

**LARKRISE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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

Tel: (01245) 471654

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Headteacher: Ms Katie Allen

Learning Together - Achieving Excellence

18th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

The children have been working incredibly hard this week. I have seen engaging phonics lessons in EYFS and KS1, and I have seen some wonderful writing in KS2. We have started to gather some of the work for our displays around the school so by the time you come to see us for Parents Evenings on 20th and 22nd October, they should all be finished. The children should be very proud of what they have begun to achieve so far this year. Keep working hard Larkrise!

Arbor

As it is the beginning of a new year, we would like to ask you all to have a look at your personal details on Arbor to check that they are up to date. Please check your telephone numbers and email addresses, as well as those listed who we can call and those who can collect your child. If you do make any amendments, please email the school office on admin@larkrise.essex.sch.uk as well so that we know this has been changed.

If you have any specific requirements regarding who cannot collect your child(ren), court orders etc, it would be good to have that information fresh for the start of this year too, even if you think we have that information already. Please email this in to admin@larkrise.essex.sch.uk at your earliest convenience or drop into the school office to let the office staff know. This information MUST come to the school office and not via the class teacher please.

New Headteacher – message from Joe Figg DCEO

Dear Families

Following our communication in the summer term regarding the new headteacher at Larkrise Primary School, we are now able to provide further information.

As you know Ms Allen will be leaving the school at the end of the autumn term this academic year. In the summer we appointed Mrs Wendy Woods to become the new Headteacher at Larkrise Primary School and she will officially start in her new role on 1st January 2027. Mrs Woods is an experienced headteacher and is currently the headteacher at St Leonard's Church of England Primary School in Southminster. She has worked with many of the staff in the trust previously as she was Deputy Headteacher at Purleigh Primary School prior to her headship. She is therefore familiar with trust systems and practices, and having had many conversations with her since her appointment she is looking forward to starting at Larkrise and meeting you all.

Over the coming months you will have the opportunity to meet Mrs Woods and she will be attending the school on several occasions to ensure a smooth transition later this term.

Many Thanks

Mr Figg

Deputy CEO

Mrs Hill's Retirement

After 15 wonderful years at our school, we are sadly saying goodbye to our amazing Office Manager, who is retiring. She has been an invaluable support to me as Headteacher and has always been someone I could rely on, but she has also been a warm, friendly and welcoming face to our parents, families and children over the years. Her kindness, dedication and hard work have made such a difference to our school community, and she will be greatly missed by us all. We are so sorry to see her go, but wish her every happiness, relaxation and adventure in her retirement – she has certainly earned it! Please feel free to drop into the school office and wish her well yourself – she works Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays until the end of September.

Autism Course

On 25th September from 9am to 11am the Mental Health Support Team will be hosting a workshop designed to help you understand Autism and add new ideas to your parenting toolkit. Please see the attached leaflet for more information.

School Uniform

Just a reminder:

It is our school policy that all children wear school uniform when attending school, or when participating in a school-organised event outside normal school hours.

Uniform Details

AUTUMN/WINTER

- White shirt/blouse for Y1 – Y6/White polo shirt for Reception children
- Larkrise tie for Y1 – Y6 (available from One Stop School Gear)
- Grey/Black trousers/shorts (boys or girls) and grey or black socks (Reception children can wear black jogging bottoms)
- Grey/Black school skirt/pinafore (for girls) and charcoal grey/ black woollen tights or ¾ length charcoal grey, black or white socks (Reception children can wear black jogging bottoms)
- Blue jumper or cardigan with optional school logo on (which is available from One Stop School Gear)
- Blue and white gingham dresses in the summer term or when the weather is particularly warm in Autumn

*NB. Trousers and shorts worn in school for uniform must be appropriate uniform style material and 'cut', i.e., tailored style, **not** sportswear or fashion styles.*

All uniform items can be purchased from One Stop School Gear, however items of school uniform can also be purchased at local supermarkets, or high street shops, meaning they can be much more affordable for families. The logo'd uniform, especially the jumper, is a popular choice but is not compulsory.

'The Hive' has a pre-loved uniform shop. Contact our Child and Family support worker or come to a drop-in to find out what's there.

PE KIT

Black plimsolls or plain trainers (trainers for outside use and for sporting competitions)

- Blue PE shorts
- White T-shirt with optional logo on (which is available from One Stop School Shop)
- Black/dark coloured, plain tracksuit for the winter months (for outside use)

The PE kit should be brought to school on a Monday morning and may be taken home on Friday afternoon. Alternatively, kit can be left in school and will be sent home at the end of a half term.

I have had to speak to several children this week who have not had their PE kit in. PE is a very important part of our curriculum and should not be missed. Please ensure PE kit is in every week. No PE kit for a period of time will incur consequences.

