

# Team Spirit

Rob Childs

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About the Author

Also by Rob Childs

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## About the Book

### *DEAD GOOD!*

Who is the mysterious player turning up to practise with the Bradgate School football squad? Flying down the wing, ghosting past defenders, the red-headed newcomer seems to have the magic touch that can win games. But why can't the team's shooting star play away from home?

A gripping tale of soccer and the supernatural from football maestro, Rob Childs, author of bestselling series including:

The Big Match series  
Soccer Mad series

**ROB CHILDS**  
**TEAM**  
**SPIRIT**



**ILLUSTRATED BY**  
**JERRY PARIS**

**RHCP DIGITAL**

# 1 SOCCER MAD

'D'YER RECKON HE might?'

'No 'arm in askin', eh?'

'So who's gonna ask him, then?'

The boys' discussion had rambled on like this ever since they'd been forced to abandon their lunchtime kickabout. The ball had gone out of bounds into an area fenced off from the playground while building work was in progress. Their school, dating back to Victorian times, was having a new library and computer block built to mark its 150th anniversary.

'What you all looking at me for?' demanded Jack.

Well, old Stampy knows you're our best player,' said Owen, hoping that a touch of flattery might help.

'And 'cos 'e likes you,' put in Harry.

'I'm no teacher's pet,' Jack snarled.

'Never said yer were. It's just that, y'know, old Stampy used to teach yer brother - and yer mam.'

Jack bristled even more. 'What's that got to do with it?'

'Well, nothin',' he confessed. 'But, I mean, like, y'know . . .'

Harry dried up. He'd already dug a hole for himself deeper than any in the building site. He needed some help to climb out and Callum eventually came to his pal's rescue.

'What we're really sayin', Jack, is that old Stampy might listen to you more than any of us,' he explained. 'You don't try and work *well, y'know, like, I mean* into every sentence!'

'That's what I meant, like, y'know,' Harry said lamely.

Jack gave a shrug. 'Anyway, he'll probably say no, just like Freddie.'