



SCHOOL NEWS

Our Motto:
Believe & Achieve

Our Mission Statement:
Through Jesus we love, learn and grow

Prayer

This week's prayer has been written by Saffron, Annie and Holly from the GIFT group.

Dear God,
Thank you for helping Year 6 get through their SATs and be with them as they make their preparations to join High School. They will certainly need your help to face the new and exciting years ahead.
Help us to look forward to our Arts Week next week where we will be learning more about the Olympic Games and France.
Amen

☆☆☆ SHINING STARS ☆☆☆

Nursery	Ruby	
Reception	Quinn	Ruairi
Year One	Catriona	
Year Two	Lottie	Pippa
Year Three	Robert	Hannah
Year Four	Emilia	Eliza
Year Five	Robin	Thomas T
Year Six	Whole Class	

WINNING HOUSE THIS WEEK

YARROW

WINNING HOUSE THIS HALF
TERM

YARROW

Please click to find out more
about our school

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

'I can do all things through
Christ who strengthens me.'

Phil 4:13

Shining Stars

Congratulations to this week's Shining Stars for their outstanding work in science, maths and handwriting, along with excellent behaviour and super all round effort!



A special mention to Year 6 who completed their SATS this week, well done all of you!

Nursery

This week nursery had a special visit from four ducklings! They were lucky enough to be able to stroke them, feed them and look after them for the day.



We also enjoyed a lovely visit to the library, where we made a craft and chose some books to bring back to school.



St Mary's Olympic / French Arts Week

We are all getting very excited for Arts Week next week!

As you are aware, this is one of the highlights of the St. Mary's calendar as we all come off timetable for the week and take part in a variety of activities on a given theme. This year's theme is the Olympic Games and Paris / France in recognition of 2024 being the year of the Paris Olympics.



Please join us

On **Thursday 23rd May**, we will be holding a French cafe to which you are warmly invited. Croissants, pastries and other French delights will be on offer; the School Council will be waiting on; and the choir will serenade us with a couple of French classics. Please come along if you possibly can between **8.50am and 10 am**.

At our grand finale, we will be holding a Paris Fashion Show at **2pm on Friday 24th May**, in which all the pupils will be strutting their way along the catwalk. We'd love to see you there!

Year 5

Year 5 have been planting potatoes as part of their science topic. They have learned about the life cycle of potatoes and will now, hopefully, see the life cycle in action!



Year 6

Here are Y6 enjoying their treat afternoon! After a game of quick cricket, we enjoyed watching a film and having a few sweet treats. Very well deserved after they have worked so incredibly hard during SATs week. We are extremely proud of each and every child!



On Thursday they also had chance to spend some time with the ducklings, before they flew off to their new home on a farm in Wales!



Spanish Club

Unfortunately El Club Espanol teacher, Mrs Helm, is absent at the moment. We will be able to advise parents at the beginning of next week as to whether the Club is able to go ahead.



Upcoming Dates

Monday 20th May	All Week	Arts Week
Monday 20th May	1.30pm	Y4 Swimming
Tuesday 21st May	4.00-6.00pm	Y5/6 Cluster Netball (here at school)
Wednesday 22nd May	4.00-6.00pm	Y5/Y6 OAA Competition (Astley Park)
Friday 24th May	3.20pm	School Closes for Half-term
Monday 3rd June	All Day	Inset Day

School re-opens on at 8.45am on Tuesday 4th June

Letters Home

Y6— Netball Letter

Y5/Y6 Rounders Club Letter

Y6— Fantastic Book Awards Letter

Whole School—Arts Week

Sports and Social Clubs

Monday	Guitar Lessons KS2	Lunchtimes
Tuesday	Brilliant Book Awards	Lunchtimes
Tuesday	Athletics EYFS & KS1	3.20-4.20pm
Wednesday	Spanish Club—All years	8.00-8.50am
Wednesday	KS2 Choir	3.20-4.15 pm
Thursday	Athletics KS2	3.20-4.20pm
Friday	Brass Club	3.20-4.15pm

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about EA SPORTS FC 24

After two decades of holding the official FIFA licence, EA Sports' phenomenally successful football video game series has embarked on a solo run at goal. This season's iteration marks the debut appearance of a new name and branding, but don't let those fool you – EA Sports FC 24 is still a very similar proposition to last year's FIFA 23. Popular features such as Ultimate Team remain a big focus, meaning that potentially costly in-game spending is still among the line-up of risks that parents and carers should be aware of.



