



ORMISTON SIX VILLAGES ACADEMY



20th October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Please find this week's notices below:

Buses

I am aware of and dealing with instances of poor behaviour and damage on the buses. I will not allow the behaviour of a very small minority to jeopardise the service provided to us. CCTV is requested on each occasion and those involved will be identified and sanctioned. Such behaviour does not occur at school, and I'm sure doesn't occur at home, and consequently we do not expect it to happen between home and school.

If your child, at any time, sees any such behaviour, we ask for them to report it to us in complete confidence.

Attendance

Congratulations to the very high number of students who have achieved 100% attendance this half term. Attendance continues to be a national and academy priority and parents and carers of students whose attendance and punctuality are falling below expected levels will continue to hear from us about this.

Lateness to school

Students are encouraged to arrive at school in plenty of time and should be ready for roll call in their allocated year group area when the bell rings. Students arriving late are sanctioned with a detention. Regular lateness will result in an unauthorised absence code being applied to their student record. Arriving late at school can be very disruptive for the child, their teacher and the other children in their class.

Interesting facts about attendance and punctuality

- If your child is 5 minutes late each day, they will miss three days of learning each year
- If your child is 15 minutes late every day, they will miss 2 weeks of learning each year
- Attendance at 90% is equivalent to missing 4 weeks of learning each year
- Attendance at 80% is equivalent to missing more than half a term per year
- An average attendance of 80% or less across a child's school career equates to missing at least a whole year of lessons.
- On average, students who attend less than 96% through their school career drop one grade in each of their qualifications in Year 11

I feel compelled to remind you also that holidays during term time are unlawful and will not be authorised. Please note also the requirement to contact the academy on 01243 546854 every day that your child is absent from school, to avoid accruing unauthorised absences, which may lead to action being taken.

Developing good attendance and punctuality habits now will help our students in the workplace later.

Year 7 Maths Sets

After half term year 7 maths classes will be changing so that all students are in the best class for their ability. All students cover the same topics but it means that the pace of work will be better suited to them. We have used KS2 data, GL assessments and in class observations to inform these set changes. If you have any questions please contact Miss Moodie on sme@ormistonsixvillages.org.uk

Year 11 period 6 revision

During Autumn 2 (30th October-15th December), Year 11 period 6 revision will run as follows:

W/C		30-Oct	06-Nov	13-Nov	20-Nov	27-Nov	04-Dec	11-Dec
Monday	H a l f t e r m		PPE					
Tuesday		<u>History and Geography</u>			<u>History and Geography</u>			
Wednesday		<u>Music</u>			<u>Music</u>			
Thursday		<u>Art AND Design</u>			<u>Art AND Design</u>			
Friday		<u>GCSE PE</u>			<u>GCSE PE</u>			

Year 11 mock exams

Year 11 mock exams will run for two weeks from 6th November and students have been issued their exam timetable this week. Students need to be fully equipped for the exams, with a see-through pencil case, pens, pencils, calculator and maths equipment. They may take a bottle of water into the exam, this must be in a clear bottle with no label on it.

Whilst there are lots of opportunities for additional preparation in school, it is also vital that every student makes effective use of their time at home. This is never truer than during the half term, Christmas and Easter holidays. Your child's teacher will have ensured that they have access to all of the subject resources which are needed to support their revision. We would urge all parents and carers to consider the following for their children over the next few weeks:

- Do they have a quiet place to study, with no distractions?
- Do they have a device such as a laptop, PC or Chromebook on which to work?
- Are they in a good sleep routine?
- Are they eating well and drinking plenty of water?
- Are they taking time out to exercise in the fresh air? Are they spending quality time with friends and family to recharge their batteries?
- Do they have a clear plan of which subjects to revise each day, ideally in short burst with gaps for fresh air and exercise?

If you need any help to support your child over the next few weeks, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Uniform Expectations

A school holiday is always a good time to take a moment to check your child's uniform and equipment. If you are in any doubt about what is and isn't allowed, this information can be found on the website [Ormiston Six Villages Academy - Uniform](#).

