



## WELCOME

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the first issue of FOLIAGE, the new newsletter of the Friends of Larkrise (Oxford)!

Despite all the difficulties arising from the coronavirus pandemic, we have had a successful year so far. By focusing on grant fundraising, parent/carer donations and the generosity of staff in organising online activities like the Online Halloween Event, we have managed to support two large projects - the new outdoor hall and refurbishment of the library - plus many smaller ones.

This term continues with much of our activity being virtual. However, as restrictions ease, we plan to start in-person events and mobilise our dedicated parents/carers to support projects around the school. If you have any time or expertise available to donate to school (however small) please fill in the (commitment free) [Volunteer Sign-Up Form](#) on the [new FoL website](#).

We are really excited about the school's plan to redevelop the outdoor play areas. The first Work Party of this school year will be held on **Sunday 9 May 2021**, and we encourage volunteers to sign up ASAP. We are also crossing our fingers to be able to hold Larkfest on **Friday 16th July**, so keep your diary free!

One impact of the pandemic has been our inability to properly welcome new families who have joined the school, so I hope this (lengthy) newsletter gives you some idea about what FoL is and does. I have a good feeling about the remainder of the year, and am really looking forward to reconnecting or meeting with you soon.

Naomi Douglas  
Chair, FoL Committee 2020-2021  
[chairFOL@larkriseprimary.org](mailto:chairFOL@larkriseprimary.org)



## CALENDAR

- Spring Craft Packs for sale online  
Wednesday 10 March 2021
- Gypsy Baker Mother's Day Fundraiser  
Sunday 14 March 2021
- FoL EGM and Meeting (online)  
Wednesday 21 April 2021, 7pm
- First draw of the Larkrise lottery  
Friday 24 April 2021
- FoL Outdoor Work Party  
Sunday 9 May 2021, 9am-4pm
- Larkfest (the Summer Fayre)  
Friday 16 July 2021

## CONTACT US

Website

[friendsoflarkrise.org](http://friendsoflarkrise.org)

Twitter

[twitter.com/FriendsLarkrise](https://twitter.com/FriendsLarkrise)

Facebook

[facebook.com/FriendsOfLarkrise](https://facebook.com/FriendsOfLarkrise)

Classlist

[Larkrise Primary School Parent](#) community

Email

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## SPRING CRAFT PACKS

Spring Craft Packs are on sale from today at the [FoL website shop](#) for £4 each. Packs contain cheery coloured paper and ribbon, paper flowers, and a wooden ornament to paint. Great for two cards, hat decorations, or your very own Spring art creations. A big thank you to Rose Rolle-Rowan and her kids for designing and coordinating this project!



## LARKRISE GARDENING APPEAL

On the return of children to the classroom on 8 March 2021, Larkrise is prioritising a new school gardening programme to help children improve cooperation skills, social learning and resilience following the extended periods of isolation during home-schooling.



One garden bed for each class will be located on the lower field. The design of the planting area is being led by the Year 6 pupils. The entire project will need approximately £5,000 to fully implement, most of which will come from grant funding.

However, in the next week, we are hoping to raise £1,000 so our children can get started in the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year.

For more information, please see the donation page at [localgiving.org/appeal/LarkriseSchoolGardening](https://localgiving.org/appeal/LarkriseSchoolGardening)

## LARKRISE LOTTERY

This term, FoL is launching a lottery managed by [yourschoollottery.co.uk](https://yourschoollottery.co.uk) to help raise money for the school.

If you decide to participate, you would sign up for a £1 ticket per week online and nominate Friends of Larkrise as your chosen charity.

Each week, 40% of the ticket sales for FoL is given to FoL, and 30% is won by a randomly-selected ticket. In addition, any ticket that matches the 6-digit winning combination for the week across all charities wins the £25,000 jackpot.

For example, if £100 of tickets were sold for FoL in a week, £40 would go to FoL and £30 would be won by someone in the Larkrise community. Over the course of a year, FoL would raise £20.80 from each person purchasing a £1 ticket for 52 weeks.

For more information, and to sign up, please visit [yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/larkrise-primary-school](https://yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/larkrise-primary-school)

## GIVE AS YOU SHOP FOR NEW LIBRARY BOOKS

Now that the school library is almost up and running (see page 5) we encourage parents to sign up for the following that could raise £500-£1,000 per year for new books for the library.



Over 4,000 shops and sites will donate a small referral commission to Friends of Larkrise **FOR FREE**

when you access their online shop through easyfundraising. Each donation is small, but add up over months and years when many people sign up.

