

# Matching Green News



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

16<sup>th</sup> 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 1. Please check the new menus!  
Order your Sports Day lunch using this [link](#).

## Collective Worship

Linking with the Christian value of hope, the children considered about changing the world in Collective Worship Picture News this week. Three teenagers from India have created a salt-powered fridge. Their goal is to support hospitals in rural areas around the world that lack access to electricity. They children how they use creativity help others and how acts of kindness can make big differences.



## Celebration



Potters  
Finley

Nightingale  
Ezrah  
Denis

Darwin  
Gaspard  
George

Shakespeare  
Addie  
All of year 6

Sports

## Weekly update

What an astounding team effort this week to support the administration of the end of Key Stage 2 SATs tests. Lucky year 5 had the pleasure of Mr Loader teaching them this week whilst the other half the class completed their tests. The whole school has had to adapt as we redeploy adults to support with the delivery as well as changing breaktimes to fit in with the timetable and everyone has been absolutely fantastic!

You may have noticed we had a visit from the Highways Agency last week; they popped along to see the parking outside the school and were able to take photos of vehicles that were parked illegally on the lines. They shared with us they will be able to issue 10 fines! Please ensure you park and drop off and collect safely.

Mrs Swanton will be returning from maternity leave next week and will be working Monday to Wednesday after May half term supporting the transition for September 2025. We cannot wait to have her back and I know you will also welcome her back with open arms.

Next Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May is the end of term and we finish at 3.15pm. The children return to school on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025.

### Class updates

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

Potter class have been reading the 'Bad Tempered Ladybird' this week and comparing the lifecycle of a butterfly to a ladybird. They have also been writing ladybird facts and making their own ladybird.

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

Thank you to the parents that joined us for the Phonics Workshop Tuesday, here is a link to the website that was discussed in the meeting: [Little Wandle](#).

Following some true commitment from Nightingale, they were able to write their 'best copy' of their seahorse non-chronological report, many of the children were so proud of their achievements and final copy.

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

The children have demonstrated their unique creative skills this week by choosing their own question to answer in their explanation texts. Darwin have also finished adapting their cars in Design and Technology.

Breakthrough Artist	Support Act	Gone green
Isaac	Stanley	Adrian

Well done year 4 on your victory this week. Next week it is Shakespeare Vs Darwin!  
The multiplication check for children in year 4 will be between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

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

Year 5 have had an exciting week with Mr Loader; they've visited the green to paint the Cricket Club and The Chequers and embraced learning to find the ratio of pie!

Year 6 have flourished with their confidence and endurance this week, there were some tricky questions but seeing their confidence and smile as they completed the range of SATs this week with a sense of achievement has been a huge positive for us. Year 6 breakfast this week has wonderful too, thank you Mr Ball, Miss Toon and Miss Bennett this week.

### 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!

As we approach the summer term, the children's attendance remains a priority. When children become persistently absent, by having attendance of 90% or below, this is reported to the DfE who track it for irregular school attendance. The impact on missing these sessions is substantial when they are unable to complete learning sequences.

A reminder that our policy on attendance follows the DfE National Guidance, our attendance policy can be found [here](#). We are unable to authorise absences and absences of 10 sessions are referred to the Local Authority for a fine.

	Whole school	Potters	Nightingale	Darwin	Shakespeare
Year to date	95.1%	95%	93.8%	96.4%	94.8%
This week	97.6%	98.5%	96.7%	98%	97.7%
Persistently absent pupils	9 pupils	1 pupil	5 pupils	0 pupils	3 pupils

### Sports Day

We will be holding our Sports Day event on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June from 9am, the sun will be shining! Families are invited to join us, and the events will last the morning

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 6<sup>th</sup> 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!

### Governor update

Alexandra and Lydia were successfully elected as parent governors following the ballot held last week. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all three parents who put themselves forward for the role. We truly appreciate your interest and commitment, and we look forward to working together to further support and strengthen our school community.

### 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.

1<sup>st</sup> – Sue Woodhead

2<sup>nd</sup> – Harry Rock

3<sup>rd</sup> – Michelle Horgan

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 (1<sup>st</sup> - £30, 2<sup>nd</sup> - £15 and 3<sup>rd</sup> - £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.

Dates	Resources	Referrals
26.06.25 – West Essex SEND Roadshow – Zinc Arts Centre Ongar.	<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="#">West Essex Inclusion Project</a> <a href="#">One Plan Process</a> <a href="#">Zones of Regulation pack</a> <a href="#">Essex Frontline</a>	<a href="#">Community Paediatric Service</a> <a href="#">West Essex Community Specialist Services</a>

### 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 group 1  
 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  
 12.05.25 – Year 6 Chelmsford Cathedral leavers letter  
 14.05.25 – Zinc Arts invitation for some children across KS2  
 15.05.25 – Whipsnade Educational Visit letter for 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025

### Summer

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  
 04.06.25 – last group 1 swimming for Nightingale  
 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  
 11.06.25 – Nightingale swimming start for group 2  
 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 – EYFS 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  
 08.07.25 – class swap day for September 2025  
 09.07.25 – last swimming session for Nightingale group 2  
 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.  
~~16.07.25 – Learning Celebration Afternoon~~  
 18.07.25 – Shakespeare leavers lunch – parents invited to join us.  
 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 \(www.police.uk\)](https://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 Jacque 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.

