



**SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2022**

Welcome to the first Safeguarding newsletter of this academic year. We hope that you will find it useful and informative.

**Safeguarding Leads.**

Safeguarding is an integral part of school life and it is the responsibility of all involved in the lives of children to ensure that they are safe.

We have three Safeguarding Leads in school at this time – you can contact any one of them to discuss any safeguarding concerns or questions that you may have.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Safeguarding Role</b>
Mr. B. McGregor	Head Teacher	Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mrs J. Davies	Deputy Head Teacher	Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mrs S Rushworth	SENCo	Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Since our return to school, all staff have received updated safeguarding training. We have also had a number of additional staff attend first aid training.

**Halloween**

As the children get excited about Trick or Treating, here is some useful advice from Crimestoppers on keeping safe at Halloween.

**1. Even Dracula needs supervision**

On these dark nights, your little Dracula or ‘Draculisa’ is going to need an adult out with them for trick or treating.

**2.Vampires are safer under street-lighting If your fanged fiends are old enough to go out alone**

Make sure they know to stick to well-lit areas, wear reflective clothing and carry a torch.

**3.Not everyone wants a visit from a pumpkin, no matter how cute**

Respect people’s choices if they do or do not open their doors.

**4.Tricks should be fun, not dangerous**

Make sure any tricks don’t damage people’s property.

**5.Zombie dodging**

If you're not taking part, why not display a ‘no trick or treaters’ poster if you don’t want knocks on the door.

## Bonfire Night

Bonfire night will soon be upon us.

The link below contains some child friendly information on how to enjoy, but stay safe on bonfire night.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/50288114>

This handy poster shows the key points of the Firework Code.



## What Parents Need to Know about FIFA 23

You don't have to be football crazy or an avid gamer to have heard of the FIFA franchise. What you might *not* know is that this latest edition will be the last release to bear that name, thanks to a parting of the ways between football's governing body FIFA and developers EA Sports.

There's no disputing that the game's been an immense success – but what's less impressive is its tendency to look defensively shaky against some online threats. Young players aiming to recreate their football heroes' exploits can be at risk from abusive opponents, expensive in-game purchases and the "just one more game" mentality. This half term's guide from National Online Safety looks at some of the issues surrounding FIFA 23.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many games which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# FIFA 23

FIFA 23, like its many predecessors, is a massively popular football simulator featuring lifelike recreations of thousands of real-world players, drawn from teams around the globe. While the gameplay is subtly improved year on year, the publisher EA Sports' tweaks tend to focus on FIFA Ultimate Team mode, which can tempt gamers of all ages to spend real money recruiting better players for their side. With each new release of FIFA comes a host of new players to unlock – meaning that youngsters can feel pressured to keep buying to compete with their friends.

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### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### RELEASE RAZZAMATAZZ

FIFA 23 will be the last in the blockbuster series, before EA goes solo with its own football title next season. This 'end of an era' vibe – coupled with a huge advertising budget making the new release almost impossible to miss – will elevate FIFA 23 into even more of a 'must have' for football-mad young gamers, no matter how minor the updates are on last year's version.

#### AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CHAT

Based on a popular sport which appeals to people of all ages, the FIFA franchise draws a huge audience of both children and adults. Communication is a key element, with many players enjoying in-game audio chat via headsets. With the mixed age range of players and a lack of regulation, however, chats can often turn offensive or toxic – especially in the heat of competitive matches.

#### IN-GAME PROMOTIONS

Unless precautions are taken, dedicated FIFA fans can spend significant sums when attempting to improve their Ultimate Team. Most top-level players can be unlocked by simply participating in matches, but some sought-after stars can be obtained more quickly in limited-time promotions which cost a large amount of FIFA points (the in-game currency, often paid for with real money).

#### CIRCLING SCAMMERS

The popularity of FIFA Ultimate Team (FUT) mode has led to online scammers convincing many impressionable gamers to pay real money for non-existent FUT coins and player cards, or directing unwary FIFA fans to phishing sites. If your child gives these individuals their login details, the scammers can access not only their carefully built team but potentially your payment information.

#### ADDICTIVE NATURE

One match on FIFA (usually around 15 minutes, but often lengthened by extra time and penalties) almost invariably leads to another. It can be a powerful temptation for young players, regardless of unfinished homework or an approaching bedtime. If the "just one more game" mindset starts to impact a child's daily routine, it could be a sign of gaming disorder, a recognised mental health issue.

#### GAMBLING-ADJACENT BEHAVIOUR

Ultimate Team has become a major feature in FIFA due to the revenues it generates. It can also be addictive, with children striving to earn coins and level up while swapping, selling and buying players. Spending FUT coins to open a player pack (which many experts have likened to gambling) is designed to be an exciting act – with bright lights, fanfare and attention-grabbing prizes.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### BE SELECTIVE WITH CHATS

It's enormous fun for FIFA players to chat online with friends, even as their teams do battle in the game. It's probably the safest idea, though, to restrict contact with strangers. By turning off voice chat in FIFA and allowing cross-party chat in their device's settings, your child can speak to people who are already on their friends list but won't be able to talk to (or hear) strangers online.

### STAY ALERT FOR SCAMS

There are some key things to remember about potential FIFA scams. Firstly, EA never contacts users via any method other than emails to the account holder (which may well be you). Neither will they ever ask for a player's username or password outside the game itself. EA's terms and conditions outlaw the buying of FUT coins, so anyone selling them should be treated as suspicious.

### CONTROL SPENDING

If your child plays Ultimate Team mode on FIFA, ensure their account isn't linked to your payment methods – so they'll need your permission to make in-game purchases. Alternatively, you could use parental controls to limit spending – or set up a pre-paid 'allowance'. When excitedly clicking options on screen, it's easy for a young person to forget the real-world repercussions of online purchases.

### AVOID 'EXTRA TIME'

If your child's spending a lot of time on FIFA 23 and seems less enthusiastic about other activities in their life, you could consider restricting how long they can play for each day with the parental controls in their device's settings. Even if they're not playing on their console or computer, there's a FIFA companion app for smartphones – but that can be limited through parental controls, too.

### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Games Editor of technology and entertainment website Dexerto and has been working in the gaming media for three years. A long-time fan of the FIFA franchise, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have also been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar, among others.



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Online  
Safety

#WakeUpWednesday