



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



28th November 2025

Dear Families

The last week of November has seen us freezing and enjoying the frost and ice around school, only for it to melt and heat up again! Strange!

Children have begun to practice their singing and lines for their upcoming Christmas plays and we are getting very excited to start the celebrations. The Christmas tree should be up and ready for Monday too!

Due to the recent acquisition of 'Acrotrix' gymnastics groups utilising our hall space, we have to ticket our Christmas performances. This is to ensure we keep the hall space safe. You are welcome to request 2 tickets for EITHER performance of KS1 and for EITHER performance of EYFS/KS1, depending on which year group your child(ren) are in. The tickets are free but you will not be allowed to attend without a ticket as this is how we can keep an eye on numbers. Thank you so much for your understanding.

KEY PRIORITIES FOR THIS YEAR

Every year the school senior leadership team, in partnership with the Executive leadership team of the Trust, work together to formulate a school development plan that focuses the school priorities for the year ahead. I thought you might like to know what we are working on as a school this year:

Key Priorities for 2025 -2026

To enhance pupil engagement and pupil outcomes by making learning more experiential and relevant to real life.

To ensure all teachers consistently challenge poor-quality work and raise expectations of pupils' outcomes.

To embed high-quality assessment practices led by subject leaders to evaluate pupil progress.

To strengthen the strategic role of subject leaders in driving curriculum intent, implementation, and impact.

To strengthen assessment for learning to accurately identify next steps and accelerate progress in EYFS.

To improve standards of reading and writing in EYFS.

To build and establish a KS2 nurture cabin.

If you have any questions about any of these, or any ideas, please do let us know.

RECEPTION ADMISSIONS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR STARTING IN SEPTEMBER 2026

As you may be aware, the primary school (Reception) admission round opened on **Monday 10 November 2025**, for parents of children to apply for a Reception school place for the academic year that starts in September 2026.

The statutory national closing date for applications is **15 January 2026**.

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.

Even if a parent already has a sibling at the school, they need to apply if they have a child due to start Reception next September.

The website www.essex.gov.uk/admissions also has a copy of the Primary Education in Essex 2026-27 booklet and the Schools Admissions Policies Directories contain details of all admission policies.

UNIFORM CONSULTATION

Governors met on Monday 24th November for our Autumn meeting where we discussed, amongst many other things, the uniform consultation feedback. We received responses from parents from all year groups and the response was overwhelmingly in favour of the new uniform. I will be putting together a letter to explain what will happen going forwards. Thank you to everyone for giving us your honest feedback – it really is appreciated.

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.

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.

LITTLE HAVENS HOSPICE



We are working with Little Havens Hospice for their 'Make your mark for Haven Hospice' campaign. Please have a look at our justgiving page for more details. This is for a fantastic cause and would really enable children to have a sense of giving back to those less fortunate. More details to follow.

www.justgiving.com/page/larkrise-primary-school

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. Thank you for your understanding.

DIARY DATES

Friday 28 th November	Y6 Fundraising Raffle Draw in school hall
Thursday 4 th December	Y5 WOW Day – Wildlife Conservation Day
Friday 5 th December	Y2 WOW Day
Friday 5 th December	Y1 WOW Day
Wednesday 10 th December	Y6 Class Assembly at 2.45pm
Thursday 11 th December	FOLS Christmas Community Café from 3.30pm
Monday 15 th December	IRock concert to parents of children who do IRock at 2.30pm
Monday 15 th December	Y4 WOW Day
Tuesday 16 th December	Y6 to see Shrek the Musical
Tuesday 16 th December	KS1 Christmas Performance 2pm
Wednesday 17 th December	KS1 Christmas Performance 9.30am
Wednesday 17 th December	KS2 Christmas Performance 2pm
Thursday 18 th December	KS2 Christmas Performance 9.30am
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)	TPP for Families course (application 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

Christmas Community Cafe

Thursday 11 December 2025

in the hall after school, enter via the main reception doors.

Fun Games, Xmas Crafts, Biscuit Decorating, Temporary Tattoos, Guess the name, Hot & Cold Drinks, Doughnuts and Xmas Goodies for sale.

As in previous years we sell tokens for £1 in advance which can be exchanged for a go on all FOLS stalls.

(NO CASH IS TAKEN ON THESE STALLS)

The event is set up on Classlist or you can pay cash in advance. Our contact details are below or find Elaine after 3:15pm in the Happiness Garden. You will be given your tokens on the day of the event.

We still need volunteers to help at this event, please do get in contact with Elaine if you can volunteer to help set up the event and or help to run a stall or help clear away after the event. If we do not have enough volunteers then we will not be able to go ahead with the event.

See the poster attached for full details.

We will also have our Rainbow Raffle tickets available to purchase on Classlist before the event or if you would like to pay cash please let us know.

See picture attached of the 7 rainbow boxes available to win. Lots of fab goodies in these. £1 a ticket.



AGM - Details & date to follow -

Christmas Jumper and PJ Sale

We are kindly asking for any children or adult Xmas jumpers and Xmas PJ's that you have out grown and no longer need. We will be collecting these from next week, then have a sale day after school in the Happiness Garden - date to follow

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 and we hope you all have a lovely weekend.

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 live in a boat or an igloo?'

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 – 82.9%
Year 1 – 80.9%
Year 2 – 96.7%
Year 3 – 96.5%
Year 4 – 95.7%
Year 5 – 85.6%
Year 6 – 95.5%

CERTIFICATES

Class	Stars of the Week	Mathematician of the Week
Reception (EYFS)	Daisy, Saikrish	Annabelle
Year 1	Jaxon, Florence	Lenny
Year 2	Davina, Isha	Claire
Year 3	Alyssa, Elliott	Zara
Year 4	Jax, Lizzy	Amber
Year 5	Amelia, Miriam	Corey
Year 6	Jabir, Eva	Filippos

Most Active of TTRS Year 4 and Year 6

BIRTHDAYS

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

Niamh, Sahil, Akua, Dana

Many happy returns!

Have a lovely, restful weekend.

Ms Allen



Headteacher
Larkrise Primary School



Join us at the

FOLS CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY CAFE



BISCUIT
DECORATING



RAINBOW
RAFFLE



GUESS THE
NAME



CHRISTMAS
CRAFTS

THURSDAY 11TH DECEMBER
IN THE HALL AFTER SCHOOL

HOT & COLD
DRINKS

TEMPORARY
CHRISTMAS
TATTOOS

FUN
GAMES

LET'S ALL CELEBRATE TOGETHER

