

Matching Green News



'Life in all its fullness'

(John 10:10)

20th 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 2.

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

Collective Worship

Our theme this week has focused on our school value, Kindness. I am in constant amazement at the children's deep thinking and spiritual understanding that they share in Collective Worship. Potters have joined us this week for Collective Worship and their contributions were delightful.

Nightingale prepared a prayer based on kindness this week.

Dear God,

Thank you for our friends who show us kindness.

Thank you for our families who us kindness.

Thank you for our teachers who us kindness.

Amen.



Celebration Worship



Potters
Arla

Nightingale
Julius
Denis

Darwin
Molly
George

Shakespeare
Ceylan
Addie

Weekly update

It was wonderful to invite families in to school to meet the teacher, there were over 40 families in attendance on Tuesday and I felt so proud to be able to welcome you in. I welcome any feedback so please contact me via the school office if you have any, or any new ideas.

We have been working on our school routines this week and there has been an improvement in how children travel around the school and arrive and leave from Collective Worship.

Class updates

Potters - please follow us on Instagram: Potter Class

Potter class enjoyed reading Harry and the Dinosaurs go to school and learning about different dinosaurs. They started Little Wandle and learnt the first four graphemes. These are in the Letters and sounds books, which the children will bring home on Friday. Also started PE lessons and coped well at school all day.

Nightingale - please follow us on Instagram: nightingale.class

Nightingale have been enjoying the new Little Wandle phonics sessions, showing great enthusiasm in their learning. In Design and Technology, we have started to look at how things move, in preparation for making our moving monsters.

Darwin - please follow us on Instagram: charlesdarwin.class

The children have enjoyed their Spanish lessons this week, we have added photos on to Instagram. Science this week has focused on learning different rocks, the children were able to name 3 types of rock in Collective Worship celebration.

Shakespeare - please follow us on Instagram: Shakespeare.class

The children have been learning to round numbers to ten million this week, it's been fun but challenging! In RE, they have been learning about psychology and our own interpretation of God.

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 phoneme from our phonics programme.

Help!

I am looking to update our website with some pictures of our school and children. If any of you know any photographers who might be able to help, please let me know so that I can contact them for some more information.

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.

Individual Photographs

Children will have their photos taken on Thursday 26th September. If you wish your child to have a photo with their younger siblings that do not attend our school, you can do this from 8:30am on the day. All siblings that are in school will have one together throughout the morning.

Phonics and reading

We have introduced a new phonics and reading scheme called Little Wandle for children in EYFS and KS1 and for other children who need extra support with reading.

I have added some guidance to our [school website](#) about how you can support with our reading scheme. Little Wandle also provides guidance to parents and carers on how to support with reading and more information on the programme. There are lots of resources to access and I recommend accessing these to see how we are teaching phonics:
<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>.

Tapestry

This year, only children in EYFS will have access to Tapestry, log on details will follow in the next few weeks as we import pupil information. Children in year 1 and any other children across the school will need to download their exported journal. We have published these today and families have 3 weeks to download a copy, after this point, accounts will be deactivated. Tapestry does offer the option for families to purchase printed copies of the journals, more information can be found here: <https://tapestry.info/printed-journals/>.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

We are opening our doors on the 27th September for our Macmillan coffee morning. We will be hosting this between 9.30am and 11am. Please bring a cake and come along to support this cause. Please remember we are a NUT free school, if baking at home a list of ingredients must be provided.

We will be selling cakes throughout the morning and at the end of the day, please bring along any spare pennies for the children to purchase.

We have organized the classes into different time slots

9.30am – Potters and Shakespeare

10am – Darwin

10.30am – Nightingale

If any parents or carers are able to help us run this event, please let Mrs Childs know in advance.

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?](#)

Accelerated reader

Mr Ball has reorganized the children from year 2 to year 6 in to their Accelerated Reader groups. Log ons and star reader assessments will be coming home next week.

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.

