

# Matching Green News



*'Life in all its fullness'* (John 10:10)

20<sup>th</sup> December 2024

[Matching Green C of E VC Primary School \(matchinggreenprimaryschool.com\)](http://matchinggreenprimaryschool.com)



matchinggreenceprimary



[Week 1 menu](#)

[Week 2 menu](#)

Next week, we are Week 2

School dinner can be ordered on the day and children in Key Stage 1 receive free school meals. Sadly, we have taken Miss Bennet's delicious chicken and bacon pie off the menu as it is not popular with children. Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> and Thursdays on week 2 will now be chicken korma and rice.

## Collective Worship

We have finished this term reflecting on advent and the waiting period. On Monday, Reverend Julia led our Collective Worship, sharing with us about John the Baptist role in the advent calendar. In Picture News this week, we discussed and reflected on the sending and giving of Christmas Cards. Alongside our newsletter this week, you will receive a Picture News newsletter.



## Celebration



Potters  
Darcie

Nightingale  
Kit  
Perrie

Darwin  
Ivie  
Delliah

Shakespeare  
Orla  
Connie

## Weekly update

The children have performed their hearts out this week, with the Nativity performance from Potters and Nightingale through to Darwin and Shakespeare singing carols to the whole school and audience! It was lovely to see Fidgety Feet, parents and other family members at the performances this week. A huge thank you to the staff who, as always, threw everything in to preparing the children and to Mrs Ramsay for playing the piano for the performance.

We have also extended our community links and thoroughly enjoyed our visit to the Cricket Club to sing for them. The children made some sustainable Christmas Tree decorations to put on the tree to contribute to the village Christmas spirit. Martin emailed and said 'Another massive thank you from everyone at MGCC for yesterday's wonderful performance by the children. They kept everyone thoroughly entertained. And the decorations are a huge hit and look wonderful.'

I have been so unbelievable proud of the children this term and how they've represented the school and themselves, demonstrating our school values and experiencing 'life in all its fullness' at everything they've taken part in from sporting events, school trips and working with our community.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the children, parents and families for their support this term. On behalf of all the staff, thank you for the generous and thoughtful cards and gifts. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**The children are back to school on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025.**

### **Carols on the Green**

A reminder that there are carols at the Cricket Club on the Green this Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> from 5pm. Reverend Julia will be leading the school singing.

### **Class updates**

**Potters** – please follow us on Instagram: Potter.Class

In Potters, the children have read Stickman this week. The children made their own Stickman and wrote about other things their Stickman could be. The children did a fantastic performance in their Nativity and will also be coming home with some handmade Christmas goodies.

**Nightingale** - please follow us on Instagram: nightingale.class

They all performed incredibly in their nativity. Nightingale class have also immersed themselves in Christmas spirit by making calendars, Christmas cards and decorating Christmas biscuits this week.

**Darwin** - please follow us on Instagram: charlesdarwin.class

Darwin have been writing formal letters this week. They've finished learning subtraction and have all felt a sense of achievement. They've finished their week with Christmas games, making decorations and Christmas cards as well as watching a film together.

**Shakespeare** - please follow us on Instagram: Shakespeare.class

In maths, the children have been finishing off their work on fractions with adding and subtracting them. They also wrote their biographies about Anne Frank. After a competitive term of hockey, they had their final game! And finally, they made Christmas cards and decorations too.

### **Miss Bennett's lunches**

Our lovely Miss Bennett has arranged some special lunches for the next two terms where we are inviting parents and carers in. More information will follow, and each class will have an opportunity to have lunch with their family in school, please see the calendar below. Nightingale families will be invited to join us for Chinese New Year and dates have been added to celebrate Mothering Sunday and Father's Day.

### **Staff vacancy**

We are advertising for a learning support assistant, more information can be found here: [Learning Support Assistant](#).

### **NHS Pharmacy First**

Did you know that the [NHS Pharmacy First Service](#) enables children and adults to get convenient access to healthcare advice and treatment where appropriate, for seven common conditions without the potential delay of having to wait for a GP appointment? Accessing the service may mean that we can help children feel better and get back to school as quickly as possible, as well as supporting parents/carers to also get better if they are unwell with one of the conditions covered under the service.

