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SPARKLE

SPARKLE NEWS

Autumn Term 1: 2023

Friday 27th October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

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Coming Up:

Friday 17th November 2023—Children in Need Day (non-uniform)

Tuesday 21st November 2023—Sparkle Spot (Parents/ carers can pop in to see their children’s work)

Good evening everyone and happy half term! I hope the children are all enjoying the start of their holiday after working so hard for the last 8 weeks. We have had several visitors in school over the last few weeks, and all have commented on how calm and purposeful the school is. They have all been impressed with your children’s enthusiasm towards their learning and the obvious pride the children have in their school. Well done John Moore children—keep up the good work next term.

We have also enjoyed welcoming parents and carers into school to celebrate harvest and for the more formal discussions of parent’s evenings. Thank you to you all for your harvest contributions to Tewkesbury Food Bank.

Finally, thank you to everyone in The John Moore Friend’s Association for organising our Halloween Disco.



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 nationalcollege.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

FIVE NIGHTS AT FREDDY'S



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

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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 Dreadbear' (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.



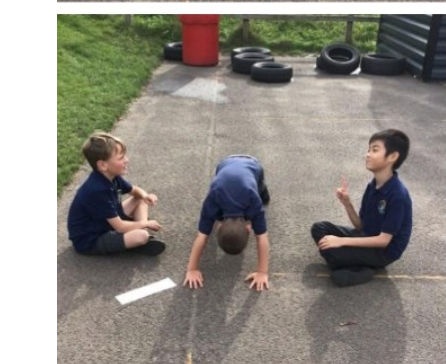
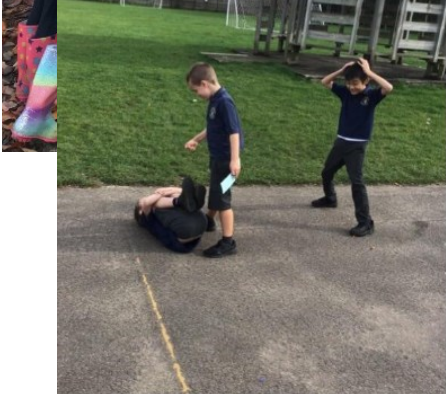
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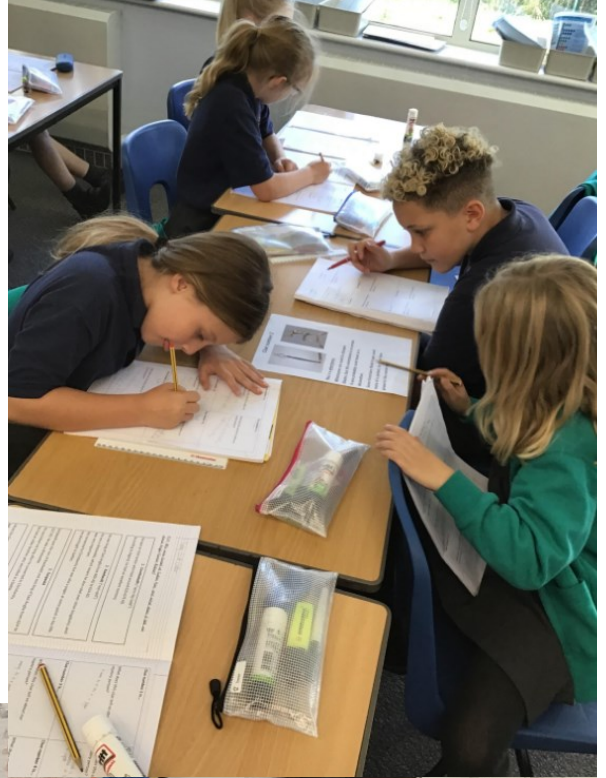
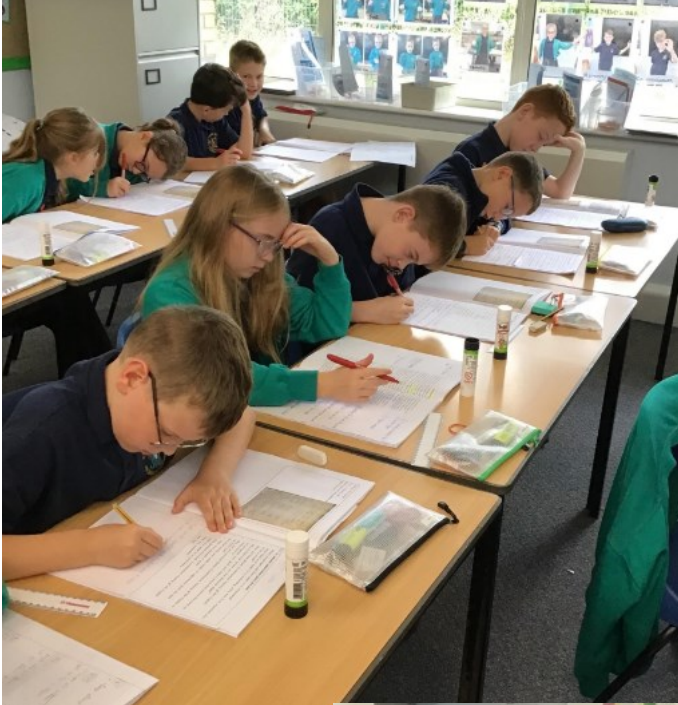
A celebration of some of the 'sparkling' moments from this term



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Friday 27th October 2023	School closed for INSET training day
Monday 30 th October 2023 – Friday 3 rd November 2023	Half term holiday
Monday 6 th November 2023	Autumn term 2 begins
Monday 6 th November 2023 until Monday 13 th November 2023	Y6 bikeability sessions. The children that sign up for this will work in small groups on their bikeability course across the week.
Friday 17 th November 2023	Children in Need. We will be supporting this national fundraising event with events across the day in school. The children can come into school wearing their own clothes, pyjamas or something spotty.
Tuesday 21 st November 2023	8:30 – 9:00 a.m. – Sparkle spot session – A chance for parents or grandparents to come into school to have a look at and share some of your child/ ren's work.
Week beginning 4 th December 2023	EYFS nativity performance – Tuesday @ 9.30am and Thursday @ 2pm
Week beginning 11 th December 2023	Y1/2 Christmas performance – Tuesday @ 2pm and Thursday @6pm
Week beginning 18 th December 2023	KS2 Christmas concert – Monday @ 6pm and Tuesday @ 2pm