



LARKRISE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Ms Katie Allen

Learning Together - Achieving Excellence



Dear Families,

The final newsletter of 2025.

We hope you have had a wonderful time watching your children perform in IRock concerts and Christmas performances this past week. It was so lovely to see so many of you coming to support your children in their singing, acting, dancing and music performances. The children really love performing and they have been practicing so hard. Thank you for your continued support.

The children all had Christmas lunch yesterday, expertly cooked by Penny and Lara (Mattie you were missed) and enjoyed every minute! Year 6 went up for seconds and thirds and there were clean plates from most classes! A huge success. We also welcomed Governors, Rev Mark and his wife from St Marys and Paul from Gold Education who all came to help serve the children. A real community spirit feel to the day. Thank you to everyone involved!

A huge thank you to all of you for all of your support for Larkrise this year. The Larkrise Team wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and successful 2026!

[A message from Dan Hunt, Chair of Governors](#)

Hi from me Dan, Chair of Governors here at Larkrise.

As a governing body we provide oversight to ensure the school delivers a high quality education, and holds the Headteacher to account for the schools educational performance. We ensure the school is meeting all of its statutory duties by meeting every term to review reports and assessment data to monitor school progress. We don't just take the schools word for it - we visit classrooms during the school day and check for ourselves how the school is doing, and whether what we are being told is true on the ground.

Larkrise has a very broad community of pupils attending, with a wide range of backgrounds and needs. I am always impressed by how calm and eager to learn the pupils are whenever I visit the school. The school faces many challenges (like all schools) but we can see it is doing great work with your children and has their best interest at heart.

If you would like to help with the governance of the school we are looking for a parent governor, so please email the school or pop in to the office to register your interest.

Merry Christmas from all of the Governors

POLLING STATION – CLOSURE OF SCHOOL

An important date for your diaries – **Thursday 7th May** is a polling day where Larkrise will be used as a polling station. This means we will be closed to children on this day. On **Thursday 7th May school will be closed.**

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.

We have a tour available on Tuesday 13th January at 9.30am.

CLUBS – Spring Term 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
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 and 3) 26 Places Mr Thomas	Maths Club (TTRS) Yrs 3,4 & 5 10 Places Miss Horne	
Sewing Club Yrs 2 & 3 8 Places Mrs Bacon	Movie Club KS1 (Yrs 1 & 2) 1 st 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 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 7th 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 TO 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.

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.

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

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 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
Tuesday 6 th January	Children return to school
Wednesday 14 th January	Y5 Class Assembly
Monday 19 th January	Book Fair in school
Friday 6 th February	Y4 WOW Day PM
Monday 16th Feb – Fri 20th Feb	HALF TERM
Thursday 26 th March	Y4 WOW Day
Friday 27 th March	Last day of term

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.

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

FOLS delivered Xmas presents to all the children on Thursday afternoon.



The winners of the cuddly teddies from the Xmas community cafe were named Freddie and Snuggles and have been handed to the winners in school today.

So far this year we have brought -

- pumpkins
- paid for the Xmas crackers, so every child had one with their Xmas lunch yesterday
- Xmas present for every child
- we have paid for the KS2 Xmas production 'FOLS Presents Defrosted' which includes all the licences and scripts etc. to put the show on
- we purchased some new games for the Xmas community cafe which we will be able to use at events going forward.

If anyone has any ideas for events, please do let us know. We will be in touch at the start of the new year with our upcoming events for 2026.

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 Christmas break.

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 a reindeer or a donkey?'

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.

BIRTHDAYS

A very happy birthday to the following children for this week and for over the Christmas break:

Joseph, Rafaella, Ayla, Lyla, Indy, Isha, Stefan, Annabelle T, Ana, Skyla, Charlie, Daisy

Many happy returns!

Have a wonderful Christmas break and we will see you back at school on Tuesday 6th January 2026!

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



NELFT **NHS**
NHS Foundation Trust

**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