

Matching Green News



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

31st 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.

Collective Worship

Endurance has continued to be our theme this week. In Picture News, we discussed the Christian value of Justice on the theme of 'making decisions' and the Kingdom of God. The children were asked to consider why it is important to listen to different people when making decisions when reflecting on the impact of global warming and the increase of extreme weather. The children discussed how The Kingdom of God invites us to imagine a better future, where everyone works together. It reminds us that our actions, no matter how small, can play a part in building or rebuilding a better world.



Celebration



Potters
Danny

Nightingale
Harrison
Buddy

Darwin
Lucilla
Zachary

Shakespeare
Amelia
Darcie

Weekly update

It was lovely to have parents in school this week to join in with our Chinese New Year celebrations, a huge thank you to Miss Bennett who as usual created a delicious meal.

Shakespeare competed in sports hall athletics this week and came 5th. There were a range of athletic sports where the children had to work independently and also as part of a team.

Mrs Gibbons

I am saddened to share that Mrs Gibbons is moving on to pastures new. Mrs Gibbons has been a tremendous support in delivering a range of interventions, supporting pupils and working closely with parents and carers. We will miss her greatly! Mrs Gibbons last working day will be Thursday 13th February 2025.

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%	95.9%	93.3%	95.8%	94.3%
This week	94.4%	90%	91.2%	97.9%	95.7%
Persistently absent pupils	13 pupils	1 pupil	5 pupils	3 pupils	4 pupils

Class updates

Potters – please follow us on Instagram: Potter.Class

As part of Chinese New Year, the children were exploring Chinese art and learning about snakes as it is the Year of the Snake. The children have been doubling in maths.

Nightingale – please follow us on Instagram: nightingale.class

Nightingale explored different habitats in science this week. The children are creating their own map of Matching Green in Geography following their visit earlier this term.

Darwin - please follow us on Instagram: charlesdarwin.class

Darwin have extended their descriptive of writing by using fronted adverbials and prepositions. They have linked this to their poetry work and understanding of Michael Rosen too. The children have started to learn about area in maths. Scratch continues to be a firm favourite!

Shakespeare - please follow us on Instagram: Shakespeare.class

The children have immersed themselves in sci-fi stories. In RE, they have been comparing humanism and Christianity. They have really enjoyed the discussion and links with learning.

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	Potters and Darwin
Thursday 13 th February	Nightingale and Shakespeare

Cross country club

From Friday 7th February, Mr Ball will be running a lunchtime cross country club in preparation for their cross country event key stage 2. If your child is interested in attending, please make sure they bring trainers to school on Friday and register their interest with Mr Ball.

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](https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-free-school-meals)

School car park

Only staff and authorised visitors may park and use the school car park, please use the surrounding areas.

Children's Mental Health Week

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



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.

Help!

A child in our school is looking for the game 'Sonic Colours Ultimate' for their Nintendo switch on a second hand basis. If you have this game and no longer use it, please let me know so I can redirect the parent to you.



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

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**

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.

Dates	Resources	Referrals
<p style="text-align: center;">Essex Family Forum parent meeting in the school hall 7th February at 2.30pm.</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Tuesday 11th March 1.30pm Parent workshop on emotional regulation at Matching Green School.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Essex Local Offer Roadshow Thursday 13th March 2025 at The Harlow Hotel, CM187BA.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> 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 style="text-align: center;"> 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.

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

Spring	Summer
<p>29.01.25 – Emotional Regulation workshop for parents from 2pm.</p>	<p>22.04.25 – Children back to school 29.04.25 – Class photos 05.05.25 – May Day</p>

29.01.25 – Chinese New Year lunch with Nightingale parents
 03.02.25 – 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. Cancelled~~
 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.
 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.

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

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

TikTok

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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