

10TH OCTOBER 2025

ISSUE 05

PRIORY SCHOOL NEWS

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Headteacher's News

It has been another wonderful week at Priory, filled with kindness and positivity. Our pupils have truly embraced Kindness Challenge Week – from holding doors and offering compliments to showing patience and care towards others. Classrooms and corridors have felt especially warm and respectful, and we wonder whether families have noticed any extra kindness at home too!

A huge thank you to all of our families who donated to our Harvest Food Bank Appeal. All items have now been delivered to our local food bank and were gratefully received. Your generosity will make a real difference to families in need within our wider community.

Next week we look forward to welcoming parents to our Parents' Evenings on Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th October. So far, 76% of families have booked appointments – thank you! If you haven't yet done so, please make sure you book your slot. This meeting is such a valuable opportunity to discuss your child's progress, wellbeing, and next steps.

Looking ahead to the end of term, our Non-Uniform Day on Friday 24th October will raise donations for the Christmas Fayre – our biggest (and almost only!) fundraiser of the year. We would be so grateful for families to give generously to help make this event a success. Children are welcome to dress in Halloween costumes if they wish, but this is completely optional – ordinary non-uniform is absolutely fine too.

We are also looking forward to celebrating Diwali together as a whole school on our first Monday back after half term. It is always a special occasion of light, colour, and togetherness.

Important dates:

[Click here](#) to link to the school calendar

[Click here](#) to see term dates for 2025-2026

Leaflets and letters:

Please [click here](#) to go to our leaflets page on the website and choose external providers

Signs of the week:

Science and PE

<https://youtu.be/2RVVmyAWmH>

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Peek at the Week

Nursery– 10th October 2025

Parents' Evening

Monday 13th and Tuesday
14th October

We are looking forward to meeting with
you all next week.



Hello Yellow Friday Fun

Thank you for all your donations for Young Minds on Hello Yellow day. We looked after our own wellbeing by following a Cosmic Yoga session.



Learning

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

We have been talking about how to make sure our Nursery is a happy place for everyone to learn in. This week we have been focusing on **sharing with each other by using 'my turn, your turn'** when we are playing.

Communication & Language Development



This week we have been taking part in **Priory's Kindness challenge** and Wednesday was **'mission compliment drop'** day. We thought about all the kind things we can say to our friends such as 'I love how well you are cutting with the scissors' or 'I love your new dinosaur coat' and then we paid our friends lots of compliments.

Physical Development

We have been developing our fine motor skills this week, using our hand-eye co-ordination to thread pasta onto straws and to wind wool around the sticks we have found in the garden. We have been singing 'wind the bobbin up' as we worked.



Child of the week: Tishya for sharing her ideas, using new words during play and being a kind friend.

Nursery rhyme of the week: 'Wind the Bobbin up' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WwdxJnAA6CI>

Please share this video with your child and encourage them to sing along.

Word of the Week: friends

Contact us: nursery@prioryschool.com

01628 600300



Peek at the Week

Reception – 10th October 2025



Important Dates / Reminders

End of Term 1 – Friday 24th October, 2025 (3:15pm)

Start of Term 2 – Monday 3rd November, 2025

PE – Every Thursday – Please send your child to school wearing their PE kit.

We will be sending reading books home every Wednesday, please ensure your child brings their book bag on this day.

Homework

- Please read with your child for at least 15 minutes a day.
- Focus core math skill: 1, 2, 3- we will be using the vocabulary: Subitise – to know how many objects just by looking and not counting.

The children have been enjoying junk modelling this week! If you have any unwanted cereal boxes, yogurt pots, plastic bottles etc. please could you bring them into school for the children to use in their wonderful creations!



As the weather is getting cooler and the rain has started to arrive, please can you ensure your child comes to school with a rain coat or jacket as we will be continuing our busy learning outside.

Please can we ask that your child brings in a named water bottle every day. Additionally can we ask all school uniform is named. Thank you for your support!

Our Learning - This week:

Communication and Language Development:

We were lucky enough to take part in the Henley Literacy Event! We joined many schools via the internet to listen to author Zanna Davidson read the story of 'Izzy the Inventor'. Next week we will be using this story to inspire us to create our own inventions through Junk Modelling!



