



Newsletter

3rd October 2025

The Rosary Challenge

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week, we joyfully launched our Rosary Challenge, inviting all pupils to deepen their prayer life through the beautiful devotion of the Rosary. As October is the Month of the Holy Rosary, we are encouraging children to pray a decade each day—either at home or in school—as a way of growing closer to Jesus through Mary.

During our Celebration of the Word assembly, we reflected on the Gospel account of the Wedding Feast at Cana. The children listened attentively as we explored how Mary, Our Blessed Lady, played a pivotal role in this miracle by gently guiding others to her Son with the words, "Do whatever He tells you." Her example reminds us that she lovingly leads us to Jesus, always pointing the way with grace and compassion.

On Wednesday, we were blessed to welcome Fr Raphael, who led us in a beautiful school Mass centred on the theme of the Rosary. His words inspired the children to see the Rosary not just as a prayer, but as a pathway to peace and closeness with Jesus. Fr Raphael also spoke about the Feast of St Thérèse of Lisieux, encouraging the children to follow her "little way" of love and humility, and to seek holiness in everyday acts of kindness.

In celebration of the International Day for Older Persons, our wonderful Mini Vinnies created heartfelt cards for the residents of Arrowsmith Care Home, spreading joy and compassion to our elderly neighbours. These will be delivered over the coming days as a gesture of love and solidarity.

Today, our school was a wash of colour as we joyfully 'Brightened Up' for CAFOD Family Fast Day, raising awareness and support for global communities in need. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to our Harvest collection—your generous donations will be delivered to Living Waters emergency food support in Chorley, helping families facing hardship. These small acts of kindness, rooted in faith and service, truly change lives and reflect the Gospel values we strive to live each day.

Thank you for your continued support as we love, learn, and follow Jesus every step of the way. Wishing you a peaceful and prayer-filled week ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Sophie Bridge.
Headteacher



Class Romero - Weekly Update

We have had a super busy week in Class Romero. On Tuesday we spent the afternoon reflecting on, and caring for, God's world, gardening and tidying up our outdoor area. Each child has planted a seed in the garden as a symbol of new life, expressing gratitude to God for the beauty and wonder of our world. Year 1s have been busy in English this week, they have been writing their own stories! Reception have been enjoying their 'Drawing Club' lessons - a creative approach to writing. The children are excited to start their new focus books in English next week. On Friday afternoon, the children have been super scientists! We have been creating hats for our class Teddy (Buddy the Bear) to help keep him dry. Buddy the Bear will start his adventures with Class Romero soon.

Miss McEvoy.

Class Acutis - Weekly Update



The children in Class Acutis have been hard at work this week. A highlight was Science, where the children tested a range of solid materials and discovered that the shape of a solid could be changed if a force is applied. We went back into our historical chest and after looking at photographs, newspaper reports and letters the children deduced more about Emily, the owner of the items. All children have login details for TTRS and the competition has begun - the knowledge of some children is impressive. Miss Kantharia has also been testing children for Bronze, Silver and Gold awards for times table knowledge.

Mrs Lawman.

Class Kolbe - Weekly Update



It has been a lovely week in Class Kolbe. We have been participating in the Rosary challenge by praying the Rosary each day - something the children have been thoroughly enjoying. RE wise, we have been looking at Genesis with a focus of the original sin. In maths, Y5 have been rounding, rounding and more rounding; whilst Y6 have been looking at number (square, cube and prime). The children were enthused by their history lesson this week where we looked at Ancient Egyptian beliefs and researched some of the 2000 gods which they worshipped. In PE, the children have been focusing on gymnastics. It has been lovely to get the equipment out and watch the children create their own sequences with a focus on mirroring, matching, counter-balance and counter-tension. All in all, another busy week filled with learning.

Miss Bottomley

*St Joseph, most loving and watchful father.
Pray for Us...*



In other news...

50th Birthday Celebrations: On 23rd October 2025, St Joseph's will celebrate its 50th Birthday with a special party after school. All are invited to attend (see invitation attached to this newsletter). If you have any photographs or memories of St Joseph's that you would like to contribute to our exhibition, please send them into school for the attention of Mrs Bridge. Thank you.

Macmillan Coffee Morning: Thanks again to all who supported our Macmillan Coffee morning last Friday. We raised a fabulous £150.

Fairtrade Fortnight: Over the past two weeks we have been blown away by the support for our Fairtrade Stall. Thank you for your generosity. We have raised a whopping £137. All proceeds go directly back to the producers so that they receive a fair wage.

