

# Matching Green News



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

28<sup>th</sup> February 2025

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



Matchinggreenceprimary



[Church School Blog](#)

[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.

## Collective Worship

We have continued to focus on love this week and linked this to Genesis 2:15, "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and keep it.". From this, we discussed how we work and keep our school. The children could talk about the things they are proud of such as their learning and the community support such as carols at the Cricket Club. The also identified we need to take better care of our resources and protect our school from littering. With that, the children have been avidly using our new litter pickers to tidy up our school grounds as courage advocates.



## Celebration



Potters  
Jake

Nightingale  
Julius  
Gabriel

Darwin  
Alice W  
Isaac

Shakespeare  
Lilly  
Desia

## Weekly update

I was so proud of Connie, Zachary and Isaac this week who when we were discussing stereotyping and making judgements as our Picture News worship this week, they were so thoughtful in their responses. Zachary and Isaac reminded us that we should 'never judge a book by it's cover' and that in Shrek, he feels saddened when others 'judge him before they know him'. Talk to your children about our Picture News this week and see what they tell you.

I am over the moon to share with you that 8 of our children competed in a swimming event at the Aquatic Centre in Stratford on Thursday. Out of 8 teams, they finished 2<sup>nd</sup> and the children were all awarded silver Panathlon medals. The children each tried something new and pushed themselves out of the comfort zone and loved being in the Olympic pool – well done swimmers!

## Water bottles

Please remember the children should only come to school with water and not juice.

### Parent Governor Role

We have not yet received sufficient applications for the two parent governor vacancies, please see the email sent on 7<sup>th</sup> February (reshared today). The date will be extended until March 31<sup>st</sup> for further applicants. The governors will also attend the bake sale on the 6<sup>th</sup> March to discuss the role with anyone interested.

### Matching's Responsible Refills

We cannot wait to open Matching's Responsible Refills to customers on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025 between 2.30pm – 3.15pm, and we will open on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month from 2.30pm – 3.15pm. Please bring your 500ml refillable bottles with you.  
We can accept cash or card, but card would be preferable.

### Opening times for 2025

4<sup>th</sup> March, 1<sup>st</sup> April, 6<sup>th</sup> May, 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 1<sup>st</sup> July.

### Prices

Product	Price	Amount
Body wash	£3	500ml
Washing up liquid	£1.75	500ml
Hand soap	£2.50	500ml
Laundry liquid	£10	500ml
Fabric conditioner	£8	500ml
Shampoo	£3	500ml
Conditioner	£2.50	500ml

### 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.

Unfortunately, there have been numerous occasions of dishonesty regarding holiday absences and this puts the children and their peers in difficult positions. This does not support the values of the school which is disappointing.

	Whole school	Potters	Nightingale	Darwin	Shakespeare
Year to date	94.7%	95.5%	93.3%	96.1%	94.3%
This week	92%	93.3%	88%	96.1%	90.8%
Persistently absent pupils	12 pupils	1 pupil	3 pupils	3 pupils	5 pupils

### Class updates

**Potters** – please follow us on Instagram: Potter.Class

Potter class have started their topic on transport ahead of their visit to Aerozone next week. They have been learning about different transportation methods and comparing them to historical vehicles.

**Nightingale** – please follow us on Instagram: nightingale.class

The children have loved their new book 'Shelka and Belka' which is about dogs in space. They have also been adding 2 different numbers, with an exchange!

**Darwin** - please follow us on Instagram: charlesdarwin.class

Darwin class have had a great week with Miss Giles, thank you Miss Giles and Mrs Gibbons but we have really missed Mrs Hanifin. Mrs Hanifin is hoping to return next week.

The children have been writing 3 different types of poetry, haiku, cinquian and kennings. Group 2 have also started swimming really well.

**Shakespeare** - please follow us on Instagram: Shakespeare.class

Shakespeare have been researching and planning in preparation for their persuasive texts. They have been learning how to find percentages of amounts too, time to take them shopping to find the best deals!

