



16th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Today, Nailsea School was proud to support Show Racism the Red Card, a campaign that promotes equality, challenges discrimination and encourages everyone to stand together against racism. It was fantastic to see a sea of red tops across the school, with students and staff embracing the opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to creating a community where everyone feels valued, respected and included.

This cause aligns closely with our school values, particularly our commitment to kindness and community. Kindness means treating others with dignity, empathy and respect, regardless of their background or beliefs. Community means recognising that our differences make us stronger and that we all have a responsibility to ensure that every member of our school feels they belong.

By participating in this event, our students have shown that they understand the importance of standing up for others, celebrating diversity and helping to build a school culture where prejudice has no place. I would like to thank students, staff and families for their support. The participation was a powerful reminder that Nailsea School is a community that values inclusion, champions equality and works together to make a positive difference

Other messages for the week can be found below:

Attendance Update – Finishing the term strongly

This week has marked the first week of our Belonging Week initiative, built around the message "Be Here. Belong Here. Thrive Here." The aim is simple but important: ensuring every student feels connected, welcomed and part of our school community. As our attendance slogan states "Attendance Matters Because Your Child's Future Matters", and every day in school provides opportunities to learn, develop friendships and feel a sense of belonging.

It has been wonderful to see students embracing the initiative, with over 90 students already receiving individual treats simply for being in their seat and ready to learn. These small moments of recognition reinforce an important message: showing up matters, and every day in school counts. Our newest students have set a fantastic example. In September, more than 77% of Year 7 students achieved attendance of 97% or above, demonstrating a brilliant start to secondary school and highlighting the positive habits that help young people flourish. Their commitment to attendance has enabled them to settle quickly, build new friendships and make the most of every opportunity available to them.

As we look ahead, there are just four school days remaining before the end of Term 1. At this time of year, coughs, colds and seasonal bugs inevitably begin to make an appearance, but resilience and perseverance remain important. We also recognise that some students may need a little additional support whilst recovering from minor illnesses, and families are encouraged to complete our "Under the Weather" form if they feel this would help in ensuring there is additional awareness amongst staff

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ahead of them coming into school. The form can be found here [Under the Weather Form -Supporting Nailsea Students to Continue to Attend School](#)

Let's work together to ensure that every student makes the most of these final four days. A strong finish to the term will provide the perfect foundation for a successful and rewarding year ahead.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Reporting Absence

Parents needing to let the school know of a child's absence should do so via the MCAS app. To report an absence (dentist, illness, appointments, etc) use the Attendance icon/Report an Absence button. This updates the school system instantly whereas leaving a message on the school absence line takes longer to be checked and passed through to the right person. A guide is attached.

Every Minute Matters Because Your Child Matters

Just as good attendance is vital for success, arriving on time is equally important. Being in school and ready to learn from the very start of the day helps students settle positively, maximises learning time and reduces unnecessary anxiety caused by arriving late. Those first few minutes of tutor time are often when key instructions, announcements and updates take place, meaning that even a short delay can have a significant impact over time.

Nationally, research continues to show a clear link between attendance, punctuality and academic achievement. Students who attend regularly and arrive on time are more likely to achieve stronger outcomes, develop positive routines and feel a greater sense of belonging within their school community.

To support this focus and help students develop independence and responsibility, we are making a small change to our sign-in procedures. From now on, any student arriving late to school will be expected to sign themselves in and record the reason for their lateness. The location is clearly visible near main reception. This approach mirrors expectations that students will encounter in further education, training and the workplace, where individuals are responsible for communicating and accounting for their own punctuality.

Of course, we recognise that there will occasionally be genuine reasons why a student is late. Our aim is not to penalise students unnecessarily, but to encourage them to take ownership of their attendance habits and understand the importance of being ready to learn from the very beginning of the school day.

