

Matching Green News



'Life in all its fullness'

(John 10:10)

27th September 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 1.

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

Collective Worship

We have been reflecting on our value of friendship this week and we have all contributed to our understanding of friendship by creating a school friendship bracelet. The meaning behind this is that we are all woven together and the plait in a friendship bracelet shows strength through many strands rather working individually. The children have responded really well and have contributed to this across the week, even making their own at home.

Celebration

Congratulations to Miss Toon who graduated this week!

Potters
Finley
Florence

Nightingale
Charlie
Marcie

Darwin
Xenia
Ernie

Shakespeare
Sophia
Connie

Weekly update

Everyone has contributed towards our whole school tribal flag this week with the personal quality they bring to the school. The weather has been very wet this week, a reminder that cars must not be parked outside on the yellow or orange zig zags within the time frames. This is to maintain children's safety.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

It was so wonderful to see so many of you at our Macmillan Coffee morning. Thank you to those who attended our Macmillan coffee morning and to those who donated cakes. We raised £344.97, which is a huge amount for a small school. I would also like to say a huge thank you to the PTA for helping set up, serve the tea, coffee and cakes and then pack away.

Class updates

Potters - please follow us on Instagram: Potter.Class

The children have been learning about families and babies this week, it was lovely listening to them talk about their families and hear about the meaning behind their names. In maths, they've also been sorting in maths.

The letters and sounds books are for your children to practise their sounds at home, using the pronunciation phrases. We have included the formation phrases if they would like to practise writing, but there is no need to write in the books.

Every child should have a sharing book, which you can read to them. On Friday, we will send home a wordless book. These are invaluable as they teach reading behaviours and early reading skills. Please talk to your child about what they can see in the pictures and point to the images in the circles and find them on the page. Encourage your child to make links from the book to their own experiences. The books are vital to our teaching in school. We ask you to make sure the books are brought to school every day. Without them in school, we will not be able to read them in the guided reading practice sessions. If books are not returned after sending home a reminder, we will unfortunately have to charge for them to be replaced.

Nightingale - please follow us on Instagram: [nightingale.class](#)

The children have enjoyed their geography learning this week. They watched a video of a drone over London and examined ariel routes, identifying key landmarks.

Darwin - please follow us on Instagram: [charlesdarwin.class](#)

In Darwin, the children have been using charcoal in art and created observational drawings of birds this week.

Shakespeare - please follow us on Instagram: [Shakespeare.class](#)

Shakespeare continues to be engaged in WWII and have been learning about The Blitz this week, they have written diary entries on their experience.

Census Day - Change of Menu

On Thursday 3rd October it is our school meal Census Day, please can you encourage your children to have a school dinner on this day as our funding depends on it. We will be serving chicken nuggets and chips, baguettes, and a jacket potato. On Friday 4th October we will be serving cheesy pastry whirls.

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,

Homework expectations

We understand that families have busy lives and often children attend many other activities beyond the school day. We want to ensure our homework offer is not onerous and compliments the work that is happening in school. Therefore, we ask that:

- Children read with an adult 3 x a week in KS2 and 5 x a week in EYFS and KS1.
- Daily practice of timetables with TT Rockstars
- Spelling practice in line with the class learning, i.e. spelling patterns or phonemes from our phonics programme.

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?](#)

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.

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.

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 is using Instagram safely, reminding parents and carers that the age restriction is 13.

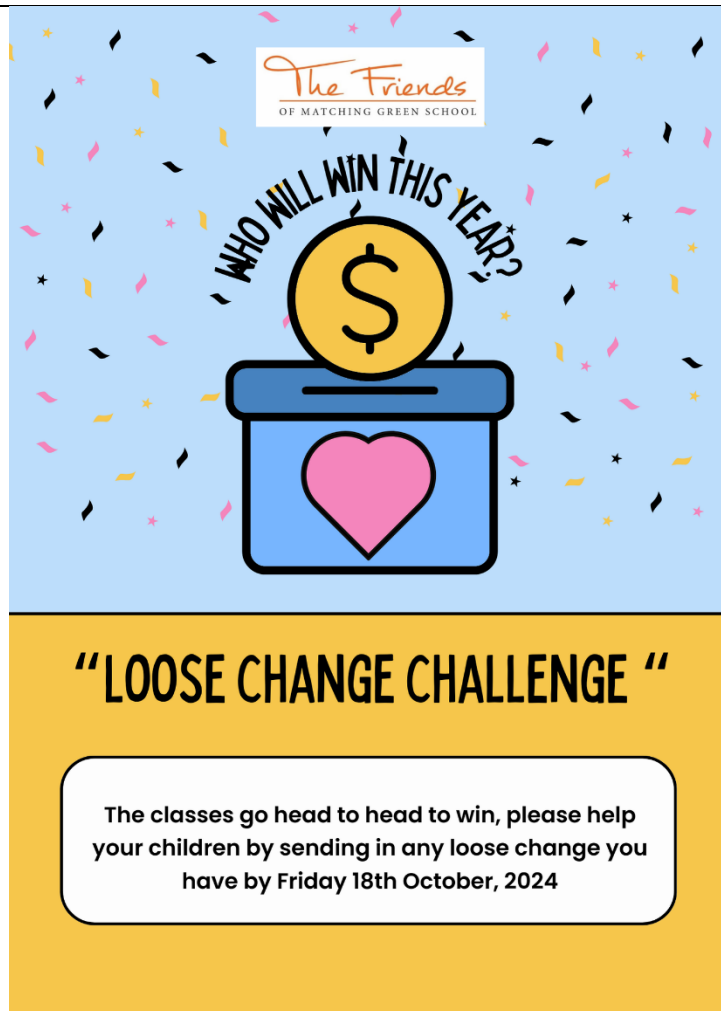
PE Days	
Monday	Potters and Shakespeare
Tuesday	Nightingale
Wednesday	Potters and Shakespeare
Thursday	Nightingale and Darwin
Friday	Darwin

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

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.

