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To raise the achievement of all who learn and work in the school through systematic planning, review and development in order to gain optimum attainment in life skills.

"Lark Rise Lower School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff, parents, volunteers, visitors and contractors to share this commitment".



2nd September 2010

Dear Parents,



Children continuing their education in Years 1 to 4

I would like to welcome all the children back to school after the break. They all look well rested and have grown since we saw them last. We have all been preparing for the new year and are excited by the many varied experiences planned.

Staff News

We are delighted to have been able to offer Mrs Jane Gill the more permanent role of Nursery Manager as she plans for the operational needs of our youngest children. Miss Gemma Kelly has obtained her teaching degree and joins us to complete her newly qualified teacher year in the Nursery classes. We welcome trainee teachers into each of the Key Stages, Miss Sally Oliver (Nursery and Reception), Miss Laura Carter (Key Stage One) and Mrs Lorna Francis (Key Stage Two). We know that they will gain much from their time with us this year.

Lark Rise Academy

We are delighted to inform you that Lark Rise is to become an Academy from 1 October 2010. After much deliberation the final name is to be Lark Rise Academy *A School of Excellence*. The final contractual arrangements by the Local Authority are in the process of completion. To this end we would like to inform you of an opening party for yourselves and the children on Friday 1 October at 2pm. You will be able to take a guided tour and have some drinks and cakes as we mark this momentous occasion.

Briefing for Key Stage One and Two parents

We understand that the arrangements for the children are vitally important for parents so we have planned briefing sessions by the teachers in Red, Blue and Yellow classes (in the school hall) and Green, Purple and Orange classes (in the Eatery) on **Friday 3rd September at 2.45 pm**. All of the information will be published on the class page in the parents section of the school website for those of you who are unable to attend.

School communications

Following a successful emailing pilot by last year's Purple class parents and Miss Matthews, we are rolling out the system across the school. You will receive a letter from class teachers giving their class email address which will be used to send you a summary of the week and any reminders about events. We ask that you send an email to the address you are given showing your child's name and your name for inclusion on the mailing list.



Website construction

The school website is now more structured and will be used to place all newsletters and other communications allowing us to be as 'paper free' as possible. In this way we can avoid children dropping letters or getting them trapped in school drawers or book bags. They will be available for reference at future points.

We have taken advice and are planning further changes which will contain a calendar of events and a consultation blog facility. Mrs Sutton and Mrs Gransby would like to work with parents on further changes to our website so that it can be as easy to use as possible. Our hopes and aspirations are that it contains as much or as little information that each parent may require. Should you wish to be part of this process please email office@larkrise.com.

Parent consultation

Miss Matthews has collated all the responses from parents at the end of the school year. I thank you for the time you spent in commenting on our work and offering ideas for improvements. We have responded to the comments either explaining why things happen or showing how we will implement changes suggested. We hope this transparency can continue as we move through this school year. The final document can be found on the latest news page of the website.

Tasting Foods

As part of the curriculum work taking place in the classroom we will be tasting various types during the coming year. Please complete the attached form so that your child may join in with these activities. Should your child become allergic to anything during the year, please inform the office as soon as possible to update our records.

Breakfast Snack

We are continuing to provide bread and toast each morning break. As we know that every child takes part in this activity we would ask that you send in the requested donation to cover the costs. The contribution we request is **£2.50** per child per term. Please complete the slip attached and return it to school with the money. Thank you in advance for your support.

Donations to Science, Art, Design & Technology

In previous years we have requested a voluntary contribution for each child towards the cost of various resources. This has been most useful in providing an exciting range of materials for the children to use. We are once again making this request and would appreciate your donation in providing **£3 per child** for this school year.

Finally we have planned a gentle start for the children as they settle into their new classes and routines and we look forward to a year of successful learning together.

Should you require further information or have comments to make about the content of this letter please contact me at the school.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Sue Attard
Headteacher

