

Friday 14th October 2022

Attendance and Punctuality

Figures for this term so far

	Attendance	Number of Lates
Sherwood	95%	6
Delamere	92%	22
Thetford	98%	17
Grizedale	93%	12
Whinfell	96%	5
Epping	89%	0

Let's hope that as the year progresses, Epping and Delamere's attendance will rise.

I am pleased to report that Whinfell have perfect attendance this week as well as perfect punctuality!! Well done everyone.

Upcoming Dates - Reminder

- **Read, Write, Inc Stay and Learn Weds 19th October**
Please try and join in with your child's phonic session between 9 and 10am.
Watch and learn how early reading skills are taught
- **Thetford/Epping excursion to Outdoor Elements - Weds 9th November**
Children need to bring in £5 bus money before this date please.

Shout Outs

We had two parent events this week. There was a Stay and Play in EYFS and Books and Bagels in Breakfast Club. Well done to Mrs Scott for organising both and also to Lisa and Jo for coping with the extra demand.

Both events were well attended and it was great to see parents supporting their children.
Thank you.

Sleep

You should find attached with today's newsletter a flyer for a 'Sleep Helpline'.

I know many of you are concerned about children's sleep routines and so are we. Sleep is so important for helping with mental health as well as learning. If you have any concerns then please do ring the helpline.

Vouchers

There will be food vouchers of £12 per child for the half term break for families in receipt of Free school meals. If you haven't applied for FSM at the Link then you won't get the vouchers.

Mental Health

We had our mental health awareness day on Monday. We talked a lot about how tablets and phones really are not good for our mental health and children are going to try to read more, play board games and get outside. I have attached a guide to potential issues with the Fifa game that always comes out at this time of year.

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 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.



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Sources: <https://www.industryinsider.com/youngster-spends-over-2000-sterling-buying-practice-game-designer> <https://www.nca.org.uk/newsroom/questions-and-answers/turn-addictive-behaviour-gaming-disorder> <https://www.eurogamer.net/european-courts-ask-for-better-regulation-of-fifa-base-following-new-report>

Updates and info are easily viewable at
<https://www.woodsideprimary.co.uk/>

Mr Collings	Head.woodside@halton.gov.uk
Joanne	sec.woodside@halton.gov.uk
Michelle	admin.woodside@halton.gov.uk
Mrs Percival	senco.woodside@halton.gov.uk
School mobile	07395 126470

Thank you and have a lovely weekend 😊