

Matching Green News



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

4th July 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

In our collective worship, we focused on the parable of the mustard seed from Matthew 13, reflecting on how something so small can grow into something strong and significant. This reminded us that even the smallest acts of faith, kindness, or perseverance can lead to meaningful personal growth. We discussed how we are growing into our new classes, and Henley shared his excitement for moving to Darwin 'where the fun never stops'!



Celebration



Potters
Lenny

Nightingale
Julius
Denis

Darwin
Ernie
Alice W

Shakespeare
Henry
Blake

Weekly update

The children and staff have managed the heat well this week with the luxury of air conditioning in the classrooms. When the air conditioning unit in Darwin wasn't doing its job, Shakespeare kindly shared theirs. Mr Lorkins visited us this week and met with the children and staff, as well as the new families for Potter Class.

Shakespeare end of year performance will be at 2pm on Monday 14th and Tuesday 15th July 2025.

A reminder that our school trip to Whipsnade is on Wednesday 16th July. Please ensure you've provided consent and discussed any difficulties with the school in regard to making the contribution. We have started our whole school topic on conservation this week.

The school closes for the summer on Tuesday 22nd July 2025 at 1.15pm. The children will return to school on Tuesday 2nd September 2025.

Class updates

Please remember that children should not be bringing in any toys or things from home.

Potters – please follow us on Instagram: Potter.Class

The highlight was definitely the paddling pool this week! The children loved it, especially in the heat. It was so lovely to see the different parts of their character come through. They also did a smashing performance alongside Mc Grammar of the Gruffalo, see Instagram to watch it through. The children also compared the class expectations to the Ten Commandments in RE.

Nightingale – please follow us on Instagram: nightingale.class

In Nightingale, there was a lot of endurance used this week when they had to make the structure for their chairs in DT. Some chairs were more successful than others, but the children persevered to get their final product.

Darwin – please follow us on Instagram: charlesdarwin.class

The children continue to be inspired by their creative natures and have improved their cars as part of their DT. There have been many adaptations, including hot wheels, spoilers and various uses of aerodynamics to support their car speed. The children have also finished their RE unit on sacrifice and created an infographic to show their learning.

Shakespeare – please follow us on Instagram: Shakespeare.Class

Year 6 had a fantastic visit to Essex Outdoors. Both the children and Mr Ball pushed themselves out of their comfort zones, it was lovely to celebrate their time with us. Year 5 also enjoyed their day with Mr Loader whilst year 6 were out.

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. Attendance has declined this last week, please maintain consistency until the end of the term which is Tuesday 22nd 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	94.9%	94.8%	94%	96.3%	94.3%
This week	91.3%	87.7%	94.6%	92.3%	87.2%
Persistently absent pupils	10 pupils	2 pupils	4 pupils	1 pupil	3 pupils

Summer dates

05.07.25 – Art and Antiques day at Matching Church (see poster below)

06.07.25 - Seedlings at Matching Feast Room

07.07.25 – Year 5 road safety

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
15.07.25 - Shakespeare end of year performance
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 (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

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
	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
 25.06.25 – Shakespeare SRE education
 25.06.25 – SRE policy review
 03.07.25 – **Staff structure for 2025-2026**

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 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.

Apple iPads

iPads are a familiar fixture in many households and classrooms, offering access to educational tools, entertainment, and the internet in one sleek package; however, with great versatility comes notable risk. From accidental spending and data privacy breaches to excessive screen time, there's plenty for parents and educators to consider before handing over the device. While Apple offers built-in safeguards such as 'Screen Time' and 'Family Sharing', these features must be correctly set up and actively managed to be effective.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about APPLE IPADS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Tablets remain a staple of children's digital lives – and Apple's iPad is by far the most popular model. According to Ofcom, over half of younger children regularly use a tablet to play games, watch online content or access apps. With their broad functionality, iPads can be helpful tools, but without supervision, they may expose children to risks ranging from inappropriate content to screen overuse.

COSTLY TO REPAIR

Unlike some child-friendly tablets, the iPad is not built for rough handling, its slim design and high cost mean that a drop or spill can result in a costly repair. If a child is using the device regularly, a sturdy case and screen protector are strongly recommended to help prevent accidental damage.

DATA PRIVACY

While Apple is known for strong privacy protections, a recent study found that many iOS apps aimed at children still share personal data. Over 40% of the tested apps sent at least one piece of user information to third parties, raising concerns about advertising and analytics being targeted at underage users.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The App Store and Safari browser provide almost unrestricted access to online material. Children may stumble upon age-inappropriate content, whether through apps, advertisements or online searches. Even recommended content algorithms can surface unsuitable material.

BYPASSING RESTRICTIONS

Siri – Apple's voice assistant – can potentially override restrictions, especially with the newer text-based commands introduced through Apple Intelligence. Without safeguards in place, children may inadvertently access inappropriate topics simply by asking a question, bypassing certain filters previously set by adults.

SCREEN ADDICTION

iPads can be highly immersive, and excessive screen time may affect a child's emotional and behavioural development. Signs of overuse might include mood swings, irritability, and difficulty focusing on non-digital activities.

REDUCED ATTENTION & COGNITIVE IMPACT

Prolonged use of tablets has been linked with reduced memory, slower processing speeds and difficulties in concentrating. Research shows that children who spend excessive time gaming or consuming media on tablets may struggle with language development and executive functioning over time.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY SHARING

Family Sharing allows you to create a dedicated Apple ID for your child and manage their activity. You can approve purchases, control what content they can access, and set time limits – all done remotely from your own device. It's a simple but powerful way to maintain oversight.

FILTER APPS, WEBSITES & IN-APP PURCHASES

Parental controls in iOS let you block explicit content in Safari, restrict app downloads, and manage in-app purchase permissions. You can also filter websites automatically to prevent access to adult material and disable the installation of certain app types completely.

USE SCREEN TIME FEATURES EFFECTIVELY

Tools like Downtime and App Limits can reduce device overuse. Downtime allows you to block access during key times – such as before bed or during homework – while App Limits sets daily time caps on specific games or apps. Alerts help children anticipate when their time is almost up.

PREVENT UNAPPROVED SPENDING

Children can accidentally (or intentionally) make purchases within apps. Activating Ask to Buy under Family Sharing ensures you receive a notification to approve any app or in-app purchase. This stops surprise charges and allows you to discuss purchases together before they're made.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is a seasoned technology journalist with over a decade of experience. Formerly a senior cybersecurity reporter at TechCrunch, Carly now writes for publications including WIRED, Forbes, TechRadar, and Tes. With a deep understanding of online safety, she brings a valuable perspective to parenting in the digital age.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College