

Matching Green News



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

25th April 2025

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



Matchinggreenceprimary



[Church School Blog](#)

[Week 1](#)

[Week 2](#)

Next week, we are week 2. Please check the new menus!

Collective Worship

Our value this week has been Hope, where we have reflected on the bible story 'The Road to Emmaus' (Luke: 2: 13 – 25).



Celebration



Potters
Florence

Nightingale
Ajit
Ivy R

Darwin
Lily P
Sebastian S

Shakespeare
Amelia
Darcie

A huge congratulations to Miss Breen who has completed her Advanced Autism Practitioner Course last term! Well done Miss Breen!

Weekly update

It has been wonderful to welcome the children back this week and see them engage back into their new topics this term. Miss Bennett's menu has been a huge hit, with tasters for some of our new items. Jane has been in practising the May Pole dancing with the children ready for May Day. Year 6 have also been invited to apply for be part of Matching's Royal Monarch for May Day too, please note that applications need to be with Mrs Childs for Tuesday 29th April 2025.

Class photos

Class photos have been moved to Wednesday 7th May 2025.

Clubs

A letter was shared with families on the 23rd April regarding our extra curricular offer this term. Booking opened at 12pm today and spaces are offered on a first come, first served basis.

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 reading 'It's my flower' this week and have been using their outside learning to find flowers at school. The children have also been labelling the parts of the flower and creating their story maps.

Nightingale – please follow us on Instagram: nightingale.class

In art, the children have been exploring the difference between art and craft and understand the role of an artist. They've started their learning about continents in geography and have enjoyed the continent song!

Darwin - please follow us on Instagram: charlesdarwin.class

Darwin class have started their Viking topic, they have also started reading their class text 'The Last Bear' which they are all really enjoying.

Congratulation to Darwin year 4 for winning the Battle of the Bands over the Easter break.

Next week, the children will be having a practise of the multiplication table check in school.

Shakespeare - please follow us on Instagram: Shakespeare.Class

Please see the end of year event dates at the bottom of our newsletter.

This week, the children have been learning ration and scale in maths. They have started rounders for the summer term, which they are very excited about!

Attendance

Thank you for your continued support with attendance, I am really hoping in the coming 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%	93.6%	96.3%	94.5%
This week	95.1%	89.7%	92%	96.7%	100%
Persistently absent pupils	9 pupils	1 pupil	4 pupils	0 pupils	4 pupils

Matching's Mini Marathon

On Friday 2nd May, Miss Toon has organised a London Marathon Event with Matching's Mini Marathon. The children will 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 exciting 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](#).

VE celebrations

On Thursday 8th May, our school will be joining the rest of the country in celebrating VE Day with a special day of remembrance and fun. To mark the occasion, children are invited to come to school dressed in red, white, and blue. We'll enjoy a traditional picnic lunch featuring sandwiches, sausage rolls, scotch eggs, and scones with cream, followed by a range of engaging activities throughout the day. It promises to be a wonderful opportunity for the school community to come together and commemorate this important moment in history.

Get FREE personalised meal plans with FiveDinners.com – LIMITED TIME OFFER!

If meal planning is a faff or you're fed up of choosing what to cook everynight for you and your family (or just want to save money on food shopping!) then this is for you! Harlow Council are supporting their local community by provide FREE membership (usually £36per year) to all parents and families of your school that live or work in Harlow.

FiveDinners.com is an online meal planning service created by celebrity TV Chef Theo Michaels.

You'll get a new meal plan designed just for you with five delicious, mouth-watering recipes and a complete shopping list for the week, so you know exactly what to get. You can personalise your

meal plans to suit your specific needs, like GF, vegetarian, kid friendly, under 20 minutes and more!

Sign up today by visiting the link below to get your **FREE membership** – no catch, just free, to help people living in and working in Harlow to save money and eat better. You may remember TV chef Theo and his kids when they did 36 live cookalongs during lockdown with thousands of families around the UK joining in. So he's very committed to helping everyone eat well!