This week we continued with our Little Wandle Phonics Program! Our phonemes this week are:



Maths:

This week we have been looking at numbers 1, 2, and 3! We have been learning the value of each number by using our fingers and number beads. We have also been learning how to subitise – knowing how many objects just by looking!

We have continued with our journey to Ten Town, this week we have met Thelma Three! She likes to do three good deeds every day!



Personal, Social and Emotional Development:

To support our Personal, Social and Emotional Development we are following the Jigsaw program. This week have been focusing on friendships and the how we can create great friendships. Our key vocabulary for this week is: kind, gentle, friend, sharing, turn taking.



Reception Stars of the Week:

R Rupert: G

R Paddington: George



Reception song of the week: Coming soon!

Contact us: reception@prioryschool.com

01628 600300



Peek at the Week

Year 1 – 10/10/25

Our Learning

One thing has taken over our learning this week in Year 1 – the tree! We were all shocked to arrive at school on Monday morning to find the lovely blossom tree outside our garden has been blown over by Storm Amy. This term in Year 1 we are learning all about the seasons, weather and trees, so this became the perfect learning opportunity!

Over the week, we have investigated what happened to the tree and researched why trees are so important. In English, we wrote fantastic letters saying goodbye to the tree. We have been very excitedly waiting for the tree surgeon to arrive and can't wait to have a closer look at some parts of the tree (like inside the trunk!)



Important Dates / Reminders

- 13th and 14th October – Parents Evening. Please ensure you have booked a slot.
- Friday 24th October – non uniform day (can wear Halloween dress up – no masks!)

Star of the Week

1 Jeffers: Zayn

1 Donaldson: Ellis



Words of the Week: **tree** **trunk** **storm** **branch**

Contact us: year1@priorschool.com

01628 600300



Peek at the Week

Year 2 – 10th October 2025

Important Dates / Reminders

13.10.25/14.10.25 Parents' Consultation evenings.

Please read with and to your child every day and also discuss what you are reading.



Spellings are sent home each Friday and there will be a spelling quiz the following Friday. Please practice writing these spellings daily if possible.

Don't forget that your child needs to wear the correct PE uniform to school each **Wednesday**.

Please keep your child's reading record and reading book in their bag every day.

Please send your child in with a coat or waterproof jacket as they will be outside in the garden for part of each day.

Our Learning

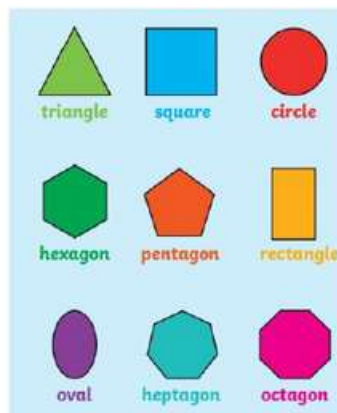
This week, we have been learning to compare different numbers in maths using the symbols for greater than, less than and equal to. In science, we



have enjoyed writing our own poems, based on the 'Woolly Saucepan' by Michael Rosen, where we found it funny to make silly material choices!

We have written some fantastic stories in English, writing in role as Vlad the flea and using the past tense to describe what we experienced during the Great Fire of London.

Next week, we will be moving on to look at the properties of 2D shapes in maths: How many sides does it have? How many vertices? What is the name of the shape?



We will also be covering our first RE unit on Christianity, which will be looking at whether it is possible to be kind to everyone all of the time.

Child of the Week

2Newton: Habiba

2Franklin: Leo



Contact us: year2@priorschool.com

01628 600300



Peek at the Week

Year 3– 10th October 2025

Important Dates / Reminders

16.10.25 3 Nightingale–
Swimming lessons

10.10.25–Hello Yellow Day

13.10.25 /14.10.25–Parents'
Evening

24.10.25–Non Uniform Day–donations for
Christmas Fair

w/c 27.10.25 - Half Term

Please read with your child for at least 15 minutes every day and record this in their reading record. Ideas for reading at home can include reading a library book, a book from school or home, reading a bedtime story or following a recipe among other opportunities!

Don't forget that your child needs to wear the correct PE uniform to school each **Monday**.

Only fruit is allowed for a break time snack.



Our Learning

This week, we continued to write our stone age story during our English lessons. In French, we learnt some simple greetings. In Maths, we explored strategies for addition.

In our Art lessons, we looked at some examples of art created by ancient artists. We also learnt how to sketch accurately using a grid to help us and how to mix colours using paint.

