



16th January 2026

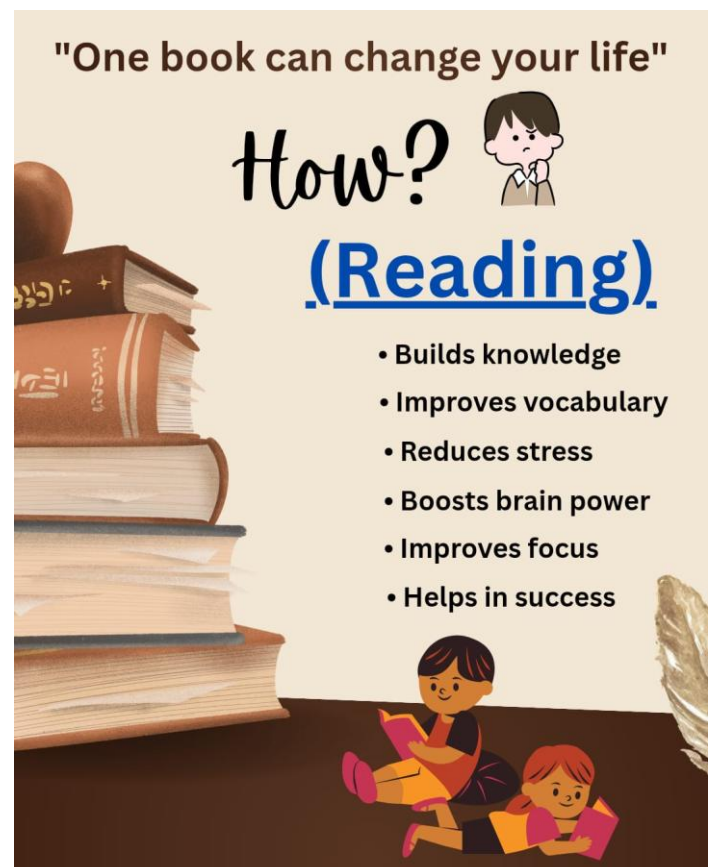
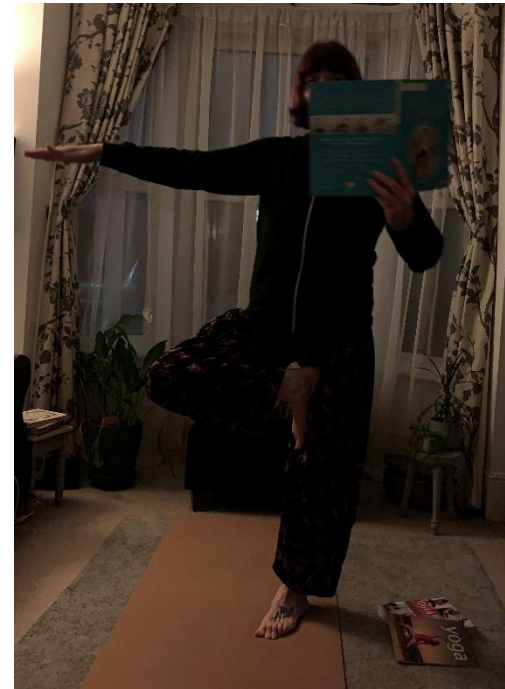
The PIB is our weekly bulletin to keep our families informed of what is happening at our academy. Here are some key things to share for the week...

- **Attendance:** At present our whole school attendance is sitting at **94.1%** which is just below the national average of **95%**. This is an improvement and we are keen to continue on our upward trajectory... Please help us to increase this figure by ensuring you **arrive to school on time** (by 8.40am) or notify us when your child is absent due to sickness. Please remember to report absences to the admin team by emailing: adminoffice@freemantleschool.co.uk

- **2026 National Year of Reading:** Book photo time! The National Year of Reading is all about reading for pleasure and reading about whatever it is that interests you. We would love to see photos of our children reading about something that they are interested in. It could be a book, magazine or comic about animals, cookery, football, Minecraft- whatever it is that they love!

Staff will also be sharing photos of themselves reading about their own interests. All the photos will be displayed in the school library to celebrate our love of reading! Please email the photos to: amanda.steinman@freemantleschool.co.uk

- **Why is reading important by Manak, year 6:** One of our lovely pupils, Manak, loves reading and often volunteers in our library at lunchtime. Mrs Steinman, our librarian, asked Manak, why reading is so important. After they had this discussion, he went home and created some posters for the PIB (shared below) to promote reading to others. What a superstar!





• **Collective Worship Theme 'Courage':** This half term in Collective Worship, we will be exploring the theme of **Courage**.

Children will be encouraged to think about what courage means in everyday life, such as standing up for what is right, trying new things, speaking up for themselves or others, and persevering when challenges arise.

