

Matching Green News



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

17th January 2025

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

Chinese New Year menu

Remember to prebook our Chinese New Year celebration meal for 29th January 2025. Parents of Nightingale class are invited to join us, and this place will also need to be booked, a letter will come home next week.

Menu

Sweet and sour chicken

Or

Sweet and sour Quorn

Or

Jacket potato

Rice

Spring rolls

Prawn crackers

Year of the Snake biscuit



Collective Worship

Listening to the 'Eye of the Tiger' this week, we have been sharing our experiences of endurance. By reflecting on Philippians 4:13 'I can do all things through Him who strengthens me', we have found comfort in God's love and support for us all to enable self-belief. Maisie was excited to share a special bracelet that her Godfather got for her that referenced Philippians



Celebration



Potters
Marleigh

Nightingale
Ayla
Henley

Darwin
Brooke
James

Shakespeare
Maisie
Idris

Sports
Reggie P

Weekly update

We have thrown ourselves back in to learning this week back. Miss Bennett was over the moon serving 75 dinners on our census day on 16th January, thank you so much for all of your support.

Our PJ day was a fantastic on Tuesday. The children raised £106.72 towards the bins for the field.

Attendance

Attendance is hugely important in school, for all children to gain the greatest benefit from their education it is vital that they attend regularly and be at school, on time, every day the school is open, unless the reason for the absence is unavoidable. When children are absence, they miss important sequences in their learning which can accumulate to significant gaps.

On 19th August 2024, the Department for education introduced a new statutory framework that all schools in England must follow.

Impact on Education		
190 days at school Full attendance	100%	Excellent Attendance
7 days Absent 183 days at school	96%	Expected Attendance
19 days Absent 171 days at school	90%	Persistently Absent Below Expected
29 days Absent 161 days at school	85%	Persistently Absent Less chance of success at school
38 days Absent 152 days at school	80%	Attendance Concerns Very serious impact on education
47 days Absent 143 days at school	75%	Attendance Concerns Extremely Poor attendance
95 days absent 95 days at school	50%	Severely Absent May include involvement with Essex County Council

Children's attendance is also impacted by lateness. When your child arrives late at school, they will miss the most crucial part of the day and the start of their learning. Your child may feel embarrassed at having to go into their classroom or Collective Worship late and they may find it harder to settle. This will also disrupt the other children. Frequent lateness will have a negative impact on your child's achievement and wellbeing.

The current attendance at data at Matching Green is a concern and the Local Authority will be working with us to improve the attendance data:

	Whole school	Potters	Nightingale	Darwin	Shakespeare
Year to date	94.5%	96.3%	92.9%	95.5%	94.2%
Last week	94.9%	96.7%	90.8%	99.3%	93%
Persistently absent pupils	13 pupils	1 pupil	5 pupils	2 pupils	5 pupils

Class updates

Potters – please follow us on Instagram: Potter.Class

Potters have been learning about the 3 Little Pigs this week, they have compared different versions of the story, and the characters. They have also built they own houses of straw, sticks and rocks. They enjoyed sharing their experience of this in Collective Worship on Thursday with the story of the Wise and the Foolish man.

Nightingale - please follow us on Instagram: nightingale.class

The children enjoyed their geography walk this week where they identified the physical and manmade features within the village. They have started reading their class text 'Traction Man'.

Darwin - please follow us on Instagram: charlesdarwin.class

Darwin have immersed themselves in Michael Rosen's poetry this week 'Chocolate Cake'. They have been totally inspired by performance poetry and enjoyed watching Michael Rosen perform this. The group that started swimming this week enjoyed this too.

Shakespeare - please follow us on Instagram: Shakespeare.class

In Shakespeare, the children have been looking at different mountain formation. The children have been writing a story about being lost in space, they explored the features of a sci-fi story. The children have finished their practise key stage 2 tests this week and they have done a great job, information for parents on the key stage 2 tests can be found here: [2025 key stage 2 national curriculum tests: information for parents:](#)

Website

We will be transferring to a new website, whilst we are moving over, we are not able to amend or edit any of the content so some things might be out of date or difficult to find, please ring the office if you need anything. The photos and organisation of it looks lovely, so watch this space!

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

Film Night

Thank you to the PTA for a fantastic film night on Tuesday, this event raised £286.

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 (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.

Spring	Summer
<p>29.01.25 – Emotional Regulation workshop for parents from 2pm. 29.01.25 – Chinese New Year lunch with Nightingale parents 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</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>

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.

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.

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

Tik Tok

Among children – and especially teenagers – TikTok boasts approximately 220 million users, providing a near-endless reel of short clips intended to entertain, educate and more. However, along with its enormous userbase comes a significant number of possible risks: Ofcom have dubbed it the most likely app on which teen users would potentially suffer harm.

With the platform reaching astronomical levels of success among the younger generation, it's vitally important for parents and educators to understand the risks it poses. This free guide lets you know about the most prominent potential dangers associated with TikTok and offers expert advice on how to safeguard youngsters who are navigating the site.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

TIKTOK



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Adults tend to associate online videos with YouTube – but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a stream of short clips tailored to users' interests, based on what they've already watched. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while much of the content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where youngsters "were most likely to encounter a potential harm".

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's Following feed only displays videos from familiar creators, For You is a collection based on a user's previously watched clips. Most of these videos will probably be inoffensive, but the app *could* potentially show something unsuitable. If children then engage with this content, more like it will follow. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the huge number of uploads means that a small amount inevitably slips through.

BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

According to Ofcom, most online harms for teens are body image related for girls (promoting unhealthy eating, body shaming and so on) and dangerous stunts for boys. Both are prevalent on TikTok. One extreme example of the latter was the 'blackout' trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. This led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase gifts for content creators. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99; while that may not sound appealing, the app still generated £7.9 billion in user spending in 2023. TikTok's policy is that under-18s can't make in-app purchases, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birth date.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With more than 1.5 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-16s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and enables anyone to download or comment on them.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

Although the short videos on TikTok tend to be more frivolous than the longer ones on YouTube, clips can still influence impressionable minds in a negative way. Not only is there plenty of dangerous misinformation on TikTok, but Ofcom reports that nearly a third of 12 to 15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source – so you should be wary of misogynistic, racist or conspiracy-themed material shaping how they see the world.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN

With its constant stream of eye-catching videos, TikTok can be addictive to young brains. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the app; that's twice as much as in 2020. Excessive use can interfere with young people's sleep patterns – often leading to irritability – and distract them from other, healthier activities. The instantly skippable nature of bite-size videos may also impact children's ability to maintain focus.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's, and control settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen-time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

If a child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter their settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend enabling this feature, as it can be quite easy for a young person to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins to unlock more features of the app – sometimes without even realising.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure that they don't share any identifying personal information, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's also worth talking about misinformation and propaganda, and how to identify it.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/tiktok-2025>



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