

Matching Green News



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

7th March 2025

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



Matchinggreenceprimary



[Church School Blog](#)

[Week 1](#)

[Week 2](#)

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

We have been learning about the start of Lent this week and the significance of the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert. We discussed how Lent is a time for Christians to give something up to concentration on their relationship with God. The children have also been reflecting on their relationship with others and 40 acts of kindness they could do over this period.



Celebration



Potters
Penelope

Nightingale
Xavier
Emme

Darwin
Seb L
Stanley

Shakespeare
Tymoffi
John

Weekly update

This week has been so exciting with World Book Day and Cross Country. The children have had a range of opportunities to try something different.

On Tuesday, we had a 'West End in Schools' drama workshop where each class got the opportunity to take part in drama activities linked to a book.

The World Book Day bake off competition and sale was a huge success, pop back next week to see the final total! The children looked fantastic, please see class Instagram pages to see their costumes.

Thank you so much for all of your donations. The children all looked fantastic, and it was lovely to see their outfits and stories. Thank you to one of our Governors, Jane, who attended and voted.

The winners of the Bake Off are:

Gruffalo cakes – Zac and Seb.

Gruffalo – Brooke and Darcy

Mr Bump – Finley

T Shirt – Connie.

Parent Governor Role

We have not yet received sufficient applications for the two parent governor vacancies, please see the email sent on 7th February. The date will be extended until March 31st for further applicants.

Attendance

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that we are following national guidance in regard to our approach to attendance and would therefore encourage parents and carers to be honest with pupil absences, this avoids putting the children in difficult positions. This does not support the values of the school, which is disappointing.

We have had some progress in our attendance with persistently absence pupils reducing and overall attendance increasing. This has a positive impact on children's learning and progress.

	Whole school	Potters	Nightingale	Darwin	Shakespeare
Year to date	94.8%	95.6%	93.2%	96.1%	94.4%
This week	95.8%	96.9%	92.9%	97.3%	96.5%
Persistently absent pupils	10 pupils	1 pupil	3 pupils	1 pupil	5 pupils

Class updates

Potters – please follow us on Instagram: Potter.Class

The children had an exciting trip to Aerozone at Stansted Airport this week. They enjoyed waving at the planes. We also popped to Fidgety Feet this week when the Fire Service visited.

Nightingale – please follow us on Instagram: nightingale.class

The children have been learning about diary entries in writing. In computing, they have been looking at data entry and using spreadsheets.

Darwin - please follow us on Instagram: charlesdarwin.class

Darwin class loved the drama workshop on Tuesday this week, they were really creative. The children also took part in a pancake making on Tuesday afternoon.

Shakespeare - please follow us on Instagram: Shakespeare.class

Shakespeare have started tennis this week and really enjoyed it. In writing, they have been writing persuasively too.

Learning conferences

Bookings for learning conferences for the 18th and 19th March will be available on Monday 10th March at 4pm.

Comic Relief Red Nose Day

Go big Give big. Feel good!

This year is 40 years of Comic Relief and the theme is 'Go big. Give big. Feel good!'. The children are invited to come in their most adventurous 'Go Big. Feel good' outfits and give generously with a donation to Comic Relief.

Miss Breen is creating a scavenger hunt for the afternoon where children will work in house teams to problem solve.

Mrs Gibbons

A message from Mrs Gibbons

I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the children of Matching Green, it has always been a pleasure and honour to watch them grow in so many aspects; from developing their reading skills, growing in confidence with extracurricular activities and forming new friends. Thank you so much for all the kinds of words, cards, gifts and flowers. I am completely overwhelmed by your generosity, but it has been an absolute pleasure. Love Mrs Gibbons

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](#)
Please join us on 17th March at 9am for our PTA meeting.

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

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](#)

SEND resources

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.

EPINS – parent workshops

The online workshops will take place via Teams on the following evenings in March (details are also in the attached flier):

Neurodevelopmental Diversity	Tuesday 11 th March, 7pm
Learning & Executive Function	Wednesday 19 th March, 7pm
Emotional Regulation	Thursday 27 th March, 7pm

Please fill in this form (one per attendee) to book places on the workshops: <https://forms.office.com/e/wk9hNXRnab>. You will need to give consent to share the attendees' email addresses with Essex PINS for the purposes of running the workshop.

