



Nailsea School

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18 March 2020

Dear Parents

We are now in the second day of the amended government guidance on whole school isolation in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. As a reminder:

- if you live alone and you have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), however mild, stay at home for 7 days from when your symptoms started
- if you live with others and you or another member of the household have symptoms of coronavirus, then all household members must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill. It is likely that people living within a household will infect each other or be infected already. Staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community
- for anyone in the household who starts displaying symptoms, they need to stay at home for 7 days from when the symptoms appeared, regardless of what day they are on in the original 14-day isolation period.

For clarity, Public Health England guidance on self-isolation and how to separate yourself from the others you live with is as follows:

- You should remain in your home. Do not go to work, school, or public areas, and do not use public transport or taxis.
- Aim to stay in a well-ventilated room with a window that can be opened. Try to keep the window open as much as possible to enable ventilation and airflow as this will help to keep clean air moving through your room.
- Try to separate yourself from other people in your home and keep the door closed. If you cannot stay in a separate room, aim to keep 2 metres (3 steps) away from the other people in your house.
- Try to keep yourself separated from other people as much as possible, and make sure everyone regularly follows the steps in previous guidance (cleaning your hands, not touching your face and cleaning surfaces for example).

- Use your own toothbrushes, eating and drinking utensils (including cups and glasses in the bathroom and bedroom), dishes, towels, washcloths or bed linen. Do not share food and drinks.
- If you have a garden, it is fine to use it as long as you keep 2 metres away from other members of your household. If possible they should use the outside area separately.

At present, in line with official guidance, some of our staff are either self- isolating or being asked to remain at home if they are in an 'at risk' category. We are closely monitoring staffing numbers and have contingency plans in place should staff continue to be off work. We have been instructed that schools should continue to operate as normal. These routines will help students see normality where possible so that they do not become frightened or anxious.

Many thanks to the families that have already completed the Microsoft form that will enable us to establish where hard copies of materials can be passed on if internet access is not possible. This will close at **1pm today** and can be accessed through the school website:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=wC_kKVN2UUqnzosIzVoQVXT5tAGfQHRERsLIBbOeTNFUQII2RzZYRzVITDBLR01LSzQ2VVhVNjZGQy4u

In addition to the steps I have already informed you about, we have also taken the following decisions in the last 24 hours:

- the school building will continue to be closed to all staff and students at 5pm every day for the foreseeable future. This will ensure that staff that would have been monitoring external evening lets can be used to support the school being operational during the day.
- Additional cleaning routines have been introduced in certain parts of the school e.g toilets and door handles.
- All parents that have paid for the peripatetic music lessons that have been cancelled will be reimbursed in due course. Further details will follow.
- The Art and Photography GCSE exams scheduled for 24th/25th March and 31st March/1st April will now take place in wk commencing 27th April. The exam board has been made aware of these changes and students will not be disadvantaged as a result.
- The GCSE Music recording days scheduled for 19th/20th March have been cancelled due to staff absence. Again, we are in negotiation with the exam board and updates will follow.

We appreciate this is an anxious time and ask all members of the community to remain calm with school staff as we deal with the developing situation. Obviously, we are receiving a very high volume of calls/emails in school about coronavirus and I ask that you are patient with all members of staff as we are simply following guidance from the DFE and Public Health England. It has been heartening to read the emails and social media messages of support and these have been greatly appreciated.

I will be in touch tomorrow with a further update

Yours faithfully

Dee Elliott
Head teacher