### **Year 6 learning conferences**

A reminder that year 6's learning conferences are on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> March.

Bookings for learning conferences for the rest of the school will be available on 7<sup>th</sup> March 12pm.

### **World Book Day**

World Book Day is Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March. Children are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite character from their favourite book, not movie. The children should bring their book matching their character to share with their peers.

The PTA are also holding a bake sale and preloved uniform sale at 9am on 6<sup>th</sup> March. The governors will be present to talk to anyone interested in the role.

### **Mrs Gibbons**

Mrs Gibbon's last day will be Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March, we are so grateful she has stayed a little longer with us and have been so lucky to have her support. We will miss her greatly.

We have an advert for a [learning support assistant](#) that is live on Essex School Jobs and through the link. We encourage you to take a look and share with anyone interested.

### **Mrs Itoje**

Mrs Itoje has been appointed following our vacancy in January and will be starting with us in Nightingale on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

### **Extra curricular activities**

We have sent a communication out today to expand our offer of extra-curricular activities after school. There is a cost to these to cover the overtime of the staff member leading and resources needed. We are exploring how to increase this range and ask that you are patient whilst we consider the best way to do this. If you know of any external clubs who may want to use our facilities for the school, please let Mrs Childs know.

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**

February's draw will take place on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> 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.

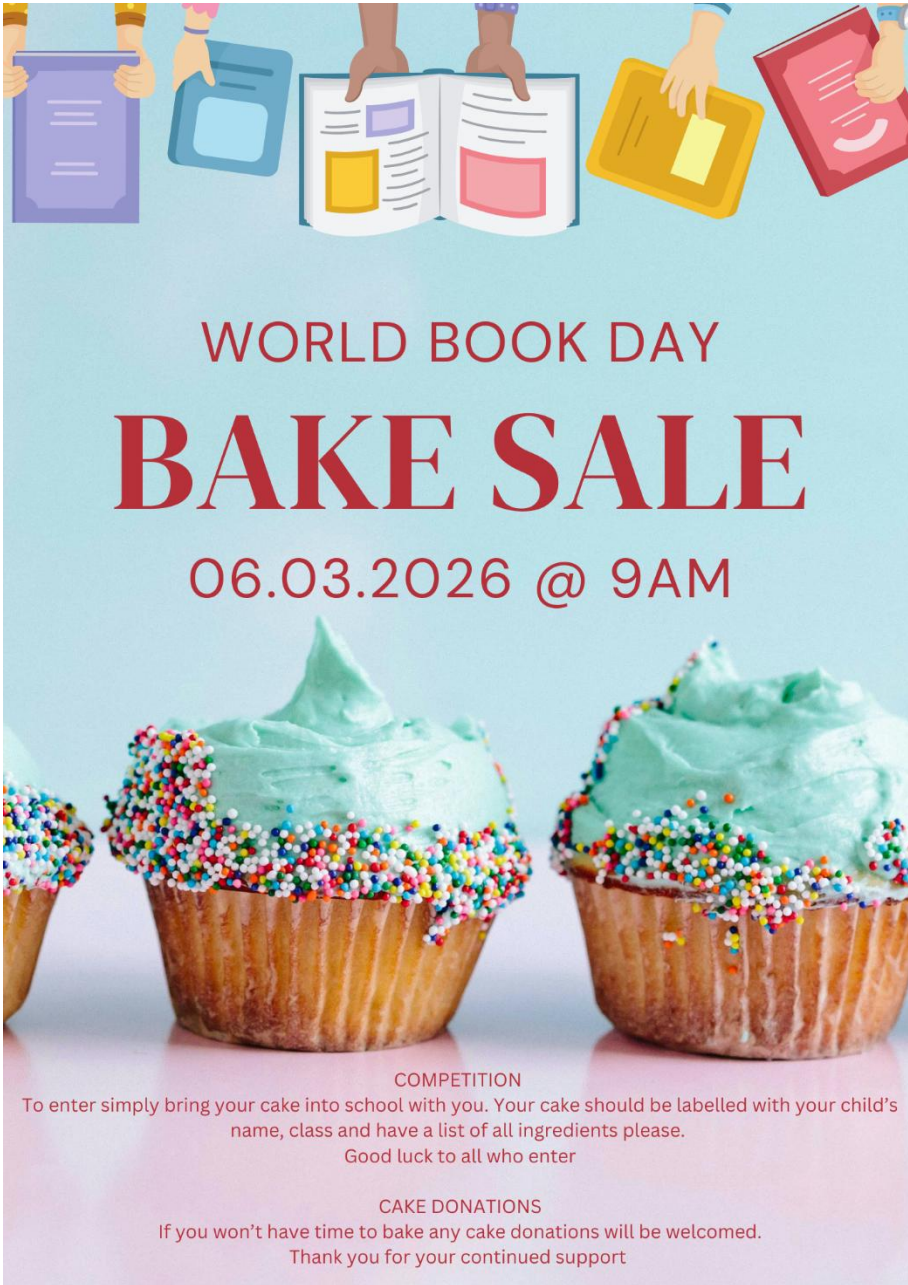
To join the club we are asking for £2.50 per calendar month per number. The numbers range from 1-75. The draw will take place on the last Thursday of the month and the lucky 3 numbers pulled out will win cash prizes (1<sup>st</sup> - £30, 2<sup>nd</sup> - £15 and 3<sup>rd</sup> - £10) but, the more members 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](#)