Earrings: As we are now in October, earrings are not to be worn in school. Children wearing earrings will be asked to remove them. Thank you for following our uniform policy.

Black trousers: We have noticed a small number of children wearing black trousers. Please note that our current uniform policy states that trousers must be grey. Please come and speak to Mrs Bridge or Mrs Cox if you are experiencing difficulties with providing the correct uniform and we will do what we can to help. Thank you.

Boiler Replacement: We're pleased to announce that the school will soon be receiving two brand-new, energy-saving boilers. Installation work is scheduled to begin within the next two weeks. To carry out the work, contractors will need access to the plant room (only) located behind Mrs Cox's office. As a result, the adjacent footpath will be temporarily closed. During this period, we kindly ask all parents to use the Nursery path and walk around the playground when entering or exiting the school grounds. Access to the Main Office will remain unaffected. Please note that the car park will also be used by contractors, meaning parking spaces will be extremely limited. As a reminder, the car park is reserved for staff use only. We will notify parents on School Spider once the contractors begin work on site and the footpath is closed. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we make these important improvements to our school facilities.

Attendance		
Year Group	Weekly	Year
Reception	85.5%	94.5%
Year One	92.3%	95.5%
Year Two	99.2%	99.1%
Year Three	100%	97%
Year Four	97.1%	95.4%
Year Five	99.1%	95.8%
Year Six	95.3%	94.6%
School Total	95.4%	95.9%

*St Joseph, most loving and watchful father,
Pray for Us...*



Parish News: Children's Liturgy Team

Sunday is 27th Sunday of the year. In the Gospel Jesus tells us how powerful faith is. How if we have faith we can do anything we want to, even if at first it feels impossible.

Jesus says that even if they had faith like a mustard seed they could tell a mulberry tree to move from where it is in the ground and plant itself in the sea.

What do you think Jesus is trying to say here? How big is a mustard seed? Is it easy to get a tree to move itself into the sea? A mustard seed is really tiny. So, Jesus is saying that even if we only have a small amount of faith we can do amazing things. Even if we can't move trees, we might be able to make big changes to the world around us so if we have just a tiny little bit of faith, with God's help, we can make real changes to the world around us.

What changes do you think you could make in our world?

We could ask world leaders to make a change so that the world is a fairer place for all people. And we can pray for a world where all of us have all that we need to live happy and healthy lives

What change will you try to make with others in the world this week?

We would love to see you on Sunday at 9:30am Mass - Children's Liturgy Room

**BRIGHTEN
UP** this
HARVEST
and **BUILD** a
BRIGHTER WORLD



St Joseph, most loving and watchful father.
Pray for Us...

Upcoming Events

Our open day for prospective parents - Wednesday 22nd October at 9.30am-11am; 1.30pm-3pm & 4-5pm

50th Anniversary Mass - Thursday 23rd October 2025 at 10.30am in school. Please note that due to limited space, this is a ticketed event. If you would like to come along, please contact the school office.

Celebration Assembly - every week at 2:50pm. All are welcome to attend.

Parent's Evening: 10th November 2025

Class Kolbe's Celebration of the Word: Friday 7th November, 9am. All invited to participate.

Class Acutis' Celebration of the Word: Friday 14th November, 9am. All invited to participate.

Class Romero's Celebration of the Word: Friday 21st November, 9am. All invited to participate.

This Week in Pictures



St Joseph, most loving and watchful father.
Pray for Us...

Join us for our

50th Birthday Party



Let's celebrate 50 years of St Joseph's
with one enormous party!



Photograph Albums & Archives

Time Capsule

Afternoon Tea

Live music

Meet staff old & New



Plant our Jubilee Rose



THURSDAY, 23RD OCTOBER 2025

AT 3PM-5PM

IN THE SCHOOL HALL



Dear Parents and Carers,

It is said that faith can 'move mountains'. In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus reminds us of the power and the responsibility that comes with having faith in God.

Faith and love go hand in hand. Helping our children to grow in faith, to know and love God, is one of the greatest gifts we can give them. Putting our faith in Jesus helps us to know God as our loving Father, and this changes how

Wednesday 1st October 2025

we see the world — it can free us from anxiety, give us confidence and inner strength, and help us keep growing in our love for one another.

A family full of faith is a family full of joy. Enjoy exploring this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **FAITH**.

Dom Henry Wansbrough



A Word from the Saints

"Faith is the union of God with the soul."

St John of the Cross

"The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith.'"

