

# Matching Green News



*'Life in all its fullness'*

(John 10:10)

6<sup>th</sup> December 2024

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



matchinggreenceprimary



[Week 1 menu](#)

[Week 2 menu](#)

Next week, we are Week 2.

**A reminder that it is Christmas dinner and Christmas jumper day on Wednesday. Please note that there will be a change to the menu on Thursday, Miss Bennett will be serving tomato mozzarella pasta bake instead of homemade chicken and bacon pie.**

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

## Collective Worship

We have been exploring Advent in Collective Worship this week. Reverend Julia led our Collective Worship at the start of this week by explaining that the colour in the Christian Calendar is purple in this period as purple is the colour of waiting. We discussed the Advent Wreath and how the five candles are lit at the start of worship each Sunday in the lead up. The candles are lit every Sunday across the Christmas season, which lasts until Candlemas on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February.



## Celebration



Potters  
Finley

Nightingale  
Charlie  
Alba

Darwin  
Gaspard  
Poppy

Shakespeare  
Addie  
Darcie

Sports Person  
Lily

## Weekly update

Year 3 had a fantastic visit to South Mills with me to see Robin Hood, it was lovely to see them join in and become so animated. Shakespeare had a wonderful visit to Duxford and many of the children choose to dress up in a range of outfits to represent the War, including one of Governors, Mike. Thank you Mr Ball, Mrs Swanton, Mrs Taylor and Mike for taking the children.

Today, we have made Christingles with Reverend Julia and Sue ready for the service on 8<sup>th</sup> December, please see the details below.

We have also been levelling more of our books in our library and classroom to increase the range available for children reading with their Accelerated Reader levels.

## Christingle Service

Following our wonderful Christingle making today, Matching Church are delighted to be hosting their annual Christingle Service for Matching Green School pupils, staff and friends at Matching Church (CM170QZ) on **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm**, please do come and join us and see the Christingles all the children have made! Parking is available next door to church in Matching Hall.

The crib service on Christmas Eve at Magdalen Laver Church is an opportunity for children to dress up and take nativity parts - if they would like to be involved, please email: [rosemary@rollsfarm.co.uk](mailto:rosemary@rollsfarm.co.uk). Please see the website: <https://tinyurl.com/LaversMatching> for all our Advent and Christmas Services, we have also attached the timetable for the service. Best wishes to you and your loved ones for a joyful Christmas, Revd Julia Baldwin

### Class updates

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

The children have been retelling the Nativity story. They've also been adding 's' to their words in phonics this week. Make sure you're looking at your child's individual learning journeys on Tapestry.

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

The children have shown the value of kindness this week in their letters to Father Christmas. Most of the children asked for happiness or something for a close family member.

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

Darwin have been writing informal letters this week. Their highlight has been starting their weaving on their looms.

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

Shakespeare have been preparing for their VE celebrations next week and have been writing biographies of WW heroes.

### Carols at the Cricket Club

Matching Green Cricket Club and Matching Green Church will be hosting community carols at the Cricket Club on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024. Reverend Julia will be leading the children from our school in singing carols as part of the carol service. The service which will run from 5pm – 6.30pm. Sausage rolls, and mince pies will be available, as well as some mulled wine and hot chocolate. All families are invited to sing and share in this community celebration.

This year, the charity this cause is supporting is Operation Smile:

<https://www.operationsmile.org.uk/>.

### Christmas Activity Evening

We are looking forward to welcoming the children and their accompanying adult to our after-school Christmas Activity Evening. Children will need to be supervised by an adult at this event, as the staff and PTA will be Christmas elves! We will be singing at 4pm. The PTA will be selling tea, coffee and hot chocolate with some mince pies throughout the evening

### Christmas

Potters and Nightingale's Nativity will be on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of December and will start at 2.30pm. Please arrive from 2.15pm to get yourself a good seat! Darwin and Shakespeare will be singing the Christmas carols they've been learning, so all are welcome to attend. Please can children from Darwin and Shakespeare come to school on the 16<sup>th</sup> with a Christmas accessory to wear. We aim to be finished by the end of the day.