Simply head to <https://FiveDinners.com/MyCommunity> to get your FREE membership!

Please note – you must visit that link otherwise you won't find the FREE offer!

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](#)

May Day

Matching MAY DAY festival
BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 5 MAY
MATCHING GREEN

BBQ ICE CREAM VAN STALLS OF ALL TYPES MAY POLE DANCE TEA & CAKE TENT MAY QUEEN
 CAKE BAKING COMP LICENSED BAR MAY QUEEN FUN DOG SHOW TOMBOLA & RAFFLE LOTS OF FUN!

11.00-17.00
LOTS OF FUN FOR EVERYONE!
LOOK OUT FOR MORE DETAILS

If you would like to help, have a stall or get involved in any way please contact:
 Rachel McCabe 07813 553562
 or
 Linda Latchford 07551 173741

FUN DOG SHOW
 ALL ENQUIRIES - Carrie Harrington
 07834 399953

CAKE BAKING COMPETITION
 LADIES - Best Lemon Dazzle
 MEN - Best Scones
 CHILDREN - Best Cookies
 JUST TURN UP WITH YOUR CAKES ON THE DAY!

TOMBOLA DONATIONS

28th April - 2nd May
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WE NEED DONATIONS OF (NEW AND UNUSED) FOOD AND DRINKS, TOILETRIES AND GIFTS PLEASE!

Please hand to class teachers

Thank you for your support.



75 Club

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

SEND Roadshows – Summer


The Essex Local Offer SEND Roadshows have now all taken place for the spring term. We welcomed nearly 300 families across the four venues. We also had nearly 50 different services attend to support everyone who came along. We are now planning the summer term roadshows. These will take place in the mornings on

- Thursday 26 June at Zinc Arts Centre Ongar, West

All information will be updated on [The Essex Local Offer](#) as it is confirmed.

Essex Frontline

Do you need signposting to local health and wellbeing support in Essex? The [Essex Frontline](#) is the perfect tool, it is free to use and covers all of Essex.



ACL



FREE!

Empower Your Child, Ease Their Anxiety

Children and teens today face immense pressure from various sources, including transitions, exams, online, peer pressure or daily life.

Join our FREE sessions designed to help you to understand, and support your child/teen manage their stress, anxiety, or other emotions. Together, we can create a healthier, happier environment for our young, and not-so-young, ones.

Enrol now to make a positive difference in your child's life!
Scan the QR code, Visit our website aclessex.com and type 'CHILD ANXIETY' or 'TEEN ANXIETY' in to the 'Find a course...' box or phone 0345 603 7635

COMMUNITY & FAMILY LEARNING  

Dates	Resources	Referrals
<p>26.06.25 – West Essex SEND Roadshow – Zinc Arts Centre Ongar.</p>	<p>Essex Local Offer Supporting your Neurodivergent Child West Essex Inclusion Project Essex Family Wellbeing SEND IASS Autism Central West Essex Inclusion Project</p>	<p>Community Paediatric Service West Essex Community Specialist Services</p>

[One Plan Process](#)
[Zones of Regulation pack](#)
[Essex Frontline](#)

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
23.04.25 – Summer term extra curricular activities

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
07.05.25 – Class photos
08.05.25 – VE day celebrations in school – Miss Bennett will be creating a special menu!
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 – Year 6 Leavers Service at Chelmsford Cathedral 1pm – 2.3pm (children only)
09.06.25 – 13.06.25 – Father's Day lunches this week
17.06.25 – Sports Day
20.05.25 – Skip2Bfit day in school - [Skip2bfit - Skipping Workshops in Schools](#)
23.06.25 – 9am Trinity Service at Matching Church, CM17 0QZ. Parents will need to take and return to school.
03.07.25 – transition morning for September 2025
04.07.25 – Independence Day lunch – Shakespeare parents invited to join yus
06.07.25 - Seedlings at Matching Feast Room
14.07.25 – Shakespeare end of year performance – invite to Shakespeare parents
15.07.25 - Shakespeare end of year performance – invite to Shakespeare parents
16.07.25 – Learning Celebration Afternoon
22.07.25 – 9am Leavers Assembly – invite to Shakespeare parents.
22.07.25 – Last day of term and academic year. School finishes at 1.15pm.
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 \(www.police.uk\)](#)

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.

