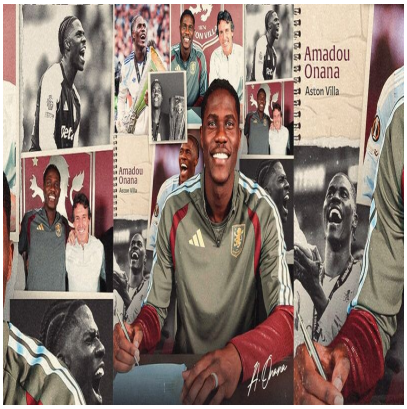


Aston Villa v Sunderland Preview: Villa Park, 21 November 2026

Description

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Aston Villa v Sunderland is the Premier Leagueâ??s first Villa fixture after the international break. Villa Park hosts it at 3pm UK time on Saturday 21 November 2026, which is 11pm in Singapore. Unai Emeryâ??s side need a win to climb out of mid-table.

Aston Villa v Sunderland: where the two sides stand

Ten games into 2026-27, Villa sit 10th with 13 points, from three wins, four draws and three defeats. It is a record that says â??decent, but not yet Villaâ?•. Sunderland are 19th on eight points after two wins, two draws and six defeats, so this is exactly the kind of home fixture Emeryâ??s squad would circle in a congested winter.

Villa also arrive after one of the wildest results of the season: a 4-4 draw at Old Trafford against Manchester United on 8 November. Four goals scored away from home is a good sign. Four conceded is the worry. Earlier in the season they lost 1-0 at home to Arsenal at the end of August, a reminder that this team can be shut out by organised opposition. Sunderland, with the table pressure on them, will try to make Saturday exactly that kind of afternoon.



Source: Aston Villa FC official website (avfc.co.uk)

Onanaâ??s new deal is the feelgood story at Villa Park

The big off-field news came during the break. Villa confirmed that midfielder Amadou Onana has signed a new contract. The Belgium international joined from Everton in 2024 and has made more than 70 appearances, scoring seven goals, and the club describes him as an influential presence in midfield.

The catch is that he will not play on Saturday. Onana is still recovering from knee surgery, and speaking to VillaTV he admitted the early stages of rehabilitation were hard after his World Cup campaign with Belgium was cut short in the summer. He also praised Emery as â??the main manâ• behind Villaâ??s recent success, which includes four straight years in Europe and the Europa League triumph. Securing him long term is a statement that the project is not slowing down.

The young faces pushing for minutes

Another signing to note is George Hemmings. The England Under-20 international has made 11 appearances in all competitions this season, including two in the UEFA Champions League, and has also put pen to paper on a new contract. Hemmings joined the Academy from Nottingham Forest in January 2024 and helped Villa win the FA Youth Cup in 2025. He can play centrally or out wide, and that versatility makes him a handy option if Emery wants to rotate with a big European trip looming.



Source: Aston Villa FC official website (avfc.co.uk)

A Singapore connection: JoÃ£o Gomes at the National Stadium

Local fans have a reason to watch Villa closely this week. JoÃ£o Gomes won his 12th cap for Brazil in the 7-0 friendly win over Singapore at the National Stadium on Tuesday, starting before being replaced on the hour. Villaâ??s own report on the game made a point of noting it. If you were among the crowd in Kallang, you saw a Villa midfielder at work in person; our Singapore v Brazil preview set the scene for that night.



Source: Aston Villa FC official website (avfc.co.uk)

Villaâ??s international contingent has had a busy fortnight. Goalkeeper Zion Suzuki beat Brazil with Japan before losing 2-1 to Paraguay, Victor LindelÃ¶f came on at half-time in Swedenâ??s 1-1 draw in Poland, and Jackson was named Premier League Player of the Month. That last award is a good sign of the confidence in the group.

What to watch on Saturday

- **Early pressure:** Sunderland have lost six of ten, so a fast Villa start at home could force the game open.
- **Rotation:** Villa face Galatasaray away at RAMS Park on Tuesday 24 November, listed for a 17:45 start, so expect Emery to manage minutes.
- **Defensive discipline:** after the 4-4 at Old Trafford, cleaning up at the back matters more than any new signing.

Our prediction: Villa to win by a goal or two, with Sunderland scoring at least once. Then it is Ipswich Town away on Saturday 28 November, and Manchester United visit Villa Park on 16 January. For the weekendâ??s other big kick-offs, read our Chelsea v Leeds United preview and our Manchester City v Fulham preview, and browse more in the Little Big Red Dot Sports section.

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