

Sytchampton Endowed Primary School

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3rd October 2025

Dear Parents and Families,

This week we have been busy getting ready for our Harvest Festival celebration which has taken place this afternoon.

Thank you for the generous donations for Droitwich Foodbank. These have been displayed in the hall for harvest assembly and will be collected on Monday morning.

Celebration Assemblies

Dates for this term are:

Friday 10th October

Friday 17th October

Parents Evening

Parents Evening will be on Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th October. The booking system will open on e-schools at 4pm on Monday. Contact the office if you have any difficulties booking an appointment.

School Photographs

Individual school photographs will be taking place on Thursday 23rd October. Please can all children wear smart school uniform on this day. Pre-school siblings are welcome for family photos from 8.15am and we will arrange for siblings in school to have their photos together during the morning.

Numbots and Times Table Rock Stars

Now that the new school year is well under way, we want to relaunch our Numbots and Times Table Rock Stars apps. These are apps that children can use at home to practice their number facts and times tables. A few minutes each day can make a really big difference to their fluency with these important facts. Certificates are given out in assembly for excellent participation throughout the week. If you have any problems logging in please speak to your child's teacher. Children in Reception will begin to use Numbots later in the year.

Have a lovely weekend,

Miss Templeton and Staff

Diary Dates (these will be added to over time)

Friday 3 rd October	Harvest Festival – Parents Welcome – 2.40pm
Tuesday 14 th October Wednesday 15 th October	Parents Evening
Week of 20 th – 24 th October	International Theme Week
Thursday 23 rd October	Individual Photos
Friday 24 th October	PTA Halloween Disco
Monday 27th October – Friday 31st October	Half Term
Friday 28 th November	INSET Day – School Closed
Wednesday 10 th December	Whole School Christmas Concert (there will be morning and afternoon performances)
Friday 12 th December	Music Assembly
Wednesday 17 th December	Whole School Trip to the Snowdome
Friday 19 th December	End of Autumn Term

SYTCHAMPTON ENDOWED FIRST SCHOOL

Our school is raising money by collecting reusable clothes.

Please help us by donating your unwanted reusable clothes and accessories.
Donated items become affordable clothing and accessories.

WE ACCEPT CLEAN, GOOD QUALITY, DRY, REUSABLE CLOTHING

- ☒ Adults, Childrens & Babies Clothing
- ☒ Paired Shoes and Footwear

A full list of reusable items is listed on our website
www.rags2riches4schools.co.uk

- ☒ Jewellery and Accessories
- ☒ Belts and Handbags



WE DO NOT ACCEPT

**POOR QUALITY ITEMS SUCH AS
DIRTY, WET, RIPPED OR SOILED
CLOTHES.
PILLOWS, DUVETS, CURTAINS,
BOOKS CDs OR ANY UNIFORM**

Please use the clothing bag provided.
You can also use any additional bag if required.

Collection Date:

WEDNESDAY 5th NOV

Please remember - NO UNIFORM





What Parents & Educators Need to Know about EA SPORTS FC 26

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
3

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AN ANNUAL RELEASE SCHEDULE

As was the case with the last two EA Sports FC games and the FIFA series before it, the franchise rolls out once a year with updated squads and new features. This can make it expensive to keep up with, particularly when so many dedicated players are keen to get their hands on the latest edition.

VOICE CHAT

Voice chat can be enabled across all platforms, meaning young people can speak to anyone they play with or against. While it can be switched off, some children will no doubt want to speak to their friends while they play. This also means they may encounter strangers much older than them, which can expose them to inappropriate language or behaviours.

IN-GAME PURCHASES THROUGH ULTIMATE TEAM

Ultimate Team is the big draw for EA Sports FC, letting players spend real money on packs that they can open to build a squad of the world's best players. They're not always easy to obtain, and new, improved versions of players will be regularly added as limited-time offerings. Young people could feel pressured into spending money and experience fear of missing out.

