



18th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

As we look ahead to next week, there is a real sense of excitement across the school as we prepare to welcome prospective students and their families to our Open Evening. This is one of the highlights of the school year and an opportunity to showcase everything that makes our school such a special place to learn and grow.

Our visitors will have the chance to meet our dedicated staff, explore our facilities and, most importantly, see our students in action. We are incredibly proud of the way our young people represent the school, and Open Evening provides a wonderful opportunity for them to demonstrate the enthusiasm, talent, kindness and ambition that characterise our community. Thanks to all those students who have already volunteered to act as tour guides or represent subject areas.

Events such as these remind us how far we have come and the strength of the school we continue to build together. We look forward to sharing our vision, celebrating our successes and welcoming the next generation of students and families to see firsthand the opportunities available at our school. Thank you in advance to our staff, students and families who help make our school such a vibrant and welcoming community.

As a reminder, so that we can prepare, school finishes for students at 1:20pm on Thursday 24th September. In light of the late finish for staff and students, school starts on Friday 25th September at 9:30 am for tutor time, with lessons beginning at 10:00.

Other messages for the week can be found below:

Attendance Matters because Your Child's Future Matters

Thank you to all families who continue to prioritise excellent attendance. We were delighted to see attendance reach 98% last Tuesday, demonstrating what is possible when students are in school, learning and thriving together. However, by Friday attendance had fallen to 93%, which equates to a significant number of missed lessons and learning opportunities across the school. This highlights the importance of maintaining strong attendance throughout the entire week, not just at the start. Every day matters, and missing lessons on a Friday can have just as much impact on learning, progress and wellbeing as any other day.

We would also ask parents and carers, wherever possible, to avoid arranging routine medical and dental appointments during the school day. We recognise that this is not always possible, but appointments outside school hours should be prioritised whenever they are available. If an appointment must take place during the school day, students should attend school before the appointment and return afterwards whenever possible. This ensures they receive both their morning and afternoon attendance marks, minimises disruption to learning and helps them remain connected to important lessons and activities.

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Registered in England. Company number 7348580



Excellent attendance remains one of the strongest predictors of academic success. By working together to ensure students attend every day, arrive on time and remain in school for as much of the day as possible, we can give every young person the very best opportunity to achieve their potential.

Improving attendance remains a key priority for Nailsea School this year and to strengthen our attendance processes and ensure that all students receive the support they need to attend school regularly, we are working closely with Education Welfare Services South West. This partnership will help us provide appropriate support, challenge and intervention where attendance falls below expected levels.

Attached to this week's communication is a letter outlining our attendance procedures and expectations for the year ahead. The letter explains the processes that will be followed in relation to attendance monitoring, support pathways, leave of absence requests and the graduated response that will be taken when attendance becomes a concern.

Our aim is always to work positively with families to remove barriers to attendance wherever possible. However, it is important that parents and carers are aware that the procedures detailed in the attached letter will be consistently applied moving forward, in line with statutory guidance and local authority expectations.

We encourage all families to take the time to read the attached letter carefully and to contact the school should they require any support or clarification. By working together, we can ensure that every student benefits from the continuity of learning, sense of belonging and opportunities that excellent attendance brings.

Supporting Attendance: Introducing our 'Under the Weather' form

We know that there are times when students may wake up feeling a little under the weather but are still well enough to attend school. To help families navigate these situations, we are introducing our new 'Under the Weather' Form.

If your child is feeling unwell but you feel they may be able to attend with some additional support, parents can complete the form before 8:30am. A member of our team will then check in with the student during the day, monitor how they are feeling and provide appropriate support to help them remain in lessons wherever possible.

We know that many minor illnesses improve as the day progresses, and we do not want students to miss valuable learning opportunities unnecessarily. By working together, we can often help a young person successfully complete the school day while ensuring their wellbeing remains our priority. The form can be accessed here [Under the Weather Form -Supporting Nailsea Students to Continue to Attend School – Fill in form](#) and for easy access it will be available on the school website absence page from next week. We encourage parents to make use of this support whenever they are unsure whether a minor illness should prevent attendance. Together, we can help every student make the most of every school day.



Nailsea Community Clean Up

Nailsea Town Council is inviting residents to come together for an autumn community clean-up, helping to keep Nailsea's parks and public spaces clean, welcoming and looking their best as we head into the winter months.

The event is a great opportunity to get outdoors, meet other local residents and make a positive difference to the town.

- Date: **Saturday 3 October 2026**
- Time: **1:00pm – please arrive by 12:45pm**
- Meeting point: **Millennium Park, near the Skate Park**
- Equipment: **Litter-picking equipment will be provided by Nailsea Town Council. If you have your own gloves or litter-picking tools, please feel free to bring them.**

Community clean-ups are a great way for residents to come together and take pride in Nailsea. An autumn clean-up is particularly important as we head towards the winter months, helping to keep our parks and public spaces clean and welcoming. Every piece of litter collected makes a difference, and we hope lots of local people will come along and get involved.

Keeping Children Safe Online

Our Online Safety Hub is now live! You can access it for free here:

<https://nailseaschool.onlinesafetyhub.uk/>

The Online Safety Hub is a brand-new online resource with lots of expert advice and guidance to help you manage your child's safety online as a parent. It includes information on the latest hot topics when it comes to keeping children safe, such as how to manage your child's screen time, understand the latest gaming platforms, what they mean for your child's safety and lots more.

We're also offering you as a parent, a free Qustodio account facilitating parental controls on any individual device and free premium access for 30 days. This would enable you to gain more visibility on what's going on in your child's online world, block dangerous content, introduce screen-free schedules, receive alerts for inappropriate content, keep tabs on their location and more. Follow the link to create your free account https://www.qustodio.com/en/30-days-school-special/?utm_source=internal&utm_medium=OSHUB&utm_campaign=nailseaschool

Uniform reminder

The Heads of House team would like to remind parents/carers that Leggings are **not** part of school uniform.

If your child is wearing leggings they will be given a verbal reminder.

The second time your child wear leggings they will be given a '**Ready**' mark and the tutor will make contact with home.



The third time your child wears leggings they will be given a **Refocus** detention that day. The Head of House will make contact with home.

The fourth time your child wears leggings we will contact you and arrangements will be made for your child to change their uniform to ensure they are Ready for school before they return. Thank you for supporting us in upholding our clearly communicated uniform expectations.

And Finally....As I looked through this week's news, one story particularly caught my attention.

Researchers have reported further evidence that delaying smartphone use and reducing time spent glued to screens can have a positive impact on young people's wellbeing, sleep and ability to focus. While I suspect many parents reading this needed no research study to tell them that, it was reassuring to see science catching up with what families and schools have often observed for years.

It also made me reflect on one of the great challenges of modern parenting and education: competing with a device that can deliver endless entertainment, videos, memes and messages in seconds. Our 'Gate to Gate' mobile phone policy means devices cannot be seen during the school day and as a school, we remain committed to creating opportunities for students to talk to one another, join clubs, play sport, perform on stage, solve problems and experience the kind of moments that no algorithm can provide.

This weekend, I therefore offer a light-hearted challenge to every family: see whether you can spend at least one hour together without anyone reaching for a phone. Go for a walk, play a board game, bake something ambitious, watch some sport, or simply talk.

Thank you, as always, for your support. I hope you all enjoy a restful weekend, and I look forward to sharing more of the great things happening at Nailsea School next Friday.

Yours sincerely,



Dee Elliott,

Head teacher

