

Matching Green News



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

13th June 2025

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



Matchinggreenceprimary



[Church School Blog](#)

[Week 1](#)

[Week 2](#)

Next week is week 2.

Collective Worship

In our collective workshop, we celebrated Pride Month by exploring the Christian value of love and the importance of diversity and inclusion. We reflected on how everyone is uniquely made and loved by God, linking our message to 1 Corinthians 16:14 – "Let all that you do be done in love."



Celebration



Potters
Darcie

Nightingale
Ajit
Denis

Darwin
Brooke
Luca

Shakespeare
Orla
Connie

Weekly update

Sports Day is Tuesday 17th June. If you have not ordered a lunch for yourself or your child already, **you will need to provide a packed lunch for the day**. The children will need to wear their PE kits.

Our gentleman lunches this week were a huge hit – thank you Miss Bennett for going over and above this week and for all of the visitors that joined us!

Skip2bfit

Skipping has a special place in our hearts at Matching Green and on Friday 20th June, Miss Toon has organised a Skip2bfit workshop. The children will need to wear their PE kit on Friday to take part. After school, Skip2bfit will also be selling some items to families, please see [parental information here](#) on the day, the app and also the items that you can purchase. We receive 10% of the profits too!

Please see an updated PE kit timetable below to help!

PE Days

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

Trinity Service at Matching Church

On Monday 23rd June 2025, we have a Trinity Service at St Mary's Church, Matching Green. All children will need to be taken to the church by their parents or carers for 8.45am, for a 9am start and then returned to school, we are expecting the service to last 45 minutes. If you need to arrange for another carer to transport your child, this will be parental responsibility, you will need to notify the school office in writing prior to the Friday 20th June 2025.

Families are invited to stay and watch and see the children perform. If this causes you any problems, please contact the school office and we will try our best to support you.

Parental Survey

Thank you to those who have complete our parental survey so far, if you haven't please do so by clicking this [link](#).

Matching's Responsible Refills

Year 5 will be opening their refill shop next Tuesday at Sports Day, please bring along your 500ml bottles to refill.

Product	Price	Amount
Body wash	£3	500ml
Washing up liquid	£1.75	500ml
Hand soap	£2.50	500ml
Laundry liquid	£10	500ml
Fabric conditioner	£8	500ml
Shampoo	£3	500ml
Conditioner	£2.50	500ml

Class updates

Potters – please follow us on Instagram: Potter.Class

The children have loved their book 'Rumble in the Jungle' this week and have been fascinated with different animals! They predicted the story and wrote about different animals. There was lots of excitement in the role play area!

Nightingale – please follow us on Instagram: nightingale.class

The children in year 1 and 2 have taken their phonic screening test this week, we are really proud of all of their efforts. Results will be shared with parents in the end of year reports. The children have also really enjoyed experimenting with different shapes to test their stability to make Baby Bear's chair.

Darwin - please follow us on Instagram: charlesdarwin.class

Children in year 4 have completed their multiplication check and should be so proud of their achievements, as we are. Results will be shared with parents in the end of year reports. The children have also been working hard on telling the time to the nearest 5 minutes.

Rock star	Headliner	Rock Legend
Stanley	Sophie	Ralph

Shakespeare - please follow us on Instagram: Shakespeare.Class

This week, year 6 visited Chelmsford Cathedral for their leavers service which was a highlight. The children have also been rehearsing for their end of year performance.

Sports Day

Communication regarding Sports Day was sent on 11th June 2025. Please see information on the raffle prizes:



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

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%	95.1%	94%	96.4%	96.4%
This week	96.7%	98.5%	98.6%	97.7%	91.8%
Persistently absent pupils	9 pupils	2 pupils	4 pupils	0 pupils	3 pupils

Summer dates

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 Whipsnade 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.

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
- 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.

Generative AI

The remarkable growth of generative AI tools like ChatGPT has opened up exciting new opportunities for young learners. Used wisely, AI can be a powerful ally in boosting creativity, learning and problem-solving skills. However, without proper guidance, young people may stumble into challenges including inaccurate information, data security risks, and a growing reliance on AI over their own critical thinking.

From setting clear usage boundaries to teaching digital hygiene and promoting independent thought, this guide offers parents and educators practical advice on the safe, positive use of AI. With the right understanding and guidance, you can ensure that generative AI becomes a positive influence, rather than a potential pitfall in young people's digital lives.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about GENERATIVE AI SAFETY

Generative AI tools – such as ChatGPT – are now commonly used by children. In fact, 3 in 4 pupils in the 2024 Annual Literacy Survey reported using generative AI, up from just 2 in 5 the previous year. While these tools can boost learning and creativity, they also raise concerns around misinformation, privacy and overuse. This guide explores the key risks and how to support safe use.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MISINFORMATION AND ACCURACY



Generative AI can sometimes produce false or misleading content. Children – and even adults – may assume the information is accurate and trustworthy. This can affect learning and understanding of important topics. It's vital to teach children to critically assess all information, even when it comes from AI.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Because generative AI is trained on vast datasets from across the Internet, there is a chance it may occasionally generate harmful or inappropriate content. Without supervision, children could encounter disturbing or unsuitable material. Active monitoring and clear usage boundaries can help reduce this risk.

PRIVACY AND DATA SECURITY

Some AI tools ask for personal details or store users' interactions. If privacy settings are not correctly configured, children's personal data could be exposed or misused. Teaching good digital hygiene and setting strong privacy controls is essential for protecting children online.

REDUCED CRITICAL THINKING



Relying too heavily on AI-generated responses may reduce children's willingness to think independently. If they consistently use AI to solve problems or complete tasks, it could impact their ability to reason, analyse and form their own ideas. Encouraging thoughtful reflection is key.

DIGITAL DEPENDENCY



Regular use of generative AI can contribute to increased screen time and less real-world interaction. If left unmanaged, it may affect physical activity levels, sleep, and social development. Striking a healthy balance between online and offline activities is important for wellbeing.

UNCLEAR ETHICAL BOUNDARIES



Children may not fully understand the ethical implications of using AI to complete homework or creative tasks. This can lead to unintentional plagiarism or dishonest academic practices. Conversations around responsible use and academic honesty are crucial.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ESTABLISH CLEAR GUIDELINES

Set clear, age-appropriate rules for when and how generative AI can be used. Reinforce these regularly to help children develop a healthy, respectful and informed relationship with the technology.



ENCOURAGE CRITICAL EVALUATION

Help children to question the accuracy of AI-generated information and seek out additional trusted sources. This builds essential digital literacy skills and supports better decision-making.



PROMOTE ACTIVE SUPERVISION

Keep an eye on how the children in your care use AI tools. Check in regularly to ensure they're using them appropriately and be ready to step in if something doesn't feel right.



ENHANCE PRIVACY AWARENESS

Talk to children about the importance of keeping personal information private. Make sure privacy settings are in place and explain how data shared with AI tools could be used.



Meet Our Expert

Brandan O'Keefe, Deputy Headmaster and Director of Digital Strategy at Eaton House Schools, has extensive expertise in digital safety, safeguarding, and generative AI in education. As an author and speaker on digital literacy and online safety for institutions such as The National College, Brandan guides parents and educators in creating safe digital learning environments.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College