



LARKRISE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Ms Katie Allen

Learning Together - Achieving Excellence



17th October 2025

Dear Families

A busy week here at Larkrise this week. I have had the pleasure of visiting lessons in writing across the school and I am so impressed with the focus and effort of most of our children. Our youngest members are working hard to learn their letter sounds and how to write them, as well as improving their finger strength and our eldest are writing pages about WW2 with similes, metaphors, adjectives, expanded noun phrases, alliteration and more! It is such a joy to see the children learn and it was very clear to see that the children really do love their teachers. Well done to all!

We had our first tour of the school for potential new starters September 2026 on Monday. How lovely it was to show the parents around our school and hear them say such positive things about Larkrise.

Please let anyone who is looking for a school for their little one know that we are holding tours of the school in the next few months.

Tours are available on;

Tuesday 18th November at 9.30am

Monday 8th December at 1.30pm

Tuesday 13th January at 9.30am

Please spread the word!

UNIFORM CONSULTATION

You will have received a letter asking for your views on the introduction of a blue tie and white shirt to our school uniform, in place of our blue polo shirts. Thank you to all who have sent in their views so far. There is still time to let us know your thoughts so please do dojo or email the office. I will be closing this on Friday 7th November so please do let us know your thoughts. Thank you.

YEAR 6 TO 7 SECONDARY ADMISSION ROUND FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

As you may be aware, the new secondary school admission round opened on Friday, 12 September 2025, for parents of current Year 6 children to apply for a secondary school (Year 7) place for September 2026.

The statutory national closing date for applications is 31 October 2025.

Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions. 99% of parents in Essex applied online last year.

All of the application information is available on the website above.

The website also has a copy of the Secondary Education in Essex 2026-27 booklet which contains details of all secondary school admission policies.

SAFEGUARDING ALERT

We want to make you aware of an issue affecting some popular children's books by Andrew Cope, including the Spy Dogs, Spy Cats, and Spy Pups series.

Some editions of these books include a printed web address at the back that used to go to the author's website. This link has been compromised and is no longer within his control. The website now connects to inappropriate adult content.

The publisher, Puffin, has paused sales and distribution of the books and is working with schools, libraries, and retailers to remove copies from circulation. They have stressed that the website has no connection to the author or publisher.

What this means for you:

- If your child has any Spy Dog, Spy Cat or Spy Pups books at home, please check the back for website links and make sure they do not try to visit the site.
- It is safe for children to continue reading the stories themselves — the concern is only with the outdated link.
- You can also talk with your child about the importance of not following web addresses in any children's reading materials without checking with an adult first.

Thank you for your support with this.

PARENT CONSULTATION MEETINGS

We will be holding Parent Consultation meeting on Tuesday 21st October from 3.30pm until 5pm and on Thursday 23rd October from 3.30pm until 7.30pm. Appointments can be made via the Arbor app. Each appointment will last for 10 minutes so please be prompt and we will try to do the same.

FOLS DISCO

FOLS work very hard throughout the year to raise money for our school by organising events for the children and families of Larkrise. Sadly, the school disco in the summer had to be cancelled as it was just too hot. FOLS have put on a Autumn Disco tonight to make up for the disappointment of the summer and many tickets were carried forward. It saddens me even more that parents are not being respectful of dates that are frequently advertised in various formats across the school communications and are then being rude to FOLS members when they stick to those dates. The team that lead FOLS are ALL working parents and need to have deadlines to make things work for themselves, their families and the school. Please be mindful of this and show some kindness for the efforts they put in through the goodness of their own hearts. It would be a very sad state if they were to end their work entirely and this is not something that we want to happen.

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.

ARBOR

Arbor is now working. Please can you make payments for your child's dinner arrears for last year and for the start of term. A reminder that going forward all school meals need to be paid for in advance.

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!

CONSEQUENCES

We have had an increasing number of children who are choosing to hurt others during break and lunchtimes. Some of the children tell us that their parents tell them to hit back if they are hit first. This is not the way that we want our pupils to conduct themselves at Larkrise. Often, we find that the initial 'hit' was actually an accident but children are lashing out first before finding out what has happened. We want our children to respond with curiosity and kindness first. When children do hit others, I want to be clear to you that there will be consequences. This may be in the form of missing play or missing lunch play, being directed to another classroom to do their learning, or a conversation with parents. We are preparing our children to be adults in a world where there are much harsher, more serious consequences for choosing the wrong actions. Thank you for your co-operation.

TV OPPORTUNITY

My name is Frankie Mensah & I am the Casting Executive at BAFTA award winning Expectation Television, makers of Clarkson's Farm on Amazon Prime, Miracles on Sky Max & Alma's Not Normal BBC 2. <https://www.expectationtv.com/>

We are looking for confident kids aged 9-11yrs and their parents for a new non-broadcast pilot "The Big Adventure" a funny, feel-good series that challenges a group of kids to navigate their way home unsupervised.

Do your kids spend most of their time in the online world?

Are you an over protective parent but think it's now time for your child to learn life skills and have an adventure of a lifetime?

If you are interested and want to hear more get in touch below!

