



25th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

As I write this week's letter, I want to begin by reflecting on what was a truly wonderful Open Evening last night. The atmosphere across the school was exceptional, with classrooms buzzing with activity, staff proudly showcasing their subjects, and prospective families taking the opportunity to explore everything that makes our school such a special place to learn and grow.

What stood out above all else were our students. They were outstanding ambassadors for the school, demonstrating confidence, pride, kindness and maturity throughout the evening. Whether leading tours, speaking to visitors, supporting activities or simply sharing their experiences of school life, they represented our community superbly. Their enthusiasm and genuine passion for their school left a lasting impression on many of our guests.

As families left the event, we received a significant amount of positive feedback about both the warm welcome they had received and the quality of interactions with our students and staff. It was particularly pleasing to hear so many visitors comment on the strong sense of community, the positive relationships evident throughout the school, and the confidence and courtesy demonstrated by our young people.

For those families who were unable to attend, or who would like to see the school in action on a typical day, our programme of daytime tours begins next week and can be booked by contacting reception. Open Evening provides a fantastic opportunity to experience the excitement and energy of the school, but seeing lessons, social times and everyday routines gives an equally important insight into what life at our school is really like. We look forward to welcoming many prospective families over the coming weeks and giving them the opportunity to see our school community at its very best.

Other messages for the week can be found below:

Attendance Matters because Your Child's Future Matters

Last week, we introduced our new 'Under the Weather' Form as part of our commitment to supporting excellent attendance while ensuring student wellbeing remains our priority. The form is designed to help families when a child wakes up feeling a little unwell but may still be able to attend school with some additional support and monitoring.

I am pleased to report that a number of families have already made use of the form this week. In several cases, students who may otherwise have remained at home were able to attend school successfully, knowing that a member of staff would check in with them during the day. Parents have told us that they appreciated the reassurance of having that additional support in place, while students benefited from remaining in lessons, maintaining their routines and continuing with their learning.

Headteacher: Mrs D Elliott info@nailseaschool.com | www.nailseaschool.com
Nailsea School | Mizzymead Road | Nailsea | BS48 2HN | 01275 852251



Wessex Learning Trust. Head Office: Station Road, Cheddar, Somerset, BS27 3AQ.
Registered in England. Company number 7348580



We know that many minor illnesses improve as the day progresses, and our experience this week has reinforced that, with the right support, students can often complete a successful school day while still having their wellbeing closely monitored. The initiative has helped strengthen communication between home and school and enabled us to respond quickly to students who may have needed a little extra care and encouragement.

A reminder that if your child is feeling unwell but you believe they may be able to attend school, the form should be completed before 8:30am so that our team can make the necessary arrangements. The form can be accessed on the school website and here [Under the Weather Form](#) and we would encourage parents to continue making use of this support whenever they are uncertain whether a minor illness should prevent attendance. Together, we can ensure that every student receives the support they need whilst maximising valuable learning time in school.

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.

Our 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.

Can you help to create a wildlife pond or plant trees at Nailsea School?

The Eco-Schools team have some exciting projects planned for the autumn term which will improve the biodiversity of the school site. We will be creating a wildlife pond in the DEN on Tuesday 6th October and planting 4 new 'house trees' in November (date to be confirmed).

We would be grateful for the help of anyone with experience in making a pond or planting trees, or even those who are happy to get their hands dirty.

Please can parents or family members who would like to be involved in either of these projects contact Mrs Bicknell on fbicknell@nailseaschool.com.



Safeguarding and Wellbeing support at Nailsea School

At Nailsea School, we know that students achieve their best when they feel safe, supported and cared for. Academic success and strong attendance are closely linked to wellbeing, which is why we have a dedicated safeguarding team available to support students and families whenever help is needed. Information about our safeguarding team can be found on the recently updated attachment and our website [Safeguarding Team – Nailsea School](#) The poster introduces the many staff members available to provide support across the school.

Our safeguarding team includes designated safeguarding leads, Heads of House, pastoral mentors, sixth form leaders and our Parent Family Support Officer, ensuring that there is always someone available to listen, offer advice and provide practical support. Students can easily identify members of the team through the green lanyards they wear around school. If concerns arise regarding a young person's welfare, safety, emotional wellbeing or circumstances outside of school, help is never far away. Families can also contact the team directly via safeguardingteam@nailseaschool.com.

We appreciate that growing up can sometimes bring challenges that affect confidence, wellbeing and attendance. Whether a student is experiencing friendship difficulties, anxiety, worries at home, concerns about safety, or simply needs someone to talk to, we want parents to know that support is available. Our aim is always to work in partnership with families to remove barriers, improve wellbeing and ensure that every student can attend school regularly and thrive both personally and academically.

