

Matching Green News



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

7th February 2025

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



matchinggreenceprimary



[Week 1](#)

[Week 2](#)

Next week, we are Week 1

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

Potter Valentine Lunch

Parents and carers of Potter class have been invited to lunch on Friday 14th, a letter was sent home on 6th February. Please pre-book your place by Monday 10th February and send £3.50 cash to the school office to pay for the meal.

Collective Worship

Our theme for February is love, with this week focusing on Trust. We also joined the Picture News live assembly on Tuesday for Children's Mental Health Week. There were lots of healthy discussions about how we keep our mind healthy, and it was lovely for Jane, one of our Governors, to join us for this. The children enjoyed listening to and reflecting on our music this week 'all you need is love' from the Beatles.



Celebration



Potters
Arla

Nightingale
Ezrah
Callum

Darwin
Chloe
Xenia

Shakespeare
Owen
Francesca

Sports
Xenia
Ralph

Weekly update

Our new website has gone live! I am so pleased with how the school has been captured and how it celebrates the best bits throughout the day, from Potter class learning outside, Collective Worship, to Mrs Ramsay's music lessons, Mr Loader's skipping, Reverend Julia's ongoing support and then Miss Bennett's lunches to name a few! It even includes a [Church School blog](#) about what it is like to attend Matching Green.

A huge thank you to our wonderful staff team who have all pulled together this week when the staff group have experienced some sickness, it has been seamless and without impact on the children – what a great team you are!

Miss Bennett

A **HUGE** congratulations, well done and thank you to Miss Bennett achieved a top 5-star rating during our unannounced Environmental Health Officer Inspection this week. The children all gave her 3 cheers when they found out the news.

Children's Mental Health Week

We have covered lots this week as part of Children's Mental Health week and raised **£118.20** for Place2Be. The children explored their own 'Personality Islands' in line with Disney's Inside Out. It was wonderful to see the children express themselves in many ways as well in Collective Worship. Today, Miss Toon lead a whole Key Stage 2 physical education session, explaining the impact of sport on emotional wellbeing.

Parliament visit

We had a visit from Kelly Stroud this week who is a Senior Education and Engagement Outreach Officer. The children learned how Parliament is and how it works. There was discussion over democracy and the children took on different roles. Kelly has sent a [360 tour of Parliament](#) for the children to watch.

Governor update

There are two attachments alongside our newsletter this week from Mr Neil Banks, Chair of the Governing Body. One is regarding the Headteacher appointment and the other is for parent governor vacancies.

Unfortunately for us, Michelle Horgan, one of our parent governors has stepped down due to personal commitments. We want to take this opportunity to thank her for her input to the Governing Body and contribution to Matching Green.

Learning Celebration

We are combining the Learning Celebration on the 12th February and the 2nd April to prevent parents travelling to and from for the school disco. This means that the Learning Celebration will be cancelled on the 12th February. Children will need to be collected after the school disco.

Attendance

There has been some improvement in our attendance this week, thank you for your support with this.

	Whole school	Potters	Nightingale	Darwin	Shakespeare
Year to date	94.7%	95.7%	93.3%	94.7%	94.5%
This week	95.6%	92.5%	94.6%	95.6%	96.5%
Persistently absent pupils	14 pupils	1 pupil	5 pupils	3 pupils	5 pupils

Class updates

Potters – please follow us on Instagram: Potter.Class

The children have been learning about Jack and the Beanstalk this week, it was lovely to see them use chalk outside to draw a huge beanstalk to find the giant at the top!

Nightingale – please follow us on Instagram: nightingale.class

Nightingale have been continuing to use texture in art by creating a collage. The children uses wool, string and tissue paper to express themselves and the results are beautiful. They linked this to their understanding of habitats.

Darwin - please follow us on Instagram: charlesdarwin.class

The children have been writing excellent narrative poetry, there are some very talented writers! The children have used their times tables to work on area. The children have continued to learn about the Maya relationship with cocoa through the folk tale 'The Chocolate Tree'.

Shakespeare - please follow us on Instagram: Shakespeare.class

In Geography, the children have been looking at tsunamis. The children have also been comparing decimals with fractions. Be prepared too... they've been writing persuasively in English!

Staff recruitment

We have successfully recruitment Mrs Itoje, who will be joining us in Nightingale class in March. Our lovely Mrs Gibbons has offered to stay with us a few days a week until Mrs Itoje starts.

PE changes

There will be a change to our PE timetable on the 10th and 13th February, please see the changes below. All other days will remain the same.

