



Nailsea School

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10th September 2021

Dear Parents/carers

It has been a fantastic few days having all students back on site – even if the weather has not been as kind as it could have been. I know that returning to a normal way of working is warmly welcomed by staff and students. With the changes in guidance please find attached to this letter a document of 'Covid FAQs' that you may find useful as a reference point.

Before launching into the other notices this week I would like to formally acknowledge and thank the staff continuing to be involved in the testing of students. These staff are doing this in addition to their normal roles and really have gone above and beyond to ensure students can return to school safely. I am very lucky to be able to work with such dedicated colleagues.

Parents accessing school site

As a reminder to existing parents and notification to new families joining us students can only be dropped off and picked up at the front of reception with previous agreement of the Heads of House. I know that with recent inclement weather this can be more difficult but this policy is there in order to protect the safety of staff and students. Only yesterday morning there was a very near miss with a car almost reversing into a member of staff. Thank you for understanding that safety comes first.

Communication between home and school

I firmly believe open communication with home is key to supporting students. We use a variety of methods for this as shown below:

- Weekly letter sent home on School Comms <https://schoolcomms.com/> which is also placed on the website <https://www.nailseaschool.com/communication/bulletins/>
- Emergency messages/updates sent home on School Comms <https://schoolcomms.com/>
- Staff can be contacted directly via email <https://www.nailseaschool.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Nailsea-School-Staff-Contact-List.pdf>
- Meetings with me, if requested, can be arranged through Annette Watts, AWatts@nailseaschool.com

The school also has a Twitter and Facebook account where updates on events are posted. If there is ever an issue or concern please do contact us directly rather than using social media and we will do our very best to address the issue as soon as possible.

As shown above signing up to School Comms via School Gateway is key to being kept informed with the most up to date information. If you haven't already done so please download the school gateway app to access school communications.

Feedback at Nailsea School

During the Covid restrictions of last academic year, staff had to continue to develop their practice when it came to providing students with meaningful feedback in the classroom. The restrictions that had to be imposed meant that the more traditional 'written' feedback could not happen as frequently as it had in the past. In its place, staff utilised a range of feedback methods so that students received high quality, timely and purposeful feedback that allowed students to develop their skills and knowledge, allowing them to make rapid progress.

From September 2021, Nailsea School is adopting a new feedback policy which places less emphasis on written feedback in books. As such, when looking in students' books you may not see evidence of a lot of written feedback from the teacher as this is only one form of feedback being given to students in a classroom. The new policy is underpinned by educational research, including: Rosenshine's Principles of Instruction, The EEF 'Feedback to Improve' Report June 2021 and the 'Walkthrus' Questioning and Feedback strand.

Nailsea staff are committed to providing students with high quality feedback that moves learning forward and supports students in making progress. Students receive feedback every lesson in a variety of forms including (but not limited to) our 'Do Now' retrieval starters, when they respond to questions in the classroom and their interaction with staff and fellow students in the classroom.

Homework

Homework at Nailsea School supports students in revisiting, recapping and revising content from lessons during the school day; it is a crucial part of learning, allowing students to consolidate knowledge and skills. As this is such an important aspect of students' learning, non-submission of homework is taken seriously by the school.

In a change to practice, Homework Club will no longer run as a week-long afterschool detention for those missing two pieces of homework a week. Instead, students can expect to receive a C3 detention for each missing piece of homework. This will allow students to complete the missing piece during the detention with a subject specialist in the room. Study Club will also be in operation as a way of offering further support to students who may find homework tricky or those who simply need a quiet place to work. Dates and locations for these sessions will be publicised through tutor time and around the school.

In order to ensure students new to the school are set up on our homework system homework will begin to be set from week commencing 20th September.

Entitlement to free school meals – Year 7 parents

As a reminder parents of students in year 7 eligible for free school meals are required to notify North Somerset that their child has now moved schools.

Finally...

this term will clearly be a time of re-setting for both staff and students, familiarising with routines that were once commonplace. As part of this reset and following the contributions of students, parents and staff in term 6 five key values will be launched with students this term that underpin the school ethos of 'Aspire Believe Succeed'. These values were chosen as they were the ones that appeared most often as representing Nailsea School from the feedback received. More to come on this but, at this stage in the term I thought it would be



important to share with you the outcome and our 5 values are:

I could not be more proud of working in a school and with a community that has recognised these as our key values,

Take care and be kind
Yours faithfully



Mrs Dee Elliott
Head teacher