I would like to highlight that false nails, acrylics or coloured varnish, false eye lashes and piercings other than one ear -ring in each ear lobe are not permitted and students will be removed from their lesson until these issues are rectified. Your support with this is requested, please. It's worth noting that there are not any schools in this locality which permit facial piercings other than ears. Please note also that make up in Year 7 and 8 is not permitted.

Coats

With inclement weather approaching more and more, please ensure your child wears a suitable outer layer to school over their blazer. Hoodies and non-school jumpers are not permitted and will be confiscated.

Free porridge after half term

All students will be eligible for a free portion of porridge after half term from the canteen, from 8.05am.

MUGA – Footwear

I am delighted to share that the works on our MUGA have finished and we have a beautiful surface for PE lessons and break/lunch time sport to take place on.

Please take a moment to look at the poster opposite to note the footwear that is allowed on the MUGA.

After half term, the area will be open at break and lunch time for sport, for those students who have the appropriate trainer footwear.

Regrettably, students without their trainers will not be allowed to take part. I'm sure you will understand our wish to preserve this very expensive resurfacing for the benefit of our students in the long term.

Trip opportunities – for students of all year groups

Please find attached two letters detailing trips that the PE department are organising as follows:

- **British Basketball Play-Off Final (Men and Women) – 19/05/24**

This is a fantastic opportunity for all students, regardless of whether they are already avid fans of basketball or if they are just curious about basketball and the entertainment factor it never fails to bring. Timings of the day will be confirmed nearer the time

- **Women's FA Cup Final Trip - 11/05/24 or 12/05/24 – Wembley Stadium**

This is a fantastic opportunity for students who have been inspired by the Lionesses in recent years or for those that are already avid fans of Women's football to attend a match in which our nation's club elite teams compete for the historic trophy. Currently the FA have not confirmed whether the final will take place on either Saturday 11th or Sunday 12th May, so we are asking those that are interested to ensure they are available for both provisional dates. Timings of the day will be confirmed nearer the time.

A reminder of important consent information for Flu vaccinations Academic Year 2023-24

The Immunisation Service are coming into school on **15th November 2023** to offer your child the Flu vaccination. Attached to this email are the following documents:

- A parent/carer letter – containing vaccination information and instructions on how to complete the online consent form. Please complete a form to either consent to or refuse your child receiving this vaccination. The online consent form is available for completion until 11am four working days before the session date above.

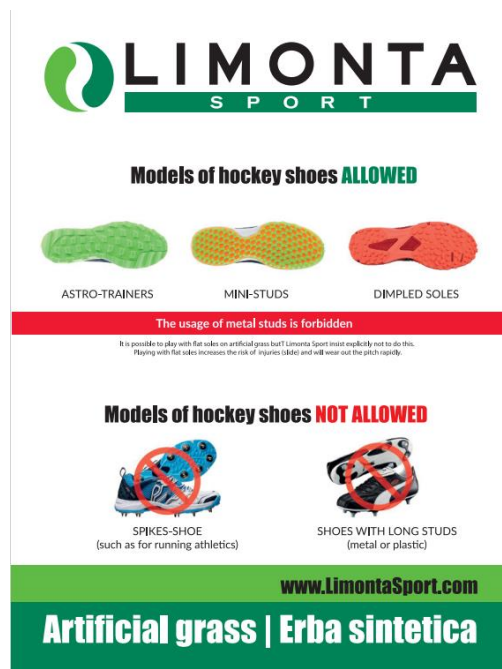
If you have more than one child in the same year group, but they do not attend the same school site, you will receive a separate letter from each school site, to consent for each child, prior to their school's vaccination session. Please use the correct school code for each child.

- How to consent to Flu vaccination guide – a pictorial guide to completing the online consent form.

If you have any difficulties completing the online consent form, please contact your local Immunisation Team before the cut-off date, using the telephone number provided in the attached letter, or, ask your school to notify the Immunisation Team so that we can contact you directly. If you miss the cut off time to complete the consent form, we will not be able to vaccinate your child in school on the day of the vaccination session. The consent form will reopen one working day after the session, enabling you to submit a form for your child to be offered the vaccination, within one of their catch-up clinics.