Nits/Head Lice

We have had a reported case of nits please can we remind you of the Hedrin guidance and their campaign for 'Once a Week take a Peek' <https://www.onceaweektakeapeek.com/>

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 managing screen time.

Homework Club

Chipping Ongar Library Homework Club begins on Wednesday the 25th of September. The club runs between 3:30pm to 4:30pm and occurs every Wednesday. This club requires bookings as there is limited space and can be done so via emailing libraries@essex.gov.uk or booking online

at <https://library-events.essex.gov.uk/>. They welcome those aged 4-11. And more information can be found here; [Homework Club | Essex Libraries.](#)

| 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 had a fantastic first meeting on Monday planning the dates for this year. Our PTA are wonderful and without them, there would be many things the children are missing out on. We are next meeting at 9am on the 7th October 2024, please come along and share your views and see how you can help.

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](#).

SDA 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 |
|--|--|---|
| <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>Community Paediatric Service</p> <p>West Essex Community Specialist Services</p> |

Recent Letters

03.09.24 – Welcome Back
16.09.24 – year 6 swimming

| Autumn | Spring | Summer |
|---|--|--|
| <p>25.09.24 – Year 6 swimming, every Wednesday for 5 weeks. 26.09.24 – individual and sibling school photos 27.09.24 – McMillan Coffee Morning 07.10.24 – PTA meeting at 9am. 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</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>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 style="text-align: center;">New dates will be added in red</p> | | |

Top Tips for... MANAGING SCREEN TIME

According to the latest stats, people aged between 8 and 17 spend four hours on digital devices during an average day. Obviously, a new year is ideal for fresh starts and renewed efforts – so lots of families are trying to cut down their combined screen time right now, creating more moments to connect with each other and relying less on gadgets to have fun. Our top tips on reducing screen time are for everyone, so you can get your whole family involved in turning over a new leaf this year!

BUY MILK

GET OUT AND ABOUT

If the weather's decent, spend some time in the garden or go for a walk. Even a stroll to the local shop would do: the main thing is getting some fresh air and a break from your screen.

TRY A TIMED TRIAL

When you're taking a screen break to do a different activity or a chore, turn it into a game by setting yourself a timer. Can you complete your task before the alarm goes off?

GO DIGITAL DETOX

Challenge yourself and your family to take time off from screens, finding other things to do. You could start off with half a day, then build up to a full day or even an entire weekend.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let your family see you successfully managing your own screen time. You'll be showing them the way, and it might stop some of those grumbles when you do want to go online.

AGREE TECH-FREE ZONES

Nominate some spots at home where devices aren't allowed. Anywhere your family gathers together, like at the table or in the living room, could become a 'no phone zone'.

HOLD A SCREEN TIME AMNESTY

As a family, agree specific windows when it's OK to use devices. This should help everyone to balance time on phones or gaming with enjoying quality moments together.

BE MINDFUL OF TIME

Stay aware of how long you've been on your device for. Controlling how much time you spend in potentially stressful areas of the internet – like social media platforms – can also boost your wellbeing.

'PARK' PHONES OVERNIGHT

Set up an overnight charging station for everyone's devices – preferably away from bedrooms. That means less temptation for late-night scrolling.

SWITCH ON DND

Research shows that micro-distractions like message alerts and push notifications can chip away at our concentration levels. Put devices on 'do not disturb' until you're less busy.

TAKE A FAMILY TECH BREAK

Set aside certain times when the whole family puts their gadgets away and enjoys an activity together: playing a board game, going for a walk or just having a chat.

SOCIALISE WITHOUT SCREENS

When you're with friends, try not to automatically involve phones, TVs or other tech. Having company can be loads more fun if your attention isn't being split.

WIND DOWN PROPERLY

Try staying off phones, consoles, tablets and so on just before you go to sleep. Reading or just getting comfy in bed for a while can give you a much more restful night.

Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



DEVICE BOX

The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

@natonlinesafety

/NationalOnlineSafety

@nationalonlinesafety

@national_online_safety