



Nailsea School

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26th March 2021

Dear Parents/carers

The fact that this letter is being sent on the last Friday in March and the last Friday of term 4 is quite mind boggling – time has certainly flown. The return to all year groups being back in school has gone without incident given the hard work and positive attitudes of both staff and students. Those students completing courses this year have approached the assessment schedule with great maturity and I am sure once the relaxation of the Easter break has passed this focus will continue for term 5.

Zero Heroes

As many families will know at the end of each term I acknowledge the hard work and efforts of all the Nailsea 'Zero Heroes' – those students who have not picked up any behaviour points. This term I am delighted to say that 295 students will be receiving this letter over the next few days having reviewed the data for this term – this is almost 1/3 of the entire school.

Even more impressively, 376 students are receiving a slightly separate letter recognising that they have not accrued any behaviour points in the year to date. This figure demonstrates what a fantastic group of young people we have the privilege of working with every day.

Home Testing kits and expectations over the Easter break

The Department for Education has confirmed that there is an expectation for all staff and students to keep testing at home during the Easter holidays and moving into term 5.

Households are being asked to

- test twice a week at home from now on (all those who are able to)
- report results online as positive, negative or void. This information is critical in helping the government understand the prevalence of the virus across the country. Please use [Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/report-a-covid-19-rapid-lateral-flow-test-result)
- continue to test twice weekly over the Easter holidays
- test before returning to school or college for the summer term, either the night before, or morning of, the first day back, to find and isolate any positive cases

Testing for parents, households and bubbles

Regular testing is now also available for parents, their households and support or childcare bubbles. The government is encouraging twice weekly testing to help stop the spread of the virus.

Parents and other adults in the household can access tests by:

- Ordering tests online [Households and bubbles of pupils, students and staff of schools, nurseries and colleges: get rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/households-and-bubbles-of-pupils-students-and-staff-of-schools-nurseries-and-colleges-get-rapid-lateral-flow-tests)
- Attending a test site to get tested

Questions related to Lateral Flow Tests

As is understandable a number of questions have been asked about lateral flow tests and so I thought it would be helpful to summarise these below:

- Do I need to do a LFT if I have previously tested positive? [You do not need to do a LFT if you have had a positive \(LFT or PCR\) result in the last 90 days](#)
- I have symptoms but my LFT test is negative what should I do? [Book a PCR test through the NHS as you may not have done the LFT correctly. You and members of the same household must isolate until the result is known](#)
- I have a positive LFT at home, what should I do? [Book a PCR test through the NHS site. Your whole household must isolate until the result is known](#)
- I have run out of home tests, where can I get more? [The school will issue replacement kits. Students will be supplied enough to continue testing throughout the Easter break](#)
- Do I need to notify the school of a positive result during the Easter break? [Yes, all positive tests should be communicated via the C19@nailseaschool.com email address which will be monitored throughout the break](#)
- What happens if I run out of home tests during the Easter break? [Use the C19@nailseaschool.com email and someone will notify you about collecting additional tests](#)
- Who do I inform that I no longer want my child to do LFT's at home? [Emails can be sent to C19@nailseaschool.com with the subject line of "withdrawing consent"](#)

Uniform expectations

As a school we have appreciated that during lockdown it may have been difficult to source new items of expected uniform if they have been outgrown. As such staff have been lenient and understood the need for compromise in the last three weeks.

With shops reopening and further 2 week period over the Easter break, we are now expecting all students return to school in the summer term with correct uniform. As a reminder the details can be found here: <https://www.nailseaschool.com/student-life/uniform/>

We ask that parents support us by ensuring that students leave for school in the correct uniform. It is important these standards are maintained across the school as it serves as an important symbol of the expectations of our community and the high standards we set.

Litter on the field

I am very proud of our school having really positive links with the local community. As mentioned in a letter a few weeks ago, residents are always encouraged to contact me regarding any issues they may have. Unfortunately, this week one local resident has contacted me three times regarding litter on the school field.

As some parents may know there are houses that back onto the field with the boundary separated by a ditch. The resident has noticed, with students returning, there has been a significant increase in the litter in this ditch near her property.

At present there are only a limited number of year groups (Year 8, Year 10 and Year 11) that could be involved in littering this area. I would ask parents to remind their son/daughter about respecting not only our fantastic school and our facilities but also working in partnership with our neighbours. It would be fantastic, for example, that the fourth letter from this resident was one that noticed a marked reduction in litter on the field. Thank you for taking the time to discuss this issue at home.

Cars dropping off and picking up on school site

As a reminder, parents can only drive into school and drop off/pick off students at reception by prior arrangement with the Head of House. With students crossing the car park from the coach drop off to access their different bubble entrances and students cycling into school it has been concerning to see a couple of 'near misses' between cars and students since we returned in March. In these instances the cars should not have been driving onto school site in the first place.

After Easter staff will be challenging parents who are driving onto site without prior arrangement and writing directly to those choosing to ignore this polite and reasonable request. I would hope the majority of our families understand the need to have the health and safety of all concerned as the priority and would adhere to our expectations. Thank you, in advance.

End of term 4 and start of term 5

The last day for students in Term 4 is Wednesday 31st March with school finishing at the usual time of 3pm.

Term 5 begins on Monday 19th April with all students expected in at the usual time of 8:40am. This will be a week B2.

Finally...

The last few weeks have shown that we have navigated what was another unknown at the time - returning to school with additional restrictions, such as face coverings. Seeing staff and students again has, I believe, further strengthened our relationships and shown that education and learning is at the very heart of our daily business.

The Easter break will include some key milestones in the government's roadmap with some restrictions lifting. I am, for example, ridiculously excited about my haircut! However, I would urge all families to think about the importance of maintaining a level of caution and acting only within the current guidelines. Although the rates are falling, the virus is still present in our community. Our aim must be to ensure we do all we can to welcome everyone back for all of term 5. Despite some restrictions still being in place, I do wish you all a restful break.

Take care and be kind

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dee Elliott". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Yours faithfully".

Mrs Dee Elliott
Head teacher