

# St Nicholas School Weekly Newsletter

*Learning Together*

Friday 4th  
November 2022



Dear Parents,

Welcome back after the half term break. I hope you all managed to get some rest and spent some quality time with your family. Winter has truly started this week and it is got much colder this week. Please make sure you send in a coat with your child.

**Parents Evening:** Next Wednesday will be Parents Evening for those children in years 1-6. Two classes are having their Parents Evening on Tuesday and your class teacher would have been in contact with you about this. This is an opportunity for you to find out how your child has settled into their new class as well as discuss their Pupil Passport targets. I am looking forward to seeing many of you there.

**Second Hand Uniform Sale:** At Parents Evening, there will also be an opportunity for you to purchase some second hand uniform. There will be a donations box for you to give whatever you feel you can afford.

**Road Safety Week:** The week beginning Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November, we will celebrate Road Safety Week here at school. The theme is 'Safe Roads for all'. The children will be doing lots of activities in class such as brightening a bag or scooter so it can be seen, practising to cross the road safely as well as singing some road safety songs. At home, we are also encouraging parents to send in photos of their child out and about crossing the road safely or using a sustainable mode of transport e.g. walking, cycling or riding a scooter. There will also be a mufti on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November where the theme is 'Be Bright Be Seen'.

**The British Red Cross Poppy Appeal:** November is the month of Remembrance. We have a variety of poppy related memorabilia such as zip pulls, silicon wristband, snap bands, poppy reflectors as well as the traditional poppies (see above). If you would like your child to have one, please send in the suggested donation of 50p-£1 in with your child and let your child's teacher know what they would prefer.

**Bus Cancellations:** Unfortunately, some bus routes to school have continued to be cancelled this week. If you are able to bring your child into school if this happens, you are welcome to do so. Drop off is between 8:40-9:00 and the children finish at 3:00pm. Please wait with your child at the pedestrian gate and a member of staff will come and collect them. At the end of the day, a staff member from their class will hand them over to you at the pedestrian gate. Please make sure that Croydon Transport have up to date contact information for you. You can do this by emailing: [CTSOps@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:CTSOps@croydon.gov.uk). Due to staffing issues with transport, there are occasions the school are not informed of buses being late so please, as your first point of contact, contact transport by email, or their phone number you will have been provided, or the PA's number (if you have it).

We are just as frustrated about the issues with transport, but are limited as to what we can do. Although the school and especially the office staff will help wherever they can, transport is its own department and is solely run by Croydon Council.

## Important Dates:

**November 9<sup>th</sup>:** Years 1-6 Parents evening

**November 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>:** Road Safety Week

**November 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>:** School photos

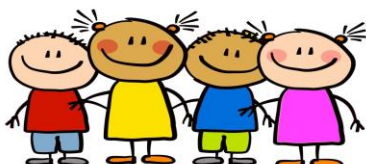
**November 18<sup>th</sup>:** Mufti to end Road Safety Week – 'Be bright Be Seen'.

**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November:** M&M Productions 'A Christmas Carol'

**December 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>:** Christmas Shows

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December:** Christmas Lunch

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December:** Last day of term. Break up at 1:30



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**ELSA Support:** At St Nicholas School, we have trained 3 of our teaching Assistants as ELSAs – Emotional Literacy Support Assistants. The ELSAs are there to listen, provide additional emotional support and support the children in school. They can help children develop greater self awareness around their emotions and how to deal with them, helping them to reach their own solutions and coping strategies. They can help with bereavement or other changes in the family such as moving house or the birth of a new sibling. Further information will be sent out by Gaynor Pilbeam shortly.

**Well done News:** One of our year 4 children, would like to share some good news. Evan passed his RDA proficiency test in Grade 1 and 2 in Horse Riding over the half term. He was only meant to do his Grade 1 exam but the examiner was so impressed with him, she put him forward for his Grade 2 as well. Well done Evan.

**EHCP Webinar:** On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November, Astrid Macabee will be running a webinar on Education Health and Care Plans between 11am-1pm. If you would like to book you place please email Astrid: [astridmacabee@carersinfo.org.uk](mailto:astridmacabee@carersinfo.org.uk)

**Parent Support:** Two of our parents have set up a support network for parents to share the good and difficult times with. This will go live on Monday and further information will be sent out. Well done and good luck for the launch to Lataanya Curling and Ellen Garcia.

**Absence reporting:** If your child is absent due to illness or for a medical appointment, please can you message or phone the school office or message your class teacher via Weduc by 9am at the latest so that we can update all of the registers. Also if there is change to your child's afternoon pick up routine e.g. they are not to go home on the bus/taxi, you need to let the office know by 2:30pm at the latest.

**Message from the office:** Please make sure you top up your dinner money weekly. Also, if you select your child's lunches each day, please makes sure it is something that you know they like. At the lunch hatch, children are given the lunch they have ordered which can result in some tears if it isn't what they wanted. As part of their Early Morning Routine, we also encourage the children to select the lunch they want with the pictures that are on Weduc . Please also note that the opening hours of the school office is **8am-4pm**.



