

# Matching Green News



*'Life in all its fullness'*

(John 10:10)

22<sup>nd</sup> November 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.

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

## Collective Worship

We have continued to discuss peace in Collective Worship this week, the children were able to recognise and compare art linked to the Bible story when Jesus Calms the storm. The children reflected on how peace impacts them and how it makes them feel.



## Celebration



Potters  
Maliya

Nightingale  
Ajit  
Primrose

Darwin  
Leo  
Dellilah

Shakespeare  
William  
Sienna

## Weekly update

We have adjusted lunchtime this week and there has been a lovely shift in the play we seen. The children have enjoyed using chalks to draw and play games such as noughts and crosses and the children have enjoyed games such as 'what is the time, Mr Wolf?' and 'duck, duck, goose'. Mrs Travis saw such kindness displayed from all children but in particular the older children who ran at a different pace when the younger children picked them!

## Class updates

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

Potters have had a week focusing on RE, they've created world view glasses to explore other religion and compared Diwali and Ramadan. The children enjoyed sharing how they celebrate their big days too.

Miss Clarke has noticed some of the children are not retaining their tricky words, remember to practise them in the red book at home.

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

The children have used SketchPad this week on the iPad to edit and amend images, they enjoyed seeing the changes happen and believing they were in control of that. Miss Mogridge has put the QR code on Instagram as many of the children wanted to continue with this at home.

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

The children have moved on the Bronze Age this week and have been enjoying this. They have glazed their pots ready for the trip to Leventhorpe to be fired again.

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

Shakespeare continue to be inspired by their WWII topic and have been researching about D-Day. Mr Ball has also booked their trip to Duxford, which they're excited about. In maths, the children have been using their reasoning skills to solve problems.

The children have decided to dress up for their WWII trip to Duxford. Mr Ball has shared information on Instagram.

### **School Council**

The School Council met with Mrs Chilvers last week and will be raising money to purchase some new bins for the school field. The school council have arranged a 'PJ day' for 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Children will be asked to contribute £1 and wear their PJs so we can start to build our fund for the new bins.

### **Matching's Responsible Refills**

Working with Essex Local Authority and the Essex year of Numbers, we will be opening Matching's Responsible Refills with year 5 in January on every Tuesday from the 13<sup>th</sup> January from 2.45pm - 3.30pm, families and the local community will be able to refill their pots to reduce plastic waste and use sustainable products which are both good for your health and the environment. The children in year 5 will sell shampoo, conditioner, hand wash, shampoo and condition bars, soap and many other hygiene products as well as some dried fruit. Miss Toon and I will be supporting the children with the project. This is a fantastic learning opportunity and a huge movement in our work as courageous advocates.

### **Christmas Enrichment**

On Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> November, the PTA are leading a Christmas Enrichment morning for the children in school. The children will be making a Christmas Nativity scene to bring home. The PTA team have spent hours preparing the resources, painting toilet role tubes and will be with us for the whole morning – thank you so much! This has been fully funded by them as a result of contributions from families at school events and I encourage you to book your place at the Christmas Activities evening so this, and other support, can continue to be offered by the PTA.

### **School Budgets**

You may be aware from National news that schools are significantly underfunded and as a result, we are having to make difficult decisions to manage budgets whilst continuing to offer a range of learning opportunities. We are so fortunate for our PTA who go over and above to provide for the children, run events in their own time and give endless hours to meetings and fundraising, for which we are thankful for as this supports us to do so much more.

It is incredibly important to me for children to have many opportunities to learn both inside and outside the classroom as well as have educational opportunities beyond the school site and for children to play, explore and to support their own physical and emotional wellbeing. This year, our staff will be leading outdoor learning sessions as we are not accessing the Forest School sessions from an external agency. As a staff group, we have been working hard to incorporate outdoor learning into our whole curriculum and have made the decision to widen our learning experiences within our staff team, incorporating our love of learning with our hands, heart and head. Potters have been completing outdoor learning each week this term to investigate and explore our site and outdoor classroom and will continue to do so over the next two terms and other classes will incorporate this into their timetable too.

Our PTA have generously offered to support us with resourcing our outdoor learning space to ensure we are able to offer rich learning and play opportunities as part of our curriculum at more regular opportunities across the academic year.

