



9th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

As a school, we are committed to ensuring that every student receives the very best education possible, and that means continually looking at how we can make great teaching even better. This week marked the launch of Steplab as part of our staff professional development programme, and I am genuinely excited about the opportunities it will bring for both staff and students.

For parents, the easiest way to think about Steplab is to compare it to coaching in sport or music. Even the most talented athletes, musicians and performers continue to work with coaches to refine their skills and improve their performance. Steplab provides that same opportunity for teachers. It allows staff to focus on small aspects of classroom practice, receive guidance from colleagues, try new approaches and gradually build these into their everyday teaching. The aim is simple: to ensure that every lesson has the greatest possible impact on students' learning.

This reflects both our school vision and the Wessex Learning Trust's commitment to continuous improvement. We firmly believe that our students deserve the very best deal possible every day they walk through our doors. By investing in the development of our staff, we are investing directly in the experiences and outcomes of our young people.

What has been particularly pleasing this week is the positive response from colleagues. Staff have fully embraced this focus and recognise the difference it can make to students over time. There is a real sense of shared purpose and enthusiasm as we begin this journey together.

I would also like to reassure parents that lessons are not currently being recorded as part of this programme. At this stage, the focus is very much on coaching, collaboration and professional discussion, with colleagues learning from one another in a supportive environment. Ultimately, Steplab is not about introducing the latest initiative. It is about creating a culture where we are always striving to improve, however small the gain, because our students deserve nothing less. When adults continue to learn, develop and reflect on their practice, the greatest beneficiaries are the young people sitting in our classrooms every day

Other messages for the week can be found below:

Attendance Matters because Your Child's Future Matters

Next week we will be celebrating Belonging Week, a whole-school focus on one of our core messages: Be Here. Belong Here. Thrive Here. Throughout the week, students will have the opportunity to earn a range of rewards including double house points, double golden tickets, breaktime treats, queue-jump passes and lunch vouchers, all designed to recognise the positive contribution that students make simply by being present and engaged in school. These are only the rewards that have been published in advance. There will also be plenty of spontaneous "flash awards" taking place throughout the week, rewarding students who are in school and making the most of every opportunity.



Belonging Week also highlights our continued whole-school focus on attendance. We know that students are most successful academically, socially and emotionally when they attend regularly and feel connected to their school community. Every day in school matters, and every student matters. We look forward to celebrating the fantastic attendance, commitment and positivity of our students throughout the week

Morning Routines

As we continue to strengthen the positive culture of our school, a consistent start to the day remains one of the most important factors in helping every student succeed. Our morning routines are designed to ensure that students begin each day calmly, purposefully and ready to learn. Students can access the school site from 8.00am and should aim to arrive by 8.25am, giving them time to meet friends before moving promptly to tutor time. Students are expected to check that they are wearing the correct uniform, put away mobile devices and be at their tutor base ready for the 8.30am bell. Throughout the week, tutor time, assemblies, silent reading and Extended Tutor Time all play an important role in developing students academically, socially and personally.

To support families, we have created a simple Morning Routines infographic which can be found on our website. [Behaviour & Rewards – Nailsea School](#) We encourage parents and carers to take a few moments to review this with their child. A shared understanding of our routines helps students feel confident, ensures a calm and orderly start to the day, and allows everyone to make the most of every learning opportunity. As the infographic reminds us, every new day brings a fresh opportunity for our students to shine.

Settling In Evening Thursday 15th Oct

As we move further into the term, we are looking forward to our upcoming Settling In Evenings for students in Years 7 and 12, with a small number of Year 11 and 13 students also invited where additional support, guidance or discussion may be beneficial. These evenings provide an important opportunity for parents, carers and school staff to come together to reflect on how students have settled into the academic year, discuss attendance, celebrate successes and address any emerging concerns before they become barriers to success.

We strongly encourage families to attend. Whilst communication by email and telephone is often helpful, there is real value in meeting face-to-face. These conversations help us develop a shared understanding of each young person's needs and ensure that home and school are working together in a joined-up way. By building strong relationships early and maintaining open dialogue, we can provide the best possible support for students and give them the strongest foundation for a successful year ahead.

Flu Vaccinations Reminder

Sirona Nurses will be in school on Monday 12th and Tuesday 13th October administering flu vaccinations to students in years 7 – 11.



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_MBR59a5kli1pN9wtQ

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.

Show Racism the Red Card – 16th October

On 16th October, we will be supporting Show Racism the Red Card, a campaign that promotes equality, respect and inclusion. Students are invited to wear a red top in place of their usual school polo shirt on this day. All other aspects of the school uniform should remain unchanged.

This is an opportunity for our school community to stand together in support of a message that aligns closely with our values of kindness, respect and community. At Nailsea School, we believe that everyone should feel welcomed, valued and treated with dignity, regardless of their background. By taking part, students can help reinforce our commitment to creating a school where differences are celebrated and where everyone feels that they belong. We look forward to seeing a sea of red as we come together to support this important cause.

North Somerset Parents & Carers

NSPCWT bring together organisations + staff from all over North Somerset who are involved in supporting parents and carers with SEN in the family. The next event is Wednesday 21st October. Further information is available on the attached flyer.

It's really worth popping in to talk to staff directly, have more access than usual without a wait, and there are speakers + information workshops.

Working Together with Our Community

We are aware that, from time to time, concerns regarding the behaviour of young people in the precinct and wider community are raised on local social media platforms. While we understand that residents may wish to share their concerns, we would encourage members of the public to contact the school directly whenever they believe our students may be involved.

Direct communication allows us to investigate concerns thoroughly, speak with students and parents where appropriate, and work alongside other agencies to address any issues and support positive outcomes. Whilst social media posts can raise awareness, they do not always provide the full picture and can sometimes make it more difficult to resolve matters constructively.

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As a school at the heart of the community, we value our strong relationship with local residents and businesses. We are committed to working in partnership with our community to ensure that our students are positive ambassadors for Nailsea School and to address any concerns promptly, fairly and effectively. By working together, we can continue to support our young people in making a positive contribution both in school and beyond.

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.

And Finally.... As we are now beyond the halfway point of our first term together, it is a good opportunity to pause and reflect on what has been a fantastic start to the academic year. The mornings are becoming a little darker, the temperature is beginning to drop and, inevitably, the seasonal coughs and colds are making an appearance. Despite this, our students continue to arrive each day with positivity, determination and a real sense of purpose. Their energy and enthusiasm remain a constant source of pride.

This term has also seen a huge amount of interest from prospective families. We have already welcomed more than 100 visitors on our school tours, and it has been a pleasure to showcase our school community in action. Time and again, visitors comment on the calm, purposeful atmosphere around the school and the warmth of our students. One parent recently wrote:



"Thank you so much for your time yesterday. We really enjoyed it and were impressed by all of it - your ethos, the quality of teaching and, what I was not expecting, the amazingly serene environment during a full house! Wonderful. Thank you so much again and best of luck for the busy term ahead."

Feedback like this is particularly heartening because it reflects what we strive to achieve every day: a school where young people feel safe, valued, supported and able to thrive. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Together, we are building a community in which every child can succeed, and I look forward to seeing all that our students achieve during remaining weeks of the term. Have a wonderful weekend.

Yours sincerely,



Dee Elliott,

Head teacher