### Toys

Children must not bring any toys, games cards or items that are special to them into school. These are often a distraction and can cause distress if damaged or lost. Please ensure that your child is not bringing in any items to school that they do not need. Children should only bring their reading books and a bottle of water, as well as a packed lunch if needed.

### School website

We will be launching a new school website in January 2025. On 12<sup>th</sup> December, we will be having a photographer in school to showcase how wonderful our school is. Please ensure the children are wearing correct uniform on that day.

- Potters will be learning outside, so please make sure they have wellies in school, as well as being wrapped up for all weather!
- Please send Nightingale in to school in their school uniform, with their PE kit labelled and in a named bag ready for the afternoon on this occasion.
- Please send Darwin in to school in their school uniform, with their PE kit labelled and in a named bag for the afternoon on this occasion.
- Shakespeare will be having PE, so please can they bring their PE kit in a named bag to school.

### INSET days

We have set and agreed the academic year dates for 2025 – 2026. These can also be found on our website

Autumn term 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025 - 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

Spring term 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Summer term 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026 – 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026.

Our INSET days have been set for 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026, 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026 and 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026.

### Academic Year 2025-2026

September 2025							October 2025							November 2025							December 2025						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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29	30																										
January 2026							February 2026							March 2026							April 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30			
														30	31												
May 2026							June 2026							July 2026							August 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5						1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
																					31						

= Schooldays     
  = School holidays     
  = Bank holidays  
 = Weekends     
  = Inset Days.

### Staff vacancy

Unfortunately, Mrs Mephram has made the decision to move on from Matching Green and we are going to miss her in school as I know many children and parents will. We are advertising for her role which can be found here: [Learning Support Assistant](#)

### Christmas activities

There is a leaflet on the last few pages for some Christmas activities camps with SCS.

### Safeguarding

As one of the most popular messaging apps available, Snapchat sees an enormous amount of usage across the globe – with a significant number of those utilising the platform being under 18. For that reason, it's important to understand the potential risks to younger users when spending time on this app. Of course, it can be difficult to identify every hazard associated with the platform, let alone what can be done to mitigate these concerns. National College's guide lays out the key online safety risks of Snapchat, as well as how to safeguard young people while they use the app.

### Essex Library Service – Winter Reading challenge

Essex Library Service are once again running a Winter Reading Challenge for children. This year's theme is dragons! The Dragons' Adventure starts on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January and runs until Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, and children can join at any point during that time.

Children will be asked to complete six challenges from a choice of twelve. They earn a sticker for each challenge they complete, plus a certificate and small prize if they manage to complete six! Completers will also have the opportunity to enter a prize draw to win larger prizes such as tablets, book tokens, art and crafts materials and dragon themed toys.

[You can find out more about the challenge on our website.](#)

### 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 \(www.police.uk\)](#)

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](#)

### 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 (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](#).

### **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.

### **ASDA Cashpot for Schools**

Miss Travis set us up with Cashpots for School with Asda, we have raised £85.03! Thank you so much!

### **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. Over 7,000 brands will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself! These donations really mount up and make a BIG difference to us, so we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. It's completely FREE and only takes a moment. You can find our easyfundraising page at: [Easyfundraising - Matching Green C of E Primary School](#)

Over the years we have raised an amazing £3,211.33 via this fundraising portal. So please remember us when you are online and doing your Christmas shopping this year, remember it does not cost you any extra, but it does raise funds for our PTA, The Friends of Matching Green School.

Thank you so much for your support.

### **SEND resources**

#### **Good Beginnings**

Good Beginnings will be running in Dunmow and Chelmsford in the Spring Term. This eight week course is for parents of children in Reception and younger, to learn about autism.

It is supported by Speech Therapists and Occupational Therapists.

To find out more and apply to attend the Good Beginnings course, visit the [Good Beginnings page on The Essex Local Offer](#).

#### **SEND Operations Team**

From 11th December 2024, there will be a new phone number to contact the quadrant SEND Operations teams.

The new phone number to use is 0345 603 7638.

If you call the old numbers, they'll be redirected to the new one for a while to make sure no calls are missed.