### Absence reporting

Please be aware that parents and carers must phone the school office to report a child's absence each day. This is part of our safeguarding and attendance monitoring procedures. If we do not hear from you, we will ring to make contact until we are able to physically speak with you.

### Attendance

Guidance suggests that attendance for children across the year should be above 96%, we have high expectations of pupil's attendance but do sometimes understand that in some circumstances children are unable to attend due to avoidance medical appointments or illness. There has been new guidance for schools on attendance, which we have to follow. More information can be found on the [Essex County Council](#) website. The Depart for Education provides a guide for [parents and carers on school attendance](#).  
NHS guidance – [is my child too ill for school?](#)

### Safeguarding

Millions of new phones, tablets, laptops and games consoles will be nestling under Christmas trees this year. However, even if parents and carers have gone to the trouble of setting up these new devices and enabling the safety features, there are still potential hazards in the apps, games and software that children will want to install and use. Knowing what to look for and discussing those risks with your child may help avoid any nasty surprises this Christmas. Here are top tips for ensuring that unwrapping this year's presents doesn't unleash any unexpected dangers. In the guide, you'll find tips such as disabling in-app purchasing, taking note of age ratings and watching out for imitators.

### Over the counter medication

Please can we advise not to give your child/ren any over-the-counter medication for them to use in school. This needs to be handed into the School Office and a form completed for us to administer.

### 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 - of Matching Green Primary School

Please make sure you follow the PTA on Instagram: matchinggreenschoolpta

Please remember to book your place at the Christmas Activities Evening.

# Christmas Activities Evening

10.12.24

3:15pm - 5:15pm

We are asking for all the children to book and pay for a space to join our Christmas Activities Event (Spaces must be booked and payed for by 03.12.2024).

Please email to book : ptamatching@gmail.com

What is included:

- Entry into our Bauble Decotating Competition
- Bauble decorating workshop
- Decorating the school Christmas Tree
- Carol Singing by Candlelight
- Unlimited squash/water and cupcake

Cost per child (plus a free adult) £5

Add a visit to Santa's Grotto £5

There will be a refreshment stall selling hot/ cold drinks and cakes.



## 75 Club

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. The more members of the club, the larger the prize fund! 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](#).

## ASDA Cashpot for Schools

Mrs Travis has kindly set Matching Green up with Asda's Cashpot for schools. Please see the details below

"Between 2nd September and 30th November 2024, every time customers shop with Asda using their Rewards app, they can choose a primary school to receive a percentage of their spend. And that's not all — every time a customer chooses your primary school, Asda will donate £1 to your school's Cashpot, plus a further £50 when your first customer shops."

### 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.

### 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.

### SEND resources

#### Good Beginnings

A course for parents and carers of children in Reception class or younger, who have autism or social communication needs. A diagnosis of autism is not needed to access Good Beginnings. The course runs in all four quadrants at least twice a year and one online course is also offered. This course is for parents/carers only – they do not bring the children or younger siblings with them. Parents can request a place on the course by completing the [application form](#).

Due to high demand, it may be necessary to add their details to a waiting list for the next course with availability.

This course covers: understanding autism; communication; play; sensory processing; behaviour is communication; eating, sleeping and toileting; managing anxiety

Information can also be found on the Schools Infolink in the Autism area: [Autism | Essex Schools Infolink](#)

Dates	Resources	Referrals
	<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="#">Community Paediatric Service</a> <a href="#">West Essex Community 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
25.11.24 – PTA Christmas Enrichment Morning 28.11.24 – Shooting Stars Pantomime - Cinderella 05.12.24 – Year 3 Pantomime visit 05.12.24 – Shakespeare trip to Duxford 06.12.24 – Christingle Making with Reverend Julia 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 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.	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. 02.04.25 – Learning Celebration Afternoon 04.04.25 – End of term. Children finish at 1.15pm.	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 24.06.25 – Reserve Sports Day 16.07.25 – Learning Celebration Afternoon
New dates will be added in red		

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SETTING UP APPS, GAMES AND SOFTWARE

Millions of new phones, tablets, laptops and games consoles will be nestling under Christmas trees this year. However, even if parents and carers have gone to the trouble of setting up these new devices and enabling the safety features, there are still potential hazards in the apps, games and software that children will want to install and use. Knowing what to look for and discussing those risks with your child may help avoid any nasty surprises this Christmas. Here are our top tips for ensuring that unwrapping this year's presents doesn't unleash any unexpected dangers.

