

Matching Green News



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

24.01.25

[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 1

School dinner can be ordered on the day and children in Key Stage 1 receive free school meals.

Collective Worship

The children have been continuing to reflect on endurance, recognising the small steps it takes to achieve success. The children also had experiences this week to see how Aesop's Fables link to the bible stories and messages from Jesus.



Celebration



Potters Victor	Nightingale Thea Alba	Darwin Adrian Libby	Shakespeare William Ceylan	Sports Charlie
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Weekly update

We have been planning Children's Mental Health Week which is 3rd – 9th February 2025. The theme is *Know Yourself, Grow Yourself*. In partnership with Disney, and Inside Out characters, we will fundraise and explore how the children can express their emotions. The children will take part in activities across the week in their classes.

We will have a non-uniform day on Friday 7th February, Place2Be suggest a £2 donation. The theme of the non-uniform day will be to 'express themselves'. Whether it's their favourite outfit, a splash of colour, a traditional attire that celebrates their culture, or an ensemble that showcases their beloved hobby, we want everyone's creativity to shine.

FUNDRAISE AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE

£54

could pay for a child struggling with trauma to have a 50-minute one-to-one session with a counsellor.

£252

could pay for 4 specialised parent coaching sessions for a parent and child to have together.

£500

could allow 31 children to speak to a counsellor about their worries in a lunchtime session.

£1080

could help fund a full round of one-to-one counselling sessions for 2 vulnerable children.

Matching's Responsible Refills

This week, the year 5 team chose the products they are going to be selling at their refill shop. We are waiting for the products to arrive and will then the team will be marketing their refill shop and working out prices, maximising profits with customer satisfaction. Remember that you will need to bring 500ml empty bottles with you when we open.

We will also be selling healthy snacks at Golden Time on a Friday for children to purchase as a tuck shop. More information will follow on prices from our refill team.

Attendance

There has been some improvement in our attendance this week.

	Whole school	Potters	Nightingale	Darwin	Shakespeare
Year to date	94.7%	96.3%	93.4%	94.7%	94.3%
Last week	94.8%	94.2%	97.7%	97.9%	91.7%
Persistently absent pupils	13 pupils	1 pupil	5 pupils	3 pupils	4 pupils

Class updates

Potters – please follow us on Instagram: Potter.Class

The children have continued to learn about Traditional Tales, this week they focused on Little Red Riding Hood and retold the story. They have also been trying to make the numbers 6, 7 and 8 in different ways, they found this a little bit tricky so please try this at home.

Potters have also taken part in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch ([Big Garden Birdwatch](#)), Lennie and Sadie were very enthusiastic and spent most of the afternoon looking out for birds.

Nightingale – please follow us on Instagram: nightingale.class

On Wednesday, the children had an art afternoon where they were learning to mix different colours and find different textures with paint. They enjoyed making a mess!

Darwin - please follow us on Instagram: charlesdarwin.class

Darwin have enjoyed using scratch this week whilst the other half went swimming. The children have also been planning for their narrative poetry using story maps.

Shakespeare - please follow us on Instagram: Shakespeare.class

Year 5 have been picking the stock for the refill shop this week and working on their business plan! The children have also been working on their grammar.

Free School Meals

As we are sure you will appreciate, food insecurity is a much more prevalent problem than it used to be, with the problem compounded by the cost-of-living crisis. This can affect children's wellbeing, with children from families experiencing food insecurity more likely to suffer poor mental health. Without a healthy lunch, children can struggle to concentrate and learn in the classroom. A free school meal can contribute to children reaching their potential, see if you are eligible here: [Apply for free school meals - GOV.UK](#)

PE Days

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

PTA – The Friends Matching Green School

Please make sure you follow the PTA on Instagram: 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

December's draw winners:-

1st – Mrs Maggie Morten

2nd – Mr Harry Rock

3rd – Mr Danny Hastings

January's draw will take place on Thursday 30th January, should you wish to sign up for a number before the draw, and be in it to win it, please see details below.

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 (1st - £30, 2nd - £15 and 3rd - £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](#).

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. It's completely FREE and only takes a moment. You can find our easyfundraising page at: [Easyfundraising - Matching Green C of E Primary School](#)

Valentine's Disco

The next event for the children is the Valentine's Disco on 12th February. The event is 3.15pm – 5.15pm to include a snack plate and a drink. The children will need to bring their dancing shoes and clothes to school with them to change in to.

Tickets cost £5 which must be paid to Matching PTA to include reference DISCOSURNAME



SEND resources

Matching Green Primary School PINS parent/carer meeting

Thank you to those of you who attended the last meeting on 20th December, there is a further meeting arranged for you, please see the details below.

Date: Friday 7th February '25

Time: 2.30 – 3.15 pm

Location: School Hall

PINS Contact – Stacey Gladden

Agenda

- Update on PINS project
- Updates from school
 - Round Table

Open discussion on school-based matters.

If you are a SEND parent/carer and are unable to attend the meeting due to work commitments, you are more than welcome to email me with your views/feedback. Please contact me on stacey@essexfamilyforum.org for a copy of the talking points and survey results that will be discussed at the meeting.

