

Matching Green News



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

9th May 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

This week in Collective Worship, we reflected on the 80th anniversary of VE Day, honouring the bravery, sacrifice, and hope shown at the end of World War II. We spoke about the importance of peace, gratitude, and reconciliation—values that remain just as relevant today. Our reflection was linked to the Bible verse *"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God"* (Matthew 5:9), encouraging the children to think about how they can be peacemakers in their own lives and communities.



Celebration



Potters
Sadie

Nightingale
Ezrah
Betsie

Darwin
Iris
Arthur

Shakespeare
Francesca
Blake

Sports
Blake

Weekly update

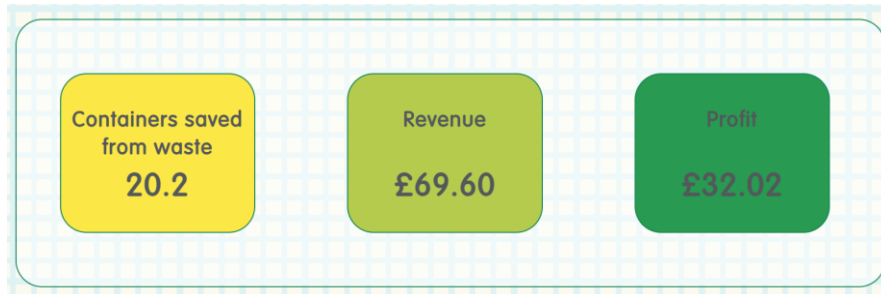
Please take the opportunity to look over our school blog which we update: [Matching Green Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School - Matching Green Church School Blog](#).

We had a fire drill practice this week, where the children left the building safely in 2 minutes and 10 seconds.

Our VE celebrations this week provided us with the opportunity to celebrate 80 years since Victory in Europe and enabled the children to understand the value of Peace. The children took part in a range of activities in house groups outside. Miss Bennett did a fantastic VE lunch where we listened to wartime music and danced along to celebrate. We also shared with the children the celebrations that took place in Matching Green last weekend: [Villagers to mark VE Day at former US airfield in Matching Green - BBC News](#).

Matching's Responsible Refills

Our Year 5 children opened our refill shop again on Tuesday and we had three brand new customers; the children are so excited for this opportunity and worked hard together to serve their new customers. Lots of learning is taking place each time but the children have saved 20.2 containers going to waste by refilling for you and made a profit of £32.02!



Class updates

Potters – please follow us on Instagram: Potter.Class

Potter class have some caterpillars visiting their class this week as the children have been learning about the life cycle of a butterfly, they've named them ready to see the process live in action in the classroom. They have also been reading The Hungry Caterpillar.

Nightingale – please follow us on Instagram: nightingale.class

We had a special music workshop this week where the children were playing music through technology on the iPad, they learnt how electricity travelled. Ask your child what happened when they touched their peer's nose!

Nightingale parents are invited to join us from 2.45pm on Wednesday 14th May 2025 for an informative meeting regarding the phonics screen check. We will share key takeaways following the meeting with parents if you're unable to attend.

Darwin - please follow us on Instagram: charlesdarwin.class

Darwin class finished the second part of their science experiment this week with sound on the green. They have also been designing and making their Go Karts in DT.

Unsigned act	Headliner
Isaac	Poppy

Congratulations to the pupils of Darwin class who successfully beat the adults in the TT Rockstars battle this week. The multiplication check for children in year 4 will be between 3rd and 13th June 2025.

Shakespeare - please follow us on Instagram: Shakespeare.Class

Shakespeare also took part in the music workshop this week and they were creating music through coding. The pupils have been revising to support them next week in their SATs, we are so proud of the commitment the whole of Shakespeare have shown towards their SATs and the progress they have made so far. Next week is their opportunity to shine and showcase their learning over key stage 2.

Absences

Absences must be reported by phone and by leaving a message on our answer machine.

Attendance

Thank you for your continued support with attendance, I am so pleased we have we have achieved a whole school attendance of 95% and look forward to it continuing!

	Whole school	Potters	Nightingale	Darwin	Shakespeare
Year to date	95%	94.9%	93.7%	96.4%	94.8%
This week	96.9%	98.1%	94.9%	97.1%	98.3%
Persistently absent pupils	9 pupils	1 pupil	5 pupils	0 pupils	3 pupils

Matching's Mini Marathon

The children's efforts last week were fantastic when completing their mini marathon, and the sponsorships were phenomenal. Congratulations to Sophie in Darwin who raised the most money across the school. We raised a huge £991! Thank you so much for all of your support.