To get started, please watch this [video](#) and go to the [FoL easyfundraising site](#) and register. Part of the registration process involves installing a plugin for your Chrome browser, then each time you go to an eligible shopping site (e.g., Sainsburys), Chrome will ask you if you want to enable easyfundraising donations on that site today - you click 'OK' - and that's all you need to do for FoL to receive the referral commission.



Amazon has a **FREE** similar referral system called Amazon Smile. To direct your Smile donations to FoL, follow the instructions [here](#). Then each time you purchase from Amazon, use the [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk) website (instead of [www.amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk)).

## GYPSY BAKER MOTHERS' DAY FUNDRAISER

Make Mothers' Day sweeter than ever and learn how to bake custard tarts with Year 3 parent Hannah Bironzo and Portuguese Waste2Taste Head Chef Sandra Ruge.

20% of proceeds will be donated to Friends of Larkrise!



The Gypsy Baker Kitchen Stories  
**Mother's Day Special**

Live Online  
Cooking Class  
+ Q&A



Join Hannah and Sandra  
to learn how to cook  
the perfect  
**Pastéis de Nata**  
(Portuguese Custard Tarts),  
with a twist!



Join us on **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March, 3-4.30pm** on Zoom  
to cook along or sit back and enjoy the show.

Book at [ox4gypsybaker@gmail.com](mailto:ox4gypsybaker@gmail.com)

£15 per household (one Zoom account).

**Mother's Day Special Offer:**  
£25 to add your mum (two Zoom accounts)  
for cooking/sharing food online together,  
even if you can't meet in person.



20% of our proceeds  
will be donated to  
**Friends of Larkrise**  
Primary School.



## FOL FUNDING TO SCHOOL UPDATE

EYFS Garden Equipment	£3,000
Outdoor Hall top-up	£2,000
Cont to Library Refurb	£3,700
Books for Year 3	£300
Supplies for Science Week	£300
<b>TOTAL TO SCHOOL</b>	<b>£9,300</b>

## CALL FOR READING HELPERS

Could you spare some time to become a regular reading helper at Larkrise? The Early Years Foundation Unit Lead, who coordinates the Nursery, Reception and Year 1 classes, would like to build a team of volunteers who regularly come to the school to listen to the children read and talk to them about their books and reading choices. This is more important than ever following the missed schooling during the COVID pandemic.

The sessions would either be in the morning or afternoon, for Reception and Year 1 children.

Since children thrive on routines and consistency, the school is asking for volunteers who could come in weekly (or fortnightly) for at least a half-term. We welcome parents/carers, grandparents, students from the local universities, or members of the community who have extra time on their hands!



For more information, contact

[volunteeringFOL@larkriseprimary.org](mailto:volunteeringFOL@larkriseprimary.org)

