



Sally Banfield

Headteacher

12th December 2025

Dear Parents and Families,

Christmas Fayre

Thank you to everyone who joined us to make our Christmas Fayre so special. It was a wonderful event with lots of prizes and gifts on offer. As you will be aware, we had a Christmas mini market on Friday afternoon with any donations that were not sold. This was also a huge success, so thank you again to everyone involved in making it such a special event.

Christmas Lunch and Jumpers

Well, what a fantastic show of jumpers we had. Lots of festive costumes with tinsel and glitter galore! It was such a wonderful day with so much effort from everyone and, to top it off, a delicious Christmas Dinner for everyone....staff included. Thank you so much to our wonderful kitchen staff and our meal-time assistants for pulling off such a massive task!

Rock Steady Concert

Yesterday's concert was another amazing success. It is always wonderful to see our young people getting such enjoyment from music and sharing it with our school community. We are very grateful to Rock Steady and our school staff, Mr Dowall and Miss Heyworth, for making yesterday such a great event.

Christmas Nativity

The nativity in church this week is always one of the highlights of the year for me. It was amazing to see so many of you join us at St Marychurch to watch our young people perform a fantastic Christmas nativity and share the message of Christmas together. Huge thanks to all the lower school staff teachers involved in pulling this wonderful event together.

Next Week:

Only 3 days left next week in school, however, they will be filled with excitement and wonderful opportunities for our young people to enjoy.

Monday 15th December is our school-based Christmas performance. All children will have an opportunity in school to watch this, and parents and family members of performers are invited to join us for the afternoon performance at 2.00pm. For those joining us, please arrive at school from 1.45pm onwards. If you would like to take your child home after the performance, please inform reception when you arrive.

Tuesday 16th December is our trip to see Sleeping Beauty at the Princess Theatre. We are very excited about our annual trip. Please be reminded that our school catering offer this day will be a packed lunch and all children have been asked to select their packed lunch choice. If you would prefer to send your child in with a packed lunch from home, this is absolutely fine. We will be providing a drink in the theatre, but if you would like to send your child in with a preferred drink and a small snack, please feel free to do so.

Wednesday 17th December will be a silent disco throughout the day for all years. Please can children come to school in their usual school uniform and bring a change of clothes for the disco. There is no charge for the disco but glowsticks and sweetie bags are available for £1. Our school finishing time on Wednesday is the normal time of 3.10pm.

Support and Information for Families

Our school will be closed from Wednesday 17th December and it is very important for me to encourage our staff to have a well deserved break with their families and loved ones. Our CP Email address will still be open for correspondence, and all emails will be responded to in the new term.

Any emails of a safeguarding nature please contact Torbay MASH on 01803 208100. If you have serious imminent concern for the safety and well-being of a young person or adult, please call the police on 999.

A reminder that the first day of the new spring term for students is Tuesday 6th January 2026.

Keeping your children safe online

The focus this week is on Five Nights at Freddy's. This is a popular game with many children so please make sure you are aware of the themes and in game spending. If you would like a printed copy of this poster, please ask at reception.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about FIVE NIGHTS AT FREDDY'S

AN 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

As a result of FNAF's popularity, a teenage fan site 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 elements which are deemed more mature. Many platforms they contain adult and disturbing themes, language, and (in some cases) age-inappropriate language.

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STRESSFUL SITUATIONS

Due to FNAF's reputation as a horror game, it can be extremely stressful for players. Overstimulation leading to a panic response is the main concern of the game, and some reports have suggested that some younger children have experienced severe nightmares or sleep anxiety after playing games like this.

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 a more isolating experience – especially if your child is spending a lot of time investigating the game's story, checking out fan-made content in their room, for example.

IN-GAME SPENDING

FNAF doesn't encourage in-game purchasing as strongly as many other well-known games, but game items in the series do offer additional content that provides an enhanced experience. Five Nights at Freddy's: Help Wanted, for instance, is complemented by a multiplayer-themed expansion pack called 'Songs of the Siren' (costing £9.99), which unlocks new levels and mini-games.

HELP WANTED

Advice for Parents & Carers

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Five Nights at Freddy's doesn't have sophisticated 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 his device for gaming, you can adjust Apps 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 week 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 ten and ten minutes to complete a level.

LIMIT SPENDING

Unlike many popular titles, Five Nights at Freddy's doesn't have an in-game shop, so there's no in-game purchase option. 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 always 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, withdraw or a lack of communication could also indicate that their gaming habits are going on too long.

TALK ABOUT THE RISKS

Before you allow your child to play Five Nights at Freddy's, it's vital to have a conversation about the game and the key themes 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

Julia Pagan is an experienced technology journalist with a special interest in how tech can be used to improve lives. She's the author of Tech Made Simple, which has been a best-seller in the technology, lifestyle and education categories.

NOS National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

Twitter: @nationalonline_safety Facebook: /NationalOnlineSafety Instagram: @nationalonline_safety TikTok: @national_online_safety

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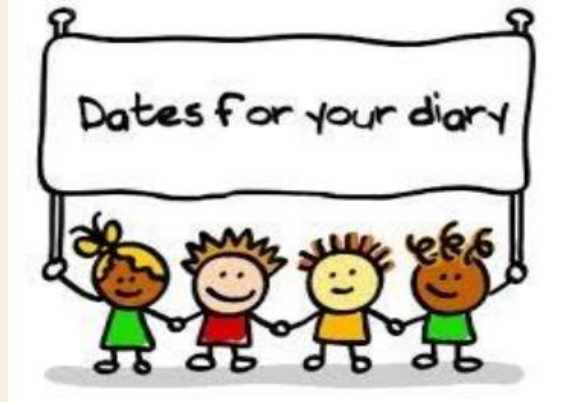
Remember that all letters that are sent out are also available on the school website in a dedicated place for easy navigation. The link for this page is here: [Combe Pafford School - Letters to Parents](#)

I hope you enjoy a lovely weekend with your friends and family.

My best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Banfield', written in a cursive style.

Sally Banfield
Headteacher



DECEMBER 2025

- 15th School Christmas Nativity
- 16th Christmas Panto at Princess Theatre
- 17th Silent Disco - Lower and Middle School – AM / Upper School – PM
- 17th LAST DAY OF TERM

JANUARY 2026

- 5th INSET DAY
- 6th CHILDREN RETURN TO SCHOOL
- 6th KS2 Swimming
- 9th Year 7 Swimming
- 13th KS2 Swimming
- 16th Yer 7 Swimming
- 20th KS2 Swimming
- 23rd Year 7 Swimming
- 27th KS2 Swimming
- 30th Year 7 Swimming