PE Days	
Monday 10 th February	Nightingale and Darwin
Thursday 13 th February	Potters and Shakespeare

Cross country club

Mr Ball wasn't able to do Cross Country as he was poorly today. He will be run two next week, one on Wednesday and one on Friday

Matching's Responsible Refills

Our products have arrived. The year 5 children are completing their business training modules and then we will be good to go!

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.

Seedlings

Seedlings is a fun craft, prayer and praise group. It is on this Sunday, 9th February at 4pm in Matching Feast Room, CM17 0QZ. They usually run every second Sunday of the month. Here are our upcoming dates for your diaries and a poster below.

9 Feb

9 March

13 April

11 May

8 June

6 July (on the 1st Sunday instead as 13th July is Matching car show)

10 August

14 Sept



Seedlings
4pm – 5:30pm usually on 2nd Sunday of the Month
check our website for precise dates: <https://tinyurl.com/LaversMatching>
in Matching Wedding Feast Room next to Matching Church CM17 0QZ

Activities . Prayer . Craft . Praise .
Fun . Refreshments .
Free and open to ages 0 -11 with their parents/carers.

Brought to you by
The United Benefice of The Lavers and Matching
<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6424/>
For further info text / email:
Mary: 07929600762 or
Julia: revjuliabaldwin@outlook.com

Just as a tiny, planted seed starts to grow, with a little love, joy and care God's life-giving word can grow within us no matter how small or big we are.

More info inside!



PE Days (please note changes for week of 10 th February which are above)	
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

January's draw winners:-

1st – Angela Sharp

2nd – John Loader

3rd – Katie Ramsey

February's draw will take place on Thursday 27th February, 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. Booking will close on **Monday 10th February**.

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 meeting today. 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

EPINS Emotional Regulation workshop for parents

Karen from the HGRC group has apologised profusely for muddling her times and missing the meeting on Wednesday this week. I have rearranged this for 11th March at 1.30pm – 3pm in the school hall. Please confirm your attendance by contacting the school office.

Free parent workshops

Is your child waiting for an Autism Assessment? SENDIASS are hosting free parent workshops that you can attend.

Tuesday 25 February, Developing Communication and supporting Sensory needs. Delivered with Autism Specialist Teachers at Manor of Groves Sawbridgeworth. 10am until 12pm
 Thursday 27 February, Understanding and Managing Your Child's Responses. Delivered with Proactive Training at The Pier Harwich, 10am until 2pm
 To book your place email iasspromotion.development@essex.gov.uk

Sensory swim sessions at Riverside Sports Centre Chelmsford

For children aged 0 to 8 and all ages with sensory needs.

Join for a sensory swim, where children and adults with sensory needs can enjoy the benefits of water in a calm environment.

The sensory swim sessions are held in the warm, shallow learner pool with low lighting and no music.

Sessions take place as part of general admission in the learner pool. The age limit in the learner pool is eight years old, but if you have a sensory need, there is no age limit.

The team will be on hand to offer support but will be supervising from the side.

For more information and to book a session visit [Sensory swim sessions at Riverside](#)

Dates	Resources	Referrals
Tuesday 11 th March 1.30pm Parent workshop on emotional regulation at Matching Green School. The Essex Local Offer Roadshow Thursday 13 th March 2025 at The Harlow Hotel, CM187BA.	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	Community Paediatric Service West Essex Community Specialist Services

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.
- 21.01.25 – Shakespeare Sports hall athletic event
- 31.01.25 – Bikeability to year 6 Shakespeare
- 31.01.25 – British Museum visit for Darwin class
- 06.02.25 – Potter Valentine Lunch
- 07.02.25 – Letter from Neil Banks re Headteacher appointment
- 07.02.25 – Letter from Neil Banks regarding Governor vacancy

Spring	Summer
09.02.25 – Seedlings at Matching Feast Room 11.02.25 - Mr Lorkins visit to Matching Green 12.02.25 – PTA Valentines disco	22.04.25 – Children back to school 29.04.25 – Class photos 05.05.25 – May Day 11.05.25 - Seedlings at Matching Feast Room

12.02.25 - last swimming lesson for Darwin group 1.

13.02.25 – Darwin trip to the British Museum

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~~ – cancelled due to lack of interest

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

09.03.25 - Seedlings at Matching Feast Room

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 from 2.45pm

03.03.25 – Nightingale trip to Thorndon Country Park

04.04.25 – End of term. Children finish at 1.15pm.

