



[www.gosforthpark.newcastle.sch.uk](http://www.gosforthpark.newcastle.sch.uk)

October 3rd 2025 Issue 5/8 Autumn Term 1



Our **OPAL Play** provision was assessed this week by our external OPAL partner. She was very impressed with our offer and how much creativity, interaction, collaboration and fun is happening every day at Gosforth Park.

We are very proud to have achieved the **OPAL Gold Award!**

A massive thank you to Ms Gasper, the play team and our incredible children who have all worked (and played...!) so hard to make this possible.

Check out our school website for more information about OPAL at Gosforth Park  
[Gosforth Park First School - OPAL Play](#)

Mrs Lamb

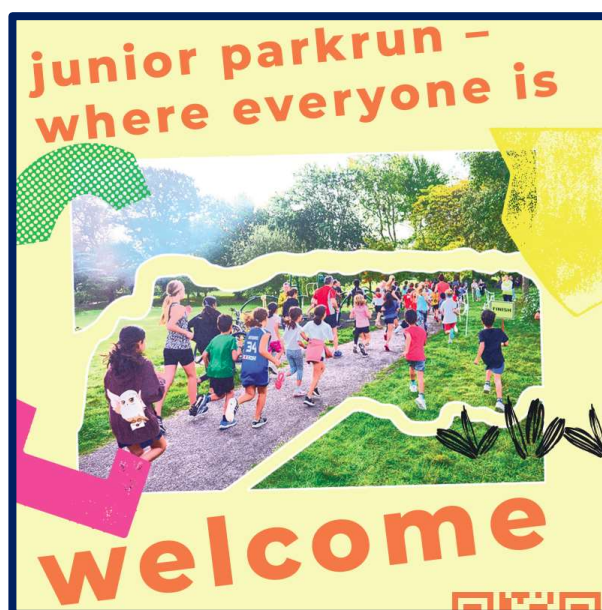


junior parkrun  
**Free, for everyone, forever.**

We are very excited to be introducing Junior Parkrun in school this term! Parkrun is a brilliant event for people of all abilities, aimed at getting people active, trying something new, and enjoying a social, friendly atmosphere. In the coming weeks we will be connecting with our local Junior Parkrun event and delivering a whole school assembly about what Parkrun is and how it can be a great event for keeping active and having fun. More information will be sent out soon about registration with Parkrun and our inaugural Gosforth Park First School Junior Parkrun!

More information can be found on the Parkrun website.

Thank you,  
Mr Guest



# Photo Permission Forms



Dear Parents/carers

Please remember to return your completed photo permission forms.

We need them for all children as the updated form has a new set of questions.

Thanks in advance

Mrs Carrick



## UPDATED DATES\*

### KS1 Geography Skills and Fieldwork

As part of our Geography-based topics **Pirates (Y1)** and **Gosforth is Great (Y2)**, we are inviting all of our KS1 children to complete an outdoor geography-based fieldwork experience at school.

KS1 children will be remaining within the school grounds for this experience but will need suitable outdoor clothing. PE kits are fine but you might want to bring wellies in a named plastic bag if it is really wet/muddy

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October - Y1 Mr Edwards**

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October - Y1 Miss Pope**

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October - Y2 Mr Patterson

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October - Y2 Miss Tate

# Guide Dog



Dear Parents

One of our families is looking after a fully qualified guide dog for a few weeks and you might see him on the yard and on your journey to and from school between now and half term. There is a risk assessment in place to cover Nemo's visits. I'm sure the children will be very excited to see him but please can you ask them not to approach him too closely

Thanks

Mrs Lamb

## Staff Training Days

Staff Training Days for GST schools this academic year will be:

- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025
- Monday 1st June 2026

Please see the dates for your diary below and the school calendar for 2025\_2026

Newcastle Schools' Term starts on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026. GST training days for 2026 – 2027 will be set later in this academic year.

# THE PEOPLE'S KITCHEN

est. 1985  
NEWCASTLE

For Harvest this year we have decided to welcome donations for the People's Kitchen which provides hot meals and support for anyone who, for many different reasons, finds themselves struggling.

This is a critical time for this excellent charity, which is based near St James' Park, because it is when the warehouse is replenished with goods to sustain it through the year to come.