EPINS Project

Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools

This series of jointly run sessions for schools and parents/carers will explore nurturing the unique strengths of neurodiverse children and young people and provide advice and guidance on how to support them with the challenges they face. They aim to promote the use of consistent approaches from home and school. This is to ensure neurodiverse children are happy, healthy, supported and ready to learn and able to engage in the classroom. Any parent or carer is welcome to join regardless of whether their child has a neurodiverse diagnosis.

The recorded content of these sessions has been developed by the Psychology in Schools Team, Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust, and will be facilitated by the EPINS Neurodiversity Inclusion Facilitators, part of Essex Child & Family Wellbeing Services.

BOOKING INSTRUCTIONS
To book your free place

Session 1: Neurodevelopmental Diversity: What Every School and Parent Needs to Know

Tuesday 11th March, 7pm, MS Teams

Session 2: Learning and Executive Functioning

How Parents and School Staff can work together to support neurodivergent children

Wednesday 19th March, 7pm, MS Teams

Session 3: Emotional Regulation

How to support Neurodivergent children with emotional processing and anxiety (including how sensory differences may impact in this area)

Thursday 27th March, 7pm, MS Teams



Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service



Dates	Resources	Referrals
<p>Tuesday 11th March 1.30pm Parent workshop on emotional regulation at Matching Green School.</p> <p>Tuesday 11th March 7pm – Neurodevelopmental Diversity online workshop</p> <p>The Essex Local Offer Roadshow Thursday 13th March 2025 at The Harlow Hotel, CM187BA.</p> <p>Wednesday 19th March – Learning and Executive Functioning online workshop</p>	<p>Essex Local Offer</p> <p>Supporting your Neurodivergent Child</p> <p>West Essex Inclusion Project</p> <p>Essex Family Wellbeing</p> <p>SEND IASS</p> <p>Autism Central</p> <p>West Essex Inclusion Project</p> <p>One Plan Process</p> <p>Zones of Regulation pack</p>	<p>Community Paediatric Service</p> <p>West Essex Community Specialist Services</p>

<p>Thursday 27th March – Emotional Regulation online workshop</p> <p>The Epping Forest SEND Roadshow. Monday 31st March 11am – 3pm. Thomas Willingale School (see leaflet below)</p>		
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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.
07.02.25 – Letter from Neil Banks re Headteacher appointment
07.02.25 – Letter from Neil Banks regarding Governor vacancy
10.02.25 - Darwin group 2 swimming letter
14.02.25 - Darwin cross country letter
24.02.25 – Potter class trip to Aerozone
25.02.25 – Potter class birth certificate request
27.02.25 – Extracurricular activities
27.02.25 – Maypole for Key Stage 2

Spring	Summer
<p>09.03.25 - Seedlings at Matching Feast Room 10.03.25 – Learning conference booking goes live at 4pm. 17.03.25 – PTA meeting at school at 9am. 18.03.25 - Learning Conferences for EYFS – year 5 19.03.25 - Learning Conferences for EYFS – year 5 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</p>	<p>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 12.05.25 – 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</p>

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

Music streaming

Music streaming apps allow people to listen to music on their devices. It gives users access to millions of songs and artists from around the world. Popular music streaming apps and sites include Spotify, Soundcloud, Apple Music, Amazon Prime and Deezer. Music streaming allows children to listen to songs from around the world in a much easier and cheaper way. This enables them to showcase their talent which would have been very hard to do many years back.

In the guide, you'll find tips on a number of potential risks such as explicit content, adult-themed podcasts and chatting to strangers.

Part of our Social Media & Live Streaming Series



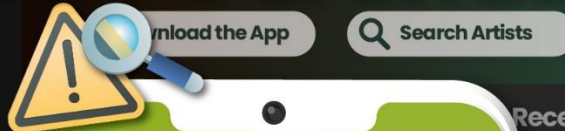
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What you need to know about...

MUSIC STREAMING APPS & SITES



What are they?

