



18th September 2020

Dear Parents/carers

Given the events of the week, I felt it was even more important to continue with my weekly letters to you all.

Students' isolating – an update

As you are aware there are currently a number of students isolating until Friday 25th September. I can confirm that I did receive a call back from Public Health England yesterday at 1:30pm who, having heard details of the situation, agreed that the decision taken on Wednesday was the correct one. It was also pleasing to hear that the details of how the site has been organised and the measures already in place to mitigate the risk were viewed positively by a member of the team allocated to our case. I trust this will also help in reassuring students and parents. Students in the isolated groups have received details of how work will be set and reviewed for the rest of their time in isolation in letters sent via email this morning. I look forward to seeing them again on Monday 28th September, as long as they are well enough to return and not displaying symptoms.

What do parents do if their child displays symptoms/need a test?

I have attached a flow diagram to remind parents about the process that needs to be followed if households display symptoms, for your reference. I would like to reiterate the importance of families notifying the school if a child displays symptoms and/or are waiting for tests. At this stage, the rest of the household should be isolating. When isolating it is vital, to potentially prevent the spread of the virus, that everyone in that household remains at home.

What are the expectations of attendance for other students?

At present all students, others than those in the isolation groups, are still expected to attend school in line with national guidance. Guidance states that if a student is choosing to stay at home whilst not displaying symptoms or waiting for a test, families need to be aware that this will be classed as an unauthorised absence. Students who are in this position will not be able to access additional work by teachers but can continue to access homework tasks on SMH as, usual. I would urge anyone in this situation to discuss their concerns about being at school with the relevant Head of Year in order that reassurances can be given and students can return to school. Contact details are as follows:

- Year 7 – Will Hellier – whellier@nailseaschool.com
- Year 8 – Natalie Wells – nwells@nailseaschool.com
- Year 9 – Josh Howard – jhoward@nailseaschool.com
- Year 10 – Susi Wisby – swisby@nailseaschool.com
- Year 11 – Dom Graffagnino – dgraffagnino@nailseaschool.com
- 6th form – Jon Reddiford – jreddiford@nailseaschool.com

Headteacher: Mrs D Elliott

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Behaviour at social times

As your son/daughter may have passed on to you, when in classrooms students are in seating plans and so social distancing is controlled. At social times, breaks and lunch times, although different year groups are restricted to their own bubbles the management of social distancing becomes more challenging.

I would ask that parents speak with their children about the importance of remembering social distancing during break and lunchtime (as emphasised by the numerous posters around the school). In addition, students should not be spending lunchtime engaged in activities that have skin/skin or object/object contact to reduce the risk of spreading the virus. Students will be challenged on this and we thank you, in advance, for your support on this matter.

Free School Meals

If your child was eligible for Free School Meals at Primary School, please make sure you have emailed North Somerset at **fsm@n-somerset.gov.uk** as soon as possible to tell them that your child is moving up to Nailsea. This will ensure that their entitlement can then be changed over.

Similarly, if you feel that your child may be eligible for free school meals, please use the North Somerset website to check your eligibility: <https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/schools-learning/local-schools/schoolmeals/freeschoolmeals/>

I know that staff at the school have continued to appreciate the support from the community, shown through email, phone calls or positive social media statements. I am aware that some individuals have expressed their frustration at the speed of response from the school and the decisions taken either on social media platforms or through emails sent directly to the school. It is not always possible nor appropriate for me to respond to these views/comments but I would like to reiterate that as a staff body we are doing everything we can with both the safety and educational experience for students and staff at the forefront of planning. I cannot say that I will always get everything right, for all, on every occasion, but this will not be as a result of a lack of dedication, effort or desire to do the very best for everyone in this very challenging situation.

Take care and be kind – never has this sentiment been more important.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Dee Elliott
Head teacher