



8th December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Christmas has well and truly arrived this week at Nailsea with a number of festive activities that have taken place. On Wednesday I witnessed first hand the excitement of the students taking part in the festive Treasure Hunt starting in the library and it was great to see the culmination of the hard work of year 7 students' in the Christmas Song competition that same afternoon. Dragon House Charity Day is being held today, as is the reward afternoon for invited students, with many taking up the option of watching a festive film. It would also be remiss of me not to mention the fantastic efforts of our catering team who provided our Christmas lunch on Tuesday. Vegetable preparation alone took 6 hours! I know that students and staff that chose to take part thoroughly enjoyed both the food and the atmosphere. It really is a highlight of the school calendar. As a reminder school finishes for Christmas at 12:20pm on Friday 15th December.

Other messages for the week can be found below:

Flu vaccinations

The Sirona nursing team will be in school on Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th December to administer the Flu vaccination to all students in Years 7 - 11. Families will have needed to complete the econsent form (which closed this morning) in order for their child to be vaccinated on the day.

Parent Carer Survey

We would like to invite you to participate in a brief survey regarding your thoughts on the ABSolute (Aspire, Believe, Succeed) Curriculum, specifically our ABSolute sessions delivered during Extended Tutor Time.

This survey should only be completed if you have a child/children currently in Years 7-11. Before completing the survey, we encourage you to visit the Personal Development page on our school's website <https://www.nailseaschool.com/personal-development/> to view the overview of topics covered across each year group. After reviewing this content, you will be in a better position to provide your feedback through this survey.

The feedback form can be found here <https://forms.office.com/e/kVbPeFzhc6> and will close to responses in the new year. Thank you, in advance, for taking time to provide this important feedback.

Attendance Summary

Please find attached a useful summary of procedures that the school follows when monitoring your child's attendance at school. For further information parents can visit the specific section of our website here [Attendance & Punctuality – Nailsea School](#) where the attendance stages are also explained. If you have any concerns or questions about your child's attendance please contact your child's tutor in the first instance.

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Reminders regarding absence due to illness

Many thanks to parents for using the absence line to report student absence. Inevitably at this time of year a number of bugs are being shared which may mean students are too unwell to come to school. Some parents have been in touch regarding their child testing positive for Covid-19. Current guidance is that children should not be taking tests unless recommended by a healthcare professional and adults are no longer required to test if they have symptoms. As with any cold, if students are well enough to be in school and do not have a high temperature they can continue to come to school.

End of term arrangements

Term 2 will finish at 12:20pm on Friday 15th December. Students will attend tutor time, and periods 1-3 as normal. There will be an opportunity for students to purchase food at break time and those students entitled to free school meals will have the amount uploaded to spend at break time. All methods of transport that are used to bring students to school are aware of the earlier finish. This is also a non-uniform day with suggested donations of £1 going towards the PTA.

Finally...the end of term two can be a challenging one for everyone. The weather has continued to be grim, mornings and afternoons are dark and people are naturally tired. As ever, the mutual support that staff and students provide each other really helps, as does their kindness and sense of humour.

As you may have seen from my Twitter account this week, I certainly wasn't expecting a visit from the 'Head of Mischief' and Gary certainly ended up worse off than me, but it certainly made me laugh!

Benjamin Zephaniah's death, announced yesterday, also meant that I was reminded of one his poems

*People need people,
To walk to
To talk to
To cry on and rely on,
People will always need people
To love and to miss
To hug and to kiss,
It's useful to have other people*

I am very lucky to have the 'people' of TeamNailsea, those in the building and beyond, in my life.

Enjoy your weekend

Take care and be kind

Head teacher

