

Matching Green News



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

6th June 2025

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



Matchinggreenceprimary



[Church School Blog](#)

[Week 1](#)

[Week 2](#)

Next week is week 1.

Collective Worship

This week, we discussed courage, asking the question 'how does it feel to be the first to do something?'. This linked to an astronaut from the UK who is training with Nasa for 6 months. We also explore the value of Love and how we can nurture and care for one another, discussing what love felt like.



Celebration



Potters
Jake

Nightingale
Lottie
Gabriel

Darwin
Our Macbeth
attendees

Shakespeare
Lilly
Sunny

Weekly update

This week, we were excited to introduce the Bioscapes SuDS Planter to our school! This special planter helps manage rainwater naturally, reducing the risk of flooding and supporting local wildlife like bees and butterflies. It also gives our pupils a hands-on way to learn about nature, sustainability, and how we can help the environment right here in our playground. Soon, plants will be added and a presentation will be shared with the children.

Some of our Key Stage 2 children wowed me and Miss Giles with Macbeth. A group of children performed alongside other children from the Epping Forest School Lead Improvement Partnership and shared the roles across the play with narration and music. I was so proud of their enthusiasm, energy and confidence. Miss Giles worked really hard to support their children and prepare them
– thank you so much Mrs Giles!

We opened our refill shop again this week, unfortunately the children were disappointed when they didn't have any customers. We will also be opening it again during Sports Day for families!

Class updates

Potters – please follow us on Instagram: Potter.Class

Continuing their topic, the children in Potter class have been reading Spinderella. They have enjoyed catching spiders and completing story maps. In their maths work, they have been learning about shape and space.

Nightingale – please follow us on Instagram: nightingale.class

The children have been counting in pounds and pence this week. In history, they have been learning about ships over the years in preparation for learning about significant people, including Christopher Columbus.

Darwin - please follow us on Instagram: charlesdarwin.class

Year 4 have been working hard on their last push for times tables. As a class, the children have been writing instructions for their slingshot cars, using excellent imperative verbs and adverbials. The children have also been following instructions in art linked to their class book, 'The Last Bear'.

Rock star

Ralph Cable

Year 3 beat year 4 over the half term break, but year 4 have regained their title over this coming week in preparation for their multiplication check next week.

Shakespeare - please follow us on Instagram: Shakespeare.Class

The pupils have been writing Greek mythology stories. Rehearsals are in full swing for their end of year performance!

Swimming

Our second group of Nightingale swimmers will start their lessons on Wednesday 11th June; consent must be made in School Money before they can attend.

Attendance

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

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	92%	92.3%	92%	96.1%	86.4%
Persistently absent pupils	8 pupils	1 pupil	4 pupils	1 pupil	2 pupils

PE Days

Monday	Potters and Shakespeare
Tuesday	Nightingale
Wednesday	Potters and Shakespeare
Thursday	Nightingale and Darwin
Friday	Darwin

Summer dates

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 starts for group 2
17.06.25 – Sports Day
20.06.25 – 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
05.07.25 – Art and Antiques day at Matching Church (see poster below)
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
11.07.25 – end of year reports plus standardised data send home to parents.
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 Whipnade Zoo – more information to follow.
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

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.

1st - John Loader

2nd - Aleisha Hastings

3rd - Denise Howes

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.

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
27.02.25 – Extracurricular activities
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
12.05.25 – Year 6 Chelmsford Cathedral leavers letter
14.05.25 – Zinc Arts invitation for some children across KS2
15.05.25 – Whipnade Educational Visit letter for 16th July 2025
02.06.25 – Father's Day lunches
03.06.25 – Parental Survey

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.

Emojis

Emojis aren't just digital decoration — they're often used as a coded language that young people use to express identity, humour and emotion. Without context, they can easily be misunderstood by adults, leading to confusion or missed signals. Some emojis may even mask risky behaviours or emotional struggles.

This guide helps decode this ever-evolving language, empowering parents and educators to have more open, informed conversations with the children in their care. It also highlights the meaning of some common emojis and offers practical tips for staying clued-in without snooping or suspicion.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about EMOJIS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Emojis are more than playful expressions – they form a fast-evolving digital language that many adults struggle to decode. For young people, this ‘secret code’ is central to how they communicate identity, humour and emotions. With over 5 billion emojis sent daily on Facebook Messenger alone, understanding these symbols is key to engaging meaningfully with digital youth.

