



LARKRISE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dorset Avenue, Gt. Baddow, Chelmsford, CM2 9UB

Tel: (01245) 471654

e-mail admin@larkrise.essex.sch.uk

Headteacher: Ms Katie Allen

Learning Together - Achieving Excellence



13th February 2026

Dear Families,

And so we come to the end of another half term. Blink and you'd miss it! I can't quite believe how fast this one has gone.

Children and staff have been busy with Wow days for Year 3, Year 5 and Year 6 this week, as well as finishing off curriculum topics ready to start new ones on our return after the half term break. It's been a long, wet and tiring half term but we have got through it and look forward to a lovely half term break with friends and family, and hopefully some sunshine! We're all wearing what we love today as well – great fun!

The staff at Larkrise and I would like to wish you all a wonderful half term.

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.**

WALK FOR AUTISM

One of our mums is trying to raise £500 for the 'Walk for Autism UK' charity:

'Walk for Autism is a fundraising challenge run by Autism Initiatives Group. Autism Initiatives Group is working towards a world where every autistic person has the support they need to thrive, every opportunity to fulfil their potential and a supportive, inclusive community to live in.

I'll be walking 10,000 steps a day from 26th March to 2nd April to raise money for this fantastic charity. Please sponsor me. Any donation big or small is greatly appreciated 😊 '

Click the link below to help Courtney reach her goal.

[Walk for Autism - Courtney Norrington](#)

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 breaktime need to be fruit or veg or crackers and cheese. Crisps and sweets are not acceptable snacks for breaktime, or for breakfast, so please do not give these to your children. Many thanks.

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. A dojo went out inviting children to a taster session – please have a look if you are interested.

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 KS2 (Yrs 4, 5 & 6) 26 Places Mr Thomas	Maths Club (TTRS) 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 KS2 (Yrs 3, 4,5 & 6) Ms Hawkins	
			Strength & Fitness Club KS2 (Yrs 3, 4, 5 & 6) Mrs Murphy SEE INFO ATTACHED	

IMPORTANT - the Dodgeball Club on a Wednesday, will change to KS2 (Years 4, 5 & 6) pupils after half term and Movie Club on a Thursday, will be open to all KS2 (years 3, 4, 5 & 6) after half term. All other clubs remain the same with the addition of Strength & Fitness Club (see info attached).

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.

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

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, aunts, 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)	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 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.

FOLS News

EYFS CAKE SALE - New date released after half term.

We hope you can all join us.

FRIDAY 13 MARCH - Someone Special Gift Shop - See poster attached

AGM - Details & date to follow

If anyone has any ideas for events or raising funds for the children and school, please do let us know and if anyone has any free time and would like to volunteer to help us, please do get in touch.

Contact Details - familiesoflarkrise@hotmail.com

Facebook page - Families and friends of Larkrise Primary School, Classlist or alternatively, look out for us on the KS2 playground.

Thank you to everyone for supporting us and we hope you all have a lovely half term break.

The FOLS Team

PHILOSOPHY FOR CHILDREN

Our 'P4C question of the week' that we'd like you and your children to discuss is this:

'Would you rather be at school or be on holiday?'

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 –	86.1%
Year 1 –	86.7%
Year 2 –	92.6%
Year 3 –	93.9%
Year 4 –	94.3%
Year 5 –	89.3%
Year 6 –	93.7%

CERTIFICATES

Class	Stars of the Week	Mathematician of the Week
Reception (EYFS)	Charing, Robert	Norah
Year 1	Poppy, Jaxon	Indiana
Year 2	Davina, Jenson	Tahir
Year 3	Alfie, Zara	Abrar
Year 4	Jax, Harley	Jax
Year 5	Aman, Ishaq	Ishaq
Year 6	Jess, Indy	Eva

BIRTHDAYS

A very happy birthday to the following children for this week and over half term:

Macie, Levi, David, Lyric, Poppy

Many happy returns!

Have a great weekend!

Ms Allen

K. Allen

Headteacher

Larkrise Primary School



The poster features a light blue background with white snowflakes and a large, stylized snowflake graphic. At the top left is the Essex County Council Libraries logo. The title 'Winter Reading Challenge' is written in large, bold, white letters. Below the title, the dates '10 January to 22 February 2026' are listed. The main text describes the challenge, mentioning 'Pawfessionals' and a prize draw. At the bottom, there are illustrations of six cartoon animals (an owl, a mouse, a dog, a pig, a rabbit, and a fox) dressed in winter clothing, and a small white van labeled 'LIBRARY SERVICE'.

 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

Hi All,

Strength and fitness classes starting after half term.

Are you looking for a fun way to help your child build more than just muscle? We are thrilled to announce our new **Strength and Fitness Class**, specifically designed for **Key Stage 2 (Years 3–6)** pupils!

Forget "bulking up"—this class is all about **physical literacy**. Using a mix of bodyweight exercises, fun circuits, and teamwork, helping children develop the fundamental movement and strength they need to thrive.

Why choose Strength & Fitness for your child?

- **Injury Prevention:** Building stronger muscles and stable joints can reduce sports-related injury risks by up to **68%**.
- **Boosted Confidence:** Mastering new physical skills like proper squats, planks, and coordination challenges builds immense self-esteem.
- **Better Focus in School:** Regular physical activity is proven to improve **attention, memory, and academic performance** in KS2 children.
- **Long-Term Health:** Weight-bearing activities during childhood are essential for building **bone density** and lifelong healthy habits.

Class Details:

- **When:** Thursdays after school
- **Where:** School Hall
- **What to Bring:** Comfortable sports gear and a water bottle.

Ready to get started?

Spaces are limited, if you wish your child to take part, please email clubs@larkrise.essex.sch.uk, stating your child's name and class.

Mrs S Murphy

Tuesday, 10 February 2026

navenshospices.org.uk

Larkrise Primary School
Dorset Avenue
CHELMSFORD
Essex
CM2 9UB

Thank you so much
for raising a wonderful
£75.00
for Little Havens



Dear staff and pupils of Larkrise Primary School,

We are writing to say a **HUGE** thank you for raising a wonderful £75.00 for Little Havens following your Christmas Giving Tree in December. Your generosity and kindness is nothing short of overwhelming. We know it's incredibly difficult for everyone right now, but every penny you raise has an immediate impact on our hospice care. Please pass on our heartfelt thanks to all.

Everyone deserves the best possible care throughout their whole life's journey – and you are making that possible. We only receive 14% from the government to fund our care; the majority of the remaining money we need comes from the generosity of people like you and our wider community – THANK YOU again.

Best wishes,



Lorraine Collie
Fundraising Team

“You find people here. There's no pity, no sympathy – just acceptance. People see Connie for the bright little girl she is.”

Emma & Tim, Connie's Parents

Every one of us
Making every day count.

Havens Hospices is registered in England and Wales as a company limited by guarantee.
Registered address: 226 Priory Crescent, Southend on Sea, Essex, SS2 6PR.
Company number 2805007 | VAT Registration Number 194 8870 48 | Registered Charity Number 1022119



Our February Issue of KidAround Magazine



- Diary dates, Kids News, and more

Read it here: <https://anyflip.com/btwyj/jjhc/>



FOLS Someone Special Gift Shop is back!

We would like to offer the children an opportunity to select a gift for the special lady/ladies in their lives, each gift is £3 per item

The children will visit the FOLS gift shop in school on Friday 13 March 2026

Reply slips for cash payments will be sent home after half term. Payment event will be set up on classlist. Please return cash & payment slips to the office or a FOLS member

Closing date to return slips and money and purchase online is
Monday 9th March 2026
Any questions, please ask FOLS