Dates	Resources	Referrals
Essex SEND Roadshow 06.11.24 at Peter Kirk Centre	Essex Local Offer	Community Paediatric Service
18.10.24 2pm PINS cuppa and chat (see attached leaflet).	Supporting your Neurodivergent Child West Essex Inclusion Project	West Essex Community Specialist Services

<p>Please email Suzan with any questions: suzanpins@proton.me</p>	<p>Essex Family Wellbeing</p> <p>SEND IASS</p> <p>Autism Central</p>	
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<p>Recent Letters</p> <p>03.09.24 – Welcome Back 16.09.24 – year 6 swimming</p>

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

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about INSTAGRAM

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

follow

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Instagram is a highly popular social media platform with over 2 billion active monthly users. The app is continuously updating and adding new features to meet the wishes of its audience, allowing them to upload images and videos to their Instagram feed, create interactive 'stories', go live, exchange private messages or explore and follow other accounts that catch their eye.

ADDICTION

Many social media platforms, Instagram included, are designed to keep us engaged on them for as long as possible. They encourage scrolling often and scrolling more in case we miss something important – in essence, a fear of missing out. On Instagram, young people can lose track of time when aimlessly scrolling and watching videos posted by friends, acquaintances, influencers and possibly strangers.

UNREALISTIC IDEALS

Children sometimes compare themselves to what they see online: how they look, how they dress, and the way their life is going in comparison to others on social media. However, most people only share the positives about their lives online and many use filters when sharing pictures of themselves. A constant comparison with unrealistic ideals can lead to insecurity over one's own appearance and lifestyle.

GOING LIVE

Livestreaming on Instagram allows users to connect with friends and followers in real time. Risks increase if the account is public, because that means anyone can watch the broadcast, which could result in further contact from strangers. Additional dangers of going live include an impulse to act inappropriately to draw more viewers, as well as being exposed to harmful content or offensive language.

INFLUENCER CULTURE

Social media influencers are sometimes paid thousands of pounds to promote products, services, apps and more. When celebrities or influencers post such content, it often says 'paid partnership' above the post. In April 2024, Ofcom found that over a quarter of children (27%) believed in influencer marketing, accepting their endorsement of products wholeheartedly. So it's perfectly possible for young people to be taken in by this kind of content.

PRODUCT TAGGING

Product tags allow users to tag a product or business in their post. This tag will take viewers directly to the product detail page on the shop where the item can be purchased. Children may also be encouraged by influencers to purchase products that they advertise.

EXCLUSION & OSTRACISM

Youngsters are highly sensitive to feeling excluded, which comes in many forms: not receiving as many 'likes' as expected; not being tagged in a friend's photo; being unfriended; not receiving a comment on their post or a reply to a message they sent. Being excluded online hurts just as much as offline. Young people have reported lower moods and self-esteem when excluded in this way, feeling as if they don't belong and aren't valued.

Advice for Parents & Educators

AVOID GOING PUBLIC

If a young user wants to share their clothing style, make up or similar and use product tagging to show off the items in their post, they may be tempted to change their settings to public. This leaves their profile visible to everyone, which carries the risk of strangers getting in touch with them. Set a child's account to private and explain the importance of keeping it this way.

HAVE AN OPEN DIALOGUE

Talk to children about the positives and negatives of social media, including the risks involved and how they can view or create content safely with family and friends. Explain how safety settings will ensure only followers can view them, and why this is so important. Also, if you find a child continuously uses filters on their photos, ask them why and impress on them that they don't need it.

MANAGE LIKE COUNTS

Due to the potential impact on mental wellbeing, Instagram allows users to hide the total likes on their posts, to prevent people from obsessing over that number in the corner. Users can hide like counts on all the posts in their feed as well as on their own posts. This means others can't see how many likes a person gets. This can be done by going into Settings > Notifications > Posts > Likes > Off.

USE MODERATORS

Instagram Live has implemented a mechanic called 'Moderators', meaning that creators can assign a moderator and give them the power to report comments, remove viewers and remove the ability for certain viewers to comment at all. Consider this if a child in your care wants to go live on the platform. It's also recommended to keep devices in communal spaces so you're aware if a child does go live or watch a livestream.

FOLLOW INFLUENCERS

Following influencers will allow you to monitor what they're sharing as well as being able to discuss anything which you deem inappropriate. Talk to children about who they follow and help them to develop critical thinking skills about what the influencer is trying to do. For example, encourage the child to ask themselves if an influencer is trying to sell them a product when they make a video endorsing it.

BALANCE YOUR TIME

Instagram has a built-in activity dashboard that lets you control how much time is spent on the app. Make sure children sign in to the platform with the correct age, as Instagram's 'Teen Accounts' afford much more control for parents and carers over how long they can use the app each day. Talk with young users about how much time they spend on Instagram and work together to set a healthy time limit.

Meet Our Expert

Dr. Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant at BCyberAware. She has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety workshops and policies for schools in Australia and the UK. Claire has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/instagram-2022>

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