The charity provides a 'Harvest Wish List' for all who are willing to give. This includes tinned meals, vegetables, fruit and soups, cooking ingredients; tea, coffee and instant drinking chocolate; household items such as dishwashing cloths, pan scrubs, freezer bags, laundry, wash tablets and general toiletries are also welcome. Please note that fresh fruit and vegetables are not required because it is not necessarily possible to use them immediately.

Please send any donations into the school office and leave on top of the Lost Property unit by Monday 13th October.

Thank you for your support.

Miss Parsons-Munn

Please see the end of the newsletter for the Harvest Wish List.

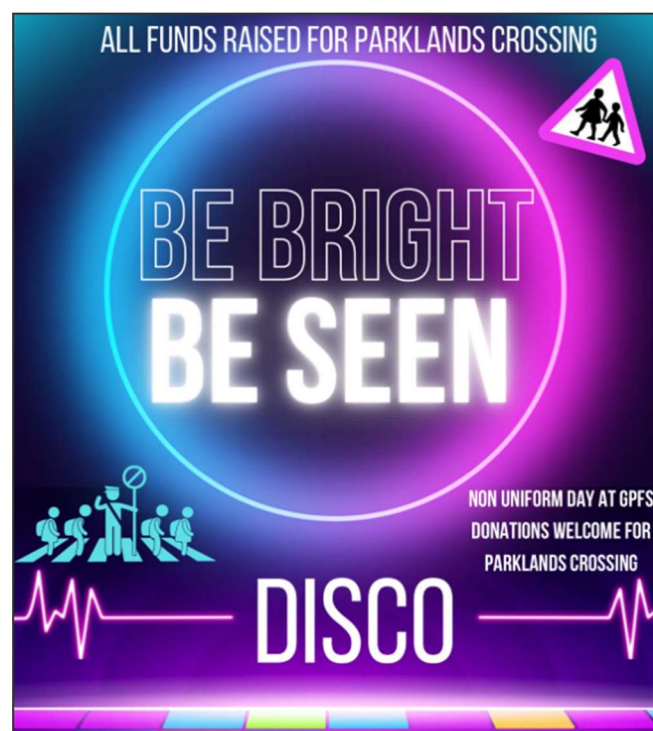


Each of our three schools, (Gosforth Park First School, GEMS and St Oswalds) will be having another 'Be Bright Be Seen day' on Thursday 23rd October. Children can wear bright coloured clothing for a donation £1 or more via parent pay.

There will also be a 'Be Bright Be Seen' disco straight after school, for our Gosforth Park First School children, 3:30-4:45pm. It's ideal because children will already be dressed in their disco bright clothes- disco ready! Tickets will be available via parent pay £3.50 which will include a snack and a drink.

This is all part of our ongoing fundraising for our lollipop crossing and keeping our children safe

Many thanks again for your ongoing help and support  
The crossing team  
X







Well done to Millie in Year 2 who has earned a Blue Peter badge for her poster on how to stay safe at the beach. What an amazing achievement! Well done Millie!



## PTFA

We will be having the first cake sale of the year after school on Friday 17th October. Please bring any nut free cake donations to the school office on Thursday 16th October, or the morning of Friday 17th.

Please check out information below about our PTFA 100 Club and Wreath Making events



## Healthy School

There are several websites that give guidance and recipes on healthy snacks and one of the best is the NHS linked "Better Health Better Families". As we know, fruit and veg snacks are always best with no more than 2 a day of packaged snacks recommended. The website has lots of tempting looking quick, homemade snack ideas, many of which are also easy to eat on the go. They also give advice on choosing healthier snacks in the shops and have a free NHS food scanner app that you can download to help you find healthy swaps while out shopping.

Find out more at <https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/food-facts/healthier-snacks/>

Mrs Wells



Our Golden Welly award goes to **Miss Bell's class** this week. They have helped lots with our new Opal challenge, and also talked really positively about all of the play opportunities they have outdoors with a special visitor to school this week. Well done!

