

Matching Green News



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

4th April 2025

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



Matchinggreenceprimary



[Church School Blog](#)

[Week 1](#)

[Week 2](#)

There will be a new menu launching on the first Tuesday back and we will send you the menus over the holidays. Miss Bennett was busy making Easter cupcakes today!

Collective Worship

This week the children have been discussing the Christian Value of service and how whilst God created the world, he entrusted us to care and use it wisely and consider thinking about the spaces we design and build and how creation can serve others. This linked with Manchester United sharing their plans to build the 'biggest stadium in the UK' and what we think it could offer from its uses but the disadvantages to the community too.

Every week we have a Picture News in our Collective Worship, please see the parent newsletter [here](#).



Celebration



Potters
Penelop

Nightingale
Ayla
Lottie H

Darwin
Leo
Poppy

Shakespeare
William
Ceylan

Weekly update

The children have had a fantastic week of Easter celebrations. A huge thank you to the PTA for the Easter Egg hunt and activity morning this week. This was a huge highlight for the staff and children this week. Mary, one of our Governors also brought in her lamb for the children to see this week, reminding us of the start of Spring. There are some pictures on Instagram for you to look over.

It has been another wonderful term with your children, and I hope you all have a well-deserved break. We wish you a very happy holiday and we will welcome the children back on Tuesday 22nd April 2025.

Governor applications

Thank you for the Governor Applications. We will be back in touch after the Easter Break.

Matching's Mini Marathon

On Friday 2nd May, Miss Toon has organised a London Marathon Event with Matching's Mini Marathon. The children will be completing their own marathon, which they can run or walk. The Mini London Marathon is two miles, which is 7 laps of our field, and the children will be collecting sponsorship as fundraising for the school bins. The children will have marathon bibs, so they look the part and we are excited for our whole school warm up and cool down with Miss Toon.

Children should all come in PE kit this day ready to join in, and can wear a small accessory to celebrate participating!



The London Marathon have worked with WWF as a charity partner to focus on 'connecting with nature' to improve our wellbeing, we know that connections with nature boost children's moods, improve focus and reduce stress.

The children will come home with a sponsorship form today or you can download your child's sponsorship form [here](#).

SCS clubs

Please use the links below to book the SCS clubs for next term. We are reviewing how our clubs have gone this term with cost effectiveness and will be able to update you on the offer next term.

Monday - Football

<https://sportscoachingspecialists.classforkids.io/info/364>

Thursday - Dodgeball Year 2-6

<https://sportscoachingspecialists.classforkids.io/info/373>

Class updates

Potters – please follow us on Instagram: Potter.Class

The children have been learning the Easter Story in RE this week. In maths, they have been repeating patterns.

Nightingale – please follow us on Instagram: nightingale.class

Nightingale had a fantastic trip to Thorndon Country Park, they engaged in a range of activities from hunting for minibeasts, pond dipping and pretending to be moths, where Miss Mogridge was able to hunt them down and get them with a water pistol! There were lots of giggles!

Darwin - please follow us on Instagram: charlesdarwin.class

The children enjoyed finishing their Mayan masks this week and setting up their masks to showcase to their peers and families on Wednesday this week.

TT Rockstars celebrations

Breakthrough artist	Support Act	Headliner	Rock Star	Rock Legend	Gone Green
Poppy	Archie	Delilah Ralph Alice W	Brooke Adrian Ernie	Seb S Seb L Luca	Seb L Seb S

Congratulation to Darwin year 3 for winning the Battle of the Bands this week.

Shakespeare - please follow us on Instagram: Shakespeare.Class

There was £15.75 worth of sales from the Refill shop on Tuesday and the children created their own Jingle to share and attract custom. The children enjoyed science and used their outside learning to compare planet sizes and distances outside, they were creative with chalk and paper and whilst it was not to scale, it enabled the children to have a relative understand of space.

Attendance

Thank you for your continued support with attendance, I am really hoping in the comings months our year to date can increase to above 95% with your support.

	Whole school	Potters	Nightingale	Darwin	Shakespeare
Year to date	94.9%	95.4%	93.7%	96.3%	94.4%
This week	94.8%	95.3%	92.6%	96%	95.5%
Persistently absent pupils	10 pupils	1 pupil	4 pupils	2 pupils	4 pupils

School budget

As I have shared previously, all schools are struggling with budgets and this is more evident in smallest schools. Therefore, we have not been able to continue with the recruitment for a member of support staff. Our staff work relentlessly to support the children in school and they are deployed to effectively support the children through a variety of strategies using the resources we have across the school.