Through stories, reflection and discussion, we will help children understand that courage looks different for everyone and that even small acts of bravery can make a big difference, both in school and at home.

Perhaps you can ask your child to look out for examples of courage at home, in books, on the news, or in everyday life, and share these in school. Sharing these ideas will help bring our acts of worship to life. Thank you.

- **National Online Safety:** Please have a look at the infographic at the end of the PIB regarding what parents need to know about horror and age ratings. The availability of inappropriate content has risen significantly on streaming platforms and the internet. If this content is not restricted by parental controls, young children have free access to adult themed content, concepts and imagery.

Please review your parental controls and check what your children are accessing on their phones and devices to help keep our children safe. Thank you.

Warmest wishes from the Freemantle Team

If you have any comments/feedback about our PIB, please email info@freemantleschool.co.uk or call 02380 227925

Upcoming dates

- **Friday 13th February 2026** – Last day of the half term
- **February 16th – Sunday 22nd February 2026** – Spring half Term Break – Academy closed
- **Monday 23rd February 2026** – First Day of Spring 2
- **Wednesday 18th March 2026** – Parents Evening
- **Thursday 19th March 2026** – Parents Evening
- **Friday 27th March 2026** – Last day of spring term
- **Monday 30th March – Sunday 12th April 2026** – Easter Holidays – Academy Closed
- **Monday 13th April 2026** – First day of summer term

HORROR FILMS & AGE RATINGS

The 'on-demand' availability of streaming platforms in many homes creates extra possibilities for young viewers to be exposed to age-inappropriate content. Material which features horror or violence can cause anxiety and nightmares for children, especially since it can be hard for young ones to grasp that what they're watching isn't real.

CLASSIFICATION BREAKDOWN

The British Board of Film Classification has the following age ratings:

U: Suitable for all ages

PG: For children aged 8 and above; this content shouldn't unsettle them

12A: Children under the age of 12 should not watch without an adult; this content potentially features bad language, nudity or sexual references

15: Suitable only for 15-year-olds and above

18: Exclusively for an adult audience, with potentially explicit themes of violence, nudity or sex

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

STREAMING IS EVERYWHERE

Modern mobile devices make it very easy for children to watch streamed films without the need for a TV. The availability of inappropriate content has risen significantly on streaming platforms, almost all of which host 18-rated content. If not restricted by parental controls, this could be viewed by children who aren't quite ready for such adult themes, concepts and imagery.

FACT VS. FICTION

Many children have no trouble separating fact from fiction. However, with modern day technology making pretend violence and horror look ever more realistic, it's becoming harder for youngsters to tell the difference. For instance, consider remakes of older films, where dated special effects (making it easy to discern that something wasn't real) have been replaced by far more convincing monsters and gore.

PEER PRESSURE

Friends encouraging each other to watch the latest film featuring violence or horror can lead to children consuming content that they're not ready for. As 18+ content is available on many streaming platforms, youngsters can watch these together – potentially without their parents' or carers' knowledge.

CHILDREN SCARE DIFFERENTLY

It can be difficult to decide what content is appropriate for children. What's fine for one child could be extremely frightening for another. As many children admit to not sharing or discussing the content they watch with their parents, encouraging an open dialogue around the kind of media that young people consume can help avoid exposing them to any inappropriate content.

PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACTS

Horror prides itself on its ability to startle or induce genuine fear in the viewer – so it's no surprise that this genre isn't usually intended for children. A natural side-effect of this is that 'jump scares' or a creepy, suspenseful atmosphere can have lasting effects on younger minds. The resulting anxiety can impact a child's sleeping patterns or eating habits.

Advice for Parents & Educators

WATCH THE FILM FIRST

If you're concerned that a film might be unsuitable for children (whether it's their first dive into the horror genre or a step up in age classification), then take a look for yourself. There's no better way to judge whether this content is something you'd deem appropriate for a child – and if a parent, for example, has actually seen the film (or at least a portion of it), they can construct a far more credible case if they decide it's inappropriate.

REMEMBER – IT'S NOT REAL

Emphasise to children that the content they're viewing is entirely fictional and has no chance of affecting them in real life. If a child is upset after watching a film, try to understand what exactly has unsettled them: this can help you approach the topic in a healthy and informative manner, to dispel any fears or anxieties they may have.

DISCUSS THE CONTENT OF FILMS

If a child has seen a film that you think may have exposed them to potentially uncomfortable themes and ideas, don't shy away from talking about it, and answer any questions they may have. This is especially important if they watched the film without an adult present. Ask them to summarise the story for you, as this will give you an understanding of what they've learned from watching it.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Most streaming platforms have the option to put age ranges on children's accounts. This means that films and shows that are inappropriate for children won't be advertised while they're browsing and won't even appear if a child specifically searches for them. This can be changed any time at parents' discretion, but it's wise to protect these settings with a password, so a child can't alter anything on their own.