GENERATIONAL MISCOMMUNICATION

An emoji like 👍 (thumbs up emoji) might seem friendly to adults, but teens often interpret it as sarcastic or passive-aggressive. These differing interpretations can create confusion or unintended tension in cross-generational conversations.

SHIELDING BULLYING OR PEER PRESSURE

When embedded in emojis, mean-spirited jokes or exclusionary language can fly under the radar. Terms like ‘mid’ or ‘delulu’ may seem harmless, but they can be used to undermine peers in subtle ways.

RAPIDLY SHIFTING MEANINGS

Emoji meanings can change overnight. A person standing emoji (👤) once signified awkwardness but might now be repurposed for something entirely different. This ever-changing lexicon can leave adults in the dark and young people vulnerable to misunderstanding or misuse.

MASKING DISTRESS OR HARM

Some emojis are used to discreetly signal troubling behaviours. For instance, 🍂 (falling leaves emoji) or 💊 (pill emoji) might suggest drug use, while 🌸 (wilted flower emoji) could hint at emotional struggles. Such usage can obscure serious issues, making them harder for trusted adults to detect.

NORMALISING RISKY BEHAVIOURS

Emojis can make harmful actions seem light-hearted or fashionable. Strings like 🔥👤 (fire + ‘woozy’ face + pill emojis) may appear humorous but can reference partying, intoxication or dangerous challenges, which might otherwise raise red flags.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LEARN THE LINGO

Stay updated with emoji trends and definitions using resources like emojipedia.org or Urban Dictionary. Knowing current meanings builds confidence when engaging with young people and helps spot potential concerns early.

CREATE SAFE SPACES FOR DISCUSSION

Encourage casual chats about emojis, online slang, memes, or social media trends. Showing interest without judgement reassures young people that they can talk about their digital world openly and safely.

ASK, DON'T ASSUME

Approach unfamiliar emojis with curiosity rather than suspicion. A light-hearted “What does 🍷 (juice box emoji) mean these days?” can open conversation and show that you respect their knowledge.

PRIORITISE TRUST OVER SURVEILLANCE

While parental controls and monitoring tools can be useful, emotional safety matters most. Be someone children and young people feel they can come to – not just someone who’s watching them.

EMOJI CHEAT SHEET – The following slang terms and emojis are some common examples – please be aware this isn't an exhaustive list.

COMMON EMOJIS:

- 🤡 (Clown face) Foolishness or clowning around
- 😏 (Pleading face) Over-affectionate or ‘simping’
- 😎 (Cool face) Cool, stylish or ruthless
- 👁️ (Eyes) Watching drama unfold
- 🔥 (Hot face) Intense attraction or excitement
- 🐐 (Goat) Greatest of all time (G.O.A.T.)
- 😐 (Moai) Stone-faced, unbothered
- 💅 (Nails) Confidence, sassiness, or indifference
- 👑 (Crown) ‘Slaying’, as in doing great
- 🚩 (Triangular flag) Red flag; a warning sign about someone’s behaviour

POTENTIALLY CONCERNING EMOJIS

- 🍌 (Ear of corn) Slang for pornography (avoids censorship algorithms)
- 🌸 (Wilted flower) Often used to convey emotional struggle or sadness
- ❄️ (Snowflake, snowman, snow cloud) Can symbolise cocaine
- 🐍 (Snake) Can represent betrayal or being ‘two-faced’
- 🔑 (Key, lying face) Related to cocaine use
- 🔫 (Water pistol) Sometimes used to reference violence or self-harm
- 🍃 (Falling leaves, herb, maple leaf) Can symbolise cannabis
- ⚠️ (Warning) Used to emphasise drama, threats or emotional turmoil
- 💊 (Pill) May reference drug use or prescription misuse
- 🍜 (Steaming bowl) Refers to nudes (‘noods’ is an abbreviation of noodles)

Meet Our Expert

Keith Broni is a globally renowned emoji expert and the Editor in Chief of emojipedia.org, the world’s number one emoji resource. He has an MSc in Business Psychology from University College London and an MBA from Quantic School of Business and Technology.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College