ZEPETO

ZEPETO is a hugely popular social app where users create custom avatars to explore virtual worlds, play games and chat with others. With millions of active players worldwide, it offers an engaging digital experience – but not without its concerns, especially for younger users.

ZEPETO's vibrant world of custom outfits, interactive spaces and daily challenges might appeal to children – but those same features come with risks. From unfiltered chats and stranger danger to the temptation of in-app purchases, there's plenty for parents to be aware of.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

ZEPETO

AGE RESTRICTION
14+

FOR SALE

ZEPETO is a fast-growing app blending social networking with a virtual world experience – attracting around 20 million monthly users, with 15% from Europe. Players create 3D avatars to explore immersive environments, play games and interact with others; however, with minimal safety controls, anonymous chat and monetised content, ZEPETO poses a number of online safety concerns that parents and educators should be aware of.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

NO PARENTAL CONTROLS

Although ZEPETO is intended for users aged 14 and up, it lacks built-in parental controls or age verification, instead relying on safety features on the device it's played on. This lack of a parental controls feature raises concerns about whom children may be interacting with on the platform.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

As a mix between a virtual world and a social media platform, ZEPETO features a wide range of user-generated content. Some areas may reference mature themes, such as TV series aimed at adults, or include inappropriate material created by other users – all of which children may stumble across without warning.

STRANGER DANGER

By default, users can message and interact with anyone else. This open communication creates an environment where predatory individuals can pose as peers to gain trust, potentially leading to grooming, scams, and exploitation, such as blackmail.

Hi there...

CYBERBULLYING RISKS

As with many social platforms, children can be targeted for bullying, harassment or exclusion by both strangers and their peers. Unfiltered chat and avatar-based interaction can allow bullying and other forms of harassment to continue, impacting children's wellbeing and mental health.

ADDICTIVE GAMEPLAY

Daily log-in rewards, such as coins, and in-game incentives can encourage compulsive behaviour, with some users feeling pressure to check in constantly to avoid missing out. This can lead to excessive screen time and conflict with schoolwork or offline hobbies or commitments.

SPENDING REAL MONEY

While the game is free to play, ZEPETO includes a store offering virtual clothing and accessories for avatars. These items are bought with 'ZEMs' – a paid currency – and the appeal of exclusive items or branded collaborations can make it easy for children to overspend.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE PRIVACY SETTINGS

Visit the child's profile settings to restrict who can send messages – options include Everyone, Followers Only, or No-one. Encourage children to avoid sharing any personal information on their profile, as this is visible even on private accounts.



CONTROL SPENDING

To prevent accidental purchases, set up purchase approval systems such as Apple's Ask to Buy or Google's Purchase Approvals. Alternatively, consider removing payment methods or using pre-paid cards with set budgets.

LIMIT IN-APP TIME

Use parental controls on Android (Google Family Link) or iOS (Screen Time) to restrict app usage by setting hours or daily limits. Encouraging breaks can help children develop healthier habits and reduce app dependency.



HAVE REGULAR CONVERSATIONS

Talk openly with children about whom they interact with online and the kinds of things they see or experience. Encourage them to speak up if someone makes them uncomfortable or if they come across inappropriate content. Teach them how to recognise red-flag behaviours such as asking for secrets, giving gifts, or requesting personal information.



Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, The Telegraph, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



#WakeUpWednesday

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