



## Important Dates:

**31st January 10.30am**  
PTA AGM

**1st February**  
Yr5/6 Football Team Match

**2nd February**  
Valentine's Lunch poster competition

**8th February**  
Yr 5/6 Football Team Match

**8th February**  
Safer Internet Day

**8th February**  
Parent Forum  
1.00pm & 5.00pm

**10th February**  
Yr 5 Braintree Museum

**11th February**  
Y6 Visit to Memorial Park  
(parent helpers required)

**11th February**  
Valentine's Lunch  
(special menu)

**17th February**  
Federation Consultation  
Deadline

**14th - 18th February**  
Half Term

**22nd February**  
Yr 6 African Drumming &  
Dance Workshop

**w/b 21st February**  
Y6 Parent Consultations

**w/b 21st March**  
FS Parent Consultations

**w/b 28th March**  
Y1-5 Parent Consultations

## Window Replacement Update

The windows in 5SB and 3AY are now complete and 5KH has begun. Next week, children in 3AY and all of year 5 need to continue to come into school via the year 3 quad door. 4SR need to continue to enter and exit via the year 4 front door.

Thank you for your continued patience.

## Face Masks

Due to the high number of positive Covid cases in school, staff are continuing to wear face masks in communal areas. We ask that parents and carers to do the same at busy times on school grounds. Whilst this is not a legal requirement, we would be very grateful if you follow these guidelines.

Visitors are still required to wear face coverings when coming into school for meetings.

## Parent Forum

Our next parent forum is taking place on **Tuesday 8th February**. This is an opportunity to provide constructive feedback so that we can continue to improve school life for your child. In addition, every year, policies are reviewed and we are now in the process of reviewing our Behaviour and Uniform Policies. If you would like to contribute to this process, please email any comments to your child's class teacher or share them at the parent forum.

If you would like to attend the parent forum, please indicate your preferred time [here](#).

Click on the links to read our current [Behaviour Policy](#) and our [Uniform Guidelines](#).



## Year 5 & 6 Boys Football Team

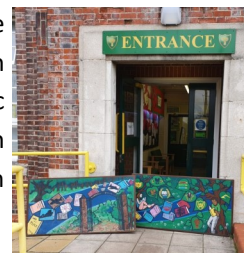
Trials will be held on **Tuesday 22nd February** for any boys in year 5 & 6 that would like to try out for the school football team. The team will train every Tuesday after school and participate in inter-school football matches.

If your child is in year 5 or 6 and would like to come along for a try out, they need to collect a letter from Mrs Robbins and return the slip to her by **Friday 11th February**.

## Wickford Library Panels

Thank you to Mr English, our Chair of Governors Mrs Blake, and Mr Haley for securing these two panels from the town library. It has recently been demolished for the site to be redeveloped into housing and the new Wickford library opened in December 2021.

The panels will be hung on the side of upper school so they can be easily seen from the public highway. The library was built in 1962 and was decorated with these paintings in 2009.



## Themed Lunch Poster Competition

Bring in your poster designs by **Wednesday 2nd February**. Remember to include the following in the design:

- Valentine Theme
- Date Friday 11th February
- Cookies & Cupcakes



## Pupil Absences

Please ensure you notify the school office **every day** that your child is absent.

## PTA

Please click on [this Zoom link](#) to join the virtual PTA AGM on **Monday 31st January at 10.30am**.

### Head Teachers Awards

**All Values** - Colbey Morgan, Seren Green, Poppy Bragg– Osborne,



**Determination & Rule of Law** - Ruby Skipp

**Positivity & Determination** - Mason Chambers, Rabia Khan, Ella-Rose Buckfield, Harry Brennecke, James Gadd

**Respect** - Lewis Lovell

**Determination & Respect** - Laydeen Nicholson, Lily-Hope Briggs

**Individuality & Determination** - Jake Feasey

**Respect, Determination & Individuality** - Luke Williams

**Democracy & Respect** - Misiri Mehmet, Ellen Jaroslawska

**Rule of Law, Determination & Respect** - Daniyal Rahman

**Respect & positivity** - Nicole Peacock

**Individuality** - Sophia Baker

### Outside Achievements

**Annie Poulton (4SR) , Emme Jackman (4AH) , Erin Bolton(4SR) & Lily-Louise Field (4SR)** - all represented their dance school 'Talents Theatre School', at the SEEA awards, where the school were awarded the 'Best Dance School'.