SCAMMERS IN ULTIMATE TEAM

Ultimate Team is managed by EA itself, but that hasn't stopped scammers from looking to dupe players out of money and in-game coins. Some scammers sell their accounts, which is a violation of EA's terms of service, while others will 'sell' coins – something the developer is still working to crack down on. Some try to gain access to others' accounts, potentially giving them access to payment information.

POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

While EA Sports FC is potentially addictive, thanks to its fast-paced gameplay and mirroring of the real-world skill and glamour of football, Ultimate Team's focus on limited-time rewards and the lottery of winning packs can make it feel closer to gambling than gaming, which may lead to addiction and impulsive spending of money.

Advice for Parents & Educators

PREPARE FOR ANOTHER GAME IN A YEAR

The annual-release cadence aligns with the return of the school year, and can be a great way to incentivise good behaviour at the start of term. If children are applying themselves and preparing for a new year of school, or were particularly well behaved in the summer, EA Sports FC 26 could make a great reward.

LIMIT SPENDING

If you're worried about children accidentally spending real money in Ultimate Team, whether in game or on the EA Sports FC companion app, don't link a payment card to their account. Reclaiming funds can be a mountain to climb, and the dopamine hit of opening flashy packs with slick animations means one purchase can lead to another very quickly. It's also worth adding a prepaid card if you'd prefer them to make their own choices with their budget.

MONITOR VOICE CHAT

As in-game chat is open, be sure to adjust the settings in EA Sports FC 26 to lock it down. If children want to chat with their friends while they play, consider setting up a safe space for them to call, to allow them to play without fear of outsiders.

BE VIGILANT

As with last year, there are ways to keep scammers at bay. Ensure passwords are locked down, and consider using a password manager application to keep them secure. EA will never contact players through the game itself, so be vigilant with incoming messages, and block and report suspected spam. EA will contact players by email if needed, but they will never ask for usernames or passwords. Players should also avoid buying in-game currency from unofficial websites – doing so can lead to accounts being banned and could cost players money in the process.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for seven years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/ea-sports-fc-26>

We regularly get sent links to organisations that offer help to parents, children and families going through difficult times. We thought it would be helpful to add these at the bottom of the newsletter each week, in case there is anything you would like to find out more about. As always, please do make an appointment at the office if there is any way we can help. We will keep this list updated with services that get in contact with the school.

Foodbank – We are now able to issue foodbank vouchers to people who need them. If you would like one please come and speak, in confidence to Miss Templeton or Mrs Bishop.

CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) - Providing a range of wellbeing and mental health support to children, young people and their families across Herefordshire and Worcestershire <https://camhs.hacw.nhs.uk/>

Lumi Nova - An engaging child-led, parent/guardian supported therapeutic intervention that can be used on most smartphones or tablets. It facilitates graded exposures (the active ingredient of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy) with psychoeducation to empower 7–12-year-olds with mild to moderate needs to learn to self-manage fears, worries and anxiety.
<https://luminova.app/handw>

Melo – Melo takes an innovative and flexible approach to improving the emotional wellbeing and mental health of children and young people aged 0-25 years. It will provide a wide range of services designed to meet individual mental health needs.

Melo :: Onside, Worcestershire & Herefordshire <https://www.onside-advocacy.org.uk/melo>

WEST (wellbeing and Emotional support teams in schools) An in schools service is designed to help children and young people ages 5-18 years access mental health and wellbeing support early on in educational settings. It's all about ensuring children and young people can get access to the right help as early as possible. <https://camhs.hacw.nhs.uk/west/>

- [Family Lives](#)



Phone: 0808 800 2222

Hours: 9am – 9pm Monday to Friday.
10am – 3pm on weekends.



- [YoungMinds Parent Helpline](#)

Phone: 0808 802 5544



- [Action for Children](#)

Phone: 0300 123 2112

Hours: Vary (see website)