

# Matching Green News



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

27<sup>th</sup> 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 2!

## Collective Worship

In our collective worship, we heard the story Jesus told about a farmer sowing seeds, showing how different hearts receive God's word. Some seeds fell on the path, rocks, or among thorns and couldn't grow, but those on good soil grew strong and fruitful. Jesus said the seed is like God's word and the soil is like our hearts. Wisdom helps us be like the good soil—ready to listen, grow, and make good choices.



## Celebration



Potters  
Maliya

Nightingale  
Thea  
Zachary

Darwin  
Archie  
Libby

Shakespeare  
Elsie  
Desia

## Weekly update

We had the pleasure of welcoming Chris Vince MP to our school this week for a special visit. He met with our school council, who were well-prepared with a range of thoughtful and engaging questions. It was a fantastic opportunity for them to learn more about democracy in action and to have their voices heard.

We have also met our new intake for September 2025; there are still some places in Potter class for 2025. We will have some new pupils join other year groups in September and I know both the children and families will welcome them to Matching Green.

A reminder that our Refill Shop will be open on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July. Please bring you refillable 500ml bottles. Card payments are preferable.

Class swap days are planned for 8<sup>th</sup> July and the staff structure for 2025 – 2026 will be shared once finalised next week.

### Class updates

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

The children enjoyed the classic 'We are going on a Bear Hunt' this week. In maths, they've been looking at patterns. In their RE learning, they've been reflecting on the creation story and thinking about what God has made.

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

In DT, the children have been creating a structure and testing its stability. As a group they managed to get their structure to hold 50 books before it collapsed! In RE, the children have been learning about Haggadah and the Four Questions.

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

Please note that Darwin parents are invited to lunch on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2025, this has been moved from 4<sup>th</sup> July. The dinner is Spanish chorizo rice and parents need to order by Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

The children have been developing their learning of Vikings, learning about how they fight, the weapons and armour that were used as well as the techniques for battle. The children continue to adore the book 'The Last Bear' and have created art.

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

The children have been exploring Ancient Greek scientists this week. They have also been researching the Trojan War.

### 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. Attendance has declined this last week, please maintain consistency until the end of the term which is Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025.

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%	93.9%	96.4%	94.6%
This week	94%	92.3%	93.2%	96.3%	92.7%
Persistently absent pupils	9 pupils	2 pupils	4 pupils	0 pupils	3 pupils

### Summer dates

03.07.25 – EYFS transition morning for September 2025

03.07.25 – Year 6 Visit to Essex Outdoors

03.07.25 – Darwin parents invited to join us for lunch

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

09.07.25 and 17.07.25 – Bike ability for year 6

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](#)

### Teddy donations please



# Teddy Donations

THE PTA WILL BE HOSTING A TEDDY TOMBOLA AT  
THE MATCHING GREEN CAR SHOW AND WOULD BE  
GRATEFUL FOR ANY GOOD QUALITY TEDDY  
DONATIONS PLEASE 🧸

### 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 (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

#### 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
	<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  
 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 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025  
 25.06.25 – **Shakespeare SRE education**  
 25.06.25 – **SRE policy review**

### 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.

### **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.

### **Nintendo Switch 2**

Nintendo's long-awaited Switch 2 has finally arrived, blending fresh hardware with fan-favourite franchises. From Mario to Pikachu, the familiar mascots are back – but so too are evolving online features, in-game purchases, and potential exposure to mature content. As ever, it's essential that parents and educators understand the risks to young players.

Among these are GameChat voice communication, camera-based gaming, and potential access to mature-rated titles. This guide outlines what to watch out for and how to keep children safe, engaged and having fun.

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about NINTENDO SWITCH 2

Nintendo launched its Switch 2 games console in early June 2025 – its first new console in eight years. While it builds on the original's success by remaining compatible with certain existing games, it also adds powerful hardware and new features like GameChat and a USB-C camera. As more children look to upgrade, it's important to understand how this new console might affect their play and safety.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### EASIER TO ACCESS MATURE CONTENT

**18**  
CENSORED

Despite Nintendo's reputation for family-friendly titles, mature games like *Cyberpunk 2077* and *Hitman* have been released onto the platform. With the Switch 2's improved performance, developers will be able to port even more mature-rated games. These may appeal to children due to their popularity, but they contain content that is highly unsuitable for young audiences.

### IN-APP & GAME STORE PURCHASES

The Nintendo eShop enables purchases with just a few taps. If payment details are saved and PIN protection is disabled, children may unknowingly make costly purchases – including game add-ons, cosmetic items or entire new releases – without parental approval.

### UNRESTRICTED ONLINE PLAY IN SOME GAMES

While GameChat is one feature, Switch 2 also connects to the broader Nintendo Switch Online service. Many free-to-play titles like *Fortnite* or *Splatoon 4* allow voice or text chat with strangers unless chat settings are adjusted, meaning children could encounter inappropriate language or unwanted contact.

### GAMECHAT & REAL-TIME VOICE COMMUNICATION

GameChat enables live chatting with up to 12 people, even across different games, with optional video and screen-sharing. Though children under 16 are restricted to chatting only with approved friends, the sheer interactivity could raise privacy concerns or create pressure to remain online longer.

### CAMERA COMPATIBILITY & PRIVACY CONCERNS

The optional USB-C camera supports video calling and facial overlays in games; however, this also raises the risk of cyberbullying or the unwanted sharing of personal images. The camera can be disabled, removed or covered, and parental controls are essential to manage how and when it is used.

### POWERFUL PULL OF FAMILIAR CHARACTERS

Nintendo's mascot, Mario – along with Pikachu, Donkey Kong and others – remains hugely appealing to younger audiences, especially after the success of the recent film, *The Super Mario Bros. Movie* (2023). These beloved icons are central to Nintendo's branding and often feature in merchandising, adverts and in-game promotions, creating strong emotional attachments in children and a sense of urgency to keep up with their peers.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### CHECK RATINGS & USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Every Switch and Switch 2 game comes with a PEGI age rating. Before buying one, ensure the content matches your child's age. Use the Nintendo Parental Controls app to monitor gameplay, set screen-time limits and manage friend requests.

### REVIEW FRIEND LISTS AND CHAT PERMISSIONS

Child profiles are restricted to chatting with approved friends only, but it's good practice to regularly check their friend list and communication settings. Use the Parental Controls app to switch off voice or video chat if necessary.

### REMOVE OR RESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS

Avoid accidental spending by unlinking credit cards from the device. Instead, consider adding funds via prepaid eShop cards or requiring a PIN for purchases. Some banking apps can also be set to approve transactions manually.

### ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Teach children how to block, report and capture any behaviour or content that makes them uncomfortable. The console's built-in tools allow them to create screenshots and video clips, which can aid in reporting any issues. Keeping an open dialogue helps children feel supported and safe.

### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Games Editor of Daily Star and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.

