

The pair are
favourites
to win

Ellie: 'VITO'S PART OF THE FAMILY'



The *Strictly* stars talk connections and dancing their way to the Glitterball

After swapping *Coronation Street* for the *Strictly* dance floor, Ellie Leach has been wowing fans – and the judges – with her impressive moves. And it would appear the popular 22 year old has also won over her dance partner Vito Coppola, 31, with their clear chemistry continuing to spark relationship rumours. Those were fuelled further last week when Vito referred to Ellie as “my baby” in a sweet

Instagram post.

With the couple already a favourite to take home the Glitterball this year, *heat* sat down to talk all things dancing, meeting the parents and what they love about each other...

There's a lot of “finalist” chat – how do you feel about it?

Ellie: When you think too much into the future, you forget what's happening right now. This experience has gone so fast already.

Vito: We work day by day, week by week.

Ellie – did you always want Vito as a partner?

All of the dancers are amazing and you're in good hands with whoever you get but, when I found

nights where Ellie just clicks. She switches on and everything becomes magical.

Ellie, did you have any idea you could dance?

E: Before I started *Strictly*, I thought I had a little bit of rhythm – but compared to family parties where

– it's so funny. And I love that you want to be a teacher who brings fun into the training room. Obviously, we put our all into the routine, but we do have fun. It's mainly just me laughing at you, isn't it? I laugh at Vito all the time, even when he's trying to be serious.

Any funny habits you've discovered?

V: Ellie is a good napper. It's a proper habit. Every time I give a break, she'll never say no.

E: I think he expects me to carry on. Instead it's like, “Yeah, if you don't mind!”

Ellie, have your family met Vito?

V: I love Ellie's family.

E: You've been round for tea quite a few times after training. We spend so much time rehearsing together, so it's nice that they can get to know him more. He's part of the family.

V: And Ellie's mum makes the best... groove. Groove?

'My signature move was the worm!'

out Vito was my partner, I was so happy. I'd been thinking about it for weeks, wondering who they'd pair me with and what they'd base it on. Vito is a great teacher, too. He really pushes me to be the best I can be.

Vito – what makes Ellie such a great partner?

The great thing is, Ellie doesn't know she's good. Sometimes it's better to work with someone who has never danced before because you can build every single movement from zero. If you get someone who already has a structure, you have to break through their own coordination. There's this moment on Saturday

you're with your grandma, this is completely different. I didn't know how I was going to react to dancing.

V: She said her signature move was the worm. I'm like, I don't know how to use the worm movement in any choreography!

What's your favourite thing about each other?

V: As a student, Ellie never says no. I also love her sense of humour.

E: Your humour is a little bit different to mine, but we're slowly starting to understand each other. The thing that I love about you is when you get words wrong. You know you've got it wrong, but you pretend that you haven't



Strictly more than friends? We think so!



With her mum



On *Corrie*, alongside co-star Colson Smith



PHOTOS: ITV/SHUTTERSTOCK, BBC/GUY LEVY, INSTAGRAM

Keeeeeep dancing!