



LARKRISE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Ms Katie Allen

Learning Together - Achieving Excellence



17th April 2026

Dear Families,

We hope you had a wonderful Easter break and are well rested ready to begin the Summer term, which is always fun packed and extremely busy.

I am observing the teaching staff next week in their Maths lessons so I am excited to see how the children are coping with their maths learning and how much challenge they are resilient enough to take on within their maths lessons.

Thank you to every parent who has tried very hard to get their children to school on time and every day over this past week. Please do continue to do this as we are working hard to improve our attendance figures.

Mrs Pattullo

Mrs Pattullo, our SENDco, is having a medical procedure next week which means she will not be around for a few weeks afterwards in order to recover. I am sure you will join me in wishing her well and hope for a speedy recovery.

Please bear with us whilst Mrs Pattullo is absent as it may take us a little longer to deal with any SEND enquiries in her absence. Many thanks for your understanding.

YMCA closure

It came to our understanding this week that YMCA are closing their breakfast club from 20th April and their after school club on Friday 22nd May. This information was shared with me on Tuesday this week and I asked YMCA to please reconsider to at least give school time to attempt to create our own offer. Sadly, they declined.

I am working hard to try to come up with a solution but employing staff who are going to be in charge of children takes time so please do bear with me whilst I try to work something out.

If you are interested in having a space at a breakfast or after school club on offer from Larkrise, can you please do so through the school office with your child's name and the days you would wish them to be in the club so that we can have a good idea of numbers.

Many thanks.

Attendance

Currently we are sitting at 91% attendance as a school overall. The new Ofsted framework is highlighting the importance of attendance and we are not hitting the mark. Here are some facts and figures that might help. Think of it this way:

If your child has **90% attendance**, it might sound pretty good — but it actually means they're missing **about 19 days of school a year**.

That's nearly **4 whole weeks of lessons** missed.

Over time, that really adds up. It's like your child is missing chunks of teaching in every subject, which can make it harder to keep up with the class and feel confident in their learning.

Even small absences here and there can quickly turn into a big gap.

Can you please make a concerted effort to get your children to school every day they are not poorly? I have added a poster to the end of this newsletter regarding illnesses which might help you to make a decision as to whether your child is well enough to attend.

ARBOR information

Could any parents who have specific arrangements for their children, such as court orders, restricted lists, special collection procedures, please ensure that the school office know about them. We are unsure as to whether all information passed across correctly when we moved over from SIMS so would like to ensure that we have the correct information for all of our families. Thank you for your help with this matter.

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.**

Dinner Arrears

A reminder that children who are having a school meal – these need to be paid for in advance on Arbor. We have some families with quite substantial arrears that we have chased over the last week or so. Please ensure your arrears are paid promptly, otherwise we will have to insist on a packed lunch for your child until the arrears are paid.

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.

Clubs – Summer Term 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Miss Uzzell Rounders Club Years 4,5 & 6 20 Children	Miss Bowers Choir Club KS2 15 Children	Mr Thomas Cricket (1 st 3 weeks) Tennis (2 nd 3 weeks) First half term the club will be open to Years 1,2 and 3. Second half term it will be open to Years 4/5/6	Mrs Lane Craft Club KS1 12 Children Miss Horne Math's Club (TTRS) Years 3/4/5 10 Children	

OPAL

I am very pleased to announce that Larkrise has received funding to bring OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) to lunchtimes. This is a journey that we will undergo to improve and enhance lunchtime behaviours, provision and relationships across the school.

We are in the planning phase at the moment but whilst we work hard behind the scenes, I would like to ask for your help. Can you, or anyone you know, donate any of the following items for our use:

- old suitcases
- fancy dress and props
- role play props
- pots and pans/plastic kitchen equipment
- small world items
- wooden train tracks/trains
- gardening tools
- old sports equipment
- blankets and cushions
- den building items
- scooters
- wheeled items
- craft items
- tyres
- planks of wood

Please bring any of these items into our school office over the summer term.

I am also looking for a parent who would be willing to be a parent ambassador on the planning team - this will require attending a few meetings, offering thoughts and advice from a parent perspective etc. So if you are interested and can offer some of your time, please contact the school office with your name and phone number.

If you would like to learn more about OPAL, please have a look at their website -

www.outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk

I look forward to hearing from you!

Many thanks

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.

IRock

Ben is a welcome addition to our school and 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.

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

Tuesday 21 st April	Y4 trip to Chelmsford Museum
Tuesday 28 th April	Y6 WOW Day – Wellbeing walk and picnic
Friday 8 th May	Y4 WOW Day – Stone Age inspiration box
Wednesday 13 th May	Y3 WOW Day – terrarium making
Tuesday 19 th May	Y1 WOW Day
Wednesday 20 th May	Y5 WOW Day – World bee day
Thursday 21 st May	Y2 WOW Day – Tortoise Day
Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May	HALF TERM
Monday 1 st June	Children return to school
Monday 8 th June – Wednesday 10 th June	Y6 Residential Trip
Monday 22 nd June	Group Photos
Friday 26 th June	Y1 WOW Day
Friday 3 rd July	Y5 WOW Day – Independence Day
Friday 10 th July	Y3 WOW Day
Tuesday 14 th July	Y2 WOW Day – Beach party
Wednesday 15 th July	Y6 WOW Day – Children’s choice

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)	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.

A message from our schools mental health team (NHS):

The MHST are currently part of a research trial with Cathy Cresswell and colleagues at University of Oxford offering online therapeutic support to parents who have children aged 5-12 years, with anxiety and autism, or suspected autism. This is a 10-week guided self-help program which is supported by weekly phone calls from MHST staff, and we hope this will become a core part of our offer in future.