There is no need to make an appointment; parents or carers can pop into their local Boots pharmacy with their child and ask for help under the service.

Support for the following conditions can be accessed under the service, free of charge (unless NHS prescription charges apply): <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/pharmacies/how-pharmacies-can-help/>

<u>Common condition</u>	<u>Patient eligibility</u>
Earache	1 to 17 years
Impetigo	1 year and over
Infected insect bites and stings	1 year and over
Sore throats	5 years and over
Sinusitis	12 years and over
Uncomplicated urinary tract	Women 16 to 64 years
Shingles	18 years and over

### Safeguarding

Essex Safeguarding and Children's Board – helpful hints for parents and carers on online safety and setting up new devices: [ESCB - Parents/Carers](#)

The National College have provided a guide for keeping safe over the festive period. The holiday season is a time for celebration, relaxation and spending well-earned time with loved ones. While this period will hopefully be calm, it's important that we acknowledge there are still things we can do to make these weeks as safe as possible for the young people in our care.

Of course, it's not immediately obvious what can or should be done to stay safe over the festive season. This free guide offers expert advice on the steps you can take to enjoy a less fraught winter break, safeguarding any youngsters who might be present for the celebrations.

If you are concerned about the welfare of a child, please follow the following procedures. If child or young person is in immediate danger, call the Police on 999. If you are worried about the safety or wellbeing of a child, call the children's line on 0345 603 7627. This phone line is open Monday to Thursday 8:45 am to 5pm, and Fridays 8:45am to 4:15pm. For out of hours or bank holidays, call the emergency duty team on 0345 606 1212.

### SportsScool

SportsScool will be providing their festive holiday clubs again in Uttlesford at The Downs Primary School in Harlow. Many of your families can access this club for free via the Holiday Activities system. Please see the poster at the end of the newsletter to get booked.

### Parking

When picking up or dropping off children at schools, you should do the following:

- Allow yourself plenty of time as the area is likely to be busy.
- Do not park on yellow zigzag lines and avoid parking opposite them.
- If you decide to park further away, please be considerate of local residents and avoid blocking driveways or access ways.

[Parking outside schools | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](#)

PE Days	
Monday	Potters and Shakespeare
Tuesday	Nightingale
Wednesday	Potters and Shakespeare
Thursday	Nightingale and Darwin
Friday	Darwin

### SCS After School Club

SCS New Year clubs are due to start w/c 13th January. Please click on the links below to book your place.

- Monday – football <https://sportscoachingspecialists.classforkids.io/info/254>
- Thursday – gymnastics <https://sportscoachingspecialists.classforkids.io/info/258>

### PTA – The Friends Matching Green School

Please make sure you follow the PTA on Instagram: [matchinggreenschoolpta](https://www.instagram.com/matchinggreenschoolpta)

#### Second hand uniform

Please leave any donations of uniform you no longer need with the school office, second hand uniform is so valuable to many of us.

If you need any uniform, please contact the PTA or the School Office and we will source some out for you.

#### 75 Club

Are you feeling lucky? The 75 Club raises much needed funds to help support our pupils with extra-curricular trips, visiting theatre productions, as well as helping to fund other resources for the school.

To join the club we are asking for £2.50 per calendar month per number. The numbers range from 1-75. The draw will take place on the last Thursday of the month and the lucky 3 numbers pulled out will win cash prizes (1<sup>st</sup> - £30, 2<sup>nd</sup> - £15 and 3<sup>rd</sup> - £10) but, the more members of the club, the larger the prize fund will be! During the summer holidays, the prize fund will roll over to create a BIG Rollover to be drawn in September! More Information can be found [here](#).

#### Thank you!

Thank you to our PTA and parents and other family members who came to our Christmas activity evening, the event made £405.19 for the school.

The PTA continued to raise funds for the school with their annual Christmas raffle which proved hugely successful and raised £486.70, thank you to everyone who contributed a prize to be won. The top prize of an overnight stay at Down Hall for two was Mrs Hirst!

