



## LARKRISE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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**Headteacher: Ms Katie Allen**

Learning Together - Achieving Excellence



1<sup>st</sup> May 2026

Dear Families,

What a lovely sunny week we have had! It makes such a difference to everyone's mood so we have had a very happy week so far!

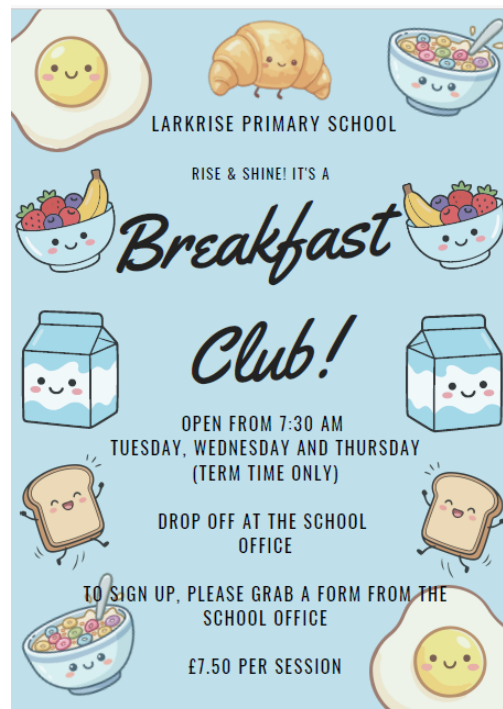
Please remember that school is closed on Monday due to the bank holiday and on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>

May we are open to parent consultations from 1pm only. Please use the main school entrance as we will have all parent meetings in the KS1 area to avoid disturbing the voting in the hall.

Many thanks

### **Breakfast Club**

We are very pleased to announce that we are going to run a breakfast club in our school hall on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays starting on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May. The cost is £7.50 per child and we will be open from 7.30am. Please call the office if you would like to book a place. We will also be running an after school club after the May half term – details to follow.



### **Parent Consultations**

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May we will be holding parent consultation meetings.

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May will run from 3.30pm until 5.30pm, Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May will run from 1pm until 4pm as school is closed to children for polling day.

Appointments will be available on Arbor for you to book.

I encourage all families to make a booking to see their child's class teacher as this will be the last opportunity before the end of the school year. It means that we can share with you what the children have been working on, what they are good at and any areas that they need to work on in the final stretch of the year to ensure they strive for the best they can achieve.

### **David Attenborough's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

The legend that is David Attenborough will be 100 next week so on Friday we are asking children to celebrate by wearing 1 item of clothing that is green – socks, hair bands for example. We will be celebrating in school with special assemblies and lessons to learn about David Attenborough and his life. This is especially significant as one of our House Teams is named 'Attenborough'. Please support us in the spirit of the occasion by your children wearing one item of clothing that is green. Many thanks.

### **Mrs Pattullo**

Mrs Pattullo, our SENDco, has undergone a medical procedure and is now home and doing well. She will not be around for a few weeks 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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

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

[www.outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk](http://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](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. 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!

### **Diary Dates**

Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Parent consultations 3.30pm – 5.30pm
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	Parent consultations 1pm – 4pm in KS1 – please use the main entrance to school NOT the playground entrance or the Treetops entrance
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Y4 WOW Day – Stone Age inspiration box
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Y3 WOW Day – terrarium making
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	Y1 WOW Day
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May at 2.45pm	Y4 Class Assembly
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Y5 WOW Day – World bee day
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	Y2 WOW Day – Tortoise Day

<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
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> June – Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	Y6 Residential Trip
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Y4 WOW Day – Pizza party
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Group photos
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	Y1 WOW Day
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Y5 WOW Day – Independence Day
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Y3 WOW Day
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Y2 WOW Day – Beach party
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> 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!

**FOLS News**

Here is the link if you are not yet signed up to classlist -

<https://app.classlist.com/events/#/events/view/1408410686>

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](mailto: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 weekend.**



	<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 Pre-loved uniform shop open	Pre-loved 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 079562111932.

### **Philosophy for children**

Our 'P4C question of the week' that we'd like you and your children to discuss is this: 'Would you rather listen to opera music or heavy metal music?'