Luke 17:5

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH

Sunday 5th October 2025



The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith." The Lord replied, "Were your faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you. Which of you, with a servant ploughing or minding sheep, would say to him when he returned from the fields, 'Come and have your meal immediately? Would he not be more likely to say, 'Get my supper laid; make yourself tidy and wait on me while I eat and drink. You can eat and drink yourself afterwards'? Must he be grateful to the servant for doing what he was told? So with you: when you have done all you have been told to do, say, 'We are merely servants; we have done no more than our duty.'"

Adapted from Luke 17: 5-10
The 27th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year C

Getting to know Jesus makes life joyful.
Learn more about this Sunday's Gospel in your local Parish Church: all are very warmly invited.

2025: The Jubilee Year of Hope!

Having Hope
in our Families

Having faith is to believe and trust in God's love for us. Faith is one of life's greatest blessings – it is a gift to be shared. The Church exists to help people to grow in their faith. You can find out more at: cbcew.org.uk



Good News for Families

TOGETHER TIME



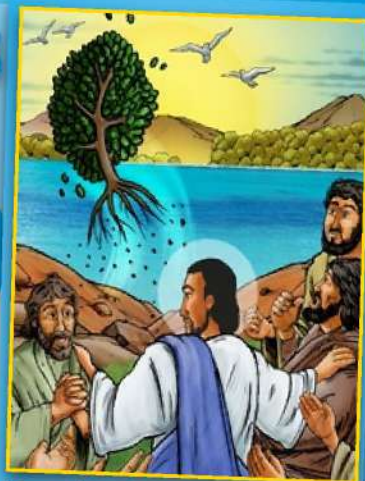
1

READ & REFLECT! Listen & Learn with Jesus, the Word!

One day Jesus' friends, the apostles, said to him, "Please increase our faith. Make our faith grow stronger." So to help them understand how small their faith really was, and how real faith helps us to do amazing things, Jesus said to them, "If your faith was the size of a tiny mustard seed, you could do astonishing things. You could even tell this mulberry tree to pull itself out of the ground, roots and all, and to plant itself in the sea, and the tree would obey you!"

What did the apostles ask Jesus to do for them?

Which word or words stood out for you in this Sunday's Gospel, and why? Spend a few relaxing moments pondering the picture together. Share any thoughts before moving on.



Sunday Gospel Gallery

Look at this Sunday's Gospel picture. What can you see? How do you feel? What does it make you think about?

2

SHARE & CARE! Growing in Goodness & Love : This Wednesday's Word...

"Faith and love are everything, and nothing is more precious than these." *St Ignatius of Antioch*

FAITH



Faith greatly enriches our lives and helps happiness and love to grow in our families. Ask your child what the word 'faith' means to them. Ask your child who they turn to in times of trouble. Who do they have faith in to be there for them always (e.g. parents, carers, relatives, friends, Jesus)? You may want to tell your child about someone in the family, at school or the parish who helped you grow in faith when you were young.

Love family, talk about the faith you have in God. What can we do these coming weeks, to help our family's faith to grow? Perhaps we can: regularly talk about God together; worship God together; read the Bible. Why not agree to pray for each other throughout this coming week, asking God to increase your family's faith? Decide which family member you will pray for. Can you think of any other ways to help your family's faith to grow?

3

Dear Lord Jesus, please increase our faith and move us to action - sharing God's love with everyone we meet. Amen.

FINDING THREE

M M E S A E R C N I F
D U H T I A F H T M A
J S S C D R A T S U M
O T B I N C R E A S E
B A P M L I L J Y B D
E R H C Y T J E S U S
Y D E E S B R S M U J
S A P O S T L E S T A
D H P M B H D E E R H
F A I T H E J D J E M
J E U B E O Y S A E D

WEDNESDAY
WORD SEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN

- ☒ JESUS
- ☐ APOSTLES
- ☐ INCREASE
- ☐ FAITH
- ☐ MUSTARD
- ☐ SEED
- ☐ TREE
- ☐ OBEY

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY

Cross out the letters l m d in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