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

RECURRING RELEASES

EA Sports FC 24 effectively picks up the FIFA template – meaning that after a year, we can expect EA Sports FC 25 to hit the shelves. Updates between versions of the FIFA franchise tended to be minor, but young fans of the game are almost certain to want the new edition in around 12 months' time, so they can keep playing with updated team kits, players and squad lists.

OFFENSIVE VOICE CHAT

FIFA 23 introduced cross-platform play, and EA Sports FC 24 goes a step further with Clubs, Seasons and Ultimate Team cooperative modes across PlayStation 5, Xbox Series X and S, and PC. That's exciting news for youngsters who love to play with friends online – but connecting a much wider audience does potentially open lines of communication between children and far older online gamers.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

In FIFA, Ultimate Team proved to be a profitable innovation for developers Electronic Arts (EA), and is now found in many of their other titles. Players spend in-game currency to recruit better footballers for their team, but this process can take a frustratingly long time – so young fans may be tempted to skip the grind by paying real-world cash to unlock that coveted star midfielder.

ULTIMATE TEAM SCAMMERS

Since the mode was introduced, Ultimate Team has been a target of scammers who attempt to coax players into buying or selling outside the terms of service from EA and console manufacturers. This shady practice can lead to accounts being banned and in-game items being lost. In some cases, young gamers have also been hoodwinked into handing over their payment details to the fraudsters.

POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

Just like real-life football, EA Sports FC 24 offers a thrilling, dynamic blend of tactical awareness and skill that fans find absolutely engrossing. Among younger players in particular, this could lead to identifiers of a gaming disorder as they plead for "just one more game" before bedtime or spend practically all weekend playing more matches to earn additional Ultimate Team packs.



Advice for Parents & Carers



CONTROL SPENDING

If your child enjoys Ultimate Team mode, check that your payment details aren't linked to their account. Bundles of FC Points (the game's currency) start at just £1, so multiple payments can easily slip under the radar. You could consider setting your child an in-game allowance, perhaps through a prepaid card, which will help them to realise that online spending has a real-world effect.

DEFEND AGAINST SCAMMERS

EA does contact players via email (although not to ask for usernames or passwords, so watch out for that scam tactic), but never through the game itself – so be wary of incoming messages and consider blocking and reporting suspected spam. Your child should avoid buying coins (the in-game currency) from external sites; it could end with them losing their money and being banned from the game.

AVOID EXTRA TIME

Many parents of young football-oriented gamers worry about their child playing too much EA Sports FC. There's now also a companion mobile app, which can also often provide another indicator that a child is struggling to disengage from the game. You could initiate discussions around set hours of play – or take stronger action by utilising the parental controls on their console or phone.

SHOW TOXIC CHAT THE RED CARD

Playing EA Sports FC 24 with friends is highly enjoyable, but if competitive types start to turn toxic online, it can ruin everyone's fun. You could occasionally listen in on the voice chat of your child's game for any warning signs that things may be about to boil over. This goes double when playing online with strangers: voice contact with unknown players can be turned off in the game's settings.

CELEBRATE THE VARIETY

Ultimate Team may be the game's 'star player', but there's plenty more to do in EA Sports FC 24 – including modes which allow access to all of football's big names without needing to spend money on packs to unlock them. This new version of the game includes even more women's teams, marking another step forward in representation: an important subject to discuss and celebrate with children.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. Always eager to test out the latest apps, games and online trends, he's also a parent who understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



Source: <https://www.windowscentral.com/youngsters-spend-over-6000-5fa-5ba-highlighting-predatory-game-design-ee> | <https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/active-behaviour-gaming-disorder> | <https://www.eurogamer.net/1b-europeans-could-be-called-for-better-regulation-of-loot-boxes-following-new-report>