13.04.25 - Seedlings at Matching Feast Room

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

08.06.25 - Seedlings at Matching Feast Room

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

06.07.25 - Seedlings at Matching Feast Room

16.07.25 – Learning Celebration Afternoon

10.08.25 - Seedlings at Matching Feast Room

14.08.25 - Seedlings at Matching Feast Room

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 \(www.police.uk\)](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

Fake news and scams

While misinformation and 'fake news' are well-known concerns online, it's also the case that scammers and other cyber-criminals can try to utilise this phony material to manipulate, frighten or otherwise persuade their victims into cooperating.

With constantly evolving scams and such a high volume of misinformation online, it's vital that parents and educators know how to safeguard the children in their care against these kinds of tactics. Our guide breaks down the most prominent ways in which scammers attempt to use 'fake news' to their advantage, as well as how to protect youngsters from being manipulated by such techniques.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SCAMS AND FAKE NEWS

"Fake news" refers to falsified or misleading material presented as a legitimate account of events. It's often used by malicious actors online to push an agenda, or even by criminals as a way of making scams more persuasive. Scammers can trick us into handing over personal information, security details and even our hard-earned cash.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

"CLICKBAIT" PHISHING SCAMS

A message arrives saying "Have you seen this video of yourself?" or you might be sent an attention-grabbing headline about a celebrity that's been shared on social media. This kind of "bait" is produced by scammers to drive us to click on an unsafe link, where malware could be downloaded to our devices. These scams rely on our curiosity and our "need-to-know" instinct.

SALES, DEALS & DISCOUNTS

Some scams appear as adverts, offering a chance to buy something – such as designer products, expansive gadgets or tickets to a popular show – at a reduced price. Such plays often include a time limit or countdown, urging us to hurry so we don't miss out on the deal. This pressure encourages us to input personal details or payment information before pausing to check if it's legitimate.

YOU'RE A WINNER!

This kind of scam involves fake giveaways, opportunities or freebies. It could be a message saying we've won a prize draw or competition. Or it could be a gift, free trial, bonus credit, and suchlike. It might claim that a package or refund is waiting. All these techniques are used to prompt us to share our personal information, thinking that there's something to be gained by doing so.

FALSE FRIENDSHIPS

Scammers often pretend to be someone they're not to gain their victims' trust. They might attempt to convince any children they connect with that they're a child of similar age with shared interests. Warning signs include a high volume of messages (often with an intense tone), secrecy, inappropriate levels of intimacy, guilt tripping, emotional manipulation, threats or blackmail.

PANIC MODE

To trigger a sense of panic, scammers may claim that a child's account has been hacked, or a virus has been installed on their device, or any number of other scary scenarios. They may claim to be able to fix the problem or offer a solution – if the child hands over control of the device or sensitive information. Similar scams involve impersonating a friend or relative, claiming that they're in trouble and need help.

FAKE CELEBRITY ENDORSEMENTS

Impersonating influential people online is a common tactic for scammers, who can use technology to create fake photos, audio and even videos that look authentic. These can be used to convince us, for example, to buy products, sign up for so-called "business opportunities" or invest in cryptocurrency schemes – all of which are fake or otherwise malicious. Many scams also involve the impersonation of popular companies' social media accounts, as well as those of individuals.

Advice for Parents & Educators

STAY INFORMED

Stay up to date with the latest information and best practice on cyber-security. See what scam stories are reported in the news and make note of what tactics were used. Keep up with young people's digital lives: talk about what they're doing online and use properly endorsed resources to learn what risks certain sites and apps pose to their younger users.

ENCOURAGE HEALTHY SCEPTICISM

Most scams rely on emotional or psychological manipulation, tapping into our human instincts – whether that's to keep ourselves safe, help others, find answers, make friends, avoid losing out or to secure something we really want. Encourage children to recognise that pressure to act and to always consult with an adult – especially if what's on offer sounds too good to be true.

TALK TOGETHER

Chat often and openly with young people about fake news, online scams and how they both work. Encourage them to talk to you about anything they're unsure of or worried about online. If a child claims to have been scammed, don't pass judgement. Blaming the victim may deter young people from asking you for help. Remember: adults are scammed just as often, if not more.

BE PROACTIVE

Children increasingly use digital devices for education, socialising, shopping and play. Don't wait for a problem to arise before you discuss the risk of scams, false information and fake news. Highlight what to look out for and clearly communicate under what circumstances the child ought to speak to an adult. Finally, ensure that they're aware of the support services that are available to them (such as Childline).

Meet Our Expert

Dr Holly Powell-Jones is the founder of Online Media Law UK and a leading expert in digital safety, media law and young people. Her PhD investigates children's understandings of risk online. She works with schools, businesses, and universities to provide award-winning education on the criminal, legal and ethical considerations for the digital age. Visit OnlineMediaLaw.co.uk for more.



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