Personal safety

With the nights beginning to draw in, may I bring to your attention two apps, recommended by Sussex Police, that you and your child may wish to consider using:



Tutee of the Week

7O	Tommy B	8O	Beth D	9O	Sophia A	10O	Poppy S	11O	Edward H
7R	Teddy W	8R	Jayden P	9R	Mia W	10R	Lexi Rose O	11R	Rhys D
7M	Henry C	8M	Kane H	9M	Elizabeth T	10S	RiminiN	11M	Megan M
7S	Molly D	8S	Jackson M	9S	Thomas W	10T	Molly S	11S	Ruby D
7T	Jake G	8T	Dvid N	9T	Leon H			11T	Carla T-B

Sparx Superstars

Congratulations to the students below who have been chosen by their maths teachers for the most effort this half term.

Isaac K	Kyle B	Lucas W	Lola T	Alex B
William G	Charlie R	Rihanna B	Toby B	Elliot K

Sports Fixtures coming up

Please find below the details of fixtures after half term, with times for collection back at Six Villages:

Week Beginning	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
30 th October		Year 8 Boys Football (H) vs SPH 4:45 collection Year 7-9 Girls Football (A) Vs Downlands 6pm return	Year 9 Netball @ FCC 5:30 collection	Year 7 Rugby (H) vs FCC/BCC/CFS 5:00 collection Year 11 Netball @ FCC 5:30 collection	
6 th November		Year 7 Boys Football (H) vs SPH 4:45 collection	Year 9 Netball @ CHS 5:30 collection	Year 8 Rugby (A) @ BL 5:30 collection Year 11 Netball @ FCC 5:30 collection	
13 th November		Year 7 Boys Football (A) vs TRS 5:30 collection	Year 9 Netball @ TRS 5:30 collection	Year 7 Rugby (A) @CHS 5:30 collection Year 11 Netball @ TRS 5:45 collection	
20 th November		Year 8 Boys Football Play-Off (TBC) 5:30 collection Year 11 Netball (A) vs BCC 5:15 collection	Year 9 Netball @ BL 5:30 collection	Year 8-11 X-C @ BL 4:30 collection	
27 th November	Sports Hall Athletics @ BL 5:30 collection	Year 7 Boys Football 6-a-side @ FCC 6:00 collection			
4 th December		Year 8 Boys Football 6-a-side @ FCC 6:00 collection		Girls Badminton @ FCC 5:45 collection	
11 th December		Year 9 Boys Football 6-a-side @ FCC 6:00 collection		Boys Badminton @ FCC 5:45 collection	

What parents and carers need to know about EA Sports 2024

This week's national online security focus is EA Sports 2024. This is 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 know about.

The poster below summaries the many risks:

- Recurring releases
- Offensive voice chat
- In-game purchases
- Ultimate team scammers
- Potential for addiction



Advice for parents and carers

- Control spending
- Defend against scammers
- Use the companion mobile app to identify if your child is playing EA Sports FC too much
- Listen on the voice chat occasionally for any warning signs that things are becoming too competitive and ultimately toxic

I would urge you to follow the advice for parents and carers in the poster at the end of this letter.

Aldingbourne autumn community litter pick – 21st October, 11am

If you would like to join the Great British Autumn Clean and support the local community, the group are meeting at the Aldingbourne Community Sports Centre, Olivers Meadow at 11am tomorrow. All equipment will be provided. For more details, please contact Michelle at m.harbord@aldingbourne-pc.gov.uk

Key dates this term

23 rd October- 27 th October	Half term
30 th October	Back to school
6 th November	Start of Year 11 mocks (2 weeks)
24 th November	INSET day
28 th November	Year 7 Christmas dinner
29 th November	Year 8 Christmas dinner
30 th November	Year 9 Christmas dinner
5 th December	Year 10 Christmas dinner
6 th December	Year 11 Christmas dinner
7 th December	Winter concert
12 th December	GCSE presentation evening

Thank you for your continued support this half term; I wish you and your children a relaxing half term break and look forward to welcoming students back on Monday 30th October.

Yours sincerely

Paul Slaughter
Principal

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 indicators 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 indication 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

David Davies is a Fellow in Child and Gaming and reports who 20th anniversary has marked the gaming world for around four years. David's eager to test out the latest top games and online trends, but also a parent who understands the importance of online safety. Writing mostly about tech and games, his articles have been published on a number of sites including BBC and TechRadar.



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