### World Book Day

On World Book Day, the PTA will be holding a bake sale at 9am and will also be displaying their pre-loved uniform.



The image is a vertical poster for a 'World Book Day Bake Sale'. At the top, there is an illustration of five hands holding various books and book-related items: a purple book, a blue folder, an open book with yellow and pink pages, a yellow book with a yellow tag, and a red book. Below this illustration, the text 'WORLD BOOK DAY' is written in a red, serif font. Underneath that, 'BAKE SALE' is written in a much larger, bold, red, serif font. Below 'BAKE SALE', the date and time '06.03.2026 @ 9AM' are written in the same red, serif font. At the bottom of the poster, there are three cupcakes with light blue frosting and colorful sprinkles. Below the cupcakes, the text 'COMPETITION' is written in a small, red, sans-serif font. This is followed by the text 'To enter simply bring your cake into school with you. Your cake should be labelled with your child's name, class and have a list of all ingredients please.' and 'Good luck to all who enter' in a small, red, sans-serif font. Below this, the text 'CAKE DONATIONS' is written in a small, red, sans-serif font, followed by 'If you won't have time to bake any cake donations will be welcomed.' and 'Thank you for your continued support' in a small, red, sans-serif font.

WORLD BOOK DAY

# BAKE SALE

06.03.2026 @ 9AM

COMPETITION

To enter simply bring your cake into school with you. Your cake should be labelled with your child's name, class and have a list of all ingredients please.  
Good luck to all who enter

CAKE DONATIONS

If you won't have time to bake any cake donations will be welcomed.  
Thank you for your continued support

## 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> March, 7pm
Learning & Executive Function	Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March, 7pm
Emotional Regulation	Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm, MS Teams

