



# FRIDAY UPDATE

Friday 10th November 2023



School photograph day went well this morning and we looking forward to seeing the results in a few weeks. The children all looked very smart for their photographs.

A few reminders:

**Family Reading** - Please can we remind parents and carers that mobile phones should not be used during time in school for Family Reading. Thank you for your support with this.

**Headlice** - Please ensure you check your child's hair regularly and remove any eggs found. Live lice should be treated at home and other family members also treated. For further information and advice please see this nhs information: [Headlice and nits - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/health-conditions/lice-and-nits)

**Children in Need** - On Friday we will be supporting Children in Need. The children are invited to wear something spotty (or mufti) in exchange for a donation to Children in Need. Please help us support this event that raises a huge amount for very worthwhile charities supporting children across the UK.

Next Tuesday we are also lucky enough to be being visited by Woodgreen Animal Shelter who will be talking to the children about dog safety, learning how to behave around dogs they know or those they don't to keep themselves and the dog safe. Have a lovely weekend.

In celebration assembly today we said well done to the following children, who received **Special Awards** and special gold Headteacher's Award sticker:

**Jayant** (Beech class) - for excellent recall of Art vocabulary.

**Safia** (Hazel class) - for hard work and perseverance in her learning.

**Emerald** (Maple class) - for persevering and developing confidence in her writing and in class in general.

**Ali** (Cherry class) - for active participation in Maths.

**Andrew** (Willow class) - for his super retelling of *The Little Red Hen* story

**Ethan** (Oak class) - for trying so hard with his learning this week.



## LETTERS / EMAILS HOME THIS WEEK:

Newsletter 2

Year 1 Learning Newsletter

Virtual book fair

## WHAT'S ON NEXT WEEK (Autumn 2 Week 3):

Monday 13th - **Anti-bullying week starts**

Tuesday 14th - Year 2 P.E.

- **Woodgreen Animal Shelter - Dog Safety talks**

Wednesday 15th -

Thursday 16th - Year 1 P.E.

Friday 17th - **Year 1 Family Reading - 8.50-9.10am**

- **Children in Need day - wear something spotty or mufti in exchange for a donation to Children in Need**

Values tokens  
total this week:  
**129**



As part of our commitment to safeguarding, it is important that we ensure that parents/carers are as informed as possible about online safety.

## What parents and carers need to know about Five Nights at Freddy's

You might know Five Nights at Freddy's by reputation, even if your child has never actually played the game. Via playground rumours and circulated footage on platforms like YouTube, this 12-rated survival horror series (so far comprising nine games, several spin-off novels and a movie adaptation) has become possessed of a certain cult status among far younger players.

Whether the initial interest is sparked by peer pressure or morbid curiosity, this spooky saga of things that go bump in the night seems to resonate with many pre-teen gamers. However, as this guide explains, the sinister characters, unrelenting sense of tension and some disturbing themes are all potential hazards that parents and carers should be aware of.

A larger version of these guides can be downloaded from our school Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/TheAvenueInfantSchool/>



## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# FIVE NIGHTS AT FREDDY'S

AGE RESTRICTION  
**PEGI 12**

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Five Nights at Freddy's is a series of indie point-and-click horror games whose word-of-mouth success and widespread spin-off content on YouTube have helped each of the nine instalments so far to sell almost five million copies on Steam (the PC gaming platform) alone. Set in various deserted locations at night, with creepy animatronic characters suddenly coming to life, the games are rated PEGI 12 for disturbing/violent content, mild profanity and horror themes.

### FRIGHTENING THEMES

Five Nights at Freddy's (FNaF for short) doesn't feature bloodshed like many horror games – but it does build tension and use jump scares, which may be too intense for young players. The sinister animatronic characters and the sensation of being trapped and defenceless could be particularly unsettling, as could the inclusion of disturbing elements such as murder or possession by evil spirits.

### AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

18

As a result of FNaF's popularity, a sizeable YouTube community based on fan-made content has developed around the game. While the majority of this material is still child friendly, there are a number of channels which are geared more towards mature audiences: they contain adult and disturbing themes, for example, and (in some cases) age-inappropriate language.

### STRESSFUL SITUATIONS

Due to FNaF's suspenseful atmosphere, it can be extremely stressful for players. Constantly checking that one's surroundings are safe is a crucial part of the gameplay and could create residual stress or even obsessive-compulsive behaviours. Several media reports have suggested that some younger children have experienced severe nightmares or sleep anxiety after playing games from the series.

### PLAYING IN ISOLATION

Many parents will be relieved to learn that Five Nights at Freddy's is a single-player game which doesn't include any online chat functionality. Conversely, however, this could also make playing FNaF quite an isolating experience – especially if your child is spending a lot of time investigating the game's spooky, shadowy environments alone in their room, for example.

### IN-GAME SPENDING

FNaF doesn't foreground in-game purchasing as strongly as many other well-known games, but some titles in the series do offer additional content that promises to enhance the experience. Five Nights at Freddy's: Help Wanted, for instance, is complemented by a Halloween-themed expansion pack called 'Curse of Breadbear' (costing £8.99), which unlocks new levels and mini-games.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Five Nights at Freddy's doesn't have conventional parental controls. However, if you're concerned about the potential impacts of the game's themes and content, you can simply choose not to let your child play it. If they use an Android or iOS device for gaming, you can adjust Apple and Google's built-in parental controls to restrict your child's access to certain content.

### TRY IT YOURSELF

Every child is different, of course, so it could be worth playing Five Nights at Freddy's yourself for a while to gauge how your young gamer might cope with the series' more frightening and disturbing aspects. If they're old enough, you could spend some time playing it together – after all, it usually only takes between two and ten minutes to complete a level.

### LIMIT SPENDING

Unlike many popular titles, Five Night's at Freddy's doesn't bombard players with tempting in-game purchase offers. It's worth noting, however, that some instalments in the series do provide the option for players to spend real-world money. With that in mind, it's important to either keep a close eye on your child's expenditure or limit their access to digital payment options.

### SPOT THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child might be spending too much time on Five Night's at Freddy's, or you're worried that the game's scary themes are taking a toll, watch out for warning signs. Young people may start to prioritise gaming over everyday essentials like schoolwork or sleep; irritability or a lack of concentration could also indicate that their gaming sessions are going on too long.

### TALK ABOUT THE RISKS

Before you allow your child to play Five Nights at Freddy's, it's wise to have a conversation about the game so that they're aware of the potential risks. Ensure that your child understands that the series is purposely designed to be tense and unsettling, and that they should stop or take a break if the intensity of the gameplay is making them feel uncomfortable or putting them on edge.

### Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry, previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer. Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



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