

Matching Green News



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

28th March 2025

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



Matchinggreenceprimary



[Church School Blog](#)

[Week 1](#)

[Week 2](#)

We will be coming back on week 1
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 Easter Story this week in preparation for our Easter Service next week. We explored John 20: 1-18.



Celebration



Potters
Reggie

Nightingale
Gage
Reggie

Darwin
Delilah
Ernie

Shakespeare
Sophia
Connier

Weekly update

This week has been busy in school finishing off learning ready for their celebration next week and preparing for the Easter Service. The children's singing is beautiful!

We have had some staff sickness this week, a huge thank you to our lovely staff who go over and above and adapt to many different roles in a small school to make sure the days go seamlessly for the children.

Mr Lorkins visited us in school and has worked with Mrs Childs, the children were so pleased to see him. Miss Clarke has been appointed as SENCo for September 2025, congratulations Miss Clarke. Over the summer term, Miss Clarke and Mrs Childs will work together to handover the necessary information.

End of spring term and start of summer term

Please note that the end of term is Friday 4th April and the school will close at 1.15pm. Children will return on Tuesday 22nd April 2025.

Easter Service

We are so excited to be attending Matching Church for the Easter Service on April 1st, led by Reverend Julia. All children will need to be taken to the church by their parents or carers for 8.45am, for a 9am start and then returned to school, we are expecting the service to last 45 minutes. If you need to arrange for another carer to transport your child, this will be parental responsibility, and you will need to notify the school office in writing prior to the 1st April 2025.

Families are invited to stay and watch and see the children perform

Class updates

Potters – please follow us on Instagram: Potter.Class

The children have been learning the story of the train ride this week, linked to their topic. They've been doubling in maths and have been practising their performance for our Easter Service.

Please note there are changes to PE for next week which is seen below.

Nightingale – please follow us on Instagram: nightingale.class

Nightingale have been working on multiplication and division. They have built their moving vehicles ready to show you next week in the Learning Celebration. The children are also preparing for their educational visit next Thursday.

Darwin - please follow us on Instagram: charlesdarwin.class

Darwin class have finished their swimming lessons now and have done well. They are researching animals for their Tropical Rainforest Non-Chronological Report. They have also been creating Myan homes.

TT Rockstars celebrations

Breakthrough artist	Support Act	Headliner	Rock Star	Rock Legend	Gone Green
Seb S		Ivie Libby Adrian	Xenia	Alice S Chloe Lucilla	Alice S

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

Shakespeare - please follow us on Instagram: Shakespeare.Class

The children have been reflecting and translating shapes in maths. In English, the children have been planning a non-chronological report about the gas planets. Their favourite planet has been Uranus, they've been asking lots of questions so make sure you ask them all about Uranus to test their knowledge!

Attendance

We have achieved 95% attendance both this week, and year to date! Yay!

	Whole school	Potters	Nightingale	Darwin	Shakespeare
Year to date	95%	95.4%	93.8%	96.3%	94.4%
This week	95.7%	91.4%	97.0%	98.3%	92.7%
Persistently absent pupils	9 pupils	1 pupil	3 pupils	1 pupils	4 pupils

Governor applications

Please note any Governor applications need to be sent to school at admin@matchinggreen.essex.sch.uk by Monday 31st March. Please see the following [letter](#) and [application](#) form.

PE Days (please note change for week 31.03.25)	
Monday	Nightingale and Shakespeare
Tuesday	Nightingale and Potters
Wednesday	Shakespeare
Thursday	Potters 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

EPINS – parent workshops

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

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 parent meeting

Stacey will be joining us on March 31st at 2pm at Matching Green to meet with parents and further support. This will be the final meeting as the project comes to an end so will be an opportunity to reflect on the growth so far.

Agenda

- PINS Contact – Stacey Gladden
- Updates from school
 - Final Feedback from parent/carers on impact of PINS Project
 - 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 4th April 2025

Dates	Resources	Referrals
<p>The Epping Forest SEND Roadshow. Monday 31st March 11am – 3pm. Thomas Willingale School</p> <p>Monday 31st March – EPINS parent meeting at Matching.</p>	<p>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>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.
- 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
- 11.03.25 – Mothering Sunday lunch
- 17.03.25 - Nightingale Class trip to Thorndon Park

Spring	Summer
<p>31.03.25 – PTA Easter Enrichment and Easter Egg Hunt. 31.03.25 – Darwin Learning Conferences. 01.04.25 – 9am - Easter Celebration Service at Matching Church, CM17 0QZ. Parents will need to take and return to school. 01.04.25 – Darwin Learning Conferences</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</p>

02.04.25 – Learning Celebration Afternoon from 2.45pm	26.05.25 – 30.05.24 – Half term
03.03.25 – Nightingale trip to Thorndon Country Park	02.06.25 – Non-pupil day
04.04.25 – End of term. Children finish at 1.15pm.	08.06.25 - Seedlings at Matching Feast Room
13.04.25 - 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.