Our first **Opal challenge winner** is **Keir** from year three. He found all of the letters around our playground, and correctly solved the anagram, spelling the word 'school'. Fantastic searching Keir!  
Ms Gasper

## Pre-Loved Uniform

PRE-LOVED ITEMS WE CAN SELL		PRE-LOVED ITEMS WE CAN NOT SELL
OFFICIAL SCHOOL JUMPERS/HOODIES	£2.50	NON – OFFICIAL JUMPERS
OFFICIAL SCHOOL CARIGANS	£2.50	NON – OFFICIAL CARIGANS
OFFICIAL SCHOOL POLOS	£1.50	NON – OFFICIAL POLOS
GIRLS CHECKED DRESSES	£1.50	GREY BOYS TROUSERS
GREY PINAFORES	£1.50	GREY TAYLORED GIRLS TROUSERS
GREY SKIRTS	£0.50	GREY BOYS SHORTS
GREY GIRLS SOFT TROUSERS	£0.50	DAMAGED OR MARKED ITEMS
SCHOOL BAG (NEW STYLE)	£2.50	

Items are sold from 1 Park Drive, Melton Park NE3 5QB, with a drop off box in front of the garage. Please only drop off items on the list that can be resold.

Please REMEMBER items must not be marked as they are unable to be sold on. You can text me Natasha Davy (Parent) on 07736276653. All money made comes back to school to be spent on playground equipment for our wonderful children.



Please remember that there is also a pre-loved uniform drop off area in the main entrance to help us to reuse, recycle and re-love uniform for the benefit of our children and community.

## TIMES TABLES ROCK STARS

**Miss Bell's class** has made it back to the top of the leader board this week! I love the competition between the KS2 classes at the moment! We're still waiting for our first new Rock Star of this academic year, keep practicing! Our top coin earners are **Jesse P**, **Charlie W** and **Finn O-G**.



Our most active class this week is my class with an average of 630 coins each!

Our top coin earners this week are:

Miss Pope – **Marwan A**

Mr Edwards – **Ava H**

Miss Tate – **Iman I**

Mr Patterson – **Enzo H**

Mr Hindess and Mrs Armstrong – **Arisa K**

Mr Guest – **Alfie R**

Miss Bell – **Joseph B**

Thank you for your hard work, Miss Pope.

## Attendance

Our whole school attendance to date this academic year is **97.5%** which is very slightly down on this time last year (**97.6%**).

Our classes of the week this week are **Year 3 Mr Hindess & Mrs Armstrong** and **Reception Miss Coughlan** both with an amazing 100%!

Well done everyone!

Mrs Lamb

# Starting School in September 2026!

## Applying for Places

**Nursery Application forms for places in September 2026** will be available on the school website and from the office from Friday 9th January 2026.

The closing date for applications is 27th March 2026 at noon.

Offer letters will be emailed out on Wednesday 1st April 2026.

The deadline for accepting a place is Friday 24th April.

## Reception Applications for September 2025

Applications open: 1st September 2025

Applications close: 16th January 2026

National offer day: 16th April 2026

Further information can be found at <https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/schools-learning-and-childcare/apply-school-place/applying-reception-places>

## Reception 2026

We've already had lots of enquiries regarding visits for our Reception 2026 intake. Parents are able to visit the school on the following dates. Please phone the school office to book a place.

- Tuesday 7th October 5:00 – 6:00
- Tuesday 14th October 9:30 – 10:30am
- Tuesday 21st October 9:30 – 10:30am
- Wednesday 22nd October 9:30 – 10:30am
- Wednesday 6th November 9:30 – 10:30
- Wednesday 6th November 5:00 – 6:00
- Tuesday 11th November 9:30 – 10:30
- Wednesday 12th November 5:00 – 6:00

## Transferring school in 2026

Essential information about making an application to transfer to middle, secondary or high school.



Find out more and apply online at [www.newcastle.gov.uk](http://www.newcastle.gov.uk)

The closing date is 31 October 2025.

## Middle School Applications for September 2025

Applications open: 1st September 2025

Applications close: 31st October 2025

National Offer Day: 2nd March 2026

Further information can be found at [Applying for Transfer places | Newcastle City Council](#)

Mrs Lamb



**Gosforth East Middle School** is holding an open evening on Wednesday 8th October for our Year 4 parents. We will send more information from Mr Stout via ParentPay.