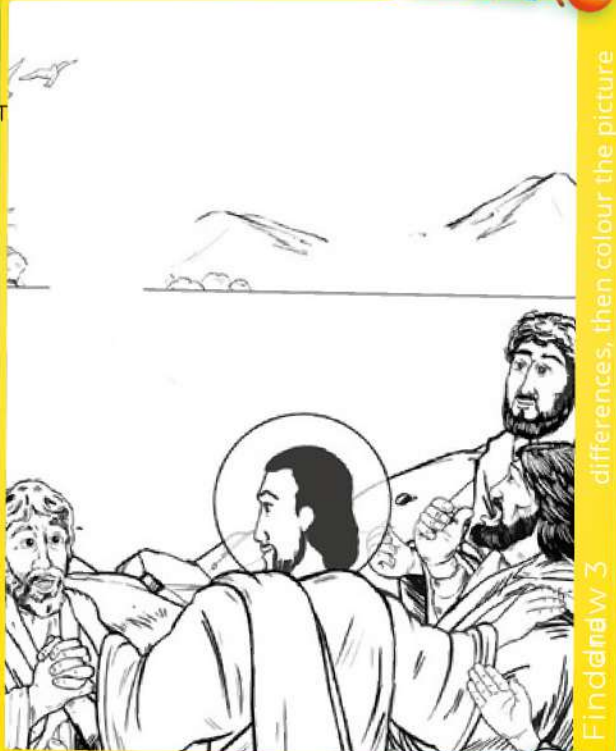
flamdith molurd glrodwm dincremasel

The apostles said to Jesus, "Please _____ our _____. Make ____ faith _____ stronger."

Jesus tells us that faith is a powerful thing and it can help us to do great things. Jesus wants us to have faith in God's help and faith in ourselves. Let's be thankful to God for the great gift of faith.

This week I will try my best to ...

Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley



Find the differences, then colour the picture

Find the differences

Let's Talk with 5-11s

A practical course which helps parents and carers learn how to develop and enhance children's understanding and talking.

Sign up here!





Would you like support with developing your child's speech and language skills at home?

This practical course is designed for parents and will enable you to learn how to develop your child's understanding and talking.

The course workbook is full of strategies and activities that can be used with your child at home and at school

What the experts say

'Early language is the single most important factor in influencing literacy levels at age 11'. (The Lost Boys report, Childrens Society, 2016).

Children with poor vocabulary at age 5 are more than twice as likely to be unemployed at age 34 and 1.5 times more likely to have mental health difficulties than those with typical development (Talking About a Generation, Gascoigne. M & Gross, March 2017, The Communication Trust)

When will it take place?

The course will run for 6 weeks starting on Friday 14th November and finishing on Friday 19th December.

Sessions will be held from 9.30am-11.30am every Friday.

Where will it take place?

The course will be held at Homestart, 112A Market Street, Chorley, PR7 2SL

How much will it cost?

This course is free for parents to attend!

Online Safety Newsletter

Oct 2025

Risks of using AI for mental health

AI chatbots and wellness apps are becoming increasingly popular, which may lead to your child accessing them to support their mental health.

What should I be concerned about?

- The information/advice given may not always be accurate.
- Privacy concerns of how data is collected and used.
- Children may use these apps rather than seeking help from an adult.

What can I do?

- Chat to your child regularly about what apps and websites they are using and why.
- Remind them AI is a tool and not a substitute for qualified professionals who provide tailored advice/support.
- Talk to them about how they should fact check information.
- Check age ratings.

Further information

<https://stigmafreementalhealth.com/blog/supporting-youth-mental-health-with-ai-a-guide-for-parents-and-caregivers/>

Would you like to read this newsletter in a different language? You can use the translate tool on our web version: <https://www.knowsleylcs.org.uk/october-2025/>

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YouTube

YouTube is one of the most popular platforms, available across many different devices - phones, tablets and Smart TVs etc.

YouTube is intended for users over the age of 13, however, younger children can still access YouTube with consent from a parent/ guardian. There are different options available to access YouTube, depending on your child's age:



1. YouTube Kids – a separate app that includes a smaller selection of videos based on the age category you select: Preschool (ages 4 and under), Younger (ages 5–8) or Older (ages 9–12).

2. Supervised accounts – a parent-managed version of YouTube that allows you to control the content your child can access. You can select one of the following options:

Explore – Generally for viewers aged 9+.

Explore more – Generally for viewers aged 13+.

Most of YouTube – This setting includes almost everything except for videos marked as 18+.

Find out more: <https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/10315420>

What do I need to be aware of?

Whilst YouTube can be educational and fun, it is important to be aware of the potential risks, such as:

- ☐ ☐ **Inappropriate content**
- ☐ **Excessive Screen time** – particularly due to the autoplay feature.
- Unwanted contact / cyberbullying** – particularly via comments if your child is sharing videos.
- ☐ **Algorithms** – algorithms influence what we see to keep us engaged. This can lead to a user being exposed to large amounts of content about one topic/theme, which may not be helpful if it is negative.
- ☐ **Adverts** that may not be aimed at or suitable for your child's age.

What can I do?

- ☐ Set up appropriate parental controls.
- ☐ Show your child the reporting and blocking tools available.
- ☐ Watch YouTube together or supervise use.