We also rely heavily on the PTA donations to support us with a range of resources, so a huge thank you for your donations but most importantly, the amount of work that the PTA provide our school with. They support us with Accelerated Reader, Spelling Frame, TT Rockstars, Twinkl and Nesy to name a few.

VE Day Save the date

Sunday May 4th at 10am - **Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving for 80th Anniversary of VE Day at Matching Airfield in the Base Hospital.**

Service of readings, music and prayers with the Lord Lieutenant, Representative of the American Embassy, British Legion, Scouts and Air Cadets.

(there will also be an 8:30am BCP short, said service with no hymns at Little Laver earlier that day for those who want to receive communion).

after the 10am service on the airfield there will be:

- **Talk on the History of the Airfield by Mark Ratcliff and 391st Bombardment Group**
 - **Display of historic Photographs, Videos and WWII vehicles**
 - **Airfield Tours**
 - **Food and refreshments**

There will also be a Bar Tent - please bring cash for refreshments.

To help us cater for folk please register your interest in attending the VE Day service on the airfield / or events via the following link: <https://forms.office.com/r/Mf1Pzc5CKB>

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

March's winners:-

1st – Jane Brown

2nd – Lisa Clarke

3rd – Sophia Fairclough

Are you feeling lucky? Would you like a number? 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

We have come to the end of the EPINs Pilot Project, and we have enjoyed the professional development that has been shared as part of the that project.

We have engaged in training to enhance our understanding. Knowledge and skill of autism in girls, masking, mental health and emotional wellbeing, social stories, speech, language and communication, SEND support through high quality teaching, sensory circuits and social story training.

Parent Survey – Essex Family Forum

We hope you are aware that your school opted to be involved in a pilot project aimed at increasing inclusivity in school and building relationships and communication with parents/carers. The name of this project is Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS).

The aim of PINS was to bring health and education specialists and parent carers with lived experience into mainstream primary settings to:

- Help shape whole school SEND provision.
- Provide early interventions at a whole school level.
 - Improve pupil outcomes
 - Upskill school staff and improve confidence.
- Support strengthening of partnerships between schools and parent carers.

At the start of the project, we asked you to complete an online survey. The questions in the survey were to give an overview of the school's approach to inclusion to help us understand the current strengths and potential areas of improvement in your child's school. Now that the project is coming to an end on the 31st of March 2025, we would like to invite you to complete the survey again, so we can measure any change since your school has been involved in the pilot.

Please use this link to complete the Survey it should take less than 5 minutes of your time and will be open for 2 weeks from today.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XW7QGG7>

The survey is for all parents and carers of children attending your school. If you have more than one child attend the school, you do not need to complete the survey for each child, unless you feel it would appropriate.

The individual information provided will only be accessible to Essex Family Forum (www.essexfamilyforum.org) and will be stored securely. We will produce a summary of the survey results to help us evaluate the pilot, but any information provided that could identify any individual will be anonymised. The only time any individual information will be shared is if it raises a concern for someone's safety.

Please visit our website to sign up as a free member and follow us on social media to find out what is going on in Essex for SEND families and how you can be involved.

Understanding can't not won't

"Understanding Can't not won't " - with [Dream Box Education](#) understand the reasons behind this and explore how to support - we have both face to face and online sessions available.

Date: Thursday 24th April

Time: 7pm - 8:30pm

Where: 1A Market St Saffron Community Link

1A Market Street Saffron Walden CB10 1HX

Eventbrite booking link: [A face to Face workshop for Parents and Carers - Can't not Won't Tickets, Thu, Apr 24, 2025 at 7:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)



Online

Date: Tuesday 29th April

Time: 7:30 pm - 9pm

Where: Online

Eventbrite booking link: [An Online workshop for Parents and Carers - Can't not Won't Tickets, Tue, Apr 29, 2025 at 7:30 PM | Eventbrite](#)




Can't not Won't

A workshop for Parents and Carers

Understanding why from your child's / young persons perspective and how to support


Face to Face session in Saffron Walden
- 24th April 7pm - 8.30

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1295543668989?aff=oddttdtcreator>



Evening Online session - 29th April 7.30 -9 pm

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1301078604129?aff=oddttdtcreator>



Dates	Resources	Referrals
PACT for Autism as above – 24.04.25 and 29.04.25	Essex Local Offer Supporting your Neurodivergent Child	Community Paediatric Service West Essex Community Specialist Services