#### **Session 2: Learning and Executive Functioning**

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

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm, MS Teams



Dates	Resources	Referrals
<p>Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 1.30pm Parent workshop on emotional regulation at Matching Green School.</p> <p><b>Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 7pm – Neurodevelopmental Diversity online workshop</b></p> <p>The Essex Local Offer Roadshow Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at The Harlow Hotel, CM187BA.</p> <p><b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March – Learning and Executive Functioning online workshop</b></p> <p><b>Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March – Emotional Regulation online workshop</b></p> <p>The Epping Forest SEND Roadshow. Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March 11am – 3pm. Thomas Willingale School (see leaflet below)</p>	<p><a href="#">Essex Local Offer</a> <a href="#">Supporting your Neurodivergent Child</a> <a href="#">West Essex Inclusion Project</a> <a href="#">Essex Family Wellbeing</a> <a href="#">SEND IASS</a> <a href="#">Autism Central</a> <a href="#">West Essex Inclusion Project</a> <a href="#">One Plan Process</a> <a href="#">Zones of Regulation pack</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Community Paediatric Service</a> <a href="#">West Essex Community Specialist Services</a></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.  
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>04.03.25 – West End in School  04.03.25 – Year 6 learning conferences  05.03.25 – Potter Educational Visit to Aerozone, Stansted.  06.03.25 – World Book Day – dress as your favourite book character.  06.03.25 – PTA - Bake and book sale for World Book Day  06.03.25 - Year 6 learning conferences  09.03.25 - Seedlings at Matching Feast Room  18.03.25 - Learning Conferences for EYFS – year 5</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</p>

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	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
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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

### WhatsApp

WhatsApp is one of the most popular messaging apps available and, as of 2024, has been made accessible to users as young as thirteen. With end-to-end encryption preventing even the platform itself from viewing any messages that users send on it, this app has been regularly utilised by those looking to keep their conversations private.

Unfortunately, the service poses several risks to its younger users – from misinformation and bullying to potential criminal exploitation – and it's vital that parents and educators understand these concerns and how to address them. This free guide delves into the online safety risks of WhatsApp and offers expert advice on how to safeguard any young people who use the platform.



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With more than two billion active users, WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service. Its end-to-end encryption only allows messages to be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp itself can read them. The UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging, but for the time being, this controversial feature remains.

### EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting a money transfer because of a spurious 'emergency' – plus a scam where fraudsters trigger a verification message by attempting to log in to your account, then (posing as WhatsApp) call or text to ask you to repeat the code back to them, giving them access.

### CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the WhatsApp user they want to message. Therefore, if a child has ever given their number out to someone they don't know, that person could then contact them via WhatsApp. It's also possible that the child might be added to a group chat or community (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people they don't know.

### FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allow news to be shared rapidly – whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of misinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on the app now display a "Forwarded many times" label and a double arrow icon. This makes users aware that the message they've just received is far from an original – and might not be entirely factual, either.

### CHAT LOCK AND SECRET CODES

In 2023, WhatsApp introduced a feature that lets users keep their chats in a separate 'locked chats' folder, saved behind their phone's passcode, fingerprint or face ID. There is an additional feature – 'Secret Code' – where users set a unique password for locked chats. Unfortunately, this creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of.

### VIEW ONCE CONTENT

The ability to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate material or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't reopen them later to use as evidence of misconduct. People used to be able to screenshot this disappearing content – but a recently added WhatsApp feature now blocks this, citing protection of privacy.

### VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's Live Location feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child is safe while out, for example. However, anyone in a user's contacts list or in a mutual group chat can also track their location – potentially letting strangers identify a child's home address or journeys that they make regularly.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage children to treat unexpected messages with caution; get them to consider whether it sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

### ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change a child's WhatsApp settings to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval. You can give permission to My Contacts or My Contacts Except... Additionally, if a child needs to use Live Location, emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.

### CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Check in with the child about how they're using WhatsApp, making sure they know you only have their safety at heart. If you spot a Locked Chats folder, you might want to talk about the sort of content they've stored in there, who they're talking to, and why they want to keep these chats hidden. Also, if children send any View Once content, it could be helpful to ask them why.

### DISCUSS GROUP CHATS

Make children aware that there could be members of a group that they don't know well and that words can be misinterpreted. Encourage them to leave a group chat if it makes them uncomfortable – or for any reason, in fact.

### THINK BEFORE SHARING

Help children understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content that a user posts to be shared more widely, even publicly on social media. Encourage children to consider how an impulsive message or forwarding might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

## Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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



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/www.thenationalcollege



@wake.up.wednesday



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Monday 31<sup>st</sup> 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.*



A large range of services will be joining us from both charities and Essex County Council

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

