



Nailsea School

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2nd October 2020

Dear Parents/carers

I am sending this letter on the morning after what would have been our Open Evening. Although a tiring evening, it is always one of my highlights of the year and it was a shame that we could not welcome year 5 and 6 students on site this year in the usual way. Despite the challenging circumstances I have been incredibly proud of all of #teamnailsea, teaching and support staff, that contributed to our 'Open Evening on demand'. I am sure existing parents will also find the information put together as a useful reference point. Details can be found on our website here: <https://www.nailseaschool.com/join-us/open-evening-on-demand/>

Please find the updates pertinent to this week below :

Advice for parents if their child shows symptoms of COVID-19

With the autumn weather now having arrived it is usual that there will be the odd cough and cold that will be present around school. Please be assured that in line with our risk assessment any student who is showing symptoms of COVID-19 are isolated in line with national guidance.

I have attached a handy guide for parents to check the action they need to take if their child is displaying any symptoms. I hope this is a useful point of reference to help inform further actions, including whether the student should come to school.

Feedback from remote learning when students were in isolation

Many thanks to the parents that responded to my survey in last week's letter. Naturally, the ideal situation would be not having to have any students isolating in future weeks, but this feedback is useful for us in refining our practice. Having reviewed the results, I would like to share the findings with you.

- 68% of respondents said the work set was clear
- 78% of respondents said that it was easy to contact school during this period
- 76% of respondents were satisfied with the arrangements

I have also attached to this letter some comments/actions that address a number of the additional comments made by parents for your reference. As always, please do contact the school if you need any clarification or you have any queries.

Lunchtime space

As your son/daughter may have mentioned at home, some of the bubble areas enable students in different years groups to have more recreational space than others. Although this is not ideal, we are working within the parameters of the school building to maintain the integrity of the bubbles. Year 11 students are now beginning to use the marquee that has been placed over the Juice Bar courtyard which has been pleasing to see.

With the weather inevitably becoming more autumnal we would never dream of asking students to be outside in the rain and so classrooms and corridors are naturally becoming busier at social times.

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I would ask that students maintain respect for these areas and not to eat in areas that are carpeted. We are very lucky to have the facilities we have at Nailsea and I am sure you would agree that we have a responsibility to look after them.

Double lessons

As a school we have acknowledged that some students have found adapting to the current double lesson model more easily than others. Staff are being encouraged to include a movement break in the double session but, in order to avoid busy corridors, this does need to take place within the classroom.

In the last week it has been noted that there has been an increase in the number of students asking to use the toilet/asking to fill water bottles during the double lesson. On a number of occasions this has resulted in groups of students congregating at the same time in these areas. As classroom doors need to remain open the noise of conversations/hand driers does also mean that lessons are being disrupted.

In line with school policy, any child with a medical issue is permitted to leave the room to use the toilet any time that is required by showing their medical card. I would ask that all other students take the responsibility and plan their day so that, except for emergencies on rare occasions, students do not need to leave the room during lesson time.

Free School Meals

If your child was eligible for Free School Meals at Primary School, please make sure you have emailed North Somerset at fsm@n-somerset.gov.uk as soon as possible to tell them that your child is moving up to Nailsea. This will ensure that their entitlement can then be changed over.

Similarly, if you feel that your child may be eligible for free school meals, please use the North Somerset website to check your eligibility: <https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/schools-learning/local-schools/schoolmeals/freeschoolmeals/>

Parent/carers contact details

As you are aware we are now using SchoolComms as our main method of communication. ParentPay will now only be used for any issues linked to payments.

We would ask that parents/carers update the school as and when there are any changes to contact details, specifically mobile phone numbers. This is paramount, for example, if there is an emergency situation.

In addition, as with year 11 in a few weeks, we are currently planning to hold all subject evening via phone calls home. Staff will be using the contact number on the system and so it is also important this is up to date. Thank you for your support.

Recycling textbooks?

Have you just had a son/daughter complete GCSE courses or A Levels?

Would you be willing to donate any used textbooks/revision guides to the school that we could distribute them amongst existing students?

If so, could you contact AWatts@nailseaschool.com to discuss drop off and collection at the school. All donations will be quarantined for a set period prior to being distributed to departments/students.

Fleece update

School Captains have made the final decisions on the design of the fleece and suppliers are now working hard on delivery and we are hoping these will be available shortly. We will let you know as soon as School Togs have them in stock. School Captains chose black over navy as it was more in line with the main school uniform and although the fleece is black, this will be permitted as optional outer wear for PE.

We have received concerns from parents of Year 11 that they will only get limited wear out of the fleece. With that in mind we are looking into the possibility of having Year 11 Leavers hoodies available to order now so that Year 11 can wear these as an alternative and will let you know as soon as this is confirmed.

ABSolute Curriculum Overview

Parents in all year groups have the opportunity to see the overview of this curriculum for the year by accessing the website here: <https://www.nailseaschool.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/ABSolute-Curriculum-Programme-Outline.pdf>

Based on the school's ethos of Aspire, Believe, Succeed. The Absolute curriculum encompasses everything not covered at a subject level. This includes assemblies (year and house), designated collapsed timetable days to cover citizenship and British Values and the pastoral programme. If any parent has any questions concerns please direct these to your son/daughter's Head of Year/House/

With us entering October, autumn is well and truly here.
Enjoy your weekend, whatever your plans

Yours faithfully



Mrs Dee Elliott
Head teacher