All items of clothing – including shoes and ties – should be clearly marked with the child's name. We have already accrued an amount of 'lost property' which we get rid of at the end of every half term. PLEASE label your children's clothing!!!!!!

Meet the Teacher Presentations

Thank you to all parents who have attended the 'Meet the Teacher' presentations. I hope you have had the chance to find out a little bit more about your child's teacher(s), the class routine and what the children will be learning this year, and the all-important PE days. The presentation itself can be found on your child's class page, under the Children tab on the school website – www.larkrise.essex.sch.uk. Our teachers will be updating those pages throughout the term so keep checking back for more information.

OPAL

Please send in anything you think might be suitable for the children to play with on our playground – old suitcases, old bikes/scooters, any tyres, piping etc We are collecting so that we can start as soon as possible. We have an audit on 21st September with OPAL so hopefully things will move quite quickly after that. The staff had training in the INSET days before we returned to school and they are all very keen and excited to get started!

DIARY DATES

Tuesday 22nd September	Y3 WOW Day – Making kites
Thursday 24th September 2.30pm The Hive	FOLs – meet the team in the Hive 2.30pm
W/B 28.9.26	Assessment Week
Friday 9th October	Y1 WOW Day – All things bears
16th October	EYFS WOW Day – What is Autumn?
W/B 19.10.26: Tuesday 20th October Thursday 22nd October	Parent/Teacher consultations
20th October	Y4 WOW Day – Animation afternoon
20th October	Y2 WOW Day – Fire of London houses
21st October	Y6 WOW Day – WW2
HALF TERM – 26th – 30th October	
6th November	Y3 WOW Day – Making pinch pots
26th November	EYFS WOW Day – Happy Birthday Robbie!
2nd December	Y6 WOW Day – Christmas Decs
4th December	Y4 WOW Day – All things Greek
11th December	Y2 WOW Day – Lonely beasts Party
11th December	Y1 WOW Day – Christmas is coming

FOLS NEWS

Come and meet the FOLs Team on Thursday 24 September at 2:30pm in The Hive, everyone is welcome. We will be announcing some upcoming event dates and details.



Please see the Classlist link if you are not signed up yet. All our events are advertised on here and you can purchase tickets here too

<https://classlist.page.link/CmMMdA6uNwwuEtR5>

If anyone has any fundraising ideas for the children/school, would like to join FOLS or you have any questions, we are more than happy to help. Please do get in contact with FOLS on the following email - familiesoflarkrise@hotmail.com or message us on our Facebook page - Families and friends of Larkrise Primary School or alternatively, look out for us on the KS2 playground. All of this is not possible without everyone coming together as a community

Many thanks
The FOLs Team



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9 -10 am	Pre-loved uniform shop open (Cash only)	Pre-loved uniform shop open (Cash only)	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	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	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.

Autism Course

On 25th September from 9am to 11am the Mental Health Support Team will be hosting a workshop designed to help you understand Autism and add new ideas to your parenting toolkit. Please see the attached leaflet for more information.

Philosophy for children

Our 'P4C question of the week' that we'd like you and your children to discuss is this: 'Would you rather eat leftover pizza cold or hot?'

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. Thank you to all those who

Attendance News

Attendance was a reason that Larkrise did not reach the 'outstanding' grade from Ofsted. 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 –	86.8%
Year 1 –	93.7%
Year 2 –	89.1%
Year 3 –	88.6%
Year 4 –	86.4%
Year 5 –	93.4%
Year 6 –	85.7%

STARS of the WEEK:

Year 1 –	Bowie, Alaya-Angel
Year 2 –	Jasmine, Lenny
Year 3 –	Jasemina, Claire
Year 4 –	Klay, Arthur
Year 5 –	Bella, Megan
Year 6 –	Brooke, Kai B

MATHEMATICIANS:

Year 1 –	Ayla
Year 2 –	Jaxon
Year 3 –	Alfie
Year 4 –	Tyler
Year 5 –	Bella
Year 6 –	Kathryn

TTRS: Year 5, 43%, Year 6, 43%

Have a lovely, restful weekend.

Ms Allen



Headteacher

Larkrise Primary School

PARENT WORKSHOP

Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs) work across education and healthcare, supporting children and young people to understand their feelings, behaviours, mental health and wellbeing.

@set_camhs_nhs



Introduction to Autism

Helping you to understand your Autism and add new ideas to your parenting toolkit.

This workshop will focus on:

- ✦ Providing you with an introduction to Neurodiversity and Autism.
- ✦ Ways that you, and the system around them, can support your child.

The workshop will take place
at Larkrise School,
On 25th September 2026,
from 09:00 to 11:00 am.

NHS
North East London
NHS Foundation Trust