If anyone is interested in getting in touch, they can email us at:

kidsadventureshow@expectationtv.com

Best wishes,

The Kids Adventure Show (working title) Team

Frankie Mensah

Casting Executive

Please see below on behalf of the Mid Essex Start Well group

"Got a little one under 5? These free drop-in events are for you! Friendly faces, expert advice, and fun activities – just turn up and see what's on offer!"

This October, families across Mid Essex (Chelmsford, Braintree, Maldon, Dengie & Witham) are invited to attend the **Start Well Roadshows** – a series of free, drop-in events designed to support parents and carers of children under 5.

Families will find expert advice, peer support, and fun activities for little ones – all in a relaxed, welcoming environment. Whether they're preparing for pre-school or just looking for a bit of support, there's something for everyone.

📍 Locations include libraries and family hubs across Mid Essex.

📅 No need to book – just turn up!

👉 [Click here for dates and details](#)

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email C&Fpartnershipleads@essex.gov.uk

All the best,
Mid Essex Start Well partners

BIKES AND SCOOTERS

Bikes and scooters MUST NOT be used on the playground at the end of the school day or in the old KS1 playground at the front of school before school starts. Please ensure when you are collecting bikes and scooters that they are not used until you leave the school premises, and if your child is arriving to school on a bike or scooter, they dismount and hold their bike until it is time to enter the premises. This is to avoid collisions and injuries. Many thanks.

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. Thank you for your understanding.

FLU IMMUNISATION DAY

Our flu immunisation day is on Monday 10th November. Please see dojo sent home with important information about the vaccination and a link to provide online consent or decline.

DIARY DATES

Friday 17 th October	Y6 WOW Day – Leadership skills
Tuesday 21 st October	Y5 WOW Day – International animation day
Tuesday 21 st October	Parent Consultations 3.30-5pm
Wednesday 22 nd October	Y3 WOW Day - India
Thursday 23 rd October	EYFS WOW Day - Autumn
Thursday 23 rd October	Parent Consultations 3.30–7.30pm
Friday 24 th October	Last day of term
Monday 27 – Friday 31 October	HALF TERM
Monday 3 rd November	Return to school
Monday 10 th November	Flu immunisation Day
Wednesday 10 th December	Y6 Class Assembly at 2.45pm
Thursday 18 th December	Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day
Friday 19 th December	Last day of term
Monday 22 nd Dec – Tues 6 th Jan	Christmas Holidays
Monday 5th January	INSET Day – School closed to children

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.

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.

FOLS NEWS

Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets for the Autumn Disco. We are looking forward to music, fun and games with the children after school.

**Halloween competition
 Colour a picture £1 entry**

If your child/children would like to take part, you will need to purchase a Halloween picture from a member of the FOLS team for £1. Entries will need to be in by Monday 20 October, to be judged and the winners announced later in the week (don't forget to add your child's name and year group to the back of the drawing)

Friday 24 October - FOLS Non uniform day - details to follow

Friday 24 October - Halloween tattoos £1

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. We are open to all ideas and any new ideas for events that you or the children may have.

If anyone would like to volunteer to help the FOLS team, please get in contact. The more people we have on board the more events we can put on.

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.

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 go to a disco or watch a movie?'

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 –	89.2%
Year 1 –	82.3%
Year 2 –	87.8%
Year 3 –	95.8%
Year 4 –	93.6%
Year 5 –	84.3%
Year 6 –	96.2%

CERTIFICATES

Class	Stars of the Week	Mathematician of the Week
Reception (EYFS)		
Year 1	Irina, Rafaella	Eric
Year 2	Jenson, Davina	Imogen
Year 3	Samuel, Kody	Alyssa
Year 4	Lewis, Matteo	Riyaan
Year 5	Kai B, Hadiya	Kai M
Year 6	No Stars	

Most active class on TTRS Year 4, 93%

October's Spooky Special Issue of KidAround Magazine

- Diary dates, autumn outings, Kids News, recipes and more
- Read it here: <https://anyflip.com/btwyj/hzlr/>

BIRTHDAYS

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

Ethan, Ozzy, Anabel

Many happy returns!

Have a lovely, restful weekend.



Ms Allen

Headteacher

Larkrise Primary School

WE ACCEPT CHILDCARE
VOUCHERS & OFFER
TAX-FREE CHILDCARE!

MEGA CAMPS

KIDS DAY ACTIVITY CAMPS

CHILDCARE FROM
8am - 6pm

AGES
4 - 14



OCTOBER CAMP 2025

AT ALL LOCATIONS - CHECK WEBSITE FOR DATES

FENCING



KIDS
FAVOURITE

FANCY DRESS



INFLATABLE FOOT DARTS



ANIMAL WORKSHOP



DIFFERENT MEGA ACTIVITIES, ARTS & CRAFTS AND
SPORTS AVAILABLE EACH DAY

MULTIPLE LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT
ESSEX, KENT & SURREY THIS OCTOBER

CHECK WEBSITE FOR LOCATIONS & DATES



Ofsted
Registered

BOOK ONLINE NOW!
WWW.MEGACAMPS.NET
OR CALL 0333 012 4378

ALL OUR
STAFF ARE