The school council will be ordering their bins and will be able to use the rest of the money to purchase and replace the benches outside on the field, the children were so please. We have also donated £100 to the Wildlife Trust who have supporting London's Mini Marathon this year.

Sports Day

We will be holding our Sports Day event on Tuesday 17th June from 9am, the sun will be shining! Families are invited to join us and the events will last the morning. Family members are encouraged to wear your child's house colour in support! Some chairs will be provided but please bring your own chairs and blankets.

Our PTA will be running a refreshments stall and raffle and will be providing ice lollies for the children at the end of the event.

Please note the following:

- The children should come to school in their school PE kit, wearing their house colour top.
 - Children should also have a hat.
 - Children should have a bottle of water.
- Children should come to school with sunscreen already applied.
- A reminder that during the event, supporting adults **must** stay on their side of the track and allow staff members to manage the children throughout the event.
- We will keep a close eye on the weather in the lead up, but we may need to postpone the event. We are also reserving 25.06.25, just in case!

After our sports morning, we will have a picnic lunch where families are invited to join us on the field until 12.30pm. Miss Bennett will be providing a picnic lunch which families and children are invited to order in advance and must be completed by Friday 6th June 2025. Adult meals are £3.50 and children's (including siblings) meals are £2.75.

Please order your lunch by clicking on this [link](#).

Lunch will be:

- A drink
- Crisps
- A bap of your choice (cheese, ham or tuna)
- Miss Bennett's homemade sausage rolls
- And a pot of ice cream!

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? 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 community and family learning

Please see the leaflets of the courses available to you.



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  



EMPOWER YOUR CHILD TO MANAGE THEIR EMOTIONS

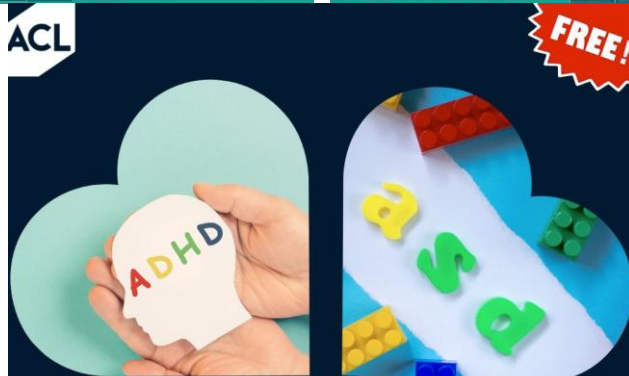
Are you a parent or carer looking to better support your child's emotional well-being? Join our sessions designed to help you understand and nurture your child's emotions.

FREE Online sessions available this May:
Managing Big Emotions, Managing Anger, Self Esteem For Teens, Understanding Children's Anxiety, Understanding Teen Stress, Zones of Regulations.

Take the First Step Today by Signing Up!
Visit aclessex.com and type 'emotions' in the search courses box




COMMUNITY & FAMILY LEARNING  



ADHD & ASD: Join Our Support Network!

Are you a parent or carer of a child, or teen, with ADHD or ASD? Gain valuable insights and connect with others who understand your journey. Attend our informative online sessions to learn more about your child's needs and build a supportive community.

 Upcoming online sessions this May:

- Understanding ADHD In Children
- Understanding ASD In Children
- Understanding ADHD & ASD In Children
- Understanding ADHD & ASD: Teen Boys

Don't miss out! Register today and be part of a supportive network.

Sign Up!
Visit our website aclessex.com and type 'ASD or ADHD' in to the 'Find a course...' box

COMMUNITY & FAMILY LEARNING  

Dates	Resources	Referrals
26.06.25 – West Essex SEND Roadshow – Zinc Arts Centre Ongar.	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 Essex Frontline	Community Paediatric Service West Essex Community Specialist Services

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 extracurricular activities
29.04.25 – Parent Governor elections.
02.05.25 - NSPCC's *Speak out. Stay safe.* Programme
09.05.25 – Information for Nightingale Phonics
09.05.25 – Year 6 Essex Outdoors

Summer

11.05.25 - Seedlings at Matching Feast Room
12.05.25 – 16.05.25 – SATS week
14.05.25 – Nightingale phonics meeting for parents
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 – Darwin parents invited to join us
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 – Whole school trip to Whipsnade Zoo – more information to follow.