I will welcome feedback by email until **14th February 2025**

Emotional Regulation Parent Workshop

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

Dates	Resources	Referrals
<p>Wednesday 29th January 2pm Parent workshop on emotional regulation at Matching Green School.</p> <p>Essex Family Forum parent meeting in the school hall 7th February at 2.30pm.</p> <p>The Essex Local Offer Roadshow Thursday 13th March 2025 at The Harlow Hotel, CM187BA.</p>	<p>Essex Local Offer Supporting your Neurodivergent Child West Essex Inclusion Project Essex Family Wellbeing SEND IASS Autism Central West Essex Inclusion Project One Plan Process Zones of Regulation pack</p>	<p>Community Paediatric Service West Essex Community Specialist Services</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.
20.01.25 – Chinese New Year dinner order form
21.01.25 – Shakespeare Sports hall athletic event

Spring	Summer
<p>29.01.25 – Emotional Regulation workshop for parents from 2pm. 29.01.25 – Chinese New Year lunch with Nightingale parents 20.02.25 – 09.02.25 – Children's Mental Health Week 07.02.25 – Express Yourself non-uniform day 07.02.25 – School PINS parent/carer meeting 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. 14.02.25 – Valentines lunch with Potter parents. 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 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.</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>

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.	
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Safeguarding

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, especially for emergency vehicles.

[Parking outside schools | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](https://www.police.uk)

Are you worried about a child?

As a school, we consider safeguarding to be a priority. We welcome parents and carers talking openly to us about their concerns for the safeguarding of children and families. Remember, safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

If you have any concerns about a child, you can contact one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads via the school office. Please ask to speak to Vicky Childs, Matthew Ball or Jacquie Toon and specify that you have a safeguarding concern.

If you are worried about a child or young person, you can call the NSPCC helpline for support and advice for free on 0808 800 5000. If a child is in immediate danger, you should call 999.

Children can call Childline at any time on 0800 1111

Social influences

Social media influencers are people who've established their credibility in a specific industry and therefore have the power to affect other people's decisions. Most commonly associated with YouTube and Instagram, influencers usually have a large number of followers and are viewed as authentic by their audience. For this reason, many influencers are often paid by big companies to promote their products, in the hope of persuading their followers to purchase those goods.

In this guide, you'll find tips on avoiding potential risks such as body image, bad habits and unrealistic role models.



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What parents need to know about SOCIAL PRESSURES LINKED TO 'INFLUENCERS'



AN UNREALISTIC PERCEPTION OF BODY IMAGE

Some of the most popular social media influencers often depict themselves as having the 'perfect body' and are paid to promote items such as health supplements or swimwear, which young people believe can help them achieve the same look. What is not always realised is that these images can be edited or filtered and aren't always a true-life representation. Your child may feel like this is what they need to look like and in some cases, become obsessed with their body image, which could contribute towards a lower self-esteem or even becoming depressed if they can't achieve the same look.



BECOMING UNREALISTIC ROLE MODELS

As children become more and more involved on social media and identify who their favourite people are to follow, they may come to see social media influencers as role models, particularly if they are attracted by the lifestyle they see online. This could lead them into developing potentially unrealistic expectations of life and in some cases, using their role models as an escape from reality, particularly if they feel like they're own life isn't very fulfilling.



ENCOURAGING BAD HABITS

Although many social media influencers will get paid to advertise brands and their products, they will also post their own material online too, usually depicting their daily life or an activity for example. This may have both desirable and undesirable consequences, with influencers able to inspire both good habits, such as healthy eating, exercise or kindness. However it may also encourage children to adopt bad habits, such as drinking, smoking, swearing or even criminal behaviour, particularly if these are seen to be endorsed by the influencer.



THE NEED TO HAVE EVERYTHING

Many social media influencers will take photos or videos of themselves wearing the latest fashion or jewellery which companies want them to promote. They may also be provided with the latest gadgets to promote or, if they are children, toys to play with in order to persuade their followers to purchase them. Many children will be keen to buy these items in order to keep up with the latest trends however if they get left behind, they could be made to feel inadequate or inferior to other children who do have them.



AUTHENTICITY OF ENDORSEMENTS

Social media influencers hold a lot of persuasion with their audience and are often looked up to by younger followers. Many children will see them as credible, authentic and trust what they see online. However, some influencers may not always believe in the product they are promoting and therefore can mislead their followers, abusing their level of confidence in them. Your child may therefore find themselves looking up to people who are disingenuous or who feign interest in activities that they themselves do not actually care about.



Safety Tips For Parents



FOLLOW WHO THEY FOLLOW

A good way to see first-hand who may be influencing your child is to create your own social media account and follow the same people they do. This will give you a strong indication of what is shaping how your child behaves, what they like and what they are taking an interest in.



TALK ABOUT ROLE MODELS

Role models can play an important part of your child's life, particularly outside of the home. Talk to your child about who they look up to and why. Remind them that not everybody online is who they seem to be and if you do have concerns that your child is being negatively influenced, work with them in finding more positive alternatives.

BUILD THEIR SELF-ESTEEM

It's important that your child is aware of how unrealistic perceptions of life can be depicted on social media and that it is easy to be deceived. Discuss with your child how images can be heavily edited, cropped or manipulated to create artificial scenarios and that often the lifestyle that people display on social media isn't always realistic or in fact the truth.

DISCUSS REALISTIC VS UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

If you notice your child has suddenly taken a strong interest in the way they look, or you find they are a lot more body conscious, then it's a good idea to speak to them about why they feel that way. If they seem unhappy, try to build their self-esteem by talking to them and listening to their concerns, helping to build their confidence through praise and positivity. Remind them that looks aren't everything and not everything they see online is actually a true depiction of real life.



ENCOURAGE INDEPENDENT THINKING

Social media influencers can be quite powerful individuals who hold a lot of persuasive power so it's important to encourage your child to think independently about everything they see and engage with online. Talk to them about the dangers of blindly following others and in keeping an open mind when viewing content. Teach them to always question people's motives online, especially when they see individuals are promoting a brand or product which they are likely to have been paid to advertise but may not necessarily personally endorse.



Meet our expert

Pete Badh is a writer with over 10+ years in research and analysis. Working within a specialist area for West Yorkshire Police, Pete has contributed work which has been pivotal in successfully winning high profile cases in court as well as writing as a subject matter expert for industry handbooks.