**Jamie Hammond 4SB** - was awarded Man of the Match in his game on Sunday playing for Wickford Town Tigers.

**Ethan Bowers (6ER)** had his first live gig playing his electric guitar with the Rock Project at the Maldon Town Hall.

**Dylan Joshi (4TS)** has achieved his Leve 4 swimming certificate.

### Covid PCR Tests & Isolation

Reminder: asymptomatic children who test positive on a lateral flow device (LFD) do not need to take a confirmatory PCR test but must immediately [isolate](#). The result should be reported to [NHS Test and Trace](#) and school.

On day 5 and 6, they should take an LFD test. If both of these are negative, children can immediately return to school. If the test is positive, they should continue isolating and daily testing. As soon as two negative tests are achieved, isolation can end. After day 10, isolation can end and children can return to school, even if the LFD test is still positive.

**Note:** The day you test positive is day zero and the following day is day 1. If your child has symptoms, then a PCR test is still necessary.

We have had confirmed cases this week in the following classes: **2AB, 2LQ, 3AY, 3YF, 4AH, 4SR, 4TS, 5BK, 5KH, 5SB, 6ER, 6CG, 6SY**. Children from these classes should carry out daily LFD tests for 7 days after receiving the letter from school.

### Erin Hodsoll

Another pupil really demonstrated our school value of determination this week. After falling and quite badly hurting her chin, Erin remained very calm, went home and rested. She returned to school the very next day ready to learn and even decorated her plaster with a rainbow design!

### Essex Police Newsletter

Please click above for the weekly update from Essex Police.

### 28th January 1958

Many children and staff have enjoyed commemorating LEGO Brick Patent Day today, which is the date that the original patent for the humble LEGO brick was filed by then-owner Godtfred Kirk Christiansen.

If you have LEGO at home, then today would be a good time to build something exciting and send a photo to your class teacher.

**NATIONAL  
LEGO DAY  
2021**

**FS:** George Hassall,

**Year 1:** Rayden Musarurwa, Greyson Russell

**Year 2:** Mariam Shone, Joshi Barling

**Year 3:** Lola Jarratt, Stanley Waugh, Reggie Lawrence

**Year 4:** Lyla Fox, Jimmie McClane, Seren Green, Edward Holliday

**Year 5:** Louie Barr, Dylan Murphy, Riley Victory,

**Year 6:** Charley Anderson, Sartori Collins, Oliver O'Dell, Andre Talplacido



## PE Days

There are 2 PE lessons each week.

<b>Monday</b>	Y2, 4AH, 4TS
<b>Tuesday</b>	Y2, Y4 Y5, Y6 Swimming
<b>Wednesday</b>	FS, Y1, Y3
<b>Thursday</b>	Y3, Y6, 4SR
<b>Friday</b>	Y1, Y5



**Week 3**

### Whole School Attendance

**94%**

### Weekly Winning Class

**BB 99%**

(w/e 21/1/22)



## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# FIFA 21

AGE RESTRICTION  
PEGI  
3  
Suitable for all ages

You don't need to be a football fan to have heard of the FIFA series of games (named after the Federation Internationale de Football Association: the worldwide governing body for the sport). Part of the franchise's massive appeal is that official licensing gives users the opportunity to play games as their favourite teams, controlling their favourite footballers. They either compete online against other players or work through a solo-player career mode. With updated editions launched annually, FIFA is playable on a range of consoles, with mobile versions available for smartphones and tablets.

### Recurring Costs

FIFA's trump card is that it includes real current players; a feature no other football arcade game can offer. However, this means that a new version of the game is released every year, with updated teams, players, kits and stadia, plus gameplay tweaks and extra features. Young FIFA fans usually want to be playing the latest version, so the pressure to buy each annual update is likely to be considerable.



