

## Newsletter - FRIDAY 14 October 2022

It's that time of year when all the coughs and colds are starting. NHS guidance states it is fine to send your child into school with a mild cough or a cold unless they have a temperature. If you do send your child into school and you are concerned please let a member of staff know. It is so important your child attends school as often as possible, even missing one day means they are missing what is being taught that day which can impact on their long-term learning. Please let's work together to improve our attendance.

**Mrs Allen, Headteacher**

### Attendance

Well done to Mrs Cruise 's class again for winning the attendance bear this week with 98.2% attendance.

### ATTENDANCE FROM 1<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022

Overall attendance 94.4% Target 96%

AJS 91.8% RF/EL 94.9% SC 95.2% KC 95.6%



### Social Media

Please can we remind parents/carers to follow our Social Media pages as we are always updating our pages with the excellent activities our children are doing in school

### ClassDojo



It's fantastic to see so many parents getting involved again this year!! Please keep checking for updates in the class story and please send photos of what your child is getting up to at home, we love to see them having fun!! If you see a post please feel free to comment and like it on the class posts, it really means a lot to staff!!

### FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Although every child receives Universal Free School Meals up to Year 2 you can still apply for income based Free School Meals. This helps school but also gives you access to additional funding when it is available.

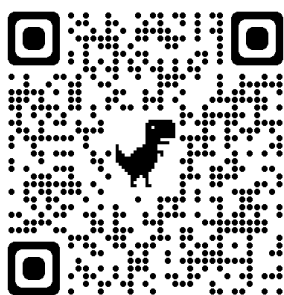
Please go to your Sunderland City Council website Parent Portal to apply.

### Dates for your Diary 2022-2023

The dates have been emailed home please check your emails

## Online Payments-Pay360 Educational Payments

Any parents who require help to set up your account (you do not need a different code every time you need to pay) please contact the school office and we will be able to assist you. Once set up your account you can pay for everything trips, clubs etc. as we move forward to a cashless system. You can also scan this QR Code to take you directly to the main page



## Website

You can find all letters which are sent home via email and school events on our website. We also try to upload them on ClassDojo

## Pre-loved Uniform

We have a selection of pre-loved uniform in our school reception area. It is freshly washed and bagged. So please feel free to have a look if there is anything you need for a small contribution. If you have any good quality uniform you would like to donate please hand in to the school office.

## Earrings

It is school policy that all earrings and clear spacers are removed before the children come to school. Please can you check your child's ears before they come to school.

## Uniform

Please can all parents/carers ensure that **ALL** items of their child's uniform have their child's name marked somewhere as we are not responsible for any lost items

## General Information for all Parents/Carers

**Earrings-** No earrings or clear space savers are to be worn by pupils for Health & Safety

**Batteries Recycling-** We are also still collecting any used batteries in partnership with Groundworks in our pursuit to win another recycling prize for our school.

**School Uniform and Book Bags** - just a reminder that you can order online all logoed uniform from Total Sport NE, Hendon Road, Sunderland, SR1 2JD.

**We no longer sell any uniform or book bags from the school office.**

## Safeguarding

If you have any safeguarding concerns please do not hesitate to contact school and speak to either Mrs Allen, Miss Lumsden or Mrs Blakeman



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many games which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# 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.



## 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 sports fans 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.



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