**Gosforth Central Middle School** is holding an open evening on Tuesday 14th October for our Year 4 parents. Further information has already gone out on ParentPay



# Important Draft Dates 2025-26

New additions will be added in red.

## Autumn One

Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	Y3 Geography Fieldwork – Gosforth Highstreet
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	Y1 LE – Mr H Fieldwork (on site) AM only
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> October	Y3/4 Geography Fieldwork – Gosforth Highstreet
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> October	Y1 DP – Mr H Fieldwork (on site) AM only
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> October	Y4 Geography Fieldwork – Gosforth Highstreet
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> October	Y2 RP – Mr H Fieldwork (on site) AM only
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> October	Y1 trip to Royal Navy Museum
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> October	Y2 JT – Mr H Fieldwork (on site) AM only
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	PTFA Bake Sale – After School
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Y4 Playground Leaders Training
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Training Day

## Autumn Two

Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	School re-opens
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	School Photos (individual and sibling)
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	Y3 + Y3/4 trip to Victoria Tunnel + Northern Print Workshops
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Y4 trip to Victoria Tunnel + Northern Print Workshops
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Y2 trip to Discovery Museum

## Christmas Performances and Events

Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception to Year 4 Flu Vaccinations
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Nursery - doors open at 9:15 for a 9:30 – 10:00 performance
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Santa Dash Daily Mile
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Dinner Day
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception Miss Coughlan - doors open at 9:15 for a 9:30 – 10:00 performance
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception Miss Parsons-Munn - doors open at 9:15 for a 9:30 – 10:00 performance
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 4 Miss Bell - doors open at 2:15 for a 2:30 – 3:00 performance
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 1 Miss Pope and Mr Edwards - doors open at 9:15 for a 9:30 – 10:00 performance
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 3/4 Mr Guest - doors open at 2:15 for a 2:30 – 3:00 performance
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 2 Mr Patterson and Miss Tate - doors open at 9:15 for a 9:30 – 10:00 performance
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 3 Mr Hindess & Mrs Armstrong - doors open at 2:15 for a 2:30 – 3:00 performance
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Whole School trip to Gosforth Civic Theatre
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception to Year 4 Christmas Parties (wear party clothes!)

# Important Draft Dates 2025-26

## Spring One

Monday 5th January	School re-opens
<b>Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January</b>	<b>Year 2 Pants are Private sessions</b>

## Spring Two

Monday 23rd February	School re-opens
Wed 11th - Friday 13th March	Year 4 to Robinwood
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Bank Holiday

## Summer One

Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	School re-opens
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday
w/b 4 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 4 Swimming Lessons (PM all week)
w/b 11 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 4 Swimming Lessons (PM all week)
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	'That History Bloke' Ancient Greeks Workshops KS2

## Summer Two

Monday 1st June	Training Day
Tuesday 2nd June	School re-opens
Tuesday 2nd June	'That History Bloke' Ancient Greeks Workshops KS2
w/b 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Sports Week
w/b Monday 6th July	Transition Week
Thursday 9th – Friday 10th July	Year 3 Onsite Residential Sleepover
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 4 Leaver's Assembly (more info TBC)
Friday 17th July	Final Day of 2025-26





# Rainbow Wraparound

Bookings must be made during the booking window which opens on the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month and closes on the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month, for the following month.

	<b>Booking opens 12 noon</b>	<b>Booking closes 12 noon</b>
<b>October bookings</b>	September 10 <sup>th</sup>	September 20 <sup>th</sup>
<b>November bookings</b>	October 10 <sup>th</sup>	October 20 <sup>th</sup>
<b>December booking</b>	November 10 <sup>th</sup>	November 20 <sup>th</sup>
<b>January bookings</b>	December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	December 17 <sup>th</sup>
<b>February bookings</b>	January 10 <sup>th</sup>	January 20 <sup>th</sup>
<b>March bookings</b>	February 10 <sup>th</sup>	February 20 <sup>th</sup>
<b>April bookings</b>	March 10 <sup>th</sup>	March 20 <sup>th</sup>
<b>May bookings</b>	April 10 <sup>th</sup>	April 20 <sup>th</sup>
<b>June bookings</b>	May 10 <sup>th</sup>	May 20 <sup>th</sup>
<b>July bookings</b>	June 10 <sup>th</sup>	June 20 <sup>th</sup>

Parents must make their own bookings on the school cloud system. The only exception to this is families using vouchers. If you are emailing dates for voucher bookings, you must include

- Your child's name
- The day and date
- The sessions required (breakfast, until 5pm, until 6pm).