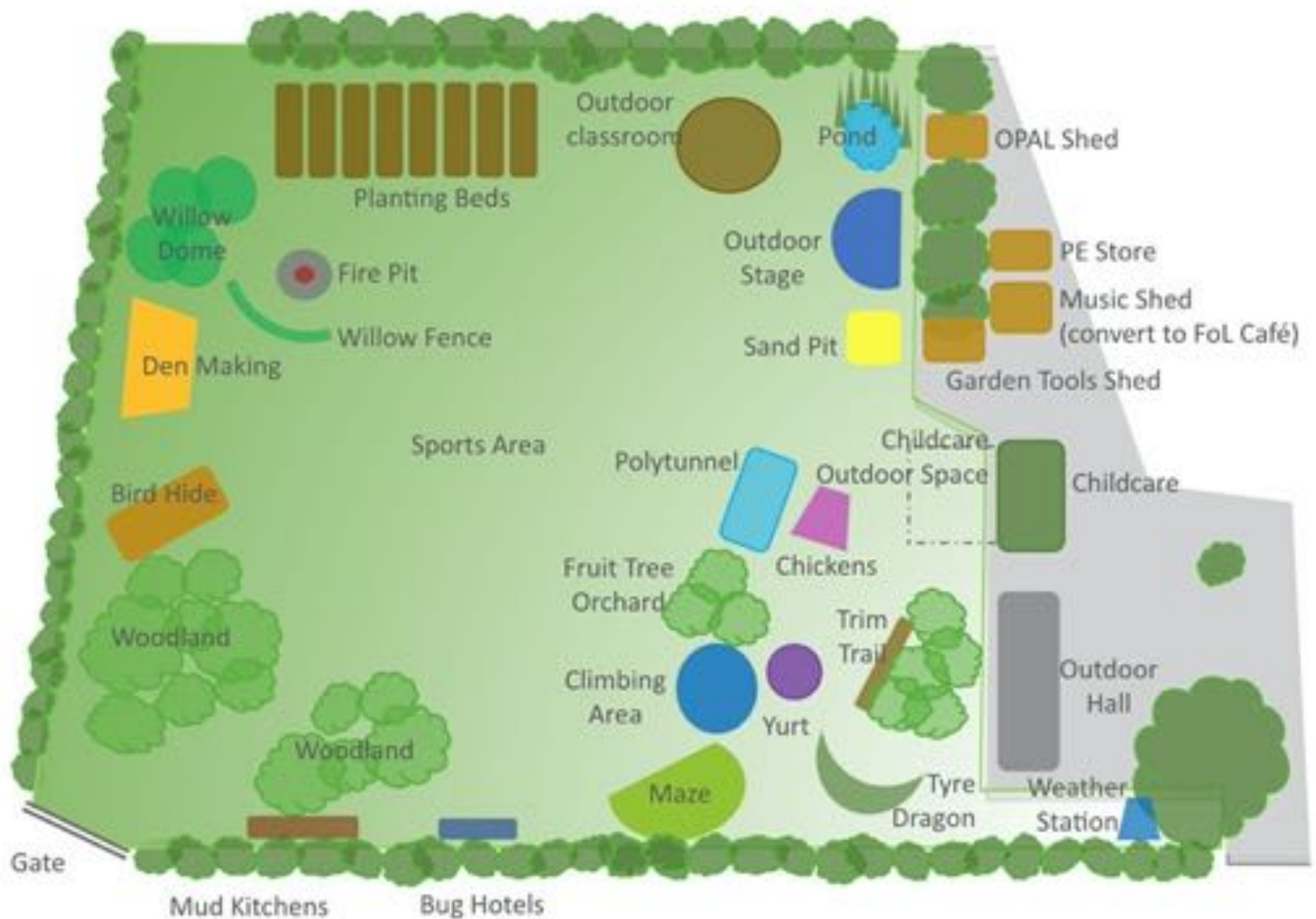
## JOIN THE GRANT FUNDRAISING GROUP

An increasing amount of funding for school projects is coming from grant fundraising, rather than the fairs and events FoL has traditionally run. Grant writing is a challenging, but very rewarding activity that you can do in your own time at home, and may suit people who might not be comfortable helping at a FoL event (e.g. Larkfest - the annual Summer fair).

We are currently submitting several applications per half-term, so additional volunteers would be most welcome.

For more information, please contact [fundraisingFOL@larkriseprimary.org](mailto:fundraisingFOL@larkriseprimary.org)

## OUTDOOR REDEVELOPMENT PLAN



At the last Friends of Larkrise meeting (held 24 Feb 2021), headteacher Jon Gray discussed the school's exciting plans for redeveloping the main playground and field at the school. Features include new raised beds for school gardening, a willow dome, fire pit for storytelling, woodland and bird hide, mud kitchens, bug hotels, a maze, climbing area, a "food forest" (fruit tree orchard), polytunnel, chickens, sand pit, outdoor stage and classroom, a pond, a FoL cafe and more!

A lot of these features require modest funds, but a large investment of time and enthusiasm from parent/carer volunteers at work parties.

If you would like to be part of the working groups that help make these playground features a reality, please fill in the [FoL Volunteers Sign-Up Form](#) and join the FoL Field/Playground Redevelopment group on Classlist (instructions are [here](#) on the website).

## REGULAR WORK PARTIES

The first work party we will be able to hold in the 2020-2021 school year will be on **Sunday 9 May 2021** from **9am to 4pm**. More information will be released closer to the date, but we encourage you to come and help if you can.

We have had to move the May date slightly but in the future, we hope to schedule work parties regularly on the first Sunday of each month (if it doesn't fall within school holidays).



## CALL FOR LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS

The new library is almost ready for borrowing! Books have been put back onto the shelves, the school is setting up childrens' borrowing accounts and working on a COVID-safe way for children to borrow and return books.

