

Co-Principals:
Mr G.C. McCluskey
B.Ed (Hons), M.Ed, PQH (NI)
Mrs Y. Moore
B.Ed (Hons), PQH (NI)
Telephone : 02893351352



OAKFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL
& NURSERY UNIT
www.oakfieldprimaryschool.com

Monday 13 November 2023

Primary 7 SEAG assessments

May we take this opportunity to wish all Primary 7 pupils sitting the new SEAG transfer assessments every success. The assessments are taking place on **Saturday 11 November 2023 and Saturday 25 November 2023.**

Many thanks to our Primary 7 staff and parents for continually supporting their child's preparation for these assessments.



Anti-Bullying Week 2023

Anti-Bullying Week 2023 is coordinated in Northern Ireland by the Anti-Bullying Alliance. This year it has the theme 'Make A Noise About Bullying' and will take place from Monday 13 November to Friday 17 November. The week will be kicked off today with Odd Socks Day, when children and adults wear odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique. Please check out our website and Facebook page for lots of fun photos.

Oakfield Primary School & Nursery Unit - Open Morning – Saturday 9 December 2023



We look forward to welcoming all prospective Nursery Unit and Primary One boys & girls for September 2024 along with their parents on **Saturday 9 December 2023** for our Open Morning between **10am – 12noon**. We have placed our Open morning flyers on Facebook – please share these to ensure all prospective families know about this event.

Prospective Nursery Unit pupils and parents are invited to 'Pop in to play' in our Nursery Unit indoor and outdoor learning areas where you will have the opportunity to take part in lots of enjoyable Christmas activities and speak to Nursery Unit staff. Entry is via our Primary School Lower entrance. Don't forget to visit Santa in our school canteen.



Prospective Primary One pupils and parents are invited to view our Foundation stage (P1 & P2) classrooms and our specialist sensory room alongside activities based around our Christmas theme. Entry is via our Primary School Lower entrance. We will also have lots of indoor and outdoor activities including those in our canteen and assembly hall including the opportunity to meet the big man himself with Mrs Claus!



Co-Principals, George McCluskey & Yana Moore, and Primary School staff will be available to answer any queries you may have about school life at Oakfield or regarding the online application process and school admissions criteria.



Mathematics and Numeracy News

We are incredibly excited to announce that our KS2 pupils came 50th place (out of 281) in 'Ireland Rocks' - a times tables competition run by the app and learning platform, Times Tables Rock Stars. 'Ireland Rocks' required children to correctly answer as many multiplication and division questions as possible, to give their class and school the best chance of winning. Our school stats were astonishing too. Our top class (P7McM) came 51st place out of 982 classes – such a great achievement. Congratulations to everyone who participated!

Nursery Unit - P4 Christmas Shows

- Our Nursery Unit Christmas Shows will be held on **Tuesday 5 December 2023 @ 9.30am & 10.30am**
- P1 – 4 Christmas plays will be held on **Wednesday 6 and Thursday 7 December 2023.**



The running order will be as follows:

- P1 Mrs Stuart & P1 Miss McIlwaine @ 10.00am
- P2 Mrs Kirkpatrick & P2/3 Mrs Graham @ 10.30am
- P3 Mrs Barrow & P4 Miss Gilmour @ 11.00am

We are again delighted to welcome parents back into our school assembly hall to enjoy these performances. Pop these dates into your diaries!

KS2 Christmas Carol Service



We are pleased to inform you about our plans for a Key Stage 2 Christmas Carol Service in Oakfield Primary School Assembly Hall on **Thursday 14th December 2023 at 7.00pm.**

All of our P5-P7 pupils are expected to attend as they are all taking part. This is always a lovely occasion to reflect on the real meaning of Christmas amidst the busyness of the season. We look forward to seeing you and your family and friends there too.

We do need to know exact pupil numbers in order to organise our rehearsals and seating arrangements in the hall. If, for any reason, your KS2 child is unable to attend our KS2 Christmas Carol Service, please let your child's teacher know in writing by Friday 17th November 2023.

Nursery News



Nursery had lots of fun at our first stay and play event. Grown ups joined us for our Gruffalo Trail to launch **'The Big Bedtime Read'**, as we went on a hunt around nursery and the Primary School to find the characters from The Gruffalo story.

There was lots of excitement when the children from Acorn Integrated Nursery Unit joined us for a play date. We enjoyed the Autumn sunshine on our walk into Oakfield Glen and then free play back at nursery.

We are really looking forward to our next stay and play session, where we will be celebrating **'Happy Healthy Kids'**, another of the Getting Ready to Learn themes. We'll be getting active in our outdoor space and enjoying some delicious and healthy treats that the children have made.

