



2nd October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a real pleasure this week to welcome so many prospective families into our school for our parent tours. Time and again, visitors have commented on the purposeful and calm atmosphere around the school, as well as the genuine warmth and respect evident in the relationships between students and staff. For us, these observations are particularly pleasing because they reflect the values we work hard to embed every day.

Since relaunching our behaviour expectations of *Ready, Respectful, Responsible* last year, we have been committed to creating an environment where every student can learn, thrive and feel supported. Seeing these values lived out in classrooms, corridors and social spaces, and hearing independent visitors recognise them so readily, is a testament to the character of our students and the dedication of our staff. We are incredibly proud of the positive impression they continue to make on all who visit our school.

Other messages for the week can be found below:

Attendance Matters because Your Child's Future Matters

As we move into the second half of term 1 we know that coughs, colds and minor illnesses become more common. The NHS advises that children can normally attend school with mild illnesses such as sore throats, coughs and runny noses, providing they do not have a high temperature. Further details can be found on the school website [Attendance & Punctuality – Nailsea School](#).

In addition to this we encourage families to take advantage of flu vaccination opportunities and complete our 'Under the Weather' form accessed on the school website and here [Under the Weather Form -Supporting Nailsea Students to Continue to Attend School – Fill in form](#)

Good attendance throughout the winter months helps students maintain routine, continue learning and stay connected to their friends and teachers.

Flu Vaccinations Reminder

The flu vaccination is for all students from Reception to Year 11.

Please remember to complete the consent form whether you do or do not want the vaccination at <https://imms.sirona-cic.org.uk/flu/2026/consent?v=3>

Coffee & Conversation with the Headteacher

Unfortunately circumstances outside of our control have necessitated a change to the date of the first *Coffee & Conversation with the Headteacher* session. The next session will now be Tuesday 20th October at 9.30am.

If you would like to come along please complete the short form in order that we can manage numbers [Coffee & Conversation with the Headteacher Your Voice. Your Ideas. Your School. – Fill out form](#)

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.
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Catering and dinner money

As previously shared, Aspens Services is now our official school catering provider.

Because Aspens has complete, independent control over all pricing and transactions, all dinner money payments now go directly into their bank account. Consequently, the School Finance Department are unable to modify or manage individual student lunch accounts.

The school finance team can no longer assist with:

- Topping up accounts: Adding emergency funds if a student's balance is empty.
- Fixing till errors: Correcting account balances due to double charges or system mistakes at the till registers.
- Resolving purchase queries: Adjusting balances or investigating disputes regarding what was bought.

For any account discrepancies, balance updates, or purchasing questions, please contact Aspens directly josephine.palmer@aspens-services.co.uk

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding as we adjust to this new system.

Nailsea Community Clean Up – 3rd October

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.

October half term lunch bags message from Clevedon and District Foodbank

During the October half term period, parents/ carers of school-aged children and pre-school nursery children who qualify for free school meals can collect lunch bag parcels from any of our four foodbank centres listed in the link below. Please be aware that both of our Portishead and Clevedon Foodbank Centres have moved recently.

Foodbank locations: <https://clevedon.district.foodbank.org.uk/locations/>

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Smoothwall Online Safety Workshop for Parents

This parent session has been rescheduled and will now take place on 12 November.

The link for the updated parent workshop is:

https://smoothwall.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ArRd_MBRS9a5kli1pN9wtQ

This one hour session will be led by Katherine Howard, Head of Engagement and Education at Smoothwall, and will cover:

- The latest apps and games children may be using
- Types of harmful content children may encounter online
- Practical guidance for helping children navigate online risks safely
- Access to a new, free Online Safety Hub with dedicated resources for parents
- An introduction to a parental control app to help manage and monitor online activity

This is a valuable opportunity for families to gain practical tools and insights into keeping children safe online and we would really encourage parents to attend.

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.

Remembrance Day Memorial Wall

As we approach Remembrance Day, the Library will once again be creating a special Remembrance Display and Memory Wall to honour those who served during times of conflict. In previous years, the response from our school community has been truly heartening, and we are delighted to continue this tradition.

We invite students, staff and families to share scanned photographs of relatives who served in World War I or World War II. These images help us create a meaningful tribute that enables students to make a personal connection with the sacrifices made by previous generations. If you have submitted photographs in previous years and would prefer them not to be displayed this year, please let us know by Thursday 22 October.

This year's display will also include a dedicated section recognising those with connections to current conflict zones around the world, as well as serving military personnel. The display will be available to view in the Library throughout November, providing an opportunity for reflection and remembrance across our school community.



If you would like to contribute a photograph, please send a scanned copy, along with the name of the person featured, directly to our School Librarian, Mrs Conner, at aconner@nailseaschool.com. We will share photographs of the completed Memory Wall and Remembrance Display in our weekly newsletter in early December so that families can see the collective tribute created by our community.

Teacher Training

Wessex Learning Trust are introducing a trust-wide teacher development programme. As part of this process some lessons will be recorded for training purposes. For more information please see the attached letter which explains fully. If you **do not** wish your child to be included in any filmed teaching observations, we would ask that you make the school aware by completing this form.

<https://forms.office.com/e/YBbP2khu8M>

And Finally.... I was reminded this week that life has a funny habit of keeping us on our toes. Having spotted that earlier in the year Olly Murs was due to be performing in Birmingham, I was rather pleased with myself, having secured tickets - looking forward to an evening of singing along to songs I definitely know all the words to. Unfortunately, the concert was cancelled due to illness a few days before, leaving me feeling a little like some of our students do when an eagerly anticipated event suddenly doesn't go ahead.

However, this week I discovered that Olly will be appearing at the Good Times Festival in Chipping Sodbury next May. Given that Chipping Sodbury is where I live, this felt less like bad luck and more like the universe quietly apologising! My disappointment quickly turned into excitement, and I am now counting down the months.

It was a timely reminder of the importance of resilience. One of the most valuable lessons we can help young people learn is that setbacks, disappointments and unexpected changes are not the end of the story. Resilience is not about never feeling disappointed; it is about picking yourself up, adapting, staying positive and looking for the next opportunity. Whether it is a cancelled concert, a result that falls short of expectations, or a challenge in school, learning to keep going is often what makes the biggest difference in the long run.

So, if this week has not quite gone to plan, remember that today's disappointment may well become tomorrow's opportunity. Sometimes the things we least expect end up giving us something even better to look forward to.

Have a wonderful weekend, and if you hear some enthusiastic (and possibly out-of-tune) Olly Murs singing coming from the direction of Chipping Sodbury next spring, you'll know exactly who it is.

Yours sincerely,



Dee Elliott,
Head teacher