### Communicating with the school:

Please use Weduc to communicate with your class teacher in the first instance. Parents in Key Stage 1 can also contact Gaynor Pilbeam and in Key Stage 2 Vanessa Bryan. If you have any admin enquires e.g. school dinner payments etc, you can contact Natalie Doherty in the office. After Parents Evening next week, I will also send out a short survey about communication between the school and parents.

**School Uniform:** Please make sure that all school uniform, coats, shoes, PE kit, book bag and lunchboxes are clearly named. It makes it so much easier when we find lost property around the school.

Have a lovely weekend. I hope you all enjoy the Fireworks. Be safe if you are attending some.  
Many Thanks  
Katie Goodwin  
Head Teacher





## 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 made 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 Dextera 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.



National  
Online  
Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



# Online safety tips for parents of pre-school children

## 0-5 Year Olds

internet  
matters.org

*25% of parents of 4-5-year-olds are concerned about the time their children spend online*

\*Source: [Internet Matters Screen time report: Look both ways 2018](#)



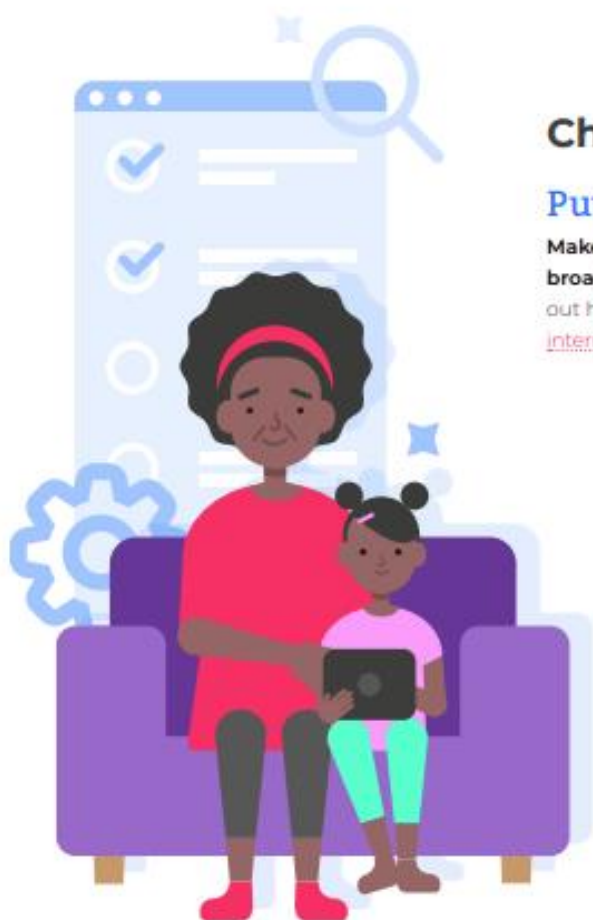
### Checklist:

#### Put yourself in control

**Make use of parental controls available on your home broadband and any internet-enabled devices.** You can find out how at your broadband provider's website or [by visiting internetmatters.org](#).

#### Search safely

Use safe search engines such as [swiggle.org.uk](#) or [kids-search.com](#). **Safe search settings can also be activated on Google and other search engines** as well as YouTube and it is possible to lock these so that they can't be inadvertently removed. You can find out more by [visiting the Google Safety Centre](#). Once you've put all of these controls in place have a browse and search for a few things to see what your children might see, if they were to do the same. Remember that voice-activated search works really well now.



## Set boundaries

It's never too early to start setting rules about when and for how long your child can use devices and start to introduce the subject of internet safety at the same time. Encourage children to use devices in a shared spaces like a lounge or kitchen. Make sure to keep other devices out of reach and use passwords so they can't go online without asking you first. It's also a good idea to have tech-free mealtimes and not to allow children to have devices in their bedrooms at this age.

## Explore together

Set your homepage to a child-friendly site such as CBeebies and give them a user account which only allows access to sites and apps you've chosen.

## Help them learn through games




Games are a great way for young children to explore the internet and learn about the world around them. Choose a variety of safe and educational online games and apps to play with your child so that you'll feel more comfortable with them exploring. Make use of websites and platforms designed specifically for pre-schoolers like CBeebies, YouTube Kids, Nick Jr, and use [age ratings](#) and reviews in the app store to check app suitability.



## Know this stuff matters, but don't know where to turn?

Internet Matters is a free online resource for every parent in the UK. We'll show you the best ways to protect your children online – with information, advice and support on all the big online safety issues.

Visit [internetmatters.org](https://internetmatters.org) for more advice

 InternetMatters  internetmatters  @im\_org

internet  
matters.org



# Education Health and Care Plan Annual Review Webinar

*FOR CROYDON'S PARENTS/CARERS*

**Thursday 10 November 2022**

**11am-1pm via** 

## You will learn:

- The importance of the Review meeting for children moving between key phases of education
- How you can prepare for the Review meeting
- What happens during the Review meeting
- The timeline of the Annual Review process

To book your place, email  
[astridmacabee@carersinfo.org.uk](mailto:astridmacabee@carersinfo.org.uk)

john  
whitgift  
foundation

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