#### **Zones of Regulation**

We are talking to the children more and more about their own regulation and emotions. We have started the Zones of Regulation intervention for some children in school. Here is a [Zones of Regulation pack](#) to help families support children with their emotional regulation and to further understand the approach for consistency.


# The ZONES of Regulation

			
<b>Blue Zone</b> Sad Bored Tired Sick	<b>Green Zone</b> Happy Focused Calm Proud	<b>Yellow Zone</b> Worried Frustrated Silly Excited	<b>Red Zone</b> overjoyed/Elated Panicked Angry Terrified

## PINS parent meeting

Please join Essex Family Forum at school on 20<sup>th</sup> December to share your views. A 'cuppa and a chat' will be hosted by Essex Family Forum in support of our work and training with the Essex PINs project (<https://essexfamilyforum.org/portfolio/pins>) and we welcome your views.

### YOUR SCHOOL NEEDS YOU




Would you like the opportunity to speak about how your child's school can improve inclusion for its' neurodivergent pupils?

Join us at a 'cuppa and chat' hosted by Essex Family Forum as part of the PINS project.  
(find out more [HERE](#))

Your school is committed to working with EFF to hear your voice and want you to speak openly with EFF about how the school can improve.

**The next meeting is-**  
Friday 20th December @ 10am  
In the school hall



## Matching Green C of E Primary PINS Coffee Morning Agenda

Date: Friday 20th December 2024

Time: 10 - 12

Location: School Hall

PINS Contact – Stacey Gladden

- Welcome
- Introduction Who are Essex Family Forum? What is the PINS Project?
- Discussion - Parent Carer Survey Results These will be available to view at the meeting.
- 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](mailto: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 27th December 2024.

Dates	Resources	Referrals
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December at 10am at Matching Green school - Parent	<a href="#">Essex Local Offer</a> <a href="#">Supporting your</a> <a href="#">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="#">Community Paediatric Service</a> <a href="#">West Essex Community</a> <a href="#">Specialist Services</a>

### Recent Letters

03.09.24 – Welcome Back  
16.09.24 – Year 6 swimming  
01.10.24 - Reception and Year 6 Height and Weight Checks  
03.10.24 – Group of children for Tri-Golf  
07.10.24 – EYFS Tapestry Information  
22.10.24 - Year 5 swimming  
22.10.24 – ~~Shakespeare Tag Rugby event 6<sup>th</sup> November~~  
22.10.24 - Nightingale Multisport event 13<sup>th</sup> November  
22.10.24 - Darwin & Shakespeare Cross Country Event 14<sup>th</sup> November  
14.11.24 – Adverse weather procedures  
20.11.24 – Shakespeare Duxford trip.

Autumn	Spring	Summer
08.12.24 – Christingle Service at Matching Church (CM170QZ) 10.12.24 – EYFS for 2025 tour 10.12.24 – PTA Christmas Event 3.30pm – 5.30pm 11.12.24 – Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper day. 11.12.24 – Learning celebration 12.12.24 – school website photography in school. 17.12.24 – all children in PE kits for PE morning 17.12.24 – whole school Christmas celebration with EYFS and Key Stage 1 Nativity and KS2 Christmas carols from 2.30pm 18.12.24 – whole school Christmas celebration with EYFS and Key Stage 1 Nativity and KS2 Christmas carols from 2.30pm 20.12.24 – End of term. Children finish at 1.15pm. 22.12.24 – Carols at the Cricket Club from 5pm – 6.30pm	06.01.25 – Non-pupil Day 07.01.25 – Children back to school 14.01.25 – PJ day to raise money for bins on the field 14.01.25 – PTA film night 12.02.25 – Learning Celebration Afternoon 12.02.25 – PTA Valentines disco 17.02.25 – 21.02.25 – Half term 28.02.25 – PTA Non-Uniform Day 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 31.03.25 – PTA Easter Enrichment and Easter Egg Hunt.	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 17.06.25 – Sports Day 23.06.25 – <b>9am Trinity Service at Matching Church, CM17 0QZ. Parents will need to take and return to school.</b> 24.06.25 – Reserve Sports Day 16.07.25 – Learning Celebration Afternoon

