



# FRIDAY UPDATE

Friday 3rd November 2023



Welcome back to the second term of the school year. It has been super to see the children excited about their new learning and already showing determination in what they are doing. They have also enjoyed utilising our new space on the playground and explored some den building (made more challenging by the wind!).

Thank you to all of you respecting the freshly repainted zigzag road markings outside school and our new banners. The council are supporting developing new schemes to improve the safety for our children outside school and we continue to ask parents / carers to park with respect and care, ideally further away from school.

Have a lovely weekend and enjoy any fireworks safely.

In celebration assembly today we said well done to the following children, who received **Special Awards** and special gold Headteacher's Award sticker:

**Shaniya** (Beech class) - for her effort in her learning, especially Maths.

**Harshika** (Hazel class) - for persevering in our tricky Maths work.

**Emmanuel** (Maple class) - for excellent attention to detail in your comic strip art.

**Jessica** (Cherry class) - for great kindness and being a lovely friend always.

**Porcha** (Willow class) - for her lovely manners.

**Oliwier** (Cherry class) - for developing confidence when answering the register this week.



## Class Accolades

**Cherry Class** - Miss Startin is proud of your perseverance in art on our Art day

**Maple Class** - Mrs Bolter and Miss Cooper were impressed with your hard work on Art day.

**Beech Class** - Mrs McCullough and Mrs Mason were proud of the fantastic paper sculptures you produced.

**Hazel Class** - Miss Morris was impressed with your creative paper sculptures.

**Each class was presented with their Class Accolade certificate and earned two class ticks. Well done everyone!**



## WHAT'S ON NEXT WEEK (Autumn 2 Week 2):

Monday 6th -  
 Tuesday 7th - Year 2 P.E.  
 Wednesday 8th -  
 Thursday 9th - Year 1 P.E.  
 Friday 10th - **Year 2 Family Reading - 8.50-9.10am**  
 - **Individual photos**  
 - No Reception P.E due to photographs, please can your child come to school in school uniform

## LETTERS / EMAILS HOME THIS WEEK:

Reception learning newsletter  
 Year 2 learning newsletter

Values tokens  
 total this week:  
**79**



As part of our commitment to safeguarding, it is important that we ensure that parents/carers are as informed as possible about online safety.

## What parents and carers need to know about EA Sports FC

For 20 years, FIFA dominated the football video gaming arena, attracting legions of devoted fans and scooping up accolades like a digital Real Madrid. After parting ways with the sport's governing body, however, renowned developers Electronic Arts (EA) have now launched their own individual bid for the title. It's called EA Sports FC 24, and its effectively FIFA 2.0.

Familiar action delivered by the same team, of course, points to a comparable level of popularity – especially among those young gamers raised on the FIFA franchise. This guide highlights, however, EA Sports FC 24 also carries many similar risks to its predecessor, including addictive gameplay, abusive voice chats and expensive in-game purchases.

A larger version of these guides can be downloaded from our school Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/>





# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about EA SPORTS FC 24

After two decades of holding the official FIFA licence, EA Sports' phenomenally successful football video game series has embarked on a solo run at goal. This season's iteration marks the debut appearance of a new name and branding, but don't let those fool you – EA Sports FC 24 is still a very similar proposition to last year's FIFA 23. Popular features such as Ultimate Team remain a big focus, meaning that potentially costly in-game spending is still among the line-up of risks that parents and carers should be aware of.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?



### RECURRING RELEASES

EA Sports FC 24 effectively picks up the FIFA template – meaning that after a year, we can expect EA Sports FC 25 to hit the shelves. Updates between versions of the FIFA franchise tended to be minor, but young fans of the game are almost certain to want the new edition in around 12 months' time, so they can keep playing with updated team kits, players and squad lists.

### OFFENSIVE VOICE CHAT

FIFA 23 introduced cross-platform play, and EA Sports FC 24 goes a step further with Clubs, Seasons and Ultimate Team cooperative modes across PlayStation 5, Xbox Series X and S, and PC. That's exciting news for youngsters who love to play with friends online – but connecting a much wider audience does potentially open lines of communication between children and far older online gamers.

### IN-GAME PURCHASES

In FIFA, Ultimate Team proved to be a profitable innovation for developers Electronic Arts (EA), and is now found in many of their other titles. Players spend in-game currency to recruit better footballers for their team, but this process can take a frustratingly long time – so young fans may be tempted to skip the grind by paying real-world cash to unlock that coveted star midfielder.

### ULTIMATE TEAM SCAMMERS

Since the mode was introduced, Ultimate Team has been a target of scammers who attempt to coax players into buying or selling outside the terms of service from EA and console manufacturers. This shady practice can lead to accounts being banned and in-game items being lost. In some cases, young gamers have also been hoodwinked into handing over their payment details to the fraudsters.

### POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

Just like real-life football, EA Sports FC 24 offers a thrilling, dynamic blend of tactical awareness and skill that fans find absolutely engrossing. Among younger players in particular, this could lead to indicators of a gaming disorder as they plead for 'just one more game' before bedtime or spend practically all weekend playing more matches to earn additional Ultimate Team packs.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### CONTROL SPENDING

If your child enjoys Ultimate Team mode, check that your payment details aren't linked to their account. Bundles of FC Points (the game's currency) start at just £1, so multiple payments can easily slip under the radar. You could consider setting your child an in-game allowance, perhaps through a prepaid card, which will help them to realise that online spending has a real-world effect.

### DEFEND AGAINST SCAMMERS

EA does contact players via email (although not to ask for usernames or passwords, so watch out for that scam tactic), but never through the game itself – so be wary of incoming messages and consider blocking and reporting suspected spam. Your child should avoid buying coins (the in-game currency) from external sites: it could end with them losing their money and being banned from the game.

### AVOID EXTRA TIME

Many parents of young football-oriented gamers worry about their child playing too much EA Sports FC. There's now also a companion mobile app, which can also often provide another indicator that a child is struggling to disengage from the game. You could initiate discussions around set hours of play – or take stronger action by utilising the parental controls on their console or phone.

### SHOW TOXIC CHAT THE RED CARD

Playing EA Sports FC 24 with friends is highly enjoyable, but if competitive types start to turn toxic online, it can ruin everyone's fun. You could occasionally listen in on the voice chat of your child's game for any warning signs that things may be about to boil over. This goes double when playing online with strangers: voice contact with unknown players can be turned off in the game's settings.

### CELEBRATE THE VARIETY

Ultimate Team may be the game's 'star player', but there's plenty more to do in EA Sports FC 24 – including modes which allow access to all of football's big names without needing to spend money on packs to unlock them. This new version of the game includes even more women's teams, marking another step forward in representation: an important subject to discuss and celebrate with children.

### 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. Always eager to test out the latest apps, games and online trends, he's also a parent who understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



Sources: <https://www.windowscentral.com/youmaster-spends-over-6000-fifa-xbox-highlighting-predatory-game-design-co>, <https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/loss-of-behaviour-gaming-disorder>, <https://www.eurogamer.net/16-european-council-calls-for-better-regulation-of-loot-boxes-following-new-report>