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

### **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 – 89.6%  
 Year 1 – 91.0%  
 Year 2 – 97.2%  
 Year 3 – 93.3%  
 Year 4 – 96.8%  
 Year 5 – 95.4%  
 Year 6 – 94.0%

### **Certificates**

Class	Stars of the Week	Mathematician of the Week
Reception (EYFS)	Joseph, Annabelle	Enoch
Year 1	Indiana, Macie	Skyla
Year 2	Gabriella, Claire	Bowie
Year 3	Rafat, Arthur	Oscar
Year 4	Saima, Matteo	Amber
Year 5	Kai B, Joshua	Roseanne
Year 6	Nathan, Leo	Ralph

## Birthdays

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

Jasmine, Leo S, Jenson, Oliver S

Many happy returns!

Ms Allen

*K. Allen*

Headteacher

Larkrise Primary School

LARKRISE PRIMARY SCHOOL

RISE & SHINE! IT'S A

# Breakfast Club!

OPEN FROM 7:30 AM  
TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY  
(TERM TIME ONLY)

DROP OFF AT THE SCHOOL  
OFFICE

TO SIGN UP, PLEASE GRAB A FORM FROM THE  
SCHOOL OFFICE

£7.50 PER SESSION

# 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
<b>Asthma flare up</b>	Worsening of usual symptoms		Follow your care plan	Stay off school if feeling too unwell
<b>Chicken pox</b>	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
<b>Common cold</b>	Runny nose, sneezing, sore throat		Pharmacy	Ensure good hand hygiene
<b>Conjunctivitis</b>	Teary, red, itchy, painful eye(s)		Pharmacy	Try not to touch eye to avoid spreading*
<b>Flu</b>	Fever, cough, sneezing, runny nose, headache, body aches and pain, exhaustion, sore throat		Pharmacy	Ensure good hand hygiene*
<b>German measles/ Rubella</b>	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.
<b>Glandular fever</b>	High temperature, swollen glands, sore throat; usually more painful than any before		GP	*
<b>Hand, foot &amp; mouth disease</b>	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
<b>Head lice</b>	Itchy scalp (may be worse at night)		Pharmacy	
<b>Impetigo</b>	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
<b>Measles</b>	Fever, cough, runny nose, watery inflamed eyes, rash		GP	Back to school four days from on-set of rash, and if feeling well enough
<b>Ringworm</b>	Red ring shaped rash, may be itchy, rash may be dry and scaly or wet and crusty		Pharmacy	
<b>Scabies</b>	Itching rash, commonly between fingers, wrists, elbows, arm		GP	Back to school after first treatment
<b>Scarlet fever</b>	Fever, unwell, red tongue, sandpaper rash		GP	Exclusion period during first 24 hours of antibiotics*
<b>Shingles</b>	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
<b>Sickness bug/ diarrhoea</b>	Stomach cramps, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea		Pharmacy	Contact GP if symptoms persist after 48 hours
<b>Threadworms</b>	Intense itchiness around anus		Pharmacy	Ensure good hand hygiene
<b>Tonsillitis/ Strep throat</b>	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
<b>Whooping cough</b>	Violent coughing, with a 'whoop'		GP	Exclusion period during first five days of antibiotics
<b>Covid</b>				Visit <a href="https://www.nhs.uk">www.nhs.uk</a> 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/parents/carers>



# MAY CRASH COURSE

JOIN OUR EXCLUSIVE MAY HOLIDAY SWIMMING CRASH COURSE AT GREAT  
BADDOW HIGH SCHOOL (CM2 9RZ)  
**4 DAYS, TUESDAY 26TH - FRIDAY 29TH MAY**

1:2:1 PRIVATE LESSONS TAILORED TO YOUR CHILD'S NEEDS, WHETHER THAT BE LEARNING TO SWIM, HOW TO DIVE OR IMPROVING YOUR TECHNIQUES WE ARE ABLE TO HELP WITH ALL

DESIGNED TO BUILD WATER CONFIDENCE, INCREASE STRENGTH AND DEVELOP SWIMMING SKILLS

**Fun, Engaging Sessions for All Ages and Abilities**

SPACES ARE LIMITED - BOOK NOW!

4 x 30 MINUTE DAILY LESSONS WITH YOUR OWN TEACHER £140 + VAT

Whether you're a beginner or looking to refine your strokes, our certified instructors offer tailored lessons that make swimming enjoyable and effective.

## Big Swim Little Swim™

EMAIL: [LIZOBIGSWIMLITTLESWIM.CO.UK](mailto:LIZOBIGSWIMLITTLESWIM.CO.UK)  
FOR MORE DETAILS AND TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT