

Matching Green News



'Life in all its fullness'

(John 10:10)

4th October 2024

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



matchinggreenceprimary



[Week 1 menu](#)

[Week 2 menu](#)

Next week, we are week 2.

School dinner can be ordered on the day and children in Key Stage 1 receive free school meals.

Collective Worship

This week we have focused on our value of thankfulness. It was lovely to discuss thankfulness with the children and really consider gratitude. We discussed how we were grateful for water, food, school, each other as well as things like toys and electronic devices. Mr Ball shared how he is grateful for the world we live in, how lucky we are with running water, hot showers, transport as well as many other things and Florence told us how she is grateful for her dog, who licks her and it tickles!

Celebration



Potters
Darcie

Nightingale
Xavier
Gage

Darwin
Alice
Lucilla

Shakespeare
Orla
John

Weekly update

Mr Loader has been outside lots this week at playtime skipping with the children in key stage 2, it has been lovely to see so many children joining in.

Thank you so much for all the children who had school dinners on our Census day, Miss Bennett did a little happy dance when she got the numbers through.

Potter class were so lucky to visit Fidgety Feet today to take part in their emergency service workshop with a visit from Essex Police. They even got to hear the police car sirens!

Class updates

Potters – please follow us on Instagram: Potter.Class

The children have been reading the book Funny Bones this week. They have really enjoyed the story and naming the bones. They've also been using this book to apply to their maths learning when ordering sizes from smallest to biggest.

Nightingale - please follow us on Instagram: nightingale.class

Nightingale have worked wonderfully as a team this week; they used spaghetti and marshmallows to build. The children also used the story of Zog in their dance lessons and interpreted different parts of the story.

Darwin - please follow us on Instagram: charlesdarwin.class

As part of the Stone Age Boy book that Darwin are reading, the children used drama to narrate the story focusing on powerful verbs and used their body to create cave shapes.

Shakespeare - please follow us on Instagram: Shakespeare.class

Shakespeare have been adding and subtracting large numbers in maths this week. Both Mr Ball and Shakespeare class are really enjoying their hockey lessons each week.

The children continue to enjoy their World War II learning, this week they were learning songs from the war.

Harvest Festival

We will host our Harvest Festival with Reverend Julia in school on the 7th October 2024. This year, we will be contributing our donations to Harlow Food Bank and ask that children bring in their donations on the 7th October to add to our display in the hall. Reverend Julia will be taking our donations to Harlow Food Bank on 11th October,

Jewellery

Children can wear a simple watch and small stud earrings to school as part of our uniform policy. Children must not wear any other jewellery to school as this could result in harm to them or another child in the event of an accident.

School Council Elections

Mrs Chilvers introduced our school council in Collective Worship last week, election papers must be returned by Wednesday 9th October 2024 ready for in class ballots.

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.

One Plans

Teachers are booking One Plans for children with SEN in the next few weeks. One Plans will be with the class teachers and we ask that children attend too. If your child has a One Plan, they will not need a learning conference in November as we would have already met this term.

Celebration Afternoons

Celebrating children's achievements and learning is so important to me and I want to be able to give the children the opportunity to share with people that are important to them the learning they are most proud of.

We will be inviting parents into school at the end of each unit from 2.30pm on 24th October 2024 and 11th December 2024 to showcase their learning.

Please note change of date for December.

Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service

Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service will be completing a Height and Weight check for Year 6 children. Reception children will also have their Height, Weight and Vision checked on Thursday 17th October. If you do not want your child/ren to have the health check you must inform them direct from the email sent on 1st October 2024

Year 6 secondary applications

If you have a pupil in Year 6, applications for secondary school places are open between 12th September and 31st October. Please use this [link](#) to make your application.

ACL

Would you be interested in free fun activities after school or during the school holidays? Would you benefit from attending courses to support your children with SEND, emotional needs, or parenting in general? Or sessions to support your own wellbeing?

ACL have FREE sessions available to families at our Centres and libraries including Halloween Slime, LEGO, science, crafting, introduction to coding to name a few. We are also offering FREE adult courses such as Understanding ASD and autism, SEND support, Positive parenting and more which take place online or in our centres. More information can be found [here](#).

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?](#)

Online Safety

Each week I will provide 'top tips' from the National College as an online safety guide, please see the final page. This week the focus is on in game chat and how to keep children safe.

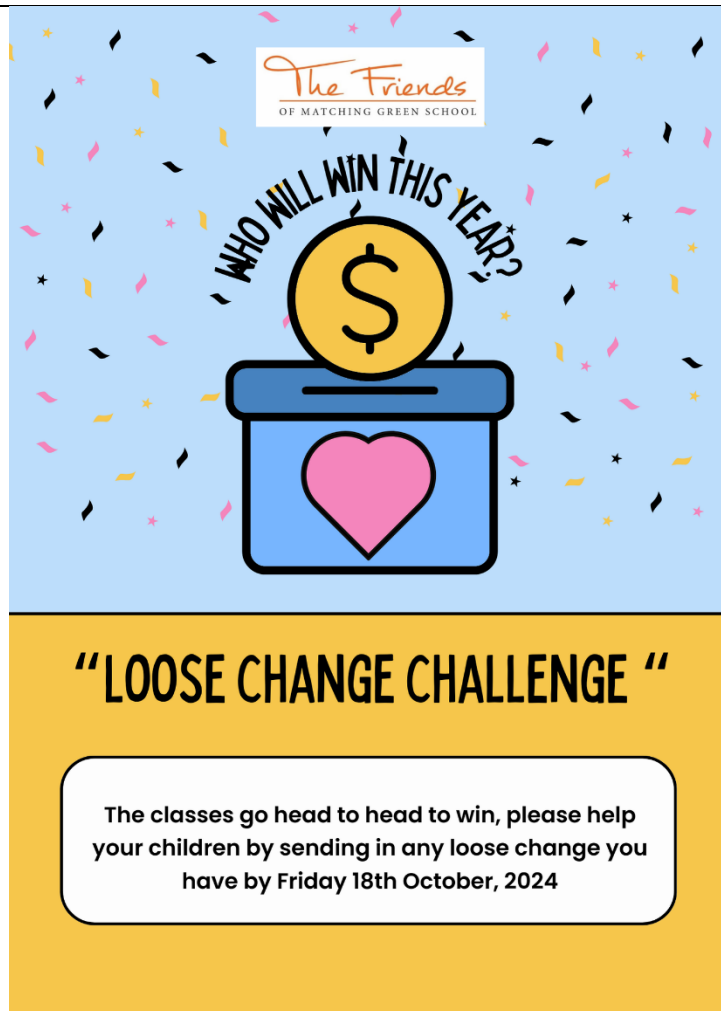
PE Days	
Monday	Potters and Shakespeare
Tuesday	Nightingale
Wednesday	Potters and Shakespeare
Thursday	Nightingale and Darwin
Friday	Darwin

PTA - of Matching Green Primary School

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

Loose Change

Back by popular demand! Bring in your loose change for the winning class to win!
Please hand in by 18th October 2024.



75 Club

September winners
1st - Richard Matthews
2nd - Peter Howes
3rd - Cat Gibbons

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](#).

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](#)

EPINS project

Essex Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (EPINS)

We have been fortunate to be chosen as a pilot school for the EPINS project. The EPINS project is pioneering a new model for supporting good outcomes in mainstream primary schools for neurodiverse students and strengthening partnerships between parents, carers, and schools. By focusing on improving knowledge, skills, and environments, the aim is to better meet the needs of neurodiverse children and enhance their educational experiences.

HCRG Care Groups Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Services have been chosen to lead the project aimed at developing skills and the confidence of Essex mainstream primary schools to support inclusion. The project has also been formulated to engage with parents and carers to gain insights and form an integral part of this coproduction partnership. The Essex Family Forum have been chosen to fulfil this role. The approach for EPINS will be based around the key principles of the 'Autism in Schools Projects' that have been run in other LAs outside of Essex. The project aims to provide:

- good quality training for staff
- parents supporting parents' groups
- an understanding children's experience of school

The intention through EPINS will be to enable and facilitate a bespoke, school centred package of support and resources to:

- help shape whole school SEND provision
- provide early interventions at a school level
 - upskill school staff
- support strengthening of partnerships between schools and parent/carers

EPINS will complement the existing support of Essex County Council for schools to access, if they need a bespoke training approach, additional to that on offer from ECC SEND teams.

Wilderness Foundation

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



WILDERNESS
FOUNDATION UK

Ages 8-16 **1st Nov 2024**

**Neurodiversity*
Outdoor Holiday Camp**

Sign your child/teenager up for our latest outdoor holiday camp for neurodiverse youth.

The programme develops personal skills, resilience, communication, social skills and a lot more. We cook on an open fire, are creative, adventurous and accepting.

1st November 2024 - Chatham Green HQ
Price: £80 per child

Download and email your completed booking form to info@wildernessfoundation.org.uk

For more information please visit our website

*ADHD, ASD, and other neurodiverse conditions

Dates	Resources	Referrals
<p>Essex SEND Roadshow 06.11.24 at Peter Kirk Centre</p> <p>18.10.24 2pm PINS cuppa and chat (see attached leaflet). Please email Suzan with any questions: suzanpins@proton.me</p>	<p>Essex Local Offer</p> <p>Supporting your Neurodivergent Child</p> <p>West Essex Inclusion Project</p> <p>Essex Family Wellbeing</p> <p>SEND IASS</p> <p>Autism Central</p>	<p>Community Paediatric Service</p> <p>West Essex Community Specialist Services</p>

Recent Letters

03.09.24 – Welcome Back
16.09.24 – year 6 swimming
03.10.24 – group of children for tri-golf.

Autumn	Spring	Summer
<p>07.10.24 – PTA meeting at 9am.</p> <p>07.10.24 – Harvest Festival – children to bring in food donations.</p> <p>08.10.24 – Group of children to tri-golf. Letters have been sent.</p> <p>09.10.24 – open morning for new EYFS intake 25/26.</p> <p>18.10.24 – open morning for new EYFS intake 25/26.</p> <p>18.10.24 – PTA Loose Change deadline</p> <p>18.10.24 – 2pm PINS cuppa and chat</p> <p>24.10.24 – children need packed lunches today.</p> <p>24.10.24 – Learning celebration afternoon</p> <p>28.10.24 – 01.11.24 – Half term</p> <p>31.10.24 – Year 6 applications must be made for secondary school placements.</p> <p>04.11.24 – INSET</p> <p>06.11.24 – Year 5 swimming, every Wednesday for 5 weeks.</p> <p>05.11.24 – Flu vaccinations</p> <p>12.11.24 – Learning Conferences</p> <p>13.11.24 – Learning Conferences</p> <p>15.11.24 – Children in Need</p> <p>05.12.24 – Year 3 Pantomime visit</p> <p>08.12.24 – Christingle Service at Matching Church (CM170QZ)</p> <p>11.12.24 – Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper day.</p> <p>11.12.24 – Learning celebration</p> <p>17.12.24 – Key Stage 1 Nativity</p> <p>18.12.24 – Key Stage 1 Nativity</p> <p>20.12.24 – End of term. Children finish at 1.15pm.</p>	<p>06.01.25 – Non-Pupil Day</p> <p>05.01.25 – Children back to school</p> <p>12.02.25 – Learning Celebration Afternoon</p> <p>17.02.25 – 21.02.25 – Half term</p> <p>04.03.25 – West End in School</p> <p>05.03.25 – Potter Educational Visit to Aerozone, Stansted.</p> <p>06.03.25 – World Book Day</p> <p>18.03.25 - Learning Conferences</p> <p>19.03.25 - Learning Conferences</p> <p>04.04.25 – End of term. Children finish at 1.15pm.</p>	<p>22.04.25 – Children back to school</p> <p>29.04.25 – Class photos</p> <p>12.05.25 – 16.05.25 – SATS week</p> <p>27.05.25 – End of term</p>
New dates will be added in red		

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about IN-GAME CHAT

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Video games are continuing to grow in popularity – including, of course, among children and young people – and the emergence of gaming communities has been accelerated by the inclusion of chat functionality across many different titles. While in-game chat isn't inherently a bad thing, it can create some concerns about online safety and the people that children might be interacting with.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF CHAT

There are a number of ways that gamers commonly chat with one another online. As the name would suggest, in-game chat happens within the game itself. There's also party chat: a group voice conversation that console users can have with anyone on the same platform. This tends to be more commonly used by players who already know each other. Finally, many gamers – especially on PC – will chat via a third-party app such as Discord.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Whether it's text- or voice-based, in-game chat is frequently open to all players to use. Many games default to making it an opt-in function, but some don't: meaning a child could start seeing messages within the game from people they're playing with, regardless of whether they know those individuals or not. While most strangers won't necessarily have ill intent, there are some who may behave inappropriately when chatting to a child – intentionally or otherwise.

DANGER OF GROOMING

It's been reported that some young gamers have encountered older players online who pretend to be a lower age to manipulate children, sending gifts in exchange for chatting and sending photos. Just as on any messaging platform, it's good to advise young people to avoid speaking to strangers; emphasise that they shouldn't accept gifts from anyone online that they don't know.

BULLYING AND ABUSE

While some in-game chat can turn toxic because of how a match plays out, others turn that way because of people who engage in trolling – in essence, behaving in an offensive and abusive way simply to cause pain or get a rise out of whoever they're talking to. These 'trolls' often lean on racial slurs, anti-LGBT sentiment and other hateful rhetoric; they normally feel most confident preying on younger, more impressionable gamers.

POTENTIAL FOR PRIVATE CHAT

If a player would like a re-match with a stranger after meeting them in the game, they can send a friend request, or use the party chat together in the future. For the most part, this is harmless – but it might lead to messages being exchanged in private. This could then escalate to the sharing of private information, and potentially attempts to manipulate or scam younger players.

COMPETITIVE ATMOSPHERE

Certain games are very competitive, and players can sometimes get upset if they feel a teammate is underperforming, an opponent won unfairly, or they're just a bad loser. This can lead to unpleasant messages that stray away from playful 'trash talk' and wander into the territory of bullying. Some players have been known to get incredibly abusive in situations like this, and the impact of this on a young gamer's emotional wellbeing could be severe.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LOCK-DOWN IN-GAME CHAT

In-game chat can often be disabled in the game's settings. This allows children to play without risk of contact from strangers – but it will need to be done in each individual game. Text chat appears in the corner of the screen in many titles, so it's normally easy to take a quick glance and see what's being said. With voice chat, explain to children what behaviour is inappropriate, so they can spot the dangers themselves.

REPORT POTENTIAL OFFENDERS

Most games offer a robust means of reporting other players, so you can flag an account as potentially harmful. This normally leads to the account not being matched with yours in the future and, if that person's conduct breaks any of the game's rules, they may be banned from playing entirely. This is done within the game itself, so each title has a slightly different process, but these tend to be designed for simplicity.

CONSIDER OTHER CHAT OPTIONS

If a child wants to play with people they know, consider using party chat or a third-party service like Discord. This allows everyone involved to chat on a private server and even enjoy each other's company while playing different games. It's also far more secure, as anyone looking to join will need to request and be granted access – normally by whoever is hosting the chat.

COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Make sure children understand the differences between being competitive and being abusive. Talk about what constitutes an unusual or inappropriate behaviour from strangers online. Be clear that if anything ever concerns or worries them, they should tell a trusted adult as soon as possible. Empower children to identify the risks of in-game chat for themselves and reassure them they won't get in trouble for seeking help if anything goes wrong.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of CGRecon and has been working in the games media industry for five years. He's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at nationalcollege.com/guides/in-game-chat



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