



20<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Dear Parents/carers

Over the past week, I have spent time visiting a couple of other secondary schools in Bath and South Gloucestershire. These visits are an important part of our ongoing commitment to learning from best practice across the sector and continually reflecting on how we can strengthen the experience we offer our students. It has been both insightful and energising to see the excellent work happening in other settings and to bring back ideas that will help us keep refining what we do.

At the same time, these visits have also reaffirmed something I already know: our values, behaviour expectations, and systems here at Nailsea are strong, clear, and well-embedded. We are proud of the calm, purposeful atmosphere in our classrooms, the kindness our students show one another, and the high expectations that guide all areas of school life. Seeing other schools has reminded me not only of the importance of continuous improvement, but also of the many strengths already firmly in place within our own community. I continue to be very proud of our staff and students.

Other messages for the week can be found below:

### **Wessex Learning Trust Student Voice Survey**

This week, we are inviting all students to take part in the Wessex Learning Trust Student Voice sample, which gathers honest thoughts and feelings about school life. This is an important opportunity for students to reflect on their experiences and help shape future improvements across the Trust. Their feedback plays a meaningful role in understanding what is working well and where we can strengthen the support, opportunities, and environment we provide. We would be grateful if you could encourage your child to complete the survey thoughtfully so that their voice is fully represented. The survey can be accessed here [Student Voice Survey](#)

### **IGNITE – Pay it Forward**

If you'd like to additionally support the IGNITE enrichment programme you can 'pay it forward' or make a donation in the MCAS store. This donation will help subsidise activities and enable us to purchase additional resources for in-school activities.

### **Dragon Charity Week**

Between Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March and Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April Dragon House are fundraising for Cancer Research UK, which is very close to the hearts of many Dragon students and staff. A portion of the money raised will be donated to Eco-Schools to fund our own Dragon House planter.



Each tutor group have worked very hard to plan a fundraising event. Most events are available on the MCAS app to pre-pay for. Some events will accept cash on the day. We have also set up a Go Fund Me page linked here: [Dragon Fundraising Go Fund Me](#). Any donations are greatly appreciated.

For further details, look out for the promotional slides in your weekly plan PowerPoints from your tutors and around the school. See the plan below, and attached so you can sign up, have fun and raise some money!

- Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March - Badminton Tournament, Dragon Hunt, Bingo
- Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March - Penalty Shootout, Carnival Games
- Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April - Traitors, Film (Spiderman: Across the Spider verse), Sponge the Teacher
- Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April- Non-school Uniform Day, Film (continue Spiderman: Across the Spider verse), Fitness 100 (staff fitness contest)

### **Message from North Somerset following the meningitis reports in Kent**

We understand that recent news reports about the meningitis outbreak in Kent may be concerning for parents. We are reaching out to share information and the correct guidance.

We would like to reassure you that there is no baseline increased risk outside of the specific outbreak in Kent at this time. Currently there is no need for our school to take any additional actions beyond routine good practice. There is no new or additional national guidance issued following the Kent outbreak. Parents, and carers are reminded of the importance of keeping routine vaccinations up to date, including the MenACWY vaccine where applicable. The full UK routine schedule is available here: [Complete routine immunisation schedule from 1 January 2026 - GOV.UK](#)

### **Staff and Recruitment Update**

Our priority is always to recruit high-quality, dedicated professionals who share our values and our commitment to providing the very best educational experience for your children. On occasions there are times when staff choose to relinquish their roles and like all schools we are tied to national recruitment timelines when staff are in the position to resign from existing schools to join us. We are aware that this has meant some students have experienced a change to teacher but, as always our priority is to ensure that learning continues smoothly.

When these situations occur and to minimise the impact on lessons there are a number of measures that are put in place. These include

- Careful planning with our teaching teams to ensure classes continue to follow their schemes of learning.
- Use of familiar cover staff who already know our routines and expectations.
- Support from subject leaders to maintain the quality and continuity of learning.

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- Redistribution of staff where appropriate so students remain well supported throughout the school day

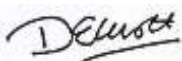
Like many schools at this time of year over the coming weeks we will be advertising for a small number of posts. Our vacancies have arisen for a range of positive reasons such as career progression, internal promotions, and the natural movement that occurs in any school community.

**Finally...** this fourth week of term 4 included St Patrick's Day, a celebration recognised around the world for its sense of community, heritage and shared traditions. St Patrick's Day is not only a cultural celebration — it also reflects a long history of perseverance. The story of St Patrick himself is one of overcoming challenges: according to tradition, he faced hardship early in life and still went on to become a symbol of hope, learning, and renewal. Over the centuries, Irish communities around the world have also used this day to celebrate their ability to remain hopeful, maintain identity, and support one another through difficult times

Beyond the festivities, it offers us a meaningful opportunity to reflect on a few important values we hope our students will carry with them. St Patrick's Day reminds us of the importance of resilience — the idea of facing challenges with determination and optimism. It also highlights the value of kindness and generosity, qualities often associated with the stories and spirit of the day. Perhaps most importantly, it encourages a sense of belonging, as people of all backgrounds come together to celebrate.

These are all themes we strive to nurture in our school community: supporting one another, respecting our shared and different traditions, and understanding the positive impact we can have when we act with compassion.

We hope your weekend brings moments of connection and rest, and we look forward to welcoming students back next week



Dee Elliott,

Head teacher