As well as being open during the school day, FoL are looking for volunteers who could help open the library one afternoon a week. If you could help, or would like more information, please contact [volunteeringFOL@larkriseprimary.org](mailto:volunteeringFOL@larkriseprimary.org)

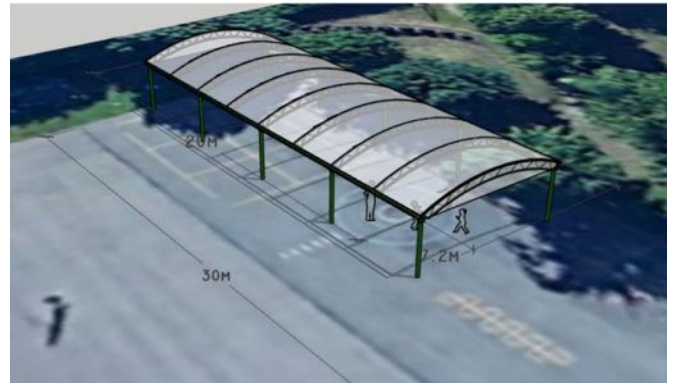


## OUTDOOR HALL UPDATE

The outdoor hall will be installed at the end of this month (March 2021)!

The school is so looking forward to using these new facilities over the coming months as our children settle back into a normal school routine.

Thank you again to all the parents who so generously donated towards this appeal!



## NEW WEBSITE

Our new website, [friendsoflarkrise.org](http://friendsoflarkrise.org), is now up and running!

Please have a quick look around: there's more information about FoL, a calendar of all upcoming events, information on the five fundraising strands (events, commissions, grants, donations, and an online shop), volunteering groups, communicating with Classlist, meeting dates, agendas and minutes, as well as contact information for the Committee.

We hope to make this the main way that we store and circulate information about FoL to our community. If you notice any bugs, or have any suggestions for how to improve the site, please get in touch with [fundraisingFOL@larkriseprimary.org](mailto:fundraisingFOL@larkriseprimary.org)



**FRIENDS OF LARKRISE**

PTA of Larkrise Primary School, Oxford

## IMPROVING COMMUNICATION WITH CLASSLIST

[Classlist](#) is a social media platform designed especially for helping communication among parents/carers at schools. It was developed by two Oxford Mums in 2015, and is now used across 40 countries. The three main benefits of using Classlist in a school setting, over other platforms (like WhatsApp), are security, privacy and choice. No one but the administrators of the site can see your phone number or other personal details. Once signed up you are automatically added to the groups for your childrens' classes, and have the freedom to join existing special interest groups, or create your own, without having to manually add each new member. Parents/carers across the school are using the platform to discuss topics like "Active Travel", "Climate Change", "Books+Reading", "Mathematics", and "Local Events".



Moving forward, FoL will be using Classlist as the main way for working groups to communicate with each other. So far, we have groups for "FoL Field/Playground Redevelopment", "FoL Parent Couriers", "FoL Library Assistants", and "FoL Work Parties". Signing up to the "Larkrise Primary School Parents" community is quick and easy. Please follow instructions on the FoL website [here](#).

## VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP FORM

Do you have skills you would be happy to use to support the school? Are you handy with tools? Perhaps you speak a different language, work in a science lab, run a library, or would be happy to run a stall at an event or write a grant application at home. This term, we would like to encourage all parents/carers to fill the [Volunteers Sign-Up form](#) on the FoL website.

This form will collect information authorising FoL to contact you about events which match your skills, and to store your data until a date specified by you.

By filling in the form you are not committing yourself to anything, but giving FoL a way to contact you that is GDPR compliant. We hope you will be able to find some projects that you would be interested in helping with!

## ABOUT US

Friends of Larkrise (Oxford) is a registered charity (no. 1180930) that supports Larkrise Primary School, and is both a parent-teacher association run by a [Committee](#), and a charity governed by a board of [Trustees](#).



The official aims of FoL are described on the [FoL Charities Commission page](#).

In practice, this means:

1. fundraising for equipment, supplies, or services for the school;
2. coordinating volunteers who can donate their time and expertise to help school projects; and
3. bringing our school community together through social events.

## STRATEGIC OVERVIEW

For the remainder of the school year, FoL will be prioritising:

1. maintaining momentum with grant fundraising;
2. improving communication and parental cooperation with Classlist and other social media;
3. mobilising volunteer groups to support school initiatives, like work parties to improve the school grounds, or reading helpers; and
4. holding in-person social events that bring our community together (and also raise funds).

The rest of this newsletter explains the projects that are in progress, and planned, and how you can get involved.

By joining a FoL special interest group, you can help guide the direction of school improvements, help improvements happen faster, and make new friends with like-minded parents across the school community. Discussions are respectful, and new and challenging opinions welcomed.

The best way to get started is to fill in the [Volunteer Sign-Up Form](#) and [join Classlist](#).