[Parking outside schools | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](http://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.

Blue Sky

Bluesky is a microblogging social media platform that gained popularity after separating from Twitter in 2021. Since accounts must be public, this opens the door to potential trolling, cyberbullying and the spread of misinformation.

We've created this free guide, offering parents and educators advice and guidance on the tools available to keep children safe while using the popular social media platform Bluesky.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about BLUESKY SOCIAL APP

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

With an App Store rating of 17+ & Google Play rating Mature

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

While Bluesky has been around since 2019, it's suddenly taken off in a big way thanks to a significant exodus from X (formerly Twitter). Indeed, it looks and behaves a lot like Twitter before Elon Musk bought the platform. Bluesky has been touted in recent months as a safer, more open-minded alternative to X – but like any social media site, it still has its share of risks.

NO PRIVATE ACCOUNTS

While most social networks allow accounts to be private, at the time of writing, all Bluesky accounts must be public. The development team has indicated this might change in the future, but the app is built on a public-first protocol. If private accounts are ever introduced, it may only be in a limited way – such as through the implementation of group chats.

INTERACTIONS WITH STRANGERS

Every account being public means that anyone can be contacted by anyone else. While users don't have to respond and can easily block people and move on, it does mean that youngsters are at particular risk of being conned by scammers, messaged by predatory adults or exposed to others with ill intentions. These hazards can be compounded by the fact that Bluesky doesn't require its users to provide their real name.

TROLLING AND BULLYING

While Bluesky currently feels a lot friendlier than X seems to have become, its lack of private accounts means that there's nothing to stop users from trolling and cyberbullying younger people. While accounts can be blocked and reported, a persistent bully could simply create a new profile, potentially making their victims feel unsafe in continuing to use the app.

DANGEROUS MISINFORMATION

Established news organisations have fact-checking and editing processes, but social networks have no such controls and can often serve as breeding grounds for misinformation and disinformation. Bluesky will possibly be no different once it reaches a certain size, and children may not have the critical thinking skills to tell fact from fiction – or to discern an informative, honest user from a malicious one.

ADULT TARGET AUDIENCE

Bluesky isn't designed with children in mind, and there aren't many parental controls on the platform. In an interview with the BBC, Bluesky's CEO originally said that the app would only allow users aged 18 and above to sign up, but a spokesperson later clarified its age restriction as 13+. This could imply the app was originally meant for an adult audience and suggests that making the platform more child-friendly might not currently be a priority.

RAPID GROWTH

At the time of writing, Bluesky seems calm in comparison with other social networks where moderation is lax and the atmosphere toxic – but that's due at least in part to its smaller community. The app has recently been adding as many as a million users per day, and if that continues, there'll be more unpleasant users to handle, and moderators could struggle to maintain the pleasant environment Bluesky is currently known for.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE THE ADULT CONTENT FILTER

Bluesky doesn't have much in the way of parental controls, but there are content filters which can hide sexual and graphic imagery. These are enabled by default for underage accounts but can be manually turned on in the 'Moderation' section of the app's settings. The 'advanced' Bluesky Moderation Service lets you restrict content even further, hiding – for example – self-harm content, extremist rhetoric, and even rude posts.

ENCOURAGE BLOCKING AND REPORTING

Another tool that Bluesky uses to ensure a decent experience is muting and blocking accounts. The former prevents you from seeing a specific user's content, while the latter stops them from seeing yours. If a child is encountering trolls or bullies on the platform, encourage them to use this function, while also reporting the offenders to help make the platform a nicer place for everyone.

LOOK OUT FOR FAKES

Impersonation is a problem on all social networks. While the consequences are usually benign, imposters sometimes attempt to scam or groom children by pretending to be a popular influencer or online personality. Bluesky is unique in that it can be connected to official domains, with users' handles linking to other sites; while this isn't widely used right now, it could be a reliable way to verify celebrities and public figures in future.

KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE

As with all social media platforms, moderation and content filters can only do so much; it's highly likely that a child will eventually face something unsavoury. For that reason, it's important to make sure that young people are aware of the risks and know how to handle the technology if anything they see on the app makes them feel unsafe or uncomfortable.

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, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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

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