



Nailsea School

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11th May 2020

Dear parents/carers

I hope you have had a chance to enjoy the bank holiday weekend and, in some way, commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE day. I certainly found some of the footage on the television really quite emotional, and there is no doubt my feelings were clearly heightened by the situation we find ourselves in.

Plans to return to school?

I am writing this letter on Sunday morning prior to the rumoured announcement being made by the Prime Minister related to the phased reopening of schools. As with all the announcements that have been made during this crisis, as a school we are hearing the news at the same time as the rest of the nation and so an update on plans will be shared in next week's letter. Each school across the country will have its own logistical issues but it is clear that we will not be able to open to full capacity whilst social distancing is required to prevent infection spreading. Although we want to accommodate as many students as possible I am also aware that families and staff will be anxious about safety amongst large numbers. The situation is likely to be a complex one and we will continue to update you as we move towards a new 'normal'. Thank you, in advance, for being patient whilst plans are put in place.

Students accessing school site

We have noticed an increase in the number of children accessing the school site during the last week. As a reminder this provision is intended for children with a social worker, vulnerable children and those children of key workers. For students attending, the school day runs as normal, from 8:40am - 3:00pm. Students are provided with lunch when on site. In order for the school to have the correct amount of staff on site, parents are requested to notify their child's Head of House in advance to notify them of attendance ideally with as much notice as possible, but 24 hours notice as a minimum.

Students who are not in school

We hope that routines have to some degree been established for home working. For the sake of repeating myself, it is not expected that you become teachers or that the home schooling situation leads to conflict at home. We are aware that students will be responding differently to the tasks that have been provided. There have been changes made to the way work is set and I hope this has been noted. At the end of this letter you can also find a selection of resources that you may like to access with your child, focusing on reading for pleasure. Many thanks to Mrs Corkerton, our Librarian, who has put these together. Please remember that if you need to have work printed in order for you to complete it, do contact your child's Head of House.

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Transition and Induction

Yr 11 students should have now been working on their 'bridging tasks' in readiness for progressing to year 12 in September.

Yr 9 students have been submitting their 'Passport Projects' for their new GCSE subjects and many are being highlighted for their efforts in our weekly 'Shut Down Shout Outs' having really impressed their teachers.

Those families that are joining us in year 7 in September, have also received documentation in the last week and I am very much enjoying receiving introductory letters from the new students.

We are aware that given the changes to the summer term we will need to provide a different type of support for students progressing to their next stages in September and plans are being put in place for this.

Thank you for the incredible support you are continuing to give your children at home during this challenging period. Please also remember that staff are available at the end of an email, should you want any more additional input/support from us. I will be in touch again next week.

Take care and stay safe

Dee Elliott

Headteacher

Reading for Pleasure resources

Libraries Southwest

https://www.librarieswest.org.uk/client/en_GB/default

Whilst libraries are closed you can still access a range of reading and listening material via their electronic services: eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines, eComic and eNewspaper are all available to borrow for free.

You will need your library card number to register/sign in to these services.

LibrariesWest have also just launched an amazing online Comics collection, with instant access to over 1500 comics (N.B. you can filter audience by youth and adult).



Love Reading (<https://www.lovereadng.co.uk>) – created to highlight young adult books - a site with lots of suggestions for all kinds of readers

byGosh <https://bygosh.com/> offers online classic literary works, short stories and poems, novels and non fiction for children. It offers a variety of genres by age group. There are a number of featured titles per month. All books can be read online as plain text.

Audible Story, Amazon's audiobook platform, has made a selection of its children's books available for free during lockdown: (<https://stories.audible.com>).

Spotify App, isn't just for music, you can listen to books free of charge by typing 'audiobooks' in the search bar. The list has 'The Hobbit', 'Animal Farm', 'The Secret Garden', 'Treasure', 'Alice in Wonderland', amongst others.

Scribd (www.scribd.com/) The American e-book and audiobook subscription service has made all its contents (including magazine articles) free for a month. They are reading recommendation lists to help readers find the best of the lot.

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(<https://www.gutenberg.org/>)

Harry Potter virtual escape room lets you visit Hogwarts from your couch: google 'Hogwarts Digital Escape Room'.