



# Nailsea School

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4<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Another busy week as we head to the end of term 3 and there is no let up next week! As mentioned in last week's letter, next Thursday and Friday we will be holding interviews for the Deputy Head teacher position at the school and I will be able to update you all on this important appointment for the school in my final letter of term on 18<sup>th</sup> February.

In order to continue to be transparent, we have just over 2% of the school that are currently Covid positive. Many thanks to the families that are continuing to use the [c19@nailseaschool.com](mailto:c19@nailseaschool.com) email address to notify us of any possible and confirmed cases. As a reminder, students who are isolating will access work through ClassCharts and this will be set from the day after the school is notified.

We do have a number of students coming to First Aid each day with Covid like symptoms. For those students where parents have previously given consent to in school testing, we may ask if the student is happy to do a Lateral Flow Test in the First Aid room. If the result is negative and the student is not feeling too poorly they will then be able to return to lessons. If you have previously given consent but now feel you would rather not have your child tested in school please email [nailsch@nailseaschool.com](mailto:nailsch@nailseaschool.com) to withdraw your consent.

## Parent Support

Community Childrens Health Services are holding 'webinars' in February on various topics to enable you to support your child/ren.

The webinars are being facilitated by Sirona Nursing Team. Please see the attached link for further details and to register to join an event. All sessions are free.

<https://cchp.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/Webinar%20dates%20-%20Feb22.pdf>

## Ambition

As a school we are always wanting to be the very best we can be, and as well as students being encouraged to be the best version of themselves, staff are ambitious for themselves and each other. Effective communication between the school and families is important and we are constantly looking for ways to improve. We would be grateful if parents could take a few minutes to complete this survey to give feedback and opinion on their experience of school communication <https://forms.office.com/r/LWnVrV1pxX>. The survey will close on the last day of term – 18<sup>th</sup> February.

#AimHigh

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## Respect

Our school mobile phone policy is 'Off and Away for the whole school day' and for the last two weeks of term we are resetting expectations of this with students so that from term 4 the procedure is very clear. I know students will have phones to enable contact with home, especially if travelling to school separately, as well as some liking to monitor ClassCharts. However, over the last few weeks there have been some isolated incidents of phones being used during the school day that have led to learning being disrupted and parents being contacted following a break of the school expectations.

For clarity, as soon as the school day starts (8:35 am bell sounding) phones will need to be away and in bags. If phones are seen during the rest of the school they will be confiscated. Students will be expected to hand the phone over to the member of staff without argument. The phone will be returned at the end of the school day and should be collected from the Heads of House office. Any persistent offenders will be contacted by the Head of House and alternative arrangements made, such as the phone being deposited with the pastoral office for the school day when the student arrives in school on a daily basis.

Phones have become a really important part of our lives in the 21<sup>st</sup> century but direct conversation and social skills are also really important and should be developed, away from looking at screens. Thank you for your support with this very clear school policy.

#BePositive



## Kindness

To quote Aesop 'No act of Kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted' and yet again this week there have been little acts of kindness I have noticed around the school. From students asking staff how their days have been, to others offering someone the last cookie left at lunchtime, it has been really heartwarming to see our school community continue to support and look out for each other

#BeKind



## Pride

As you will have seen in previous letters sporting fixtures are now back up and in full swing. I was privileged to be able to watch the **Year 11 football team** defeat Priory 6 – 1 on Tuesday afternoon on the 4G. The team are now through to the quarter finals. As well as the victory, I was also impressed with the way the team adapted to some last minute changes, due to absence, and the way some students in younger year groups were welcomed and supported as they played for the school team. Irrespective of the next result with that type of team ethos and spirit I could not be more proud.

#BeProud



## Community

The final week of term sees the first of our **House Charity Weeks** for both Dragon and Griffin. Dragon have chosen to support 'Ups and Downs South West' and Griffin are raising funds for 'Childrens' Hospice South West'. These charity weeks were postponed from earlier in the term given covid restrictions but these are now