We are grateful for the support of parents and carers in ensuring students arrive with enough time to enter the building, organise themselves and be in registration promptly. Together, we can ensure that every student gets the best possible start to every day because, quite simply, every minute matters because your child's sense of belonging matters.

Lesson Routines

Last week I referenced the infographic regarding 'Morning Routines' and equally important are our lesson routines, which provide students with a consistent learning experience in every classroom.



From entering lessons calmly and being equipped for learning, to engaging fully with teacher instruction and demonstrating our values through their conduct, these routines help create classrooms where all students can thrive. Consistency in expectations reduces distractions, maximises learning time and supports students in developing the self-discipline and habits that lead to success both in school and beyond.

We encourage parents and carers to discuss these routines with their child so that together we can reinforce the high standards that underpin excellent learning. The infographics 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.

Expectation Reminders Ahead of the end of term

One of the many things we value at Nailsea School is helping young people develop confidence in who they are while also preparing them for the expectations they will encounter beyond school. We recognise that our students are growing into young adults and that many choose to express their individuality through hairstyles, make-up, nails and eyelashes. For some students, these choices can help them feel more confident, comfortable and ready to engage positively with school life. We want to acknowledge and respect this as part of their personal development.

At the same time, schools have a responsibility to maintain standards that support a safe, inclusive and purposeful learning environment. Just as many workplaces have expectations around appearance for practical, professional or health and safety reasons, schools also need clear guidelines. These expectations help prepare students for later life, when they will often need to adapt their presentation to meet the requirements of colleges, apprenticeships, universities and employers.

As a result, we will be reinforcing our existing expectations in this area. Where a student's nails, eyelashes or make-up are deemed unsuitable for the educational environment, we will speak with the student and contact parents or carers to discuss the concern and agree an appropriate resolution. Our aim is always to work positively and collaboratively with families rather than take a punitive approach. We appreciate the support of parents and carers in helping students strike the right balance between expressing their individuality and meeting the expectations that allow everyone to learn, work safely and thrive within our school community

Student support

Wellspring Counselling currently have very short waiting times for their free Listening Service for 11-16 year olds. The attached poster provides further information and contact details.

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.

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.

Extra Curricular

Extra Curricular Clubs, Activities & Support Groups are up and running now across all areas, students should sign up in advance so the leader knows who is coming and resources can be put in place. Signing up also ensures students get their House Points and it helps us see who is doing what around school and which of the extra-curricular activities are the most popular. The programme of activities expands as the year progresses and students make requests - so please continue to watch this space! Please find an explanation of how to register for the clubs on offer, on the attachment.

And Finally.... Anyone who has visited my office may have noticed the famous "Believe" poster hanging above the entrance, inspired by *Ted Lasso*. It has been there for some time as a small



reminder of an important message: that optimism, perseverance and belief in people can make a real difference. This week, I finally finished the last season of the show and, I must admit, found the ending surprisingly emotional.

What struck me most was that, despite being centred on football, the series is really about people. It celebrates kindness, teamwork, resilience and the idea that success is about more than results alone. Those themes feel highly relevant in a school environment. Every day, students and staff face challenges, experience setbacks and work towards ambitious goals. The reminder to support one another, to stay positive when things are difficult and to keep growing from our mistakes is one that resonates strongly with our values at Nailsea School.

The series also highlights the importance of community and belonging. People achieve more when they feel valued, trusted and encouraged, and that is exactly the kind of culture we strive to create for our students every day.

As we head into the weekend, perhaps we can all take a little inspiration from Ted: be curious, be kind and don't stop believing in yourself or those around you. In schools, as in life, progress rarely comes from one big moment. More often, it comes from the encouragement we receive, the relationships we build and the belief that tomorrow is another opportunity to improve.

Thank you, as always, for the support you give to your children and to our school community. The partnership between home and school makes an enormous difference, and it is one of the reasons Nailsea is such a special place to learn and work.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Yours sincerely,



Dee Elliott,

Head teacher

