



**LARKRISE PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
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**Headteacher: Ms Katie Allen**  
Learning Together - Achieving Excellence



12<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Dear Families

Welcome to the penultimate newsletter of 2025! Where has that year gone?!

The children have been practising hard for their Christmas Performances – these include 2x EYFS/KS1 performances and 2x KS2 performances, as well as the IRock concert. A busy week ahead! Please ensure you collect your tickets for the Christmas Performances from the class teachers as if you do not have a ticket you will not be permitted to enter due to health and safety regulations. Thank you so much for your understanding.

We also welcomed more potential parents for a tour of the school earlier this week. Again, they had wonderful things to say about the school and were very complimentary about the politeness of the children they came across on the tour. Well done Larkrise! We have one more tour available so if you do know anyone with a small child of Reception age in September 2026, then please let them know to come and view Larkrise.

### **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](http://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](http://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.

We have a tour available on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January at 9.30am.

### **CLUBS – SPRING TERM 2026**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
Lego Club EYFS/Yr1 /Yr 2 15 Places Miss Phillips	Choir Club KS2 (Yrs 3, 4, 5 & 6) 15 Places Miss Bowers	Dodgeball Club KS1 + Year 3 (Yrs 1, 2 and3) 26 Places Mr Thomas	Maths Club (TTRS) Yrs 3,4 & 5 10 Places Miss Horne	

Sewing Club Years 2 & 3 8 Places Mrs Bacon	Movie Club KS1 (Yrs 1 & 2) 1 <sup>st</sup> Half Term 20 Places Ms Hawkins		Craft Club KS1 12 places Mrs Lane	
Gymnastics Club Yrs 5 & 6 12 Places Miss Uzzell				

If you would like your child to have a place on any of the clubs listed above, please email [clubs@larkrise.essex.sch.uk](mailto:clubs@larkrise.essex.sch.uk) stating the child's name and class and which club they would like a place on. You will be informed via email if they have been allocated a place. The cut off date for applying for clubs is Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

Please note that Football Club on a Wednesday will change to Dodgeball Club for the Spring term, the first half term it will be open to Yrs 1, 2 and 3, the second half term it will be open to Years 4, 5 and 6.

Movie Club will be KS1 first half term, then after the half term it will be KS2 children.

#### **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. There are baubles available in the office.

[www.justgiving.com/page/larkrise-primary-school](http://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**

Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	IRock concert to parents of children who do IRock at 2.30pm
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Y6 to see Shrek the Musical
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 Christmas Performance 2pm
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 Christmas Performance 9.30am
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 Christmas Performance 2pm
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 Christmas Performance 9.30am
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of term
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec – Tues 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Christmas Holidays
<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>INSET Day – School closed to children</b>
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	Children return to school
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Y4 WOW Day
<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> Feb – Fri 20<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<b>HALF TERM</b>
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Y4 WOW Day

### **I ROCK**

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](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.

### **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, aunts, 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.

**WORKSHOP** – Understanding your child's anxiety workshop for parents. Taking place in 28/1/26 at 9am until 10.30am. See the poster at the end of the newsletter for more details.

## **FOLS NEWS**

### **Christmas Community Cafe**

A big thank you to all the parents, grandparents and staff who helped us at our FOLS Community Cafe and to all the children and family members who attended our event. We hope you all had a nice time.

The winners of the Rainbow Boxes -



Yellow - Louie Year 4

Orange - Charlie Year 2

Blue - Arthur/Annabelle EYFS & Year 3

Green - Ana Year 3

Pink - Fred Year 3  
Red - Mia Year 4

Those who were not there to collect their Rainbow Boxes they have been left in the children's classroom to be collected today.

Thanks again for supporting us. We will keep you posted next week with regards to the amount of money we raised.

We will be in the happiness garden after school on Friday 12 December selling cans of drinks, bottled water, doughnuts, xmas bracelets, light up fidget bracelets, xmas glasses, light up wands and punch balloons. £1 an item. See you there.

### **AGM - Details & date to follow**

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.**

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 be in the North pole or the South pole?'  
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 –	89.6%
Year 1 –	78.6%
Year 2 –	90.0%
Year 3 –	93.9%
Year 4 –	94.6%
Year 5 –	89.6%
Year 6 –	95.5%

## CERTIFICATES

Class	Stars of the Week	Mathematician of the Week
Reception (EYFS)	Stefan, Bobby	Ayla
Year 1	Skyla, David	Poppy
Year 2	Claire, Bowie	
Year 3	Niamh, Alfie	Arthur
Year 4	Sahil, Mia	Logan
Year 5	Corey, Ishaq	Sophie
Year 6	The whole class	Lilly

## **BIRTHDAYS**

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

Poppy, Lenny, Ralph, Olivia N

Many happy returns!

Have a lovely, restful weekend.

Ms Allen



Headteacher

Larkrise Primary School



Mental Health Support Teams work across education and healthcare to provide early intervention mental health support to whole school communities and are excited to be working together with

Larkrise Primary School

# 'Understanding Your Child's Anxiety' Workshop For Parents

Helping you to understand your child's fears and worries and add new ideas to your parenting toolkit.



This workshop will provide an introduction to understanding your child's anxiety and will provide you with skills and strategies to help you support your child when they experience fears and worries



When: 28/01/2026 9:00am-10:30am

Where: Larkrise Primary School

Length: 1.5 hours



**10 January  
to 22 February  
2026**



# Winter Reading Challenge

Children across Essex are being challenged to read and get creative at their local library this winter!

Explore our Pawfessionals' amazing careers as you progress through the challenge.

Choose from twelve fun activities to complete. For each one, you'll get a sticker! Complete six, and you'll receive a certificate and get to enter our prize draw for the chance to win some incredible goodies!

Plus, you can join in with themed events and activities at the library!



Find out more about how to take part in this free activity on our website: [libraries.essex.gov.uk](https://libraries.essex.gov.uk)