	<p>01.04.25 – 9am - Easter Celebration Service at Matching Church, CM17 0QZ. Parents will need to take and return to school.</p> <p>02.04.25 – Learning Celebration Afternoon</p> <p>03.03.25 – Nightingale trip to Thorndon Country Park</p> <p>04.04.25 – End of term. Children finish at 1.15pm.</p>	
<p>New dates will be added in red</p>		

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

**SNAP STREAK**

**97**

**DAYS**

# SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

Snapchat is a messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to others. Its best-known feature is that anything sent 'disappears' 24 hours after it's been viewed; however, users are known to take screenshots or use another device to obtain a photo of their screen. In 2023, Snapchat added a chatbot function called 'My AI'.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

#### PREDATORS AND SCAMS

Predators can exploit Snapchat's disappearing messages by, for example, telling a user they have naked photos of them and will post them unless they're paid. Snapchat's own research found that 65% of teenagers had experienced this – on this app or others. This likely isn't helped by 'SnapMaps' – a feature which highlights your exact position in real-time. This is meant to help friends keep track of each other, but could be used for more sinister reasons.

#### MY EYES ONLY

Snapchat has a hidden photo vault called 'My Eyes Only'. Teens can conceal sensitive photos and videos from parents and carers in this folder, which is protected by a PIN. You can check for this by clicking on the icon which looks like two playing cards. This takes you to the 'Memories' folder which stores photos, stories and the My Eyes Only folder.

#### SCREEN TIME ADDICTION

Snapchat prioritises user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). The app also has sections called 'Discover' and 'Spotlight', which show tailored content to each user. However, this could also be seen as an attempt to hook users into watching videos endlessly. Furthermore, constant notifications can lure people into using the app.

#### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat simply isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

#### ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beautify' effects on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy in younger users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

#### UTILISE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Snapchat's 'Family Centre' lets you view the details of the child's account – their friends list and who they've spoken to in the last week – and report any concerns. You must invite a child to the Family Centre for them to join. To keep the child's location hidden on the app, go into settings and turn on 'Ghost Mode' and 'Hide Live Location', and ensure they know not to share their location with anyone.

#### BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger *does* connect with a child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user – such as annoying or malicious messages, spam or masquerading as someone else.

#### FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

Before you allow a child to download Snapchat, download it yourself and familiarise yourself with the app. Snapchat has produced a parents' guide to the app to help you understand how it works and any protections they have in place. A link for this can be found in the sources below.

#### ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. For example, discuss My AI's responses to questions and how reliable they are. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

#### 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/snapchat-2021>

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# RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

Please support  
Helen Rollason Cancer  
Charity! In exchange for a  
small donation we will  
take all the hassle out of  
disposing of your  
Christmas Tree!



[www.just-helping.org.uk/register-tree](http://www.just-helping.org.uk/register-tree)

Helen Rollason  
Cancer Charity

Registered Charity No:1052861

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Essex Library Service

# Winter Reading Challenge



## The Dragons' Adventure!

Thursday 2 January to  
Saturday 22 February

Help the dragons get home out of the  
cold by completing fun challenges!

Sign up at any Essex library.



@essexlibraries



# CHRISTMAS DUNMOW FOOTBALL CAMP

Great Dunmow Leisure Centre, Parsonage Downs CM6 2AT

**Tuesday 24th December**

**9am-12pm • Age 4-5 years • £15**

**9am-2pm • Age 6-12 years • £20**

JOIN OUR CHELMSFORD  
SCS WHATSAPP GROUP



FOR MORE INFORMATION  
ABOUT SCS EVENTS  
IN CHELMSFORD

PLEASE EMAIL: [chelmsfordscs@gmail.com](mailto:chelmsfordscs@gmail.com)  
or call Michael on 07949 691584 to book your child's place.  
Boys and girls welcome. Packed lunch and drinks bottle required.

Payments can be made by cash or card on the day of camp.  
Kit needed: Sports clothing, shin pads, trainers/boots



  
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