'Music Streaming Apps & Sites'

Music streaming apps allow people to listen to music on their devices. It gives users access to millions of songs and artists from around the world. Popular music streaming apps and sites include Spotify, Soundcloud, Apple music, Amazon Prime and Deezer. Music streaming allows children to listen to songs from around the world in a much easier and cheaper way. This enables them to showcase their talent which would have been very hard to do many years back.



Know the Risks

Explicit content

Explicit content is everywhere online, including in popular music. Children can easily access songs on Spotify, for example, that may have explicit or inappropriate language not suitable for children. It is also easy to erase searches so you can't see what a child has been listening to.

Adult themed podcasts

Many music streaming apps also offer the ability to listen to podcasts which can vary across any kind of topic, from business and health to comedy and relationships. Again, children could be exposed to content which is more adult themed or contains age-inappropriate language.

Chatting to strangers

Some music apps, like Playlist, want to make music a more social experience by finding others who share the same musical tastes and will allow users to join group chats where they listen to a playlist together in real time. This could open up your child to talking to strangers online.

Safety Tips

Use child friendly apps

Many music streaming services are made just for children. For instance, the Spotify kids app provides parents with control over what their children listen to and all the content is family friendly and fun for children to explore.



Turn off explicit content

Most of the major music streaming apps will provide the option to turn off explicit material to make sure the music is completely clean. Some services even offer an option to lock the content censoring settings with a password, so your child can't switch it back.

Implement privacy controls

Check the privacy setting of your child's app. Ensure that whichever app or site they choose to stream music, the settings are set to be private. This way they can only share the music they are listening too with friends and family and can't engage in conversation with strangers.

Offering Support

Explore apps yourself

If your child insists on wanting to use a music streaming app then be part of the journey with them. Take the time to understand which apps they prefer to use and why they want to use it. Find out how to use the app yourself and understand what they could be exposed to and how to ensure they get the most of it in a safe manner.

Regularly check-in

Have regular conversations with your child about what they are listening to and how they are feeling. If they do hear explicit music or content that makes them feel uncomfortable, let them know that they can always talk to you and discuss what they've heard and what it means.

Our Expert

Parven Kaur



Parven Kaur is social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks; a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.



Monday 31st March at 11am - 3pm



**THOMAS WILLINGALE SCHOOL AND NURSERY ARE
HOSTING**

THE EPPING FOREST SEND ROADSHOW

Are you a parent/carer or a child who has or may have additional needs? Do you find yourself asking questions like these?

How do I access support and information?

What is the Essex Local Offer?

Who can I speak to about my child/young person?

Who are the different services in my area and what do they offer?

Where can I meet other families with similar experiences?

We know it is challenging to navigate the systems, so we are holding this local roadshow event for you to know what support is available in Epping Forest. Meet representatives from across education, health and social care as well as local support. This is an in-person event for parents and carers of children with SEND.



The Essex PNI team (Physical and Hearing)

Essex Occupational Therapy

MIND

Essex Speech and Language

ACL Family Learning

Action for family carers

East Anglian Drivability

EM Tuition

Essex Youth Services

Families in Focus

Fit for all

Hamelin Trust

Hatfield Wick Education

Kids Autism Hub

SAFE Essex

Upwards with Downs

West Essex Inclusion Project

SENDIAS

Essex Inclusion Team

Essex wellbeing

No need to book, just drop in!

Your child does not need a diagnosis to attend.

The Main Hall, Thomas Willingale School, The Broadway, IG103SR

SPRING TERM ESSEX LOCAL OFFER ROADSHOWS

Help us
improve our
information

Tell us about your
experience to help us
make our website work
better for you

The Essex Local Offer

Find out about the services available for
children and young people aged 0-25,
with Special Educational Needs and
Disabilities (SEND)



Are you a parent or carer of a young person with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) aged 0 to 25? Do you want to know what support is available in your area? Come along to one of our Essex Local Offer Roadshows.

You can chat with teams from Education, Health and Social Care, as well as local support groups and activity providers.



The marketplace is free and there is no need to book. Children are welcome!



Drop in between 9:30am and 12:30pm



Book your place on free workshops



Scan the QR Code for all the information, including dates and venues or visit the Essex Local Offer at:

<https://send.essex.gov.uk/i-think-my-child-needs-help/essex-local-offer-roadshows>

In Partnership with