#### Easyfundraising

Matching Green C of E Primary School - Harlow are registered with easyfundraising, which means you can raise FREE donations for us every time you shop online. Over 7,000 brands will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself! These donations really mount up and make a BIG difference to us, so we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. It's completely FREE and only takes a moment. You can find our easyfundraising page at: [Easyfundraising - Matching Green C of E Primary School](#)

Over the years we have raised an amazing £3,211.33 via this fundraising portal. So please remember us when you are online and doing your Christmas shopping this year, remember it does not cost you any extra, but it does raise funds for our PTA, The Friends of Matching Green School.

Thank you so much for your support.

#### Film night

The PTA are hosting a film night for children on the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Children will go straight to the hall at 3.15pm for the film and will be collected at 5.15pm. The tickets are £5 each and payments will need to be made to The Friends of Matching Green with the reference: FILMSURNAME



### SEND resources

#### Beacon House resources

<https://beaconhouse.org.uk/winter-resources/>

Resources specially designed by our therapists to support regulation, connection and rest during December.

#### Good Beginnings

Good Beginnings will be running in Dunmow and Chelmsford in the Spring Term. This eight-week course is for parents of children in Reception and younger, to learn about autism.

It is supported by Speech Therapists and Occupational Therapists.

To find out more and apply to attend the Good Beginnings course, visit the [Good Beginnings page on The Essex Local Offer](#).

#### SEND Operations Team

From 11th December 2024, there will be a new phone number to contact the quadrant SEND Operations teams.

The new phone number to use is 0345 603 7638.

If you call the old numbers, they'll be redirected to the new one for a while to make sure no calls are missed.

### Zones of Regulation

We are talking to the children more and more about their own regulation and emotions. We have started the Zones of Regulation intervention for some children in school. Here is a [Zones of Regulation pack](#) to help families support children with their emotional regulation and to further understand the approach for consistency.

### Emotional Regulation Parent Workshop

A workshop for parents will be held in the hall on emotional regulation on 29<sup>th</sup> January at 2pm.

Dates	Resources	Referrals
<p>Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2pm Parent workshop on emotional regulation at Matching Green School.</p> <p>The Essex Local Offer Roadshow Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at The Harlow Hotel, CM187BA.</p>	<p><a href="#">Essex Local Offer</a> <a href="#">Supporting your Neurodivergent Child</a> <a href="#">West Essex Inclusion Project</a> <a href="#">Essex Family Wellbeing</a> <a href="#">SEND IASS</a> <a href="#">Autism Central</a> <a href="#">West Essex Inclusion Project</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Community Paediatric Service</a> <a href="#">West Essex Community Specialist Services</a></p>

### Recent Letters

03.09.24 – Welcome Back

14.11.24 – Adverse weather procedures

18.12.24 - Darwin swimming. This has information on how children have been grouped for swimming this term, please check to see when your child is going.

Autumn	Spring	Summer
<p>22.12.24 – Carols at the Cricket Club from 5pm – 6.30pm</p>	<p>06.01.25 – Non-pupil Day 07.01.25 – Children back to school 07.01.24 – EYFS for 2025 tour. 14.01.25 – PJ day to raise money for bins on the field 14.01.25 – PTA film night 15.01.24 – Darwin swimming group 1 start. 29.01.25 – Emotional Regulation workshop for parents from 2pm. 29.01.25 – Chinese New Year lunch with Nightingale parents 12.02.25 – Learning Celebration Afternoon from 2.45pm. 12.02.25 – PTA Valentines disco 12.02.25 - last swimming lesson for Darwin group 1. 17.02.25 – 21.02.25 – Half term 28.02.25 – PTA Non-Uniform Day 26.02.25 - Group 2 Darwin swimming starts 28.02.25 – PTA Quiz Night</p>	<p>22.04.25 – Children back to school 29.04.25 – Class photos 05.05.25 – May Day 12.05.25 – 16.05.25 – SATS week 16.05.25 – PTA Year 6 celebration 21.05.25 – Learning Celebration Afternoon 23.05.25 – End of term 26.05.25 – 30.05.24 – Half term 02.06.25 – Non-pupil day 09.06.25 – PTA Father's Day gift room 09.06.25 – 13.06.25 – Father's Day lunches this week 17.06.25 – Sports Day 23.06.25 – 9am Trinity Service at Matching Church, CM17 0QZ. Parents will need to take and return to school. 24.06.25 – Reserve Sports Day 16.07.25 – Learning Celebration Afternoon</p>

