



Nailsea School

3rd December

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Dear Parents/carers

I hope you are all feeling festive as we have entered December. The return of the Christmas concert last night certainly helped me with this. Many thanks to all the staff and students that were involved. They put on a sterling show, after such a hiatus.

Covid Update

I am aware that there are concerns about the new variant that has been discovered and the impact that this could have on Covid measures and, potentially, schools. We are monitoring the situation and although there has been a slight increase, our Covid rates in school continue to be low (about 1% of the school population). It is likely that we are now starting to see the impact of vaccinations kick in, but we remain cautious and want to ensure that we safeguard students' education and the wider opportunities that offer.

It is disappointing to continue to see a very small number of students come into school repeatedly without a face mask, even with the government re introducing this as a measure nationally. Please ensure your son/daughter does come to school with this essential piece of equipment for the benefit of everyone. I would also appreciate you reiterating the importance of wearing face masks correctly, covering both the nose and mouth. I understand there may be feelings of fatigue with this but in order to keep the school operating as normally as possible, and to keep people safe, this short term irritant is clearly worthwhile in the long run.

Other Covid reminders include:

- Parents should continue to use the c19@nailseaschool email address to **report any issues related to Covid-19**. It would be very helpful if this initial email included the name and tutor group of the child and the date when symptoms started, if any. Once confirmed information related to the end of isolation is also very helpful. This will ensure that our records are updated internally and classroom teachers can be informed.
- Students to **continue twice weekly home testing** to pick up asymptomatic cases
- **Students should not come to school if suffering from symptoms of COVID-19** (high temperature, loss of taste or smell, continuous cough). If your child does show symptoms please take them for a PCR test as per NHS guidelines.
- **Masks** to be worn on home-to-school transport and those who travel to school by public transport, in corridors and communal indoor areas at breaktime and lunchtime when not eating. They can be worn in classes if students wish.
- **Internal social areas divided up per year group at break time and lunchtime** will continue during the period of amber escalation.
- **Use of hand gel, ventilation and enhanced cleaning measures.**

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This week the Department of Education confirmed that the start of term 3 in January is permitted to have a staggered start in order to accommodate all students taking one test before returning to lessons. This will mean that different year groups will return to school on different days, as shown below:

Tuesday 4 th January	INSET DAY	No students on site
Wednesday 5 th January	ALL students receive remote education at home.	Years 10, 12 and 13 attend on site test at school in allocated time slot (to be confirmed)
Thursday 6 th January	Years 10, 12 and 13 in lessons on site. Years 7, 8, 9 and 11 receive remote education at home	Years 11 and 7 to attend on site test at school in allocated time slot (to be confirmed)
Friday 7 th January	Years 7, 10, 11, 12 and 13 in lessons on site Years 8 and 9 receive remote education at home.	Years 8 and 9 to attend on site test at school in allocated time slot (to be confirmed)

The first week of term will be a week 2 and normal timetables will be followed for those students accessing work from home. Lessons will be accessed through Teams and Classcharts.

Students who are transported to school via school transport will have their providers notified.

Christmas Turkey Lunch

As a reminder the deadline for pre ordering the Turkey Roll is midnight on Sunday. All details were shared via Parent Pay.

End of term arrangements

Term 2 finishes at 1pm on Friday 17th December with slightly amended timings, as shown below:

Period 1:	8:40 – 9:40 am
Period 2:	9:40 – 10:40 am
Break:	10:40 – 11:00 am
Period 3	11:00 – 12:00 pm
Lunch	12:00 – 12:40pm
Tutor time:	12:40 – 1:00 pm

Attitude and behaviour in the community

As a reminder the school will sanction students for any behaviour that is in contravention of school expectations, even if this take place outside of school hours given students are in school uniform.

I have received two separate communications this week from local businesses in the precinct to report that Nailsea students have been involved in anti-social behaviour (littering/swearing) before and after school, as well as students failing to wear masks when entering shops. Nailsea school is very much part of the community and I would ask parents to discuss the importance of reflecting themselves positively in any interactions with members of the public.

Safety at the start and end of the school day

Although mentioned frequently in this letter, given events this week I do feel it is important to remind parents that cars should not be coming onto school site unless there is prior agreement from the Head of House. This is for Health and Safety reasons.

In addition, when cars are permitted on site I would ask that drivers drive at the requested speed over the speed bumps. Incidents of cars moving at much greater speed, as has been witnessed this week, could have serious consequences. Thank you for taking this matter seriously and ensuring students and staff are safe on site.

Values Update

Ambition

Next week I will be running the next 'Zero Hero' report and letters will be making their way home before the end of term. As of Tuesday this week, 1/3 of pupils across the school have not been allocated any behaviour points all year and 82% of the year have fewer than 10 behaviour points since September. These are really impressive figures.

As a reminder, all counts are re-set at the beginning of each term so the break is also a time to reflect on the positive changes and steps that could be taken before the start of the next school term.

#AimHigh

Respect

Today marks the end of the first observation period of teaching staff this academic year. These are held twice a year as part of the school quality assurance processes. I have had the chance to visit lessons with years 7 and 9 in English, year 10 in Science and RE and year 11 in GCSE PE. Although I make a point of regularly walking the school site during the week, spending a full hour in a class has been a real privilege. In every lesson what has shone through is the really positive relationships between the students and between the students and the teachers. This level of respect and support within the classroom clearly ensures there is more chance of both enjoyment and progress. A fab way for me to have spent the last few weeks.

#BePositive

Kindness

As you will see from the House pages of the Term 2 newsletter, each House has decided on a nominated charity for the remainder of the year. One way that money will be raised will be through a **non-uniform day**. Monies collected on the day will be divided between the four Houses. The first of these non uniform days is next Friday, 10th December. A perfect opportunity to get a Christmas jumper on!

#BeKind



Pride

As you may have seen if you follow the school Twitter account the winning designs for the **Christmas card competition** have now been made by the PTA. Congratulations to the following winners:

Year 7 - Phoebe S | Dragon 6 - "Digital Robin"

Year 8 - Mae S | Unicorn 5 - "Blue Snowman"

Year 9 - Rujula S | Dragon 2 - "Driving Home for Christmas"

Year 10 - Florence D | Unicorn 1 - "Winter Birds"

Year 8 - Darcy W | Dragon 7 - "Chapel & Christmas Tree"

Additional congratulations to Mae, as her card was selected by the Wessex Learning Trust to be turned into the Trust card.

#BeProud



Community

Many thanks to the parents that have offered to attend the **Parent Voice group** with myself and Gavin Ball, CEO of the Wessex Learning Trust. We are meeting to discuss their views and suggestions on Monday 6th December and following the meeting I will pass on the main points of the discussion. We hope to have these regularly calendared so if you would like to be involved in future, keep an eye out for future dates.

#TeamNailsea

Finally...

as we complete the first week of mock exams, I know that both years 11 and 13 have found the return to these a challenge. The vast majority of students are taking these assessments incredibly seriously and should be proud of their preparation. The support of parents the night before in enquiring whether students have the correct equipment, are out the door to arrive 15 minutes before the exam starts in the morning and are aware of their seat number will ensure the remaining exams continue to go smoothly.

Take care and be kind

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Dee Elliott".

Mrs Dee Elliott

Head teacher