FREE MHST online workshops

The MHST have developed a series of workshops for staff, parents/carers of primary and secondary aged children and young people and teenagers aged 16-18 years.

These workshops include understanding emotional based school avoidance (EBSA), supporting students with anxiety in school/college, working with self-harm and understanding autism plus many more...

Please see the following link for further information and how to book on to the workshops. NELFT Essex MHST Events - 30 Upcoming Activities and Tickets | Eventbrite
These events are also advertised on our Instagram @EssexMHST_and_SETcamhs

You'll also find helpful evidence-based strategies, practical techniques, and supportive resources on our social media to guide both you and your young person.

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 a daffodil or a rose?'

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 –	87.4%
Year 1 –	91.8%
Year 2 –	94.4%
Year 3 –	93.3%
Year 4 –	95.0%
Year 5 –	92.6%
Year 6 –	96.7%

Certificates

Class	Stars of the Week	Mathematician of the Week
Reception (EYFS)	Brodie, Alaya-Angel	Norah
Year 1	Poppy, Freddie	Kobe
Year 2	Edward, Leah	Claire
Year 3	Fred, Zara	Oliver S
Year 4	Jax, Lewis	Lizzie
Year 5	Aman, Kai B	Kai M
Year 6	Maisie, Simrita	Dottie

Birthdays

A very happy birthday to the following children for this week and this coming weekend:

Kobe, Zara, Simrita, Rorie, Monica, Jayden

Many happy returns!

Ms Allen



Headteacher

Larkrise Primary School

♥ Heart & Soul 🎵 Saturday

A Celebration of Community,
Kindness & Wellbeing

Saturday 30th May 2026

11:00am – 3:00pm



Christ Church

New London Road, Chelmsford CM2 0AW

Come along and enjoy:



Free warm lunch



Tea, coffee & space to relax



Live music from
New City Voices



Wellbeing & health support



Take part in our
community mural



Add a message to our
Kindness Tree



Giant games & puzzles
for all ages



Connect with your
community



What to do

Advice on childhood illnesses



Go to school; if needed, get treatment as required



Some restrictions for school attendance



Don't go to school and see the GP

What it's called?	What it's like	Going to school	Getting treatment	More advice
Asthma flare up	Worsening of usual symptoms		Follow your care plan	Stay off school if feeling too unwell
Chicken pox	Rash begins as small, red, flat spots that develop into itchy fluid-filled blisters		Pharmacy	Back to school five days after on-set of the rash, or when all lesions are crusted over
Common cold	Runny nose, sneezing, sore throat		Pharmacy	Ensure good hand hygiene
Conjunctivitis	Teary, red, itchy, painful eye(s)		Pharmacy	Try not to touch eye to avoid spreading*
Flu	Fever, cough, sneezing, runny nose, headache body aches and pain, exhaustion, sore throat		Pharmacy	Ensure good hand hygiene*
German measles/ Rubella	Fever, tiredness. Raised, red, rash that starts on the face and spreads downwards		GP	Back to school four days after the rash has started, if feeling well enough. Please let the school know, as pregnant members of staff may be affected.
Glandular fever	High temperature, swollen glands, sore throat; usually more painful than any before		GP	*
Hand, foot & mouth disease	Fever, sore throat, headache, small painful blisters inside the mouth on tongue and gums (may appear on hands and feet)		GP	Attend school while monitoring symptoms
Head lice	Itchy scalp (may be worse at night)		Pharmacy	
Impetigo	Clusters of red bumps or blisters surrounded by area of redness		GP	Back to school when lesions crust or 48 hours after start of antibiotics
Measles	Fever, cough, runny nose, watery inflamed eyes, rash		GP	Back to school four days from on-set of rash, and if feeling well enough
Ringworm	Red ring shaped rash, may be itchy, rash may be dry and scaly or wet and crusty		Pharmacy	
Scabies	Itching rash, commonly between fingers, wrists, elbows, arm		GP	Back to school after first treatment
Scarlet fever	Fever, unwell, red tongue, sandpaper rash		GP	Exclusion period during first 24 hours of antibiotics*
Shingles	Pain, itching, or tingling along the affected nerve pathway. Blister-type rash		GP	Only stay off school if rash is weeping and cannot be covered
Sickness bug/ diarrhoea	Stomach cramps, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea		Pharmacy	Contact GP if symptoms persist after 48 hours
Threadworms	Intense itchiness around anus		Pharmacy	Ensure good hand hygiene
Tonsillitis/ Strep throat	Intense sore throat for more than 1 day		Pharmacy	See GP if temperature lasts more than 48 hours or cannot swallow. Only need to stay off school if feeling too unwell
Whooping cough	Violent coughing, with a 'whoop'		GP	Exclusion period during first five days of antibiotics
Covid				Visit www.nhs.uk for latest guidance

*Attend school while monitoring symptoms.

This information is a guide and has been checked by health professionals. If you are unsure about your child's wellbeing, we recommend you contact your pharmacy or GP to check.

Working in partnership with

Should my child go to school/nursery today?
Hertfordshire and West Essex Healthier Together for further information
<https://www.hwehealthiertogether.nhs.uk/parentscarers>





PRIMARY EDUCATION



MULTISPORTS CAMP



📍 GRESSING PRIMARY SCHOOL, BRAINTREE

📍 ST PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, HEDINGHAM

📍 MOULSHAM HIGH SCHOOL- CHELMSFORD

📍 GREAT DUNMOW LEISURE CENTRE



MAY
26TH - 29TH

8AM - 5PM

AGE
5-11

Activities

- ✓ Go Karting
- ✓ Inflatables
- ✓ Arts and Crafts
- ✓ Archery
- ✓ Lazer Tag
- ✓ And MUCH MORE.....

**SCAN
ME!**