## NSPCC

All children have now completed the NSPCC Speak Out, Stay Safe programme.



## Minecraft

With its limitless opportunities for building, exploring and collaborating, Minecraft remains a global gaming phenomenon. Its broad appeal lies in how open-ended it is – but this also means it's not without risk. From chatting with strangers on public servers to the grief of having a beloved creation destroyed, young players can face challenges if left unsupervised. Minecraft can also become a time sink for enthusiastic players, with late nights spent crafting and constructing, potentially impacting school and social lives.

We've created this free guide to help parents and educators understand how to keep young gamers safe – from choosing age-appropriate game modes to setting boundaries around screen time and spending.

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT



Still the best-selling game of all time, Minecraft is a bastion of creativity and community, with hundreds of millions of players building and crafting in its almost endless world. The popularity of Minecraft among gamers of all ages means it's important to remain informed about the game, including how to play it safely and whether it's suitable for the children in your care. That's why we've created this guide explaining the risks associated with Minecraft and how to ensure a purely enjoyable gaming experience.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### SCARY ELEMENTS

While Minecraft can be seen as a kind of 'digital LEGO', certain game modes include creatures accompanied by eerie sound effects. These can be a bit too frightening for some younger players, potentially leading to distressing in-game combat and other encounters – although the combat is quite basic and free from any real depiction of violence.

### GRIEFING

Some players in Minecraft take pleasure in deliberately damaging or destroying another person's creations. This behaviour, known as 'griefing', is a form of bullying – it intentionally ruins someone else's experience by erasing hours of their work and forcing them to start over. Many public servers regard griefing as a serious offence and often ban those who engage in it.

### ADDICTIVENESS

Minecraft's focus on creativity means that, as with any creative endeavour, it can be easy to get carried away. If your child is finding it difficult to manage their time because they're drawn in by Minecraft's gameplay loop of resource gathering and building elaborate projects, it could have a knock-on effect on their social interactions and schoolwork.

### PUBLIC SERVERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

With public servers being so easily accessible in Minecraft, it's highly likely that children will end up chatting with strangers through the in-game text chat. Some servers even place an emphasis on social interaction, actively encouraging communication between players. While there's nothing inherently wrong with this, it does carry certain risks. In addition to the concerns around speaking with strangers online, players who host their own servers may have their IP addresses exposed, posing a further security concern.

### ADDITIONAL PURCHASES

Minecraft is available as a free trial on a variety of devices; however, the full game requires a one-off purchase, which is typically around £15. After that, players have the option to buy additional cosmetic upgrades or subscribe to Minecraft Realms. Realms is an entirely optional subscription service that allows users to run their own private server to play with friends. Without proper supervision, younger players may end up making unintended or excessive purchases.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### CHOOSE THE RIGHT MODE

Selecting Creative or Peaceful mode allows children to play Minecraft without having to contend with enemies. It's also a great way for you to get used to playing the game with them, since the difficulty level is far lower. This allows you to work together on a long-term project, creating something special without the threat of enemies and creatures attacking you or damaging your building.

### HOST A PRIVATE SERVER

The easiest way to find a safe server for children to play on is to make one yourself. Hosting a server prevents strangers from finding it, unless they've been given its address and password. A private server also lets you control who's allowed to enter and – if necessary – ban anyone who shouldn't be there. This is the closest equivalent to parental controls in Minecraft. Hosting a private server, however, will cost a monthly fee.

### TALK ABOUT STRANGERS

At some point in their lives, almost everyone will make contact with a stranger online. Talking to children about online safety, therefore, is essential – as is having a plan for dealing with any hostile or difficult people. It's important that a child knows never to tell a stranger about themselves online and that they should come to you straight away if they do encounter a problem.

### RESEARCH CONTENT CREATORS

Much of Minecraft's early stages can be an exercise in frustration for players who don't know where to start. Thankfully, there's a wealth of material online and in video format to help you learn the basics. Just be mindful that some of this content may not be appropriate for children, so you should consider watching it yourself first.

### PLAY MINECRAFT WITH YOUR CHILD

As a creative building tool, Minecraft makes it great fun for children to team up and construct vast buildings accompanied by imaginative landscapes, much like working with LEGO or model kits. Playing in a game mode that includes enemies can encourage critical thinking and teamwork; however, you should consider which game mode is appropriate for the child in your care.

### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Gaming Editor at the Daily Star, and has worked in games media for more than 6 years. A long-time gaming enthusiast, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety for children of all ages.

