

Abacus Primary School

3/10/25



I can't believe October is here already. Our Welcome meetings have now all taken place for each year group, thank you to all the family members who attended these. Copies of the presentations from these meetings can be found on our website on the News page, you can find the relevant year group on the drop down list. Year two are busy rehearsing their Harvest performance, tickets will come home soon. Please ensure that you keep an eye

on our calendar, that's on our website to make sure that you do not miss out on any events— copy and paste the link <https://www.abacusprimaryschool.co.uk/school-calendar>

Our Year 6 pupils head off on their residential on Sunday, I am looking forward to spending the day with them on Tuesday.

Thanks again to everyone that came and supported our Fun Walk last Friday. **Just a reminder that all sponsor forms and money needs to be in School by Friday 10th October 2025. Please tick gift aid and include your full address.** This event raised over £5000 last year, including the bonus pot.



 **SCHOOL LUNCH**

Next

week we will be on

WEEK 2 of our menu

LET'S CELEBRATE!



Well done to Louie and Daria for their achievements in Football and Gymnastics outside of school.



Phonics and Reading



PARENT MEETING



We will be holding two meetings to share information and strategies for Phonics and Reading.

Miss Lee and Mrs Borley will be delivering a session on Tuesday 21st October 2025 at 9am. This is aimed at Foundation and Key Stage one focusing on Phonics and Reading.

On Friday 24th October 2025 at 2.30pm Miss Mitchell will be leading a session on Reading at Home, this is aimed more for Key Stage 2 children. Please let the office know if you will be attending.

We love to read!



Well done to the children in Year 2 who put the biggest smiles on our resident friends faces when they attended book club on Monday afternoon.



We invite children to wear Yellow on Friday 10th October 2025 (this can be their school top) as part of World Mental Health Day 2025.



Laser Night – 23rd October 2025

FAPS will be hosting a Laser Night event, on the school field, on 23rd October 2025.

Gates will open at 4.45pm for a 5pm start, with food, drink, light-up toys and a Silent Disco to entertain you, before the Laser Show at 6pm.

Entry will be from the front gates (Tresco Way) only – please bring a torch for when you leave.

Tickets for the Laser Show **only** will be £5.

Tickets **including a pre-ordered Jacket Potato** will be £8.

Jacket potatoes will include a choice of 2 toppings from:

Cheese

Beans

Chilli

Vegetarian Chilli

(Sweet treats and drinks will be available for purchase and do not need to be pre-ordered).

The Silent Disco will be run on a first-come, first-served basis, with children and adults able to enjoy 20 minutes for £3 each. This does not need to be pre-booked.

Tickets for the Laser Night MUST be pre-booked and are available through our website www.pta-events.co.uk/faps-abacus.

YOU WILL NEED TO BRING A COPY OF YOUR TICKETS TO THE EVENT (PRINTED OR ON YOUR PHONE).

When you book, you will be asked if you're able to help with this event – please consider if this is something you could do – we do need extra pairs of hands!

Bookings with food will be open from today until 16th October; bookings without food will be open until 22nd October – please note, we will not be able to add anyone in after this date.

Children under 3yrs are free.

If you have any questions or could help in any way at this event, please contact faps@abacus.essex.sch.uk

Thank you

B I N G O



SAVE THE DATE...

Adults only

BINGO



with

Friday | 28th Nov

Keep eyes out for details 👁️

Autism Post Diagnosis Support Sessions



2025 Dates:

27th August at 9:30am

18th September at 1pm

16th October 1pm

13th November at 9:30am

11th December at 1pm

13th January at 1pm

Location: Great Oaks Clinic, Basildon Essex SS14 1EH

No appointment required to attend, just come along!

Who are these sessions for: These sessions are for parents of children living in the Basildon, Billericay and Brentwood area who have received a diagnosis of Autism and who would like some advice and support following diagnosis.

Who runs the sessions: Members of our multi professional team including Nurses and Therapists will run the sessions and offer advice and signposting

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

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
3

Our guide looks at the risks surrounding EA Sports FC 26 and our top tips to minimise them. This marks the third year since EA left the FIFA licence, and the game is mostly unchanged from last year. While Kick-Off mode is great for playing with friends and Career Mode allows players to fulfil long-term ambitions as a manager or player, Ultimate Team remains the main draw for many players – and it can get out of hand in terms of how much money players can invest.

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>



@wake_up_weds



/www.thenationalcollege



@wake.up.wednesday



@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 01.10.2025