By providing early support and intervention, we can help students build resilience, maintain positive attendance habits and make the most of every opportunity available to them. No concern is too small, and we encourage students and families to reach out whenever support may be needed. Together, we can ensure every child feels safe, valued and ready to succeed.

Head Lice (Nits)

We have had a few reported cases of head lice (nits) within the school community. To help prevent them from spreading, please could you check your child's hair tonight.

Head lice are a normal part of school life and are very common but catching them early makes them much easier to treat. If you do find any live lice or eggs, please treat your child's hair before they return to school. There is no need to stay off school provided hair is being treated. [NHS Advice on Head Lice and Nits](#)

Extra Curricular Offer

The 2026-27 Extra Curricular booklet is now available on our website [HERE](#). Students will be able to try the activities and clubs before registering to join in the next few weeks via MCAS. Once again the breadth range of activities available to our students is phenomenal and we are all immensely grateful to our staff who give up their time to run these activities voluntarily. This term's sports timetable can be found [HERE](#). All activities published in this document remain free of charge, but children should sign up as it helps us better understand their passions and interests.



Fidget Tools in School

We would like to clarify our approach to the use of fidget tools in lessons.

Items such as stress balls, putty and fidget cubes have become increasingly common in schools. While some students, particularly those with diagnosed needs such as ADHD, may benefit from sensory tools, research suggests that fidget items do not generally improve concentration and can sometimes be distracting to both the user and others.

Our approach is therefore to allow fidget tools only where there is a clearly identified need, such as through a SEND support plan. Any approved item must be:

- Quiet and non-disruptive
- Simple and discreet
- Used appropriately and in line with staff guidance
- Safe and unlikely to damage property

Suitable examples include small tactile objects such as textured pebbles or sliders.

Please note that squishy toys are not permitted in school. These items frequently burst or leak, causing damage to clothing, books, furniture and other school resources. Any squishy toys brought into school may be confiscated.

We remain committed to supporting students' individual needs and will continue to work closely with families and professionals to identify the most effective strategies for learning, concentration and wellbeing. Thank you for your support in helping us maintain a positive and focused learning environment for all students.

Understanding and supporting neurodivergent children and young people

North Somerset have produced a free resource that may be helpful for families of neurodivergent children and young people. "Understanding and Supporting Neurodivergent Children and Young People" is an eight-part video series designed for parents and carers. The series provides practical, accessible information on topics including neurodiversity, ADHD, autism, masking, emotional regulation, everyday challenges, and parental wellbeing.

Each video is accompanied by a printable one-page "fridge guide" summarising key points and practical strategies.

Topics include:

- What Do We Mean by Neurodiversity and Neurodivergence?
- How Neurodivergence Can Affect Everyday Life
- Masking: Why School and Home Can Feel So Different
- Coming to Terms with the Idea of ADHD or Autism
- Supporting Your Child While Waiting for an Assessment
- Supporting Big Emotions, Meltdowns, and Shutdowns
- Everyday Challenges: Sleep, Eating, Transitions, and Independence
- Looking After Yourself as a Parent

The resource is free to access and is intended to complement, rather than replace, professional advice and support.



NSPCWT Family Support Fayre - 21 October

North Somerset's Parent Carers Working Together have organised a Family Support Fayre on 21 October 2026. This day will provide resources and information for families supporting children (0-25 years old) with additional needs and/or disabilities. It will be held over three supportive spaces: The Royal Hotel, Winter Gardens and the Sovereign Centre. There will be free expert-led training in SEND topics including Autism, sensory, masking and eating difficulties. There will also be key-note speakers and over 70 exhibitors. [Tickets](#)

And Finally.... At Nailsea School, we believe that strong partnerships between home and school are vital in helping every child to Aspire, Believe and Succeed. We also know that parents and carers have valuable insights, ideas and questions that can help us continue to develop and improve. We are therefore delighted to invite you to our termly *Coffee & Conversation with the Headteacher* sessions.

These informal drop-in events provide an opportunity to meet with me, share your thoughts, ask questions, discuss anything that may be on your mind, and offer suggestions about any aspect of school life. Whether you have feedback to share, an idea for improvement, or simply want to find out more about what is happening at Nailsea School, you will be very welcome.

There is no set agenda and no formal presentations, just an opportunity for open and honest conversation in a relaxed setting. The aim is to vary the time and date each term so that as many parents as possible can attend. The term one date is Thursday 15th October from 10:30 - 11:30am. To ensure we have the right venue for the numbers attending (as well as enough biscuits!), I would ask that those wishing to come along complete this short form [Coffee & Conversation with the Headteacher Your Voice. Your Ideas. Your School. – Fill out form](#)

I look forward to meeting many of you and hearing your views as we continue working together to ensure Nailsea School provides the very best experience for every student.

Yours sincerely,



Dee Elliott,

Head teacher

