NEWSLETTER

Click on text in blue to access links

16th October 2026

ACROSS SCHOOL

Seedlings have been making their own bread while learning about harvest and farming.
Meanwhile children in Pine class have planned, made invitations, baked and sold cakes at their bake sale to raise money for classroom resources.
Children in Juniper are becoming very competitive with TimesTable Rock Stars and are racing up the leaderboard.
Sycamore have been using a technique called innovation to break a story down and reinvent it using their own ideas and vocabulary, ensuring that the structure of the story is maintained.

WHY DO WE READ BOOKS MORE THAN ONCE?

Why do we change reading books when we do?
Reading the same book repeatedly is one of the best ways to support a young child's reading development. While adults may be ready for a new story, children benefit enormously from revisiting familiar books.
The first reading helps children understand the story. Subsequent readings allow them to notice new details, learn unfamiliar vocabulary, understand characters' feelings, and make deeper connections.
Therefore the more you read at home the quicker books will be changed!
Take a look at this short video from Little Wandle to hear more.

HOUSE POINTS

Robin: 3695 Swallow: 2154
Wren: 3630

This half terms winning house are able to wear trainers for the day on Friday 23rd October.

ATTENDANCE

Seedlings: 95.6% Pine: 89.7%

Juniper: 95.2% Sycamore: 96.7%

Whole school: 93.9%

ONLINE SAFETY FOCUS

Are you aware that 'Five nights at Freddies' is:

- Rated PEGI 12 for disturbing/violent content and mild profanity
- Some FNaF Youtube channels are geared towards adults and contain disturbing themes
- There is no bloodshed but it does include jumpscare tactics



More information can be found on the flyer at the end of this newsletter.

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PARENT CONSULTATIONS

Parent consultations are now available to book on Arbor. Please ensure that you book a slot for each child. When you come in you will be able to see examples of your children's work while you wait. During each 10 minute slot class teachers will update you on your childs progress, areas that we are focusing on in school and ways that you can help support at home. This type of consistent support can help your child achieve their full potential.

SEN INFORMATION SESSISON

19th October 2.30pm

Have you ever wondered how we support children through everyday provision in school?
What reasonable adjustments are?
or how the SEN register works?

Come along to this informative session to find out. If your child is currently on the SEN register we recommend you attend this session.

FOMSA

YEAR OF RAFFLES - A £50 Cartel Tattoo voucher is up for grabs this month. See a member of the team to grab your tickets.

Reminder: **AGM - 22nd October - 3.15pm**. If you are unable to make it please be sure to let us know so we can share your interest at the meeting. FREE film club for attendees. Please book on Arbor.

IMPORTANT DATES

October

26th to 30th	Half term

November

4th	Flu Vaccinations Rec - Yr 6
4th - 11th	Scholastic Book Fair
5th & 6th	Year 6 Bikeability
9th & 10th	Parent consultations
11th	Act of Remembrance
23rd	Individual School photos

December

10th	Sycamore -Drama day at Hartismere High School
11th	Enterprise sale
15th evening	Festival of Christmas
16th	Whole School, Diss Corn hall Panto
17th	Christmas Dinner
18th	Last Day of term

HEAD PUPILS

Hello we are Emma and Fehn the Head Pupils and we have some ideas of how we can help our school. So here's the ideas of how we can help; we can help the school by being more purposeful, more collaborative, more respectful and finally more responsible. We have 3 awards which we will give out in assembly each week. Please make sure you return them so that someone new can have one.

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16th October 2026





HARVEST SERVICE

Thankyou for all of the donations of dried goods for the Church Larder. We are proud to support this community food bank which is open to all and needs no referral.

The children did an amazing job sharing the message of thanks for the harvest through songs, poems and readings. At this point of the year, for our youngest pupils, to stand in front of an audience and sing and for our new head pupils to step up and lead a service is a big and daunting step. A special well done to them.

More competitions!

Our KS 2 librarians are running a competition to win £6 to spend at the upcoming book fair. There will be four prizes, one per class.
To enter simply design a cover for a mythical creatures book. Be imaginative and invent an animal of your choice. KS2 pupils should include a blurb on the cover to tempt new readers to pick up the book and read.
Entry forms coming home soon. Closing date Monday 2nd November.





Times Table Titans Knockout
CREATED BY: Mrs Jones

Starts 21 OCT 26 - 08:30
ENDS 30 OCT 26 - 20:30

Login to TTRS between the dates below to enter our first school tournament.
When logging in you now need to search for 'Mendham Primary School'

SCHOOL CULTURE

Our school culture revolves around some key aspects.
The first of which is being RESPECTFUL. This means treating other people, yourself, and your environment with kindness, consideration, and care.

In school, respect means: Listening when others are speaking, Using polite words and good manners, Being kind and accepting of differences, Following school rules, Looking after school property and equipment, Valuing everyone's ideas and opinions, Helping others feel safe, included, and valued.

To better support our young people to grow into respectful citizens we expect adults in school, on the playground and visiting for events to model the elements of our culture.
Thankyou for your support.

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16th October 2026

THERE IS STILL TIME.....

Deadline extended to Monday 19th October for our design a pumpkin competition. Reminder there are 3 prizes PER YEAR GROUP, thats 6 per class!

We have had fewer enteries than we need in some year groups (Nursery, Reception, year 2 or year 5) to be able to give away all the prizes.

In Seedlings and Pine we are looking for the best pumpkin face, in Juniper the best design which is not a face and in Sycamore the best stacked pumpkin design.

PARENT SURVEY

If you haven't done so already please take a few minutes to login and complete this terms parent survey. Your responses help us to understand how we can adapt our practice and provide the best service for the whole school community.
The survey can be accessed by scanning the QR code or clicking the link below.

2026 Autumn Term Parent View Questionnaire – Fill out form



Deadline extended to 19th October

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

AGE RESTRICTION PEGI 12

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.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

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 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.

National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

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