School Information for Parents : Oakfield Safeguarding & Child Protection Team



Miss L Gilmour
Designated
Teacher



Mrs J Barrow
Deputy
Designated
Teacher (Primary)



Mrs K Wylie
Deputy
Designated
Teacher (Nursery)



Mr G McCluskey
Co-Principal



Mrs Y Moore
Co-Principal



Mr P Jones
Board of
Governors
Chairperson



Mrs L Soeters
Designated
Governor

During the next two weeks, we are focusing on 'FIFA 23'.

Please find attached a 'FIFA 23 Safety Card for Parents' which we hope you find useful and informative.



FIFA 23

You can find more information about FIFA by accessing the Safer Schools NI App.

- Login to the App
- Select 'Online Safety Guidance'
- Select 'Gaming'
- Select 'A Parents Guide to FIFA'

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many games which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about FIFA 23

FIFA 23, like its many predecessors, is a massively popular football simulator featuring lifelike recreations of thousands of real-world players, drawn from teams around the globe. While the gameplay is subtly improved year on year, the publisher EA Sports' tweaks tend to focus on FIFA Ultimate Team mode, which can tempt gamers of all ages to spend real money recruiting better players for their side. With each new release of FIFA comes a host of new players to unlock – meaning that youngsters can feel pressured to keep buying to compete with their friends.

AGE RATING
PEGI 3

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

RELEASE RAZZAMATAZZ
FIFA 23 will be the last in the blockbuster series, before EA goes solo with its own football title next season. This sort of an era' vibe – coupled with a huge advertising budget making the new release almost impossible to miss – will elevate FIFA 23 into even more of a 'must have' for football-mad young gamers, no matter how minor the updates are on last year's version.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CHAT
Based on a popular sport which appeals to people of all ages, the FIFA franchise draws a huge audience of both children and adults. Communication is a key element, with many players enjoying in-game audio chat via headsets. With the mixed age range of players and a lack of regulation, however, chats can often turn offensive or toxic – especially in the heat of competitive matches.

IN-GAME PROMOTIONS
Unless precautions are taken, dedicated FIFA fans can spend significant sums when attempting to improve their Ultimate Team. Most top-level players can be unlocked by simply participating in matches, but some sought-after stars can be obtained more quickly in limited-time promotions which cost a large amount of FIFA points (the in-game currency, often paid for with real money).

CIRCLING SCAMMERS
The popularity of FIFA Ultimate Team (FUT) mode has led to online scammers convincing many impressionable gamers to pay real money for non-existent FUT coins and player cards, or directing unwary FIFA fans to phishing sites. If your child gives these individuals their login details, the scammers can access not only their carefully built team but potentially your payment information.

ADDICTIVE NATURE
One match on FIFA (usually around 15 minutes, but often lengthened by extra time and penalties) almost invariably leads to another. It can be a powerful temptation for young players, regardless of unfinished homework or an approaching bedtime. If the "just one more game" mindset starts to impact a child's daily routine, it could be a sign of gaming disorder – a recognised mental health issue.

GAMBLING-ADJACENT BEHAVIOUR
Ultimate Team has become a major feature in FIFA due to the revenues it generates. It can also be addictive, with children striving to earn coins and level up while swapping, selling and buying players. Spending FUT coins to open a player pack (which many experts have likened to gambling) is designed to be an exciting act – with bright lights, fanfare and attention-grabbing prizes.

Advice for Parents & Carers

BE SELECTIVE WITH CHATS
It's enormous fun for FIFA players to chat online with friends, even as their teams do battle in the game. It's probably the safest idea, though, to restrict contact with strangers. By turning off voice chat in FIFA and allowing cross-party chat in their device's settings, your child can speak to people who are already on their friends list but won't be able to talk to (or hear) strangers online.

STAY ALERT FOR SCAMS
There are some key things to remember about potential FIFA scams. Firstly, EA never contacts users via any method other than emails to the account holder (which may well be you). Neither will they ever ask for a player's username or password outside the game itself. EA's terms and conditions outlaw the buying of FUT coins, so anyone selling them should be treated as suspicious.

CONTROL SPENDING
If your child plays Ultimate Team mode on FIFA, ensure their account isn't linked to your payment methods – so they'll need your permission to make in-game purchases. Alternatively, you could use parental controls to limit spending – or set up a pre-paid 'allowance'. When excitedly clicking options on screen, it's easy for a young person to forget the real-world repercussions of online purchases.

AVOID 'EXTRA TIME'
If your child's spending a lot of time on FIFA 23 and seems less enthusiastic about other activities in their life, you could consider restricting how long they can play for each day with the parental controls in their device's settings. Even if they're not playing on their console or computer, there's a FIFA companion app for smartphones – but that can be limited through parental controls, too.

Meet Our Expert
Lloyd Coombes is Games Editor of technology and entertainment website Duxter and has been working in the gaming media for three years. A long-time fan of the FIFA franchise, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have also been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar, among others.

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