



# Nailsea School

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2<sup>nd</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents/carers

I am writing this to you on what would have been the brink of the Easter break and yet we are now coming to the end of the first two weeks of enforced closure. We are all adjusting to new routines and practices and some of us, myself included, may have found this a struggle. Most importantly I trust you are all safe and well in these challenging times. This weekly letter (as opposed to the facetime message from myself and Gary that you may have seen on social media – eeeekkk!) does contain lots of information that I hope you will find useful as a point of reference.

## Home Schooling and Setting of Work

As you can imagine, setting work remotely has been a learning curve for us all. I was incredibly proud of how staff responded to the closure with the setting of the first fortnight of work being done at such short notice. It was also incredibly useful to have 237 parents respond to the home learning survey that was sent home at the end of the first week and this feedback also supported the great efforts of staff in the first instance. 75% of respondents reported that the *amount* of work set was appropriate and 91% of respondents said the *type* of work set was appropriate. The comments and suggestions made by parents have been useful and informed some changes that will take place in the setting and submission of work in term 5 – week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> April. You can find the outline of the changes and some further information on the 'Home Learning FAQ Term 5' sheet, attached.

## Government guidance

We have had communication from some concerned members of the community and the Police Community Support Officers regarding young people continuing to meet up together in the evenings and not observing the government guidance. It is not known if these groups are made up of Nailsea students but, I would implore parents to ensure all members of the family stay at home where possible. Please do also remember to remain two metres apart from anyone encountered whilst taking outdoor exercise and to keep washing hands as per the guidance. The safety of everyone is very much at stake and responding to the requests and restrictions will help us through this crisis.

## Students continuing to access school site

In line with government expectations the school site has continued to be open *only* for vulnerable children and those children of key workers over the last two weeks. Once again, I would like to formally thank all staff who have continued to come into school to enable this to happen at a time when people are being encouraged to stay at home. There is still the plan for the school to be open during the Easter holiday period (wk comm 6<sup>th</sup> April – 17<sup>th</sup> April, excluding the Bank Holidays of Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April and Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April). As this is something the school would not normally do, **I would ask that if parents require provision during what would have been the Easter holiday, contact is made with their child's Head of House by 2pm on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April at the very latest.**

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**Check-ins with families**

I have thoroughly enjoyed making contact with families during my check in phone calls this week. We have all hugely missed your children and it's been great to hear from students and parents on the routines that have been created so far and, if needed, to be able to reassure or help with any issues or concerns. If you haven't received a call yet – please do not worry. Every family is scheduled to receive a call from someone at school before the end of the 'Easter break'.

Finally, we remain your school – a community of parents, staff and students who must continue to support each other during this difficult period. Looking to the positives, this is also a time and opportunity for you all to really connect with your children and spend quality time with them. There is huge value in simple things such as playing a game or gardening as a family. I would please encourage social media to be used wisely and we would not want to allow children to become slaves to their screens. Fresh air and exercise will continue to play a key part in keeping everyone healthy, physically and mentally.

With us having moved into a different way of educating your son/daughter for the time being, I can't tell you when I will next be able to welcome you all on the front gate, but I can reassure you that your children are still very much the heartbeat of our school.

Stay healthy and stay safe

Yours faithfully

**Dee Elliott**  
**Head teacher**