

# Matching Green News



*'Life in all its fullness'*

(John 10:10)

8<sup>th</sup> November 2024

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



matchinggreenceprimary



[Week 1 menu](#)

[Week 2 menu](#)

We have a new menu! We are starting back on week 1, please check the menus above!  
School dinner can be ordered on the day and children in Key Stage 1 receive free school meals.

## Collective Worship

We have been focusing on our value of forgiveness this week; this was supported by our discussion around Guy Fawkes Night. On Tuesday, we discussed and celebrated the 'Observance of 5<sup>th</sup> November Act', which was a service from the Church of England as a period of thanks to God following the discovery of Guy Fawkes in the houses of parliament.



## Celebration



Potters  
Danny

Nightingale  
Ayla  
Ivy

Darwin  
Adrian  
Alice

Shakespeare  
Maisie  
Darcie

Sports Person of  
the week  
Elsie

## Weekly update

The children have settled back in to school this week. We have reorganised the seating for lunchtime and the children are now sitting in the house groups, getting to know their peers from across the school.

We have also taken the pottery from Darwin to Leventhorpe and we will be collecting that next week.

## Class updates

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

The children have really enjoyed learning about fireworks this week and playing with the bonfire in their role play area. The children have been writing firework sounds and making sparklers with straws.

Miss Clarke has also sent home a Little Wandle parent leaflet and highlighted sounds in the book that the children need to practice at home.

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

Miss Mogridge has been teaching the children about instructions and commands this week, they worked together to tell the difference. The children have also been looking at digital images in computing to retell a picture story.

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

Darwin have moved on to reading the story 'Ug' this week alongside their Stone Age topic. They have been looking at character profiles and completing some dictionary work.

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

It has been a tough week with long division but the children have worked hard to get their head around it this week. Year 5 enjoyed swimming and year 6 have enjoyed starting hockey with Mr Ball too.

### Highways Agency

Dear Parents/Carers

Jane Brown (vice-chair of Governors) and I have met with the Epping Forest District council highways, our District Councillor, our local Councillor and the Chair of the Parish Council to discuss the parking outside school at pick up and drop off time.

As you can imagine, there is no magic wand solution to the situation, and nothing is going to change overnight! However, getting all the relevant parties together to view the area at school pick up is a great start to see if there is anything that can be done to improve the safety for your children. With anything to do with the public highway there is lots of legislation and any changes will need to go through a consultation process with local residents, if there is a sensible solution.

The school's responsibility starts and finishes at the school gate; however, we are aware that we have a part to play in trying to improve the safety of the wider community and especially the pupils and families that have chosen our wonderful school.

Thank you for your patience and continued support. Please remember to drive slowly **20 is plenty**, park respectfully and take care when dropping off and picking up from school.

Yours sincerely  
Neil Banks  
Chair of Governors

### 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.

[Parking outside schools | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](http://www.police.uk)

### Learning conferences

Learning conferences are bookable through EduSpot and will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday next week. Children who have had a One Plan this term will not have a Learning Conference. We encourage you to bring the children to the Learning Conference to discuss the child's learning approach and next steps.

### Absence reporting

Please be aware that parents and carers must phone the school office to report a child's absence each day. This is part of our safeguarding and attendance monitoring procedures. If we do not hear from you, we will ring to make contact until we are able to physically speak with you.

### Remembrance

Collective Worship on Monday will focus on Remembrance Day. The children are invited to purchase poppies on Monday too. We will be ringing our main school bell at 11am to observe the minute silence.

### Children in Need

It is Children in Need on 15<sup>th</sup> November, children can wear spots and stripes for a donation of £1 which will go towards Children in Need.

### Morning Club

After October half term, children will only be able to attend Morning Club when a payment has been made in advance. We are running at a deficit at the moment, and this is a challenge for small schools. If this is going to be difficult for you, please contact the school office to discuss.

### Over the counter medication

Please can we advise not to give your child/ren any over-the-counter medication for them to use in school. This needs to be handed into the School Office and a form completed for us to administer.

### Attendance

Guidance suggests that attendance for children across the year should be above 96%, we have high expectations of pupil's attendance but do sometimes understand that in some circumstances children are unable to attend due to avoidance medical appointments or illness. There has been new guidance for schools on attendance, which we have to follow. More information can be found on the [Essex County Council](#) website. The Depart for Education provides a guide for [parents and carers on school attendance](#).  
NHS guidance – [is my child too ill for school?](#)

### Safeguarding

Over the years, Fortnite has become a household name in the gaming community. It was one of the first titles in the 'battle royale' subgenre, where players are thrown into a chaotic free-for-all on a sprawling map and fight until only one remains. Its cartoonish presentation and satisfying gameplay loop make it a potentially attractive choice for young players.

However, it's important to remember that online safety risks are always present – especially in multiplayer games – and Fortnite is no exception. The guide on the final page, put together with expert input, tells you all you need to know about the safety concerns of this popular title and offers advice on how to protect children and young people as they enjoy the game.

### Emails to The School Office

If sending emails to the School Office, please can we ask that you use the [admin@matchinggreen.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@matchinggreen.essex.sch.uk) address. We are finding parents are replying to the Teacher2parents email address, which is a no reply email box, therefore we do not receive these emails.

### PE Days

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

### PTA - of Matching Green Primary School

Please make sure you follow the PTA on Instagram: [matchinggreenschoolpta](#)

We have set our dates for our events this year, please see our calendar below and join us at our next meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> November at 9am.

### 75 Club

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. The more members of the club, the larger the prize fund! 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](#).

### Help!

We need toilet roll tube donations for our Christmas activities, please bring in to school!



### ASDA Cashpot for Schools

Mrs Travis has kindly set Matching Green up with Asda's Cashpot for schools. Please see the details below

"Between 2nd September and 30th November 2024, every time customers shop with Asda using their Rewards app, they can choose a primary school to receive a percentage of their spend. And that's not all — every time a customer chooses your primary school, Asda will donate £1 to your school's Cashpot, plus a further £50 when your first customer shops."

### Second hand uniform

Please leave any donations of uniform you no longer need with the school office, second hand uniform is so valuable to many of us.

If you need any uniform, please contact the PTA or the school office and we will source some out for you.

### SEND resources

#### Good Beginnings

A course for parents and carers of children in Reception class or younger, who have autism or social communication needs. A diagnosis of autism is not needed to access Good Beginnings. The course runs in all four quadrants at least twice a year and one online course is also offered. This course is for parents/carers only – they do not bring the children or younger siblings with them. Parents can request a place on the course by completing the [application form](#).

Due to high demand, it may be necessary to add their details to a waiting list for the next course with availability.

This course covers: understanding autism; communication; play; sensory processing; behaviour is communication; eating, sleeping and toileting; managing anxiety

Information can also be found on the Schools Infolink in the Autism area: [Autism | Essex Schools Infolink](#)

#### Wilderness Foundation

Please go to the [Wilderness Foundations website](#) to learn more about the outdoor holiday camp for neurodiverse children.

Dates	Resources	Referrals
	<a href="#">Essex Local Offer</a>	<a href="#">Community Paediatric Service</a>
	<a href="#">Supporting your Neurodivergent Child</a>	<a href="#">West Essex Community Specialist Services</a>
	<a href="#">West Essex Inclusion Project</a>	
	<a href="#">Essex Family Wellbeing</a>	
	<a href="#">SEND IASS</a>	
	<a href="#">Autism Central</a>	

### Recent Letters

03.09.24 – Welcome Back

16.09.24 – Year 6 swimming

01.10.24 - Reception and Year 6 Height and Weight Checks

03.10.24 – Group of children for Tri-Golf

07.10.24 – EYFS Tapestry Information

22.10.24 - Year 5 swimming

22.10.24 - Shakespeare Tag Rugby event 6<sup>th</sup> November

22.10.24 - Nightingale Multisport event 13<sup>th</sup> November

22.10.24 - Darwin & Shakespeare Cross Country Event 14<sup>th</sup> November

Autumn	Spring	Summer
11.11.24 – 9am PTA meeting 12.11.24 – Learning Conferences <b>13.11.24 - KSI Multisport event</b> 13.11.24 – Learning Conferences <b>14.11.24 KS2 Cross Country event</b> 15.11.24 – Children in Need 25.11.24 – PTA Christmas Enrichment Morning 28.11.24 – Shooting Stars Pantomime - Cinderella 05.12.24 – Year 3 Pantomime visit 06.12.24 – Christingle Making with Reverend Julia 08.12.24 – Christingle Service at Matching Church (CM170QZ) 10.12.24 – PTA Christmas Event 3.30pm – 5.30pm 11.12.24 – Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper day. 11.12.24 – Learning celebration 17.12.24 – Key Stage 1 Nativity 18.12.24 – Key Stage 1 Nativity 20.12.24 – End of term. Children finish at 1.15pm.	06.01.25 – Non-pupil Day <b>07.01.25 – Children back to school</b> 14.01.25 – PTA film night 12.02.25 – Learning Celebration Afternoon 12.02.25 – PTA Valentines disco 17.02.25 – 21.02.25 – Half term 28.02.25 – PTA Non-Uniform Day 28.02.25 – PTA Quiz Night 04.03.25 – West End in School 05.03.25 – Potter Educational Visit to Aerozone, Stansted. 06.03.25 – World Book Day 06.03.25 – PTA - Bake and book sale for World Book Day 18.03.25 - Learning Conferences 19.03.25 - Learning Conferences 21.03.25 Red Nose Day 24.03.25 – Mothering Sunday gift room 31.03.25 – PTA Easter Enrichment and Easter Egg Hunt. 02.04.25 – Learning Celebration Afternoon 04.04.25 – End of term. Children finish at 1.15pm.	22.04.25 – Children back to school 29.04.25 – Class photos 05.05.25 – May Day 12.05.25 – 16.05.25 – SATS week 16.05.25 – PTA Year 6 celebration 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 09.06.25 – PTA Father's Day gift room 17.06.25 – Sports Day 24.06.25 – Reserve Sports Day 16.07.25 – Learning Celebration Afternoon
<b>New dates will be added in red</b>		

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# FORTNITE

AGE RESTRICTION  
PEGI  
12

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Fortnite was launched back in 2017, but it remains massively popular – with more than 650 million active players. That's partially due to the competitive nature of its player-vs-player combat, its pop culture crossovers and its constantly shifting map. Significant updates are rolled out with each new version of the game – known as 'chapters' – and within these sit shorter 'seasons'.

### ALWAYS ONLINE

There's no single-player offline mode in Fortnite: it can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about (both in terms of connectivity and using up data), so you may find that dedicated young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about trips away – such as days out and holidays – than you might expect.

### IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – cosmetic 'skins', music tracks and LEGO items – which don't really impact on gameplay but can cost a significant amount. These items are bought with in-game currency, V-Bucks – earned through completing the Battle Pass (which also costs V-Bucks) and can also be purchased from the game's store for real money.

### POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from movies and TV shows like Family Guy and Avatar: The Last Airbender to comic book characters including Batman to other games such as Street Fighter. This means you could have children asking questions about the monster from Alien or Geralt from The Witcher a little sooner than you otherwise might have.

### CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. 'Crossplay' lets friends play with each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC – while the 'party chat' feature allows them to talk to each other during the game. This can, however, put youngsters at risk of hearing inappropriate language from older players in the heat of virtual combat.

### VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

At its core, there's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them from the contest. That said, there's no blood or gore. The violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood, such as fishing mini-games and dancing emotes. Machine guns, shotguns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, however, so discretion is advised.

### FREQUENT UPDATES

The game's developers release content in 'seasons' that usually run for around ten weeks. Each fresh update sees items added to the in-game store, changes to the environment's map and a different over-arching theme (such as 'medieval', 'pirates' or 'party'). These regular renewals help to hold players' interest – but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### MATCH GAMING TIMES

Younger players tend to play Fortnite with their friends. With that in mind, it could be worth speaking to the parents and carers of a child's social group and coordinating their gaming around certain times of day. Safety in numbers is obviously a factor here, but it will also help children feel that they're getting adequate opportunities to socialise with their friends online.

### SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into buying sought-after items before they disappear for weeks or months. This could lead to surprise transactions on bank cards if children are tempted into an impulse purchase. Parents could consider getting a prepaid card for the child or ensuring that purchases require adult authorisation. This can be done through parental settings on a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.

### USE UPDATES AS REWARDS

Fortnite's seasonal updates are free, but each also brings the option of a 'battle pass', unlocking exclusive rewards for playing the game and completing set challenges. The passes cost around £8 and are also available as part of larger bundles. The purchase of passes can be an effective reward to young Fortnite fans for good behaviour or academic performance, or as an incentive for completing chores like tidying their room.

### BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences – that are generally more trusting – means there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game: make sure any young player knows this.

### ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously on the same console or computer. This can be a good option for siblings or for when a child's friends visit, but it also offers an opportunity for parents and carers to do something fun with their child, while also making sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows? You might even teach them a thing or two!

### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A long-time gamer, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



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