### Online Chat

While the game of FIFA itself is suitable for children of all ages (as it does not include any inappropriate content), there is the issue of in-game chat. Your child can play against other people online and audio chat with them using headsets. As this communication is largely unregulated, it could mean that your child is exposed to language or conversations that are inappropriate.



### Possibility of Scams

Your child may receive an email or see a message on social media or in forums which appears to be a genuine FIFA promotion, but could be a scam. Following these links would take them to what may seem like a FIFA login page but is actually a phishing attempt to capture their login name and password. Scammers often use a legitimate-sounding name, such as 'EA Admin' or 'FIFA Developer'.



### In-Game Purchases

FIFA offers an array of in-game purchases. The FIFA Ultimate Team (FUT) mode lets gamers build their own team, playing matches to win coins. These coins can be used to recruit better players or packs containing random players. Some purchases can be made with in-game currency; others require real money – which can become expensive. There have been reports of parents receiving large credit card bills after their children's in-game spending.



### Addictive Gameplay

Your child could end up playing FIFA for long periods of time. Matches last around 20 minutes, so playing through an entire tournament can quickly eat up a large chunk of the day. Children sometimes struggle to control their gaming behaviour, at the expense of their daily routine. This is called 'gaming disorder' and is classified as a genuine mental health problem by the World Health Organisation.



### Over-Competitiveness

FIFA has occasionally been criticised for its competitive gameplay leading to disproportionate aggression and negative emotion in some players. This can be amplified by the in-game audio chat with opponents in real time. The potential for an emotional outburst can sometimes reach unhealthy levels – especially if your child's team is losing heavily or is defeated by a very late goal.



## Advice for Parents & Carers

### Set out Your Strategy

As a parent, it's worth considering that – if they like gaming and football – your child's fascination with FIFA probably won't be short term. It's more likely to be the start of a relationship that could last for years, involving repeated outlay on each updated edition of the game. If you think this may pose a problem, it might be best to make your child aware of it beforehand to avoid disappointment later.



### Give Abuse the Red Card

The facility to chat to other players certainly adds to the overall enjoyment of FIFA, and it's unlikely that you'll be able to convince your child to play the game without using it. It would be wise, however, to make sure beforehand that your child is aware of how to mute the audio of any abusive players and knows how to report anyone who is being offensive or intimidating.



### Defend against Scammers

Teach your child to stay clear of scams. Explain why they should be suspicious of any link which asks them to verify their username and password or provide other sensitive information: game developers never send messages asking for players' login details. Console messages, emails and social media posts promising in-game content if a player inputs their login information are fake.



### Control In-Game Spending

To spend real money in FIFA, a player's account must have a payment method enabled. Check whose debit or credit card – or PayPal account – is linked to the device that your child plays FIFA on. Most devices' parental controls can be adjusted to limit spending. There is also the prepaid option of Paysafecard – you can top up the balance, making it easier to control your child's purchasing in the game.



### Avoid 'Extra Time'

Devices' parental controls can also be used to restrict the amount of time spent playing, if you feel it's necessary. Keep an eye on how long your child spends playing FIFA, just like you might monitor how long they watch TV for. Warning signs of over-playing include disinterest in other activities, tiredness or fatigue, neglect of personal hygiene or becoming angry when they have to stop playing.



### Encourage a 'Half-Time' Break

Monitoring in-game chat is difficult, as you can usually only hear one side of the conversation. But your child's reactions will be a good general indication. Dealing with the frustrations of a game and troublesome people can be useful life lessons – but if your parental instinct is that your child is getting too upset or angry, that's the time to intervene and encourage them to take a break from the game.



## Meet Our Expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for several years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world: UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGBible. Having started gaming at a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work – but, more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.



# FIFA 21



#### SOURCES

<https://www.ea.com/en-gb/games/fifa/fifa-21> | <https://www.ea.com/en-gb/games/fifa/fifa-21/features> | <http://help.ea.com/en-gb/help/fifa/be-safe-with-fut-coins-and-fifa-points> | <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/men/relationships/athletics/10898939/My-son-spent-hundreds-of-pounds-on-in-app-purchases-without-me-knowing.html> | <https://help.ea.com/en-gb/help/fifa/report-players-for-cheating-abuse-and-harassment/>