If you would like to, you can book sessions in advance for the entire school year.

If you do wish to book the same sessions for the entire school year, please email Mrs Carrick at [wraparound@gosforthpark.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:wraparound@gosforthpark.newcastle.sch.uk)

Block bookings can only be made via email or through school cloud (not text message).

Please email [wraparound@gosforthpark.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:wraparound@gosforthpark.newcastle.sch.uk) for any wraparound queries, **NOT the admin inbox or Mrs Carrick directly, as this will delay any response and may result in you missing the booking window.**

**Please ensure all block bookings are made/requested before the booking window closes. We cannot guarantee any block bookings after this date.**

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Thanks

Mrs Carrick

[wraparound@gosforthpark.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:wraparound@gosforthpark.newcastle.sch.uk)



# 100 CLUB LOTTERY

Month	Number Cost	1st Prize Allocation	2nd Prize Allocation	3rd Prize Allocation
October	£2	20%	10%	5%
November	£2	20%	10%	5%
December	£4	30%	20%	10%
January	£2	20%	10%	5%
February	£2	20%	10%	5%
March	£2	20%	10%	5%
April	£2	20%	10%	5%
May	£2	20%	10%	5%
June	£2	20%	10%	5%
July	£4	30%	20%	10%

\* Please note that the cost for the prize draw in December and July is increased to account for the months of August and September, therefore allowing the prize fund to be larger, a nice treat just in time for the Christmas and Summer Holidays!

**Welcome to the Gosforth Park First School PTA 100 Club which will commence from 01st October 2025. The primary aim of our 100 Club is to raise funds for school, but there is an added bonus that you could win a cash prize in doing so!**

**Here's how it works ...**

- You must complete the membership agreement form, confirming you have read, understood and agree to abide by the 100 Club Terms and Conditions and agree to pay the fee of £24.00 per number.**
- You may have up to a maximum of 5 numbers per household (this may be amended depending on the level of interest). These will be allocated to you by the administrator of the PTA 100 Club and you will be informed of your number(s) before the first draw in October. These number(s) are then yours permanently and entered into each monthly draw for that academic year.**
- The 100 Club is a small society lottery and therefore is open to all parents, carers and other family members aged 16 years or over, as well as all CPFS school staff and governors. We are registered with Newcastle City Council: Registration Number: LOTT1049.**
- The draw will take place during PTA meetings or witnessed by a member of school staff and a member of the PTA committee, using <https://pickerwheel.com/tools/random-number-generator/>**
- If you win you will be personally notified via the contact information that you have provided on your agreement form and the prize money will be transferred by BACS transfer asap.**





Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September  
10am - 4pm



## HARVEST FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

All the fun of a countryside farm show in the city

### 10AM - 12PM: CRAFTS

Drop-in any time between 10am and 12pm to make a farm animal crown!



### 10AM - 12PM: DROP OFF COMPETITION ENTRIES



Drop off your homemade bakes, impressive vegetables and veg patch creatures to be judged!

### 11.30AM - 12PM: KIDS FELL RACE

Don your animal crown and run! The route is approx 1 mile and suitable for age 4+ but all kids should be accompanied by a grown up.



### 12PM: JUDGING BEGINS

Our expert local judges will assess all the competition entries.

### 1PM: PRIZE CEREMONY AND COMMUNITY FEAST

See if you've won one of our fantastic prizes and try some of the delicious community bakes.



### 2PM: LIVE MUSIC, DRINKS, FOOD

Country music from Rob Heron and Tom Cronin, locally brewed Two by Two beers and fresh farm produce to try.



### 3-4PM: GUINEA PIG RACE, FARMYARD GAMES AND DEMOS



Which guinea will make it past the snacks to reach the end of the race first? How much do you think Truffle the pig weighs?

## HARVEST FESTIVAL COMPETITION CATEGORIES

#### Creature from the Veg Patch

Can you make a creature - real or imaginary, from vegetables? Kids and adults can enter. [See our Pinterest board](#) for inspiration!



#### Most impressive vegetable

A giant courgette, a beautiful carrot, a very leafy cabbage - impress us!

#### Funniest vegetable

Have you grown a vegetable that looks like a gremlin, or a carrot with three legs? We want to see it.



#### Tastiest conserve

Jams, chutneys, marmalades - we want to taste them all!

#### Sweet baked good

This could be a classic Victoria sponge, a cupcake, a jam tart... let GBBO inspire you.



#### Savoury baked good

Pasty, pie, sausage roll - you decide!

To enter, head to [www.ouseburnfarm.org.uk/whatson](http://www.ouseburnfarm.org.uk/whatson)  
Please provide a list of main ingredients when you submit your entry on the day.



# THE PEOPLE'S KITCHEN

est. 1985  
NEWCASTLE

FOOD FRIENDSHIP FUTURES



## HOW YOU CAN HELP THE PEOPLE'S KITCHEN

Our work is only made possible thanks to your kindness and generosity. The People's Kitchen is run entirely by volunteers so every penny donated goes directly to helping our vulnerable Friends who might be homeless, at risk, unemployed, lonely, or living in poverty.



Items we need	Examples
Tinned Vegetables	Tomatoes Plum and Chopped, Peas, Carrots, Sweetcorn, Potatoes, Baked Beans
Tinned Fruit	Peaches, Pineapples, Fruit Cocktail, Pears, Mandarin Oranges
Soup	Tinned or Instant Vegetable, Tomato, Chicken, Broth, Lentil, Potato & Leek
Cooking/ Baking Ingredients	Sugar, Self-Raising Flour, Plain Flour, Jam, Desiccated Coconut, Cocoa, Porridge Oats, Dried Fruit, Cooking Oil, Lentils, Broth, Pulses (Chickpeas, Kidney Beans, Butter Beans)
Snacks	Pot Noodles, Crisps, Biscuits, Chocolate, Sweets
Drinks	UHT Milk, Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate, Cartons of Juice, Fruit Squash
Desserts	Rice Pudding, Jelly, Angel Delight, Instant & Tinned Custard, Evaporated Milk, Golden Syrup
Tinned Meat	Ham, Corned Beef, Chilli, Curry, Minced Beef, Bolognese, Stewing Steak
Cooking Sauces	Indian, Thai, Chinese, Italian, Mexican, Coconut Milk
Condiments	Tomato Ketchup, Brown Sauce, Mayonnaise, Salt, Pepper
Pasta & Rice	Lasagne, Egg Noodles, Rice
Stock and Gravy	Vegetarian, Beef, Chicken and Onion
Toiletries	Soap, Deodorant, Shampoo, Conditioner, Shower Gel, Razors, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Toilet Roll
Cleaning/Other	Washing Up Liquid, Washing Powder, Spare Carrier Bags
Pet Food	Dog and Cat Wet and Dry Food

GPFS PTA PRESENTS OUR

# Wreath Making Workshops



**£40pp**  
including all materials  
and a festive treat.

Available to  
book via  
ParentPay

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November  
GPFS Community Room  
2 - 5pm or 5 - 8pm



ALL FUNDS RAISED FOR PARKLANDS CROSSING



BE BRIGHT  
BE SEEN



NON UNIFORM DAY AT GPFS  
DONATIONS WELCOME FOR  
PARKLANDS CROSSING

DISCO

3.30-4.45PM

THURSDAY 23 OCTOBER 2025

£3.50 PER TICKET

(DRINK AND SNACK INCLUDED)

*St Aidan's Church*  
*Sunday 5th October at 9:30am*

**HARVEST**

*Festival*



**THE PEOPLE'S  
KITCHEN** Living

**Kenton  
Foodbank**  
KENTON FOOD BANK

*Our interactive family service is a community celebration of the goodness and bounty of God's world, and is followed by a harvest breakfast. We hope you will join us.*



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

AGE RESTRICTION  
PEGI  
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## 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>