

STAPLES ROAD PRIMARY

21st March 2025



Diverse and Creative Learning at Staples Road School

Exciting news from Staples Road School: our Year 2 dancers recently dazzled audiences at a local dance festival held at Epping St Johns, showcasing their hard work and dedication with a brilliant performance that made us incredibly proud. A huge thank you also goes out to our fantastic staff members who embraced the spirit of Comic Relief with some hilarious fundraising efforts, and to our generous community for their support. We're thrilled to announce that we've raised just over £900! But there's still time to donate, and it would be great to get to £1000 or more, so if you'd still like to contribute, please scan the QR code on the posters previously shared via Seesaw or those displayed on our playground.

Recently in our classes across the school: Caterpillar Class explored new flavours with a fun taste test, discovering new preferences and expanding their palates. Squirrel Class enjoyed a springtime walk, observing the budding signs of nature and learning about seasonal changes. Deer Class showcased their creativity making fantastic sock puppets in DT, bringing their toy designs to life with vibrant materials and unique personalities. Magpie Class took on the challenge of soap making, crafting Stone Age hand axes and mastering the art of a Stone Age dance in PE, connecting ancient history through hands-on activities. Blackbird Class delved into Mayan culture through clay hieroglyphs and masks, interpreting ancient symbols and creating expressive artwork. Sycamore Class explored forces with engaging Now Press Play headphones, immersing themselves in interactive science lessons. Finally, Ash Class stepped into the shoes of palaeontologist Gideon Mantel, carefully analysing discovered bones and forming hypotheses about the creatures they belonged to.

Caterpillar Class



Squirrel Class



Deer Class



Magpie Class



Blackbird Class



Sycamore Class



Ash Class



Coming soon...

Talent Show Finals
3rd April 2025

SWIMMING
Woodpecker and
Kingfisher

End of term
2pm 4th April

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 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 Nights 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 Nights 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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