[West Essex Inclusion Project](#)
[Essex Family Wellbeing](#)
[SEND IASS](#)
[Autism Central](#)
[West Essex Inclusion Project](#)
[One Plan Process](#)
[Zones of Regulation pack](#)

Recent Letters

03.09.24 – Welcome Back
 14.11.24 – Adverse weather procedures
 07.02.25 – Letter from Neil Banks re Headteacher appointment
 07.02.25 – Letter from Neil Banks regarding Governor vacancy
 25.02.25 – Potter class birth certificate request
 27.02.25 – Extracurricular activities
 27.02.25 – Maypole for Key Stage 2
 03.04.25 – Nightingale swimming

Summer

13.04.25 - Seedlings at Matching Feast Room 22.04.25 – Children back to school
 29.04.25 – Class photos
 03.04.25 – Nightingale group 1 swimming start – information shared on 03.04.25.
 02.04.25 – Matching Mini Marathon – all children in PE Kits
 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

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.

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.

Instagram

Instagram remains a go-to app for teens, with its endless stream of photos, videos, and 'Stories' keeping young users constantly connected. From influencer content to live broadcasts, the platform is packed with evolving features that can feel fun and engaging – but can also raise some serious concerns around screen time, online pressures and exposure to inappropriate content.

We've created this free guide – also available in podcast format – offering parents and educators up-to-date knowledge on the risks and safety tips for this latest version of Instagram.

follow

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

INSTAGRAM

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

Instagram remains one of the world's most popular social media platforms, especially among teens – with around 70% of 13 to 17-year-olds using it. Owned by Meta, Instagram allows users to share photos and videos, create interactive 'stories', broadcast live, send private messages and follow others. With regular updates and new features, it's essential for parents and educators to stay informed about how children are using the app – and what the risks are.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

Instagram's design encourages prolonged use through endless scrolling of trending content and generating a fear of missing out (FOMO). Children can quickly lose track of time browsing posts from friends, influencers, and strangers, which may disrupt their day-to-day activities.

AI CHATBOT CONCERNS

Meta's AI, which is available on Instagram, allows users to chat with an in-app chatbot. While often helpful, it can blur boundaries for young users, who may ask for or read content that is inappropriate or see it as a real friend or confidant. Privacy issues also arise, as conversations may not be as secure or private as children assume.

RISKS OF GOING LIVE

The livestream feature allows real-time broadcasting to followers – or anyone, if the account is public. This increases the chance of unwanted contact from strangers and pressure to act in ways that gain attention, including engaging in inappropriate behaviour. Viewers may also post offensive or harmful comments during live sessions.

THREADS INTEGRATION

Threads is Instagram's sister app for public, text-based conversations. Posts from Threads appear in users' Instagram feeds and can lead children to view, share, and comment on public conversations with strangers. The content may not always be age-appropriate and can be misleading or false.

SCHEDULED MESSAGING

Instagram's newer ability to schedule direct messages means that children could receive messages late at night or early in the morning. This can disrupt their sleep or keep them preoccupied before the school day even begins.

EXCLUSION AND LOW SELF-WORTH

Feeling left out online can have a real emotional impact. Being left out of photos, receiving fewer likes, being unfollowed, or being ignored in chats and comments can leave children feeling excluded, which often hurts as much as in real life. There is a risk this can lead to reduced self-esteem and a sense of not belonging.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE INSTAGRAM'S SUPERVISION TOOLS

Instagram's built-in Family Centre lets parents monitor how much time their child spends on the app. Specialised 'teen accounts' are private by default and offer controls on who can message them. Make sure that children use their real age when registering their account to ensure they have these protections.

OPEN UP THE CONVERSATION

Talk regularly to the children in your care about what they enjoy on Instagram – and what makes them uncomfortable. Encourage honest chats about filters, body image, and online approval. Reassure them that they don't need to edit their appearance or chase 'likes' to feel valued.

SET BOUNDARIES FOR THREADS AND AI

Parental controls on Instagram also apply to Threads. These allow parents to monitor time spent in the app, check follower lists and adjust exposure to sensitive content. Discuss AI features, too, therefore helping children understand that chatbots aren't real people and should be used with care.

BE MEDIA-SAVVY WITH INFLUENCERS

Parents should follow a few of the influencers their child watches, so they can better understand the content they're seeing. Use this as a springboard to talk about the difference between genuine recommendations and paid promotions – and how online personalities can shape opinions and behaviour.

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

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