

# CPS Newsletter

## 20th October 2023



### A message from Mr Kilsby

The first half of the autumn term has fairly raced by and the half-term break is already upon us.

I really hope that the hard work that the children have been putting in was evident during the Parent Consultations this week.

Certainly, from the monitoring that we have undertaken recently (including the lesson observations of every teacher that I have carried out with Mr Moore over the past two weeks), the indications are that the whole school community is working extremely hard.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the support you have provided since the start of the term. The new uniform guidance has been superbly followed, and the resulting consistency is helping to reinforce the sense of community that we are so proud of at CPS.

We have also been supported by a wonderful cadre of parent helpers and as a result of their commitment, increasing numbers of our children are now benefitting from additional opportunities to read to an adult. If this is something that you would like to become involved in, the dates of the next Induction Session with myself will be shared soon.

As we move forwards, please can I remind you not to use the lay-by outside the front of the school and also to be as considerate as possible if you are parking in the vicinity of the school. A number of local residents have contacted us to share their frustrations at some of the parking. Finally, a polite reminder that mobile phones must not be used on the school site, and (it should go without saying) we are also a no-smoking and no vaping site and, as such, we firmly request that you desist from either when on the school grounds.

### Tier 2 Vocabulary

Please be aware that the following Tier 2 vocabulary is currently being shared and taught across the school:

EYFS	Grumpy; Waited; Scatter; Beneath; Stumbled
Year 1	Greedy; Unfortunately; Creeping
Year 2	Surprising; Scorching; Huge
Year 3	Acquire; Popular; Discover
Year 4/5	Appreciate; Considerate; Overwhelmed; Anticipation
Year 6	Confront; Dejected; Hideous

*NB., For Tier 3 Vocabulary, please refer to your child's Knowledge Organisers*

### Assembly Music

Recent music in assemblies has included: "Lay This Burden Down" by Mary Love; "Goodbye (Nothing to Say)" by The Javells; "Little by Little" by Oasis; and "Perfect" by Fairground Attraction.

### Coming up...

**23-27<sup>th</sup> October, 2023:** Half-term

**31<sup>st</sup> October, 2023:** Year 5/6 Netball tournament

**2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2023:** Flu vaccinations

**3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2023:** PTCA Fireworks

**7<sup>th</sup> November, 2023:** Bags2Schools

**10<sup>th</sup> November, 2023:** House Day (Remembrance)

**22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2023:** Christmas Jumper Amnesty (after-school in the Hall)

**29<sup>th</sup> November, 2023:** Y3-6 County Cross Country Championships, Wimpole Hall (selected runners only)

**6<sup>th</sup> December, 2023:** KS1 Production (times to be confirmed)

**7<sup>th</sup> December, 2023:** Christmas Jumper Day

**7<sup>th</sup> December, 2023:** Christmas Lunch

**7<sup>th</sup> December, 2023:** PTCA Winter Fair (5:30pm—7:30pm)

**8<sup>th</sup> December, 2023:** 'Santa Dash' around the field (lunchtime)

**8<sup>th</sup> December, 2023:** KS1 Production (times tbc)

**11<sup>th</sup> December, 2023:** EYFS Production (times tbc)

**12<sup>th</sup> December, 2023:** EYFS Production (times tbc)

**12<sup>th</sup> December, 2023:** Year 6 Production (tickets only)

**13<sup>th</sup> December, 2023:** Year 6 Production (tickets only)

**15<sup>th</sup> December, 2023:** PTCA sponsored Pantomime

**20<sup>th</sup> December, 2023:** End of Autumn Term (2pm)

**4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2024:** Professional Development Days (children not in school)

**8<sup>th</sup> January 2024:** Start of Spring Term (children return)



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Here is a snapshot of the wonderful activities that have taken place over the course of the past few weeks—all of which are designed to enrich and enhance the children's experience of our curriculum.





Mr Moore, our Online Safety Lead, would like to draw your attention to the following information about the risks of in-game spending:

# 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 for 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.

**AGE RESTRICTION**  
PEGI  
**3**

**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**  
Hazel Chambers is Editor in Chief of parental experts at the GOV.UK and has written in the gaming mistakes in our floor mats. Always eager to test out the latest apps, games and online trends, we also of course also understand the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including BBC and The Telegraph.

**National Online Safety**  
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/news/2023/oct/20/ea-sports-fc-24> and <https://www.who.int/news-room/press-releases/2023/10/20/ea-sports-fc-24>

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