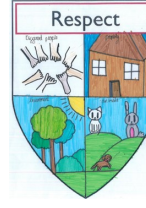


Oldswinford Cof E Primary School

'Believe, achieve and shine brighter together'



Autumn Newsletter: 4th November 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a lovely (although rainy!) first week back at school. I hope you have had chance to read our SIAMS report that was sent out yesterday. We are very proud and pleased that the inspector could see everything that was special about our school.

It has been great to see Year 4 head out on their trip looking at our local history - specifically the Glass Industry in Stourbridge. We were so pleased it stayed dry for them - they had a great time.

I have also loved seeing ICrystal starting their forest school sessions. I hear they loved it too! I have also been lucky enough to teach RE in 3 Crystal this week. What a treat! They were amazing as we started to learn about The Trinity, what it is and how it can be represented. They created some fab art work! Thank you 3C

I hope you all have a lovely weekend. I'm sure many of you will be enjoying fireworks, please stay safe and have fun!

Ellie Game

Value of the half term...

Love

This week we looked at All Hallows' Eve, All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day. We linked this to our value of Love and thought about what makes Love a Christian value.

We explored this quote from the 1 Corinthians 16:14 and thought about what our school would be like if it was the only rule we had.

'Let all that you do be done with love.'

Support fund

We have a small pot on money in school which has been given to us to help some of our families who may be starting to find things difficult financially. If you feel that you might need additional support please come and speak to Mrs Game or drop her a dojo.

A couple of dates to remember...

14th - 18th November is Anti Bullying week. Our anti-bullying ambassadors will be helping to lead an assembly and classes will have activities to complete in class. Nationally, they are asking children to wear odd socks to school on 14th November day to help celebrate difference. We would love to see children doing this too! Our Anti bullying Ambassadors will also be holding a cake sale in school - more information about this will be sent home via parent mail.

18th November is Children in Need. This will be a Mufti day where children can come in their own clothes and bring a donation for charity.

We will have charity boxes out by the paths into school for you to add a donation for your chosen charity as we have in previous years. We know money may be tight so please only donate if you are able to do so. We will share the charities with you next week once they have been finalised.



Tuesdays
6:30pm – 7:15pm



Pedmore School
Grange Ln,
Pedmore,
Stourbridge ,
DY9 7HS

LITTLE NETTERS

**Netball
Sessions**

AGES 7–11

BOOK YOUR FREE TASTER NOW

www.littlenetters.net



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

FIFA 23

FIFA 23, like its many predecessors, is a massively popular football simulator featuring lifelike recreations of thousands of real-world players, drawn from teams around the globe. While the gameplay is subtly improved year on year, the publisher EA Sports' tweaks tend to focus on FIFA Ultimate Team mode, which can tempt gamers of all ages to spend real money recruiting better players for their side. With each new release of FIFA comes a host of new players to unlock – meaning that youngsters can feel pressured to keep buying to compete with their friends.

AGE RATING
PEGI 3

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

RELEASE RAZZAMATAZZ

FIFA 23 will be the last in the blockbuster series, before EA goes solo with its own football title next season. This 'end of an era' vibe – coupled with a huge advertising budget making the new release almost impossible to miss – will elevate FIFA 23 into even more of a 'must have' for football-mad young gamers, no matter how minor the updates are on last year's version.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CHAT

Based on a popular sport which appeals to people of all ages, the FIFA franchise draws a huge audience of both children and adults. Communication is a key element, with many players enjoying in-game audio chat via headsets. With the mixed age range of players and a lack of regulation, however, chats can often turn offensive or toxic – especially in the heat of competitive matches.

IN-GAME PROMOTIONS

Unless precautions are taken, dedicated FIFA fans can spend significant sums when attempting to improve their Ultimate Team. Most top-level players can be unlocked by simply participating in matches, but some sought-after stars can be obtained more quickly in limited-time promotions which cost a large amount of FIFA points (the in-game currency, often paid for with real money).

CIRCLING SCAMMERS

The popularity of FIFA Ultimate Team (FUT) mode has led to online scammers convincing many impressionable gamers to pay real money for non-existent FUT coins and player cards, or directing unwary FIFA fans to phishing sites. If your child gives these individuals their login details, the scammers can access not only their carefully built team but potentially your payment information.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

One match on FIFA (usually around 15 minutes, but often lengthened by extra time and penalties) almost invariably leads to another. It can be a powerful temptation for young players, regardless of unfinished homework or an approaching bedtime. If the "just one more game" mindset starts to impact a child's daily routine, it could be a sign of gaming disorder: a recognised mental health issue.

GAMBLING-ADJACENT BEHAVIOUR

Ultimate Team has become a major feature in FIFA due to the revenues it generates. It can also be addictive, with children striving to earn coins and level up while swapping, selling and buying players. Spending FUT coins to open a player pack (which many experts have likened to gambling) is designed to be an exciting act – with bright lights, fanfare and attention-grabbing prizes.

Advice for Parents & Carers

BE SELECTIVE WITH CHATS

It's enormous fun for FIFA players to chat online with friends, even as their teams do battle in the game. It's probably the safest idea, though, to restrict contact with strangers. By turning off voice chat in FIFA and allowing cross-party chat in their device's settings, your child can speak to people who are already on their friends list but won't be able to talk to (or hear) strangers online.

CONTROL SPENDING

If your child plays Ultimate Team mode on FIFA, ensure their account isn't linked to your payment methods – so they'll need your permission to make in-game purchases. Alternatively, you could use parental controls to limit spending – or set up a pre-paid 'allowance'. When excitedly clicking options on screen, it's easy for a young person to forget the real-world repercussions of online purchases.

STAY ALERT FOR SCAMS

There are some key things to remember about potential FIFA scams. Firstly, EA never contacts users via any method other than emails to the account holder (which may well be you). Neither will they ever ask for a player's username or password outside the game itself. EA's terms and conditions outlaw the buying of FUT coins, so anyone selling them should be treated as suspicious.

AVOID 'EXTRA TIME'

If your child's spending a lot of time on FIFA 23 and seems less enthusiastic about other activities in their life, you could consider restricting how long they can play for each day with the parental controls in their device's settings. Even if they're not playing on their console or computer, there's a FIFA companion app for smartphones – but that can be limited through parental controls, too.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Games Editor of technology and entertainment website Dexerto and has been working in the gaming media for three years. A long-time fan of the FIFA franchise, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have also been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar, among others.



Sources: <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2022/oct/10/fifa-23-ultimate-team-mode> | <https://www.ea.com/newsroom/questions-and-answers/ea-addictive-behaviour-gaming-disorder> | <https://www.gamingsafety.europa.eu/courtesy-call-for-better-regulation-of-lobbying-following-new-report>



www.nationalonlinesafety.com



@natonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 12.10.2022

NOS
National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

4 O'Clock Church

At St Mary's, Old Swinford
Sunday 6th November 2022

Remembering



We will love to welcome you to our service for families. Come along from 4 o'clock to enjoy activities, food, friendship and music. Our theme this month is Remembering. This special time is for families to enjoy together, there are no age restrictions for children.

4 O'Clock Church is on the first Sunday of each month,

www.stmaryschurcholdswinford.org.uk

Rectory Rd, Old Swinford, DY8 2HA



Friday 4th November
6.00 – 7.00 pm

We are very excited to announce the return of St. Mary's Youth Club on Friday evenings during term time in the church hall. Aimed at children aged 7 to 12. Lots of activities, from craft to football, Lego to table tennis. Please share this invite with family and friends. Everyone is welcome!