	<p>04.03.25 – West End in School  05.03.25 – Potter Educational  Visit to Aerozone, Stansted.  06.03.25 – World Book Day  06.03.25 – PTA - Bake and  book sale for World Book Day  18.03.25 - Learning  Conferences  19,03.25 - Learning  Conferences  21.03.25 Red Nose Day  24.03.25 – Mothering Sunday  gift room  24.03.25 – 28.03.25 – Mothering  Sunday lunches this week  26.03.25 - last swimming lesson  for Darwin group 2.  31.03.25 – PTA Easter  Enrichment and Easter Egg  Hunt.  01.04.25 – 9am - Easter  Celebration Service at  Matching Church, CM17 0QZ.  Parents will need to take and  return to school.  02.04.25 – Learning  Celebration Afternoon  03.03.25 – Nightingale trip to  Thorndon Country Park  04.04.25 – End of term.  Children finish at 1.15pm.</p>	
<p>New dates will be added in red</p>		

# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, traveling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

### 1 MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY

Children spend more time online during school holidays, increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Balancing screen time, avoiding harmful websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. Set clear boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement around digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.

### 2 PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The incidence of house fires increases during Christmas due to greater use of candles, cookers and electrical decorations. Open flames, electrical overloads and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure smoke detectors are operational, keep fire extinguishers on hand and teach children how to respond in case of a fire emergency. Avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-safe candles to prevent mishaps.

### 3 CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS

More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Weather conditions, road rage, fatigue and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Pack emergency kits and adhere to seatbelt laws. Plan routes in advance and allow extra travel time to avoid rushing and mitigate risks on busy roads.

### 4 BEWARE OF ALLERGIES

Holiday meals often involve many foods that may contain allergens. Cross contamination, unclear labelling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any allergy needs to hosts, provide safe food alternatives and carry necessary medications like antihistamines or EpiPens. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognise dangerous foods also contributes to safer celebrations.

### 5 PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS

Cold weather and seasonal socialising can increase the spread of viruses like flu and COVID-19. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection risks. Emphasise hygiene, encourage vaccination, disinfect surfaces and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with children about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of illness.

### 6 STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD

Increased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents for both drivers and pedestrians. Distracted driving, pedestrian safety and inclement weather can complicate road safety. Encourage pedestrian safety practices, avoid distracted driving and never drive under the influence.

### 7 MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS

Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if mishandled. Frayed wires, toppling Christmas trees, small ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place fragile or small items out of reach and ensure candles are never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce risks.

### 8 SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS

Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that gifts meet safety standards and are age appropriate can be complex with so many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure any tech devices have parental controls. Setting expectations around safe gift use and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.

### 9 ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE

Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decision making. Incorporate rest, maintain regular routines and seek support to reduce stress. Encourage activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for everyone.

### 10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY

Alcohol is commonly present at holiday events, raising concerns about safety and supervision. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to accidents, impaired judgment and lack of supervision for children. Designate responsible adults, limit consumption and provide transportation alternatives for guests. Teaching moderation and modelling responsible behaviour in front of children ensures that celebrations remain positive and secure.

## Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is a chartered health and safety consultant with 10 years of experience in promoting family and community safety. Specialising in risk assessment and preventative strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.



The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/safety-over-the-festive-season>

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# SPORTSCOOL XMAS HOLIDAY CLUB

THE DOWNS PRIMARY SCHOOL,  
BROADFIELD, HARLOW CM20 3RB

30<sup>TH</sup>-31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER '24 & 2<sup>ND</sup>-3<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY '25

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