February	Y3 WOW Day – Code-breaking
Friday 13 th February	Y6 WOW Day – TOP SECRET!
Monday 16th Feb – Fri 20th Feb	HALF TERM
Wednesday 4 th March	Y6 WOW Day – Holi Day
Thursday 12 th March	Y5 WOW Day – Plant a flower day
Tuesday 17 th March	Y1 WOW Day – Junk modelling Castles – parents invited
Wednesday 18 th March	Y1 Class Assembly 2.45pm
Tuesday 24 th March	Y2 WOW Day - Springtime
Wednesday 25 th March	Reception WOW Day – Easter Fun Day
Wednesday 25 th March	Y3 WOW Day - Romans
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		Coffee morning Pre-loved	Pre-loved uniform shop open	

	(Cash only)		uniform shop open (Cash only)	(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 smell roses or perfume?'

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 – 77.7%
Year 1 – 77.4%
Year 2 – 96.5%
Year 3 – 96.4%
Year 4 – 92.9%

Year 5 – 89.8%
Year 6 – 95.0%

CERTIFICATES

Class	Stars of the Week	Mathematician of the Week
Reception (EYFS)	The whole class	Brodie
Year 1	Florence, Kobe	Lyla
Year 2	Leo, Isha	Dana
Year 3	Monica, Oliver S	Alfie
Year 4	Dexter, Alanis	Mia
Year 5	Tommy A, Amelia	Corey
Year 6	Albie, Rose	Albie

Most Active on TTRS - Year 4

BIRTHDAYS

A very happy birthday to the following children for this week.

Hadiya, Leah, Demi

Many happy returns!

Have a great weekend!

Ms Allen



Headteacher

Larkrise Primary School

**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