## TAKE NOTE OF AGE RATINGS

Back when most games were bought in shops, checking the age rating was easy: it was on the front of the box. Now that most games are downloaded, it's tougher – but not impossible. All reputable download stores show a game's age rating at the point of purchase, and you can check the suitability of a specific title your child wants to play at [videostandards.org.uk/RatingBoard/games](http://videostandards.org.uk/RatingBoard/games).

18

## 'FREE' ISN'T ALWAYS FREE

The games market has changed radically in recent years. Many titles are free to download, but then tempt players to pay for cosmetic items (as in Fortnite) or to unlock additional content. There can be huge peer pressure for children to pay for these items. Agree a budget for in-game purchases before the game is downloaded, and make sure children can't authorise in-game purchases by themselves.

## DISABLE IN-APP PURCHASING

It's not wise to leave children with devices that can make in-app purchases without your permission. Ideally, set up computers, consoles and phones so child accounts need an adult's authorisation to buy anything. On shared devices (like iPads, which don't allow user accounts), check the settings to ensure that in-app purchasing requires the account holder's password, fingerprint or face ID.

## CHECK THE SPECS

To avoid let-downs, check a game's specs before buying – especially for PC or Mac, where games often need a particular graphics chip or processor to work. Sites like [systemrequirementslab.com](http://systemrequirementslab.com) can scan your computer to see if it will run certain games properly. On consoles, make sure you're buying the right version: some newer Xbox or PlayStation games won't play on older consoles.

## MONITOR IN-GAME COMMS

Voice chat with friends is part of the fun of modern gaming – but danger lurks here too. Many titles have open chat systems, meaning that children could speak to strangers or hear adult language and verbal abuse when games get particularly competitive. Using a shared family area (as opposed to alone in bedrooms) for online gaming is a good way to keep an occasional ear on what's being said.

## BE WARY OF GIFTS

Titles like Roblox, Minecraft and Fortnite have in-game currencies, which can be earned through progress in the game – but can also be bought with real money. A common scam is for a young player to be offered currency if they click a link, visit a certain site or contact another user directly. Warn your child about such offers: they should show you if they're in any doubt over an in-game gift.

## APPS ARE AGE RATED, TOO

Like games, apps in the major stores have age ratings, too – so you can see in advance whether an app's appropriate for your child. Additionally, phones' parental control settings allow you to set age limits, preventing young ones from downloading unsuitable apps themselves. These ratings aren't infallible, however: we've seen TV apps featuring adult shows with an age rating of 3, for example.

18

## CONSIDER STORAGE

Most apps and games will tell you in the online store how much space they need on a device. Check this carefully – especially with games, which can run into hundreds of megabytes and beyond. If you don't have enough free storage on a device to run the game or app, you won't get a refund from the store. You can normally check a device's available storage space through the settings menu.

## WATCH OUT FOR IMITATORS

Even in the official stores, untrustworthy rogue apps can slip through the net. Common tricks are apps or games that have a slightly different name to the genuine article (Fortnite rather than Fortnite, for instance) or use logos which deliberately look very similar to the official app. To avoid downloading these imitations, read the app's description and check who the publisher is listed as.

18

## LEGAL APPS THAT BREAK THE LAW

There are many apps that are perfectly legal but enable illegal activity – streaming apps which let people watch football matches, say, without paying for Sky or BT Sport. Prosecution for using such apps is rare, but they can lead to risky behaviour like viewing rogue streams on sites teeming with malicious links. Watch for children installing unusual apps with 'TV', 'stream' or 'sport' in the name.

## IN-APP REGISTRATION

It's common for apps and games to ask users to register: entering personal details like email address, date of birth and other information you might not want your child to divulge. Ask them to get your permission before giving any personal info to an app – and consider using your details rather than the child's, so they're not targeted by marketing spam or put at risk of having their data stolen.

## STAY UPDATED

Most games and apps are subject to regular updates, which not only offer new content and features but also provide critical security improvements. Children tend to ignore such updates – usually because they don't understand why they're important, or they simply want to get straight on with gaming. Check your child's devices periodically to make sure these updates are being installed.

## Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the *Sunday Times*, *Which?*, *PC Pro* and *Computeractive*. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on *Newsnight*, *Radio 5 Live* and *ITV News at Ten*. He has two children and has writes regularly about internet safety issues.



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