18.07.25 – Shakespeare leavers lunch – parents invited to join us.

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

Belonging

Creating a strong sense of belonging is essential for children's emotional wellbeing and academic success. This guide explores ten simple and effective strategies, such as encouraging participation, celebrating diversity, and addressing bullying, that help schools build inclusive environments where every child feels valued and connected which will support them over the term for transition.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

FOSTERING A SENSE OF BELONGING

Feeling a genuine sense of belonging is essential for the emotional and social development of children and young people. Belonging significantly boosts self-esteem, resilience, and mental wellbeing, reducing feelings of isolation and anxiety. This guide provides practical strategies to help parents and educators cultivate inclusive environments, enhancing both academic outcomes and overall happiness among young people.

1 CELEBRATE INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

Acknowledge and celebrate the uniqueness of every child. Promoting diversity and inclusion creates an environment where differences are valued rather than stigmatised. This acceptance empowers children to confidently express their identities and feel genuinely included, fostering a robust sense of belonging within both school and home settings.

2 CONSISTENT COMMUNICATION

Regularly communicate and actively listen to children, showing genuine interest in their thoughts and experiences. Creating open communication channels helps young people feel heard and valued. This approach not only builds trust but also reinforces children's perception of themselves as a vital part of their family, school and community.

3 MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION

Give children opportunities to actively participate and contribute, whether in classrooms, at home, or in community activities. Meaningful participation helps children feel their input matters, reinforcing a sense of purpose and value. Including them in decisions and responsibilities enhances their self-worth, promoting a deeper sense of belonging and inclusion.

4 FOSTER STRONG RELATIONSHIPS

Support and encourage positive relationships between peers, educators, and families. Strong, healthy relationships significantly impact a child's sense of belonging, providing emotional support and reducing feelings of loneliness. Facilitate social interactions through group activities, teamwork, and collaborative learning to strengthen these vital connections.

5 CREATE INCLUSIVE SPACES

Design environments that reflect diversity and are welcoming for everyone. Inclusive spaces where all children see themselves represented can dramatically improve their feelings of safety and acceptance. Consider classroom displays, books, and resources that celebrate various cultures, abilities, and backgrounds to visibly reinforce inclusivity and belonging.

6 MODEL POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

Adults play a crucial role by demonstrating inclusive, empathetic, and respectful behaviours. Modelling positive interactions and attitudes sets a clear standard for children to follow. Children are likely to replicate inclusive behaviour, creating a supportive community atmosphere where everyone feels accepted and valued for who they are.

7 BUILD EMOTIONAL LITERACY

Teach and encourage emotional expression and understanding among children. Developing emotional literacy enables young people to articulate their feelings and empathise with others. An emotionally intelligent environment cultivates mutual respect and compassion, fostering a deeper sense of belonging and interpersonal connection within groups.

8 SUPPORT PEER MENTORSHIP

Encourage peer mentorship or buddy systems within educational settings. Peer support enhances feelings of connectedness and security, reducing feelings of isolation. When children support one another, they naturally build community bonds, nurturing a supportive culture where belonging and friendship thrive.

9 RECOGNISE EFFORTS REGULARLY

Consistently acknowledge children's contributions and achievements, however small. Recognition reinforces a child's understanding that their presence and efforts are important. Celebrating individual and collective successes helps cultivate a positive environment where children feel acknowledged, motivated, and deeply connected to peers and adults around them.

10 ADDRESS BULLYING PROMPTLY

Quickly address any incidents of bullying. Promptly intervening demonstrates a clear commitment to an inclusive and safe environment. Creating a culture where incidents are swiftly and effectively addressed reinforces trust, security, and a sense of belonging for everyone involved.

Meet Our Expert

Anna Bateman is Director of Halcyon Education Ltd and Director for Wellbeing and Family Services at Leigh Trust. With extensive experience in systemic mental health in schools, she supports educational leaders across the UK to develop inclusive, resilient, and supportive learning environments. Anna is also the lead expert for mental health at The National College.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: nationalcollege.com/guides/fostering-a-sense-of-belonging