

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a great end to the term! We thoroughly enjoyed welcoming you all in for parents evening; the teachers have shared all the wonderful achievements the children have made so far this term. If you did not manage to attend your meeting, please book an appointment for the start of next term as the children really benefit from sharing their learning with you.

The children have worked so hard this term; we hope you had the opportunity to look through their books and celebrate with them. Keep an eye out for the curriculum newsletters that come out in week 1 of each term, which will outline the new learning in each subject.

Thank you for all of your support this term and for the encouragement you have given your children. Have a restful break and we will see you all on **Tuesday 31st October**, when school re-opens.



### Arbor

Thank you to all the parents, who I have spoken to on Tuesday and Thursday. Many of you have now set up the Arbor app on your phones so will start receiving messages and updates. Eventually Arbor will be our central platform for payments and clubs but we are doing a gradual transition over. Please still use 'Parent Mail' at the moment. If you need further support or haven't managed to download the app or login, please come to the front office and we will be more than happy to support.



### Curriculum:

**Year 5**— We have been finishing our sketches of Victorian buildings, inspired by the artist Lowry. They have enjoyed exploring detail and have produced some stunning pieces!



**Year 4**— We have loved doing our kennings this week.

Children chose a secret topic to write their kenning about and then took turns guessing what it is. They presented them beautifully, even illustrating their work.




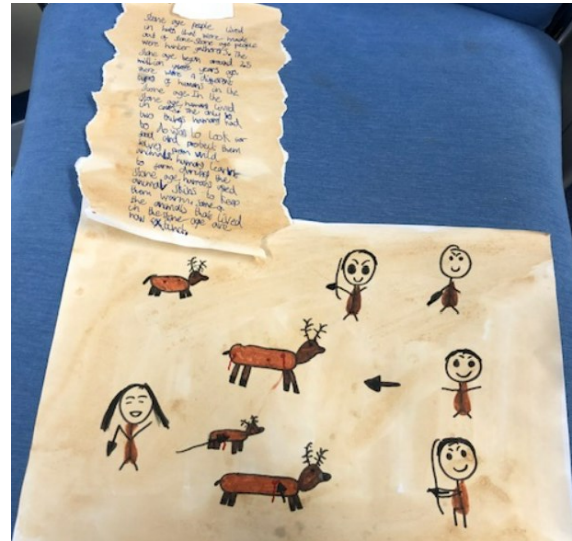
**Year 1**— This week Year 1 were sent a post card from Sir David Attenborough; the children were sent on a special mission to find the animals that have been let loose in our school. Children followed foot-prints and investigated what animals it could be. They enjoyed making a wanted poster for the chosen animals in our science lesson.



# HOME LEARNING

PROFESSOR WOLE SOYINKA

<p><u>Early Life</u> Soyinka was born into a Yoruba family in Abeokuta, on 13th of July 1934. He is a native of Sango Remo in Ogun state, Nigeria.</p> <p><u>Quote</u> * The greatest threat to freedom is the absence of criticism. * Education is lacking in most of those who pontificate.</p> <p><u>Adult life</u> He is divorced with 6 children.</p>	<p><u>Accomplishments</u> * He is a Nigerian playwright, novelist, poet and essayist in the English language. * He was awarded the 1986 Nobel prize in Literature.</p> <p><u>Why important</u> * he has received lots of awards in literature.</p> <p><u>Obstacle faced</u> Soyinka has been a strong critic of successive Nigerian and African governments.</p>
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<p><u>EARLY LIFE</u> Rosa Parks was born on February 4, 1917, in the small town of Tuskegee, Alabama. She was the first African American woman to be elected to the Alabama state legislature.</p> <p><u>WHO</u> She was known as the 'Mother of the Civil Rights Movement'.</p> <p><u>QUOTE</u> You must never let the family abuse what you are doing when it is right.</p>	<p><u>ACCOMPLISHMENTS</u> She was the first African American woman to be elected to the Alabama state legislature. She was also the first African American woman to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.</p> <p><u>FACT</u> She was the first African American woman to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.</p>	<p><u>ADULT LIFE</u> She was married to a man named Rosa Parks. They had a son named Robert Parks. She was a very active person and she was always working for the betterment of her community.</p> <p><u>ADULT LIFE</u> She was married to a man named Rosa Parks. They had a son named Robert Parks. She was a very active person and she was always working for the betterment of her community.</p>
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Black history month

Frederick Douglass:

Who is Frederick Douglass?

Frederick Douglass is a person from black history month. He inspires me to find more interesting facts. He is a man who was born into a slavery in around 1818 in Talbot County, Maryland. Douglass was never sure himself of his date of birth. Frederick Douglass born as a slave has the ability to read and write and to become a leader.

How was his life like?

Frederick Douglass was born in Talbot County, Maryland, in February of 1818. He was born to a white father and a slave mother. He was born into slavery and separated from his own mother when he was a baby. Frederick Douglass never knew his father. At the age of 8, Douglass began taking reading lessons from the wife of his master. He was a very quick learner and he was very smart. He was a very active person and he was always working for the betterment of his community. He was a very brave man and he was always standing up for what he believed in. He was a very important person in the history of the United States.

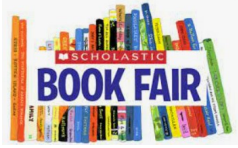
My story

I am an African from the UK. It's nearly 10 years that I have been living in the UK. I was born in a small village in the UK. I was a very happy person and I was always working for the betterment of my community. I was a very brave man and I was always standing up for what I believed in. I was a very important person in the history of the United States.

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## Dates for your Diary

Date	Year Group	Event
Friday 20th October	Whole school	Half Term Break <b>School re-opens: Tuesday 31st October</b>
Thursday 2nd November (4:30-5:30pm)	YR parents starting Sep 2024	Second Open evening for prospective parents of Reception children for September 2024  (Book your place on our website)
Thursday 9th November— Tuesday 14th November— (from 3:15pm)	Whole School	<b>Book Fair</b> held in the school library. Please come along.  
Tuesday 5th December	Year 5	Space Centre Trip <b>Leaving school 8:30am</b>

### Messages from Mrs Llewelyn (our Family Support Worker and DSL)

- If you need help with setting up Arbor or school communications, please come and see me.
- Any parents that have old school uniform, in good condition, please bring to office. We can pass these on to parents in need.
- Are you struggling to afford food? Blackthorn have a food bank every Friday 10:00am-11:00am at the Community Centre (leaflet in front office)



*Mrs. Turner—Deputy Headteacher*

*Mrs. Williams—Executive Headteacher*

*Friday 20th October 2023*

School Contact details: Tel – 01604 4011820



# 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 far 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.



### 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 identifiers 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

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRace and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. Always eager to test out the latest apps, games and online trends, he's also a parent who understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



Source: <https://www.windowscentral.com/youngster-spends-over-6000-fifa-xbox-highlighting-predatory-game-design-co/> <https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/addictive-behaviours-gaming-disorder> <https://www.eurogamer.net/18-european-countries-call-for-better-regulation-of-loot-boxes-following-new-report>



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