Further information

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/entertainment-search-engines/youtube-app/>

WhatsApp

WhatsApp is incredibly popular with young people and is used for group chats, voice messages and video calls. **Users should be at least 13 years old to use WhatsApp.**

We frequently receive reports of children using WhatsApp inappropriately, such as sharing images to embarrass others, sending hurtful messages, spreading rumours, or excluding people from group chats to make them feel left out. Since WhatsApp lacks parental controls, it is important to think about whether it is really the right platform for your child. For example, you should consider if your child has the critical thinking skills to recognise bullying. Furthermore, do they understand how to manage peer pressure and refrain from joining in on hurtful behaviour?

What should I be aware of if my child is using WhatsApp?

Group chats: Everyone within a group, even if they are not one of your child's contacts, will be able to see all messages within that group. If your child is added to a group with someone that they have previously blocked, that person can still see their messages and send them messages within the group chat.

Inappropriate content: users can be exposed to content that is not suitable for their age.

Location sharing: talk to your child about the potential danger of sharing their location.

Chat lock/secret code: users can lock chats as well as apply a secret code setting so a chat does not appear in the main chat.

Screentime due to addictive nature

AI: WhatsApp includes Meta AI.

What can I do?

- ☐ Check privacy settings, for example check who can add them to groups.
- ☐ Ensure your child understands that they can leave a chat at any time, Find out more here: <https://faq.whatsapp.com/424124173736394>
- ☐ Show your child how to block and report other users. Find out how here: <https://faq.whatsapp.com/1142481766359885/>
- ☐ Use parental controls such as screentime controls or do not disturb to reduce alerts.
- ☐ Talk about who they are chatting with, encourage them to think carefully about the messages they send and how they might be received by others. Talk about positivity and not saying anything hurtful. Ask them to think about whether they would say what they are messaging, face to face.

Chat to your child about the groups that they belong to.

Further information

Find out more here:

- ☐ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zc8vxg8>
- ☐ https://faq.whatsapp.com/773166357950949?helpref=faq_content

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Italian Brainrot

Have you heard of Italian Brainrot? It is a viral trend consisting of AI generated characters featuring in memes and videos. It originally started on TikTok but can now be seen on other platforms such as YouTube and Instagram. There are also lots of spinoff content including a game on Roblox.

Whilst the content is generally nonsensical and children will find some of it funny, some content can include inappropriate/offensive language and content that might not be suitable for your child's age.

iOS 26

Apple have released their new operating system – iOS 26. Protect Young Eyes have published an article detailing the changes relating to your child's safety, including content filtering in Safari. Find out more here:

<https://www.protectyouneyes.com/blog-articles/a-parents-guide-to-ios-26>

Managing Digital Spending

Parent Zone have created a guide to help teach your child how to manage their online spending. You can read it here:

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/managing-digital-spending-guide-parents>

ADHD, Screen Time, and Healthy Boundaries

Bark have created this guide for parents of children with ADHD to support you in helping your child create a healthy relationship with technology. You can access it here:

<https://www.bark.us/blog/adhd-kid-and-tech/>

**SCHOOL
ADMISSIONS
PRIMARY**

APPLY NOW!

at lancashire.gov.uk/schools

School and Academy places September 2026

You must apply if your child has a 4th birthday between 1 September 2025 and 31 August 2026.

You must apply even if an older brother or sister is already at the school, or the school is linked to your child's nursery.

If you're a non-Lancashire resident apply through your own local authority.

Please read the admission criteria for your chosen schools on the website or get a copy from them.

CLOSING DATE
15 January 2026

School transport



If travel costs is an important factor in your school preference, search 'school transport' at lancashire.gov.uk or scan the QR code.



lancashire.gov.uk



**SCHOOL
ADMISSIONS
SECONDARY**

APPLY NOW!
at lancashire.gov.uk/schools

School and Academy places September 2026

You must apply if your child is in their last year of primary school (year 6) from September 2025.

You must apply even if an older brother or sister is already at the school.

If you're a non-Lancashire resident apply through your own local authority.

Please read the admission criteria for your chosen schools on the website or get a copy from them.

CLOSING DATE
31 October 2025

School transport



If travel costs is an important factor in your school preference, search 'school transport' at lancashire.gov.uk or scan the QR code.



lancashire.gov.uk



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



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

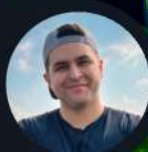
As in-game chat is open, be sure to adjust the settings in EA Sports FC 26 to lock it down. If children want to chat with their friends while they play, consider setting up a safe space for them to call, to allow them to play without fear of outsiders.

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>