Next week, we will continue our study of ancient artists by creating a sculpture from clay. We will also look at stone age paintings.

In English, we will be practising our reading skills by taking part in some shared reading sessions linked to other areas of the curriculum. In Maths, we are moving onto to explore strategies for multiplication and division.



Word of the Week: thought

Follow this link to find more super daily activities: www.morningchallenge.co.uk/

Contact us: year3@prioryschool.com

01628 600300



Peek at the Week

Year 4 – 10th October 2025

Important Dates / Reminders

13.10.25 /14.10.25–Parents' Evening

24.10.25–Non Uniform Day–
donations for Christmas Fair

w/c 27.10.25 - Half Term

21.11.25 Bikeability

05.12.25 Priory's Christmas Fair



Please read with your child for at least 20 minutes every day and record this in their reading record. Ideas for reading at home can include reading a library book, a book from school or home, reading a bedtime story or following a recipe among other opportunities!

Don't forget that your child needs to wear the correct PE uniform to school each Wednesday.

Only fruit is allowed for a break time snack.

Our Learning

This week, we used paper collage to design and create a mosaic. We then used real tiles to create a mini mosaic. In Maths, we have begun to practise strategies for addition with a focus on using column addition. In English we have been planning our stories for next week's independent write. We also took part in the Henley Literary Festival joining online workshops hosted by Dermot O'Leary and MC Grammar.

Next week, we will begun a unit in our geography lessons focussing on agriculture and farming. We will compare the physical geography and climates in the UK and Italy to see how these differences effect farming.

In Maths we will be continuing to explore addition with a focus on problem solving.

In English, we will be writing our stories.



Word of the Week: thought

Follow this link to find more super daily activities: www.morningchallenge.co.uk/

Contact us: year4@prioryschool.com

01628 600300



Year 5 Peek at the Week

10th October 2025

Important Dates / Reminders

Black History Month: October

Friday 17th October – Sharing Assembly

Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th October –
parents evening

Half term:

27th October–31st October



Our Learning

This week, we continued with our history unit and looked at the axis and allies.

In maths, we started our next unit on addition and subtraction using formal methods (column addition and subtraction).

In English, we began our unit on 'Good night Mr Tom' about the life of an evacuee during WW2. Here, we focused on reading skills, such as making predictions and drawing inferences from the text, as well as our acting skills!

Next week, we practice our WW2 sharing assembly and perform to our parents.

In maths, we will continue to practising using column method addition and subtraction in a range of contexts.

In English, we will continue with the text 'Goodnight Mr Tom', exploring the characters and their emotions as the story unfolds. We will also look at the character descriptions and features of a diary to help us write our own diary entries in role.

We made Rosh Hashanah cards in RE.



Star of the week

Maple: Siddhartha Ofili: Amelia Dawe: Mohid

Word of the Week: **awkward**

Remember to read 3 times a week and practise your timetables on Rockstar Maths.

Contact us: year5@priorschool.com

01628 600300



Year 6 Peek at the Week

Friday 10th October 2025

Important Dates /Reminders

23.10.25: Hogwarts Day

24.10.25: Non-school uniform/end of term

Thursdays: Wear the correct PE uniform to school. Please bring in a water bottle.

Fridays: Spelling quiz.
Homework due:



- Reading record x3
- Spellings x1
- Times tables practice on TTRS

Our Learning

This week, in DT, we painted our own magical wands, ready to use on Hogwarts day! **In science,** we began a new topic on Light. We learnt about how light travels and how our eyes see light. We investigated how shadows are formed and how we can change the shape and size of them.

In English, we had the chance to have an experience sensory lesson where we collected a range of exciting vocabulary to use in our writing next week!

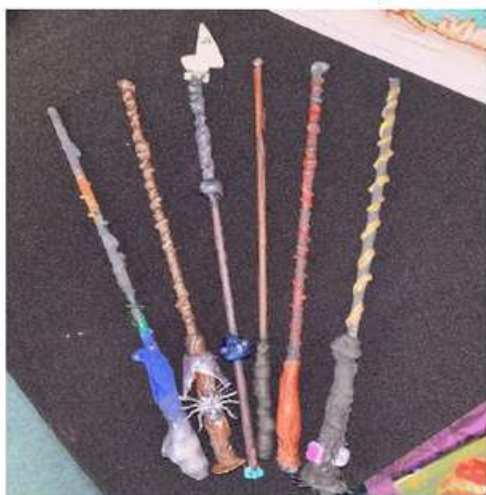
In maths, we continued to improve our understanding of multiplication by 2-digit numbers and used this knowledge to solve worded problems. Then, we started to explore short and long division.

Next week, in science, we will continue learning about light and how the eye works.

In English, we will finish our Harry Potter unit by writing our own narrative part of the story, incorporating all the incredible vocabulary we have collected over the last several weeks.

In maths, we will consolidate the strategies of long division. We will use our knowledge to solve multi-step problems followed by how to use order of operations.

Y6 DT: Wand-making!



PSHRE Focus: Being Me in My World. In PSHRE this term, we will learn that our attitudes and actions make a difference to our class team. We will acknowledge who is in our school community, the roles they play and how we fit in. We will understand that our actions affect ourselves and others. We will learn to care about other people's feelings by trying to empathise with them.



Child of the week:

6 Attenborough: Liliana **6 Anning:** 6 **Darwin:** Preston

Word of the Week: awkward

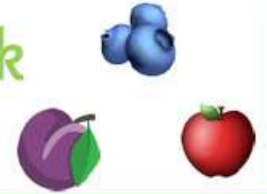
Follow this link to find more super daily activities: www.morningchallenge.co.uk/

Contact us: year6@priorschool.com 01628 600300



Peek of the Week

The Orchard
10/10/2025



Important Dates

Apple class Community visits

Monday's

Plums class TVAP visits

Wednesday's

Berry class swimming visits

Friday's

Non-uniform day and end of term:

Friday 24th October

We've had another busy and exciting week in class! The children have been working hard in Maths, practising their turn-taking counting games by passing a ball between each other and counting different amounts of objects and placing them in order using a number line. Berry class were working on partitioning. It's been lovely to see them helping each other and growing in confidence with their number work.

In English, we've been exploring our story "Jake and the Neverland Pirates". The children have been writing descriptive sentences about the characters – describing what they look like, what they do, and the adventures they go on. We've had some wonderful writing full of imagination and detail!

This week in Geography, the children explored Bournemouth Beach! They loved discovering the different features of the beach through our sensory trays, filled with sand, pebbles, and more. It was a wonderful hands-on way to learn about this seaside location and spark their curiosity about the world around them.

We're so proud of how well everyone is trying their best and joining in with our class activities. Keep up the great work, everyone!

CELEBRATE!



Star of the week

Plum class: Theo for amazing segmenting and blending during his phonics lessons.

Cherry class: De-arra for trying really hard in all her activities this week.

Apple class: Haneef for engaging in his activities this week.

Pear class: Adam for independently getting his PECS folder.

Berry class: Aayan for amazing writing this week in English.

Strawberry class: Jayden for engaging and communicating his needs.

PE News

On Wednesday, a group of our brilliant Year 2 students attended the SSSN Fencing Festival. They showcased the amazing fencing skills they've been developing in PE lessons with the fantastic coaches from Little Musketeers.

The children had a great time and made us all proud as they represented #TeamPriory with confidence and enthusiasm! Well done, Year 2 - true little musketeers in action!

#TeamPriory #SSSNFestival #LittleMusketeers
#ProudSchoolMoment #FencingFun



Starting Secondary School in Slough 2026

Apply online at www.slough.gov.uk/school-admissions

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU TAKE TIME TO READ THIS INFORMATION WHICH OUTLINES THE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR A YEAR 7 SCHOOL PLACE

Dear Parent/Carer,

If your child was born between 1 September 2014 and 31 August 2015, and you live in Slough, you can now apply online for a transfer from primary (Year 6) to secondary school (Year 7) for September 2026.

The Citizen's portal on the council website is now open to receive applications. There are clear and simple prompts to guide you through making your application.

You will also find the **Starting Secondary School booklet** on the council website. The booklet contains a wealth of information to help you choose the right schools, make an application and understand how the application process works. It provides a profile of all of Slough secondary schools alongside information about admission arrangements.

Who should apply?

Current Year 6 pupils - children who will be transferring from primary (Year 6) school to secondary school (Year 7) in September 2026.

When do I need to apply?

You can apply anytime from 1 September 2025. **To receive an offer of a school place on national offer day, you must submit an application by 31 October 2025.**

Please note: In order to maximise your chances of being offered one of your preferred schools

- You **MUST** submit an application with any required documents/supplementary forms on time.
- Your child **MUST** meet the admissions criteria of the school to be offered a place.

and there is

- NO automatic transfer from a primary into a secondary school.
- NO automatic offer of a sibling place without making an application.

Apply online at
www.slough.gov.uk/school-admissions
Closing date to apply 31 October 2025

Changing your preferences or changing the order after submitting an application

You can make any changes to your application before the closing date. However, if you wish to change your preferences after



the closing date or you wish to change the preference order, all your preferences would be considered as late applications and considered after all on-time applications.

It is possible to change your preferences after your application has been downloaded by the Admissions team but you will need to complete an amendment form which you will find on the council's website.

What happens if I miss the closing date?

For the avoidance of doubt, all applications submitted and received after the closing date (31 October 2025) will be deemed as late applications. They will be considered after those that are received on time and after the first round of offers have been made.

How do I apply?

If you live in Slough you **MUST** apply through Slough Borough Council. The easiest way to apply is online.

Go to www.slough.gov.uk/school-admissions and follow the instructions on the screen.

If you do not have internet access at home you can still apply online at your local library or at the council offices.

Who can make the application?

Applications must be made by a parent or carer who holds legal parental responsibility for a child. Only one application should be made per child.

Contact the Admissions Team

If you would like more information about the school admissions process or the admission arrangements, please read the 'Starting Secondary School' booklet

Or visit: www.slough.gov.uk/school-admissions

Email: _admissions.helpline@slough.gov.uk

Contact Centre:

Telephone: 01753 475111 (Monday to Friday)

Please note that the School Admissions lines open as and when needed around admissions time.

Best wishes,

Sabi Hothi

Head of Education Services

Slough Borough Council

Observatory House, 25 Windsor Road, Slough SL1 2EL

Starting Infant, Junior & Primary School in Slough 2026/27

Apply online at www.slough.gov.uk/school-admissions



IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU TAKE TIME TO READ THIS INFORMATION WHICH OUTLINES THE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR A RECEPTION SCHOOL PLACE

Dear Parent/Carer,

If your child was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022, and you live in Slough, you can now apply for a reception school place in an infant or primary school for September 2026. The Citizen's portal on the council website is now open to receive applications. There are clear and simple prompts to guide you through making your application.

If your child was born between 1 September 2018 and 31 August 2019, lives in Slough and currently attends an infant school, they will need to transfer to Year 3 in a junior school.

You will also find the *Starting Infant, Junior and Primary School booklet* on the council website. The booklet contains a wealth of information to help you choose the right schools, make an application and understand how the application process works. It provides a profile of all of primary schools alongside information about admission arrangements.

Who should apply?

If you have a child who was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022, you must apply for a school place for September 2026.

When do I need to apply?

You can apply anytime from 1 September 2025. **To receive an offer of a school place on national offer day, you must submit an application by 15 January 2026.**

Please note: In order to maximise your chances of being offered one of your preferred schools

- You **MUST** submit an application with any required documents/supplementary forms on time.
- Your child **MUST** meet the admissions criteria of the school to be offered a place.

and there is

- NO automatic transfer from a nursery to into a school.
- NO automatic offer of a sibling place without making an application.

Apply online at
www.slough.gov.uk/school-admissions
Closing date to apply 15 January 2026

What happens if I miss the closing date?

For the avoidance of doubt, all applications submitted and received after the closing date (15 January 2026) will be deemed as late applications. They will be considered after those that are received on time and after the first round of offers have been made.

How do I apply?

If you live in Slough you **MUST** apply through Slough Borough Council. The easiest way to apply is online.

Go to www.slough.gov.uk/school-admissions and follow the instructions on the screen.

If you do not have internet access at home you can still apply online at your local library or at the council offices.

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Best wishes,

Sabi Hothi

Head of Education Services

Slough Borough Council

Observatory House, 25 Windsor Road, Slough SL1 2EL

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Priory Primary School

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IPRO FOOTBALL OCTOBER HALF TERM CAMPS



BURNHAM CAMP

**BURNHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL
HOGFAIR LANE, BURNHAM, SL1 7HG**

DATES:

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- 2. ADVANCED FOOTBALL CAMP**

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GEMS

Autism & ADHD Support Service
East Berkshire

Virtual Coffee Morning Eating and food Autism and ADHD

Friday 17th Oct - 10:00 - 11:15am

**25 spaces
available!**

**Join our online informal discussion to
cover the following areas:**

- What works for your family at meal times?
- What are problematic areas around eating?
- How do you support your child with eating?

Please note this is not a workshop but support group for parent/carers and any medical advice should be sought from your medical practitioner.



Sign Up Today!

Available for families who reside in or have a registered GP in East Berkshire with a child who is Autistic/ADHD (suspected/pathway/diagnosed)

To book your place contact GEMS:



Gems.4Health@nhs.net



0800 999 1342

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

ROBLOX

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
7

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Roblox is one of the most popular video games among children. In 2020, the game's developers claimed that more than half of the USA's children had played it. As a 'sandbox' title, the game lets players create their own gaming experiences with Roblox Studio to build custom levels, which can then be shared online.

ONLINE PLAY RISKS

Because Roblox connects random players across the world, it can put younger players into an environment with anonymous users who could use the platform for nefarious reasons. For example, some role-play games are used for online dates and mature role play, which could expose youngsters to inappropriate messages in the public chat box.

MATURE CONTENT

Content is difficult to moderate throughout Roblox, due to the number of games available. This is particularly notable on smaller games and experiences, but in summary, some of the games and experiences offered on the platform contain age-inappropriate content that could easily be seen by young players.

IN-GAME SPENDING

The majority of games within Roblox have extensive monetisation options, usually through season passes or microtransactions. Purchases can range in value from a few pennies up to much larger sums of money. While some games offer a lot of content via purchases, others can offer very little for real world money, causing younger players to end up out of pocket.

ANONYMOUS PLAYERS

The anonymity of users can leave players vulnerable to bullying, harassment, and predatory behaviour. Without the right parental controls or monitoring, users can connect with each other via personal messages or friend requests, and it is very difficult to know who's behind a username in this vast online world.

RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox games can feature rewarding or satisfying mechanics that keep players coming back – or persuade them to stay logged-in for much longer. Like most games, they focus on interactivity, with constant rewards via in-game unlocks and currencies, which can sometimes lead to an addictive need to remain online for long periods of time.

SCAMS

Many of the games on Roblox feature collectible items, pets, or characters. These objects, while digital, are worth a lot of real money on certain online markets. Scammers will attempt to trade with younger users in the hopes of getting rare items that can be sold for real money, manipulating the child into handing them over, usually via misleading information.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MONITOR THE CONTENT

While Roblox does implement plenty of moderation tools and parental controls, it's up to parents and guardians to monitor the types of games a child or impressionable player is experiencing. If a youngster wants to play Roblox, be sure to check out which specific games they want to play within it, and get a good idea of their content.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TOOLS

Use the parental controls within the game itself and teach youngsters how to report and block other players. Knowing the powers within their reach will make Roblox a safer, happier experience. You can set age ranges for who's allowed to contact you, close public chat boxes, block spending, and even make your Roblox profile completely private. All these options are helpful in cutting off bad actors from engaging with children.

PLAY TOGETHER

Consider playing Roblox with the children in your care. There are few more effective ways to see how monetisation works, gauge whether the game could lead to addictive behaviours, or even witness how interaction between players works, than sitting down and trying the game for yourself. This should help you figure out whether it's suitable for particular children.

TEACH ONLINE BEHAVIOURS

Have an open conversation about the risks of online play and how to spend money wisely. By being honest and giving tips on how a younger user can protect themselves, you can empower them to not only take care of themselves, but others too. Any user can be reported to Roblox moderators by other players for behaving inappropriately. With this knowledge, younger players can be aware of what to look for and help prevent it.

Meet Our Expert

Dan Lipscombe is a videogame journalist and author of over 20 books on gaming, including books on Minecraft, Fortnite, Roblox, and more. For 15 years he has been writing about his passion for gaming. When he's not playing games, he's talking about them at GAMINGbible.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

NON SCHOOL UNIFORM DAY

CHILDREN CAN WEAR THEIR HALLOWEEN
COSTUME OR THEIR OWN CLOTHES



PLEASE SEE INDIVIDUAL LETTERS EMAILED
REGARDING CHRISTMAS DONATIONS FOR THIS DAY





Family Drumming workshops

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

AGE RESTRICTION
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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.



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The National College

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

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