

30TH JANUARY 2026

We are looking forward to welcoming Mrs Trimbee back to school next week as she returns to full fitness following an unexpected operation over the Christmas holidays. We are pleased that she is back on her feet and we know Class 1 will be pleased to see her. Huge thanks to Class 3 for lending us Mrs Parsons to cover in Class 1 and to Mr Wilkes and Mrs Orchard who have helped to make that possible.

Our Year 6 children enjoyed a magical day out at the Harry Potter Studio Tour on Wednesday and, although it was a tiring day, they thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Some fantastic photos of them flying on the Quidditch pitch will be on their way home to soon and we are all looking forward to seeing the written work that is produced using this trip as inspiration when they are finished!

Our neighbours on Rushdale Avenue have *again* raised concerns about the volume of traffic parking in the area—from as early as 2:15pm on some days. They have reported that, on Tuesday, an ambulance was unable to get through due to inconsiderate parking on both sides of the road and that a number of parents, when approached, have been rude to residents. **Please remember to be considerate of residents when you park nearby:** keep drives and pavements clear so that everyone can use the area safely.

Please remember that I am still *unable* to authorise any term-time leave of absence requests this year and, in the majority of cases, these will incur fines. These requests should be made in advance and not retrospectively please.

Kind regards,  
Mrs J Hill

## School Dinners

Next week, we will be on our **Week 2 menu** again. Please remember that school dinners cost £2.80 and **MUST** be paid for, **ONLINE, IN ADVANCE** [Week 2 Menu](#)



## Coffee Morning—Be Device Wise Parent Workshop

Next month's Coffee Morning has an Internet Safety feel about it. We are offering you the opportunity to become more consciously aware of your child's device use and the impact that device use has on a child's physical and psychological wellbeing—as well as on their ability to function at school, at home and in their relationships with others.



Please join us on **Wednesday 11th February from 9-11am** for a parent workshop to learn about how device use and social media impact on a child's development and learn strategies and tips to reduce the time children spend on devices.

The workshop is a joint event and will be run by Mrs Clarke (Gayton) and Mrs Dale (Ridgeway) and is therefore open to parents of children at both Ridgeway Infant School & Gayton Junior School. **The event will be held at Gayton Junior School.**

Please click [here](#) to sign up and let us know you will be attending.

## 2025/26 DATES

Monday 9th February	2:10-3:10pm	STEM Day—Classroom visits to work alongside your child
Wednesday 11th February	9:00-11:00	Coffee Morning
Thursday 12th February	All Day	Reward Day
Thursday 12th February	3:30pm	Break up for Half Term Holiday
Friday 13th February	All Day	INSET 4
Monday 23rd February	8:55am	Spring Term 2 Begins
Friday 27th March	3:30pm	Break up for Easter Holiday
EASTER HOLIDAY		
Monday 13th April	8:55am	Summer Term 1 Begins
Monday 4th May	All Day	May Day—Bank Holiday
Monday 11th—Friday 15th May	All Day	Year 6 SATs Week— <b>No Authorised Absences</b>
Friday 15th—Sunday 17th May	TBC	Year 6 PGL Residential
Friday 22nd May	3:30pm	Break up for Half Term Holiday
Monday 1st June	All Day	INSET 5
Tuesday 2nd June	8:55am	Summer Term 2 Begins
Thursday 23rd July	3:30pm	Break up for Summer Holiday

### Safeguarding—Online Safety

We have had some issues recently in Year 6 with the JusTalk Kids app and Year 5 staff have also raised concerns about the number of children watching programmes that have age-inappropriate content so we are sharing two of the National College Wake Up Wednesday guides with this newsletter for your information. Whilst parental decisions are yours to make, we hope you find the guidance informative in explaining why these apps and content are considered inappropriate.

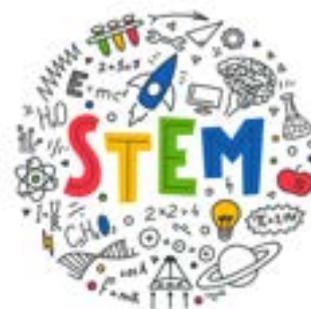
### STEM Day—Monday 9th February

Please join us on Monday 9th February for an hour from 2:10pm to work alongside your child as they take on our STEM Challenges for STEM Day!

If you have not yet returned a slip to say you will be attending, please speak to a member of staff on the door at drop off or collection so that we have an idea of how many we are expecting.

Children are encouraged to bring used cardboard, cartons and kitchen rolls into school to help them build their prototypes.

On the day, if your child is in Year 3 or 4, please enter school through the Lower School entrance/exit doors; if your child is in Year 5 or 6, please enter school through the Upper School doors on the car park.



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about JUSTALK KIDS

JusTalk Kids is a child's version of the JusTalk app – a highly popular social networking platform – designed for users up to 13 years of age, allowing them to video call, message and participate in group chats. While adults can link their own JusTalk account to their child's and make use of parental controls, it's important to understand the risks associated with the app.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### SUBSCRIPTION FOR PREMIUM ACCESS

While JusTalk Kids is free, there's the option to subscribe to a kids' premium account or a premium family account. At a cost, this feature allows children to have access to more fun features such as games they can play with others in a chat, exclusive stickers, a badge denoting them as a premium subscriber, and exclusive ringtones and themes.

### RESISTANCE TO CONTROLS

JusTalk Kids endeavours to allow children the sense of having a chat-based app while allowing parents to set controls (within the app or from their own adult JusTalk account). The basis behind this is positive; however, some children are challenging their parents by refusing to use JusTalk Kids, preferring to use the adult version without any restrictions in place.

### KNOWING THE PARENT PASSCODE

After downloading JusTalk Kids, parents can set a passcode which users must enter to add contacts. The parental controls help to manage which content can be viewed and who children can add as a contact: this then allows children to chat with friends in a controlled environment. However, prospective contacts don't have to know a specific username. In theory, someone could type in a random name and then add them as a friend.

### POTENTIAL DATA LEAKS

JusTalk and JusTalk Kids claim to be secure and encrypted, going so far as to state that even the developers themselves won't access your data. However, a security lapse in 2022 highlighted that messages were not in fact encrypted – leading to concerns around the security of the app and the transparency of the development team.

### CYBERBULLYING

Online chats can provide a sense of anonymity, leading some users to post things which they wouldn't normally say in person. Combined with the option of group chats, there's a risk that young people might join in with this kind of behaviour, escalating it further and potentially turning what should be a fun experience into something deeply negative.

### TOO MUCH SCREEN TIME

A report by the UK Parliament Education Committee highlighted a 52% increase in children's screen time between 2020 and 2022 – as well as finding that 25% of children used their smartphones in a manner consistent with screen addiction. Introducing children to social networking apps when they're too young can lead to bad digital habits and a reliance on technology from an early age.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### JUSTIFY THE CONTROLS

If parents allow their child to use JusTalk Kids, they should explain that they're putting parental controls in place to make the app safer. Make sure the child knows not to put their full name on the account and doesn't use a photo of themselves as their profile picture. This type of open discussion will help to ensure that a child is aware of the app's potential risks and knows how to reduce them.

### TALK ABOUT ONLINE FRIENDSHIPS

Young children could be excited to use this app. However, highlight that they must do so in a positive, respectful and responsible manner. While it can be easy to get caught up in a group chat, it's important to talk to others politely and call out any unpleasant behaviour. Discuss the importance of limiting their contacts to people they know in real life and use parental controls to enforce this.

### DOS AND DON'TS OF SHARING

Some children might not understand the potential dangers of oversharing online. Set clear guidelines around what is and isn't safe to share on the internet, and discuss the concept of a digital footprint. Children need to understand that the things they say and share online can never be completely erased. Even if they delete it themselves, it can be saved and distributed by others.

### ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

Apps like JusTalk can sometimes lend themselves to bullying behaviours. Parents should monitor what their child is sending and receiving, check in with them regularly and encourage them to share their feelings (both positive and negative) at home. Remind them that they can block a contact if someone is treating them disrespectfully.

## Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/justalk-kids>

# 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

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.

## 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.

## 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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