



Nailsea School

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5th November

Dear Parents/carers

I trust you all had some time to relax over the break. Term 2 is a busy one and, as ever, I will keep you updated through this weekly letter.

Covid Update

I am really pleased to report that we have had an 80% reduction in the number of active cases this week compared to the final week of term one and a 49% drop in the number of confirmed positive cases since Monday this week. This reduction is reflected in the regional picture and is an encouraging one. However, as a reminder, all schools in the south west remain under the amber escalation level until Friday 12th November. If any further details are shared ahead of this date I will let you all know.

As a reminder the amber escalation means that the following continues to apply:

- Parents continue to use the c19@nailseaschool email address to **report any issues related to Covid-19**. It would be very helpful if this initial email included the name and tutor group of the child and the date when symptoms started, if any. Once confirmed information related to the end of isolation is also very helpful. This will ensure that our records are updated internally and classroom teachers can be informed.
- Student to **continue twice weekly home testing** to pick up asymptomatic cases
- **Students should not come to school if suffering from symptoms of COVID-19** (high temperature, loss of taste or smell, continuous cough). If your child does show symptoms please take them for a PCR test as per NHS guidelines.
- **Masks** to be worn on home-to-school transport and those who travel to school by public transport, in corridors and communal indoor areas at breaktime and lunchtime when not eating. They can be worn in classes if students wish.
- **Internal social areas divided up per year group at break time and lunchtime** will continue during the period of amber escalation.
- **Use of hand gel, ventilation and enhanced cleaning**

We made contact with the North Somerset Health team this week and they were very positive about the measures we had taken. I know that many students find wearing masks a discomfort, as do I, but the importance they can play in reducing transmission cannot be underplayed. I would, therefore, continue to ask for parent support in ensuring students attend school with a mask as part of their key equipment.

As yet the Sirona team have not confirmed the date of the vaccinations that will be held at Nailsea School and conducted by the immunisation team. I understand this could seem frustrating to families given that they may know of students in other settings in the local area that have been vaccinated. Please be assured that the school has no control over when

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our dates are scheduled or confirmed. Once again, on this issue, it is for individual families to decide if vaccination is an option they choose to take. The school will not become involved and will only act as the venue for the team.

Values in Action

As you know the school community confirmed our five core values at the end of last year and moving forward the bulk of my weekly will be centred around news related to each of these.



Ambition

For our **year 13 and 11 students mock exams** are on the horizon and overview timetables are attached for reference. Students should have already seen copies of these.

Mock exams give teachers and students a real indication of where students currently are in the preparation for the final papers in the summer and are a fantastic learning opportunity in themselves. I would remind students and families that these are not the final results but should, nevertheless, be taken seriously. Work is taking place in tutor times and lessons to ensure preparation is underway which should be supplemented with home study and independent learning.

#AimHigh



Respect

Next Thursday, 11th November, the school will mark **Armistice day** in the traditional way with a 2 minute silence.

In order for this to happen at 11:00am, break will start and end five minutes earlier than usual (10:35am and 10:55am) so that students can be in lessons stood silently when the bell rings.

#BePositive



Kindness

Many thanks to the students that have already brought **donations in for our food bank** collection, demonstrating real kindness to those people that will really benefit. All donations can be placed on the table outside the Heads of House office and all students that think of others in this way will be rewarded with House points.

#BeKind



Pride

With the amber escalation currently in place the decision has been taken to postpone this term's **Reward Event**. The eligible students should not be disheartened and their reward will be held over until a convenient time later this term.

It was fantastic to send over 500 'Zero Hero' letters at the end of last term – nearly half the student population being issued no behaviour points in term one. Great job.

#BeProud



Community

As a reminder I am continuing to run **daytime tours for existing parents** who did not have the chance to visit the school during periods of lockdown. There are a variety of times and dates available, with further details and booking conducted through a phone call to main reception. Covid guidelines will apply including, currently, the wearing of face masks when on site.

I would also like to reiterate the importance of maintaining regular contact with the school and I am more than happy to make contact/arrange an appointment to meet with parents on an individual basis if they would like.

#TeamNailsea

Finally...

I would like to finish off this week, thanking families that regularly read this weekly letter. I know there are probably many other things you would like to be doing on a Friday but as this is the key way I can communicate with everyone it is really important that this is something that becomes part of #TeamNailsea's routine. It was really frustrating this week when I had to issue 72 face masks on the main student entrance over the first two days of term with many people stating they were unaware of the need. If there are families that you know do not read this bulletin, I would really appreciate you spreading the word. Thanks in advance.

Take care and be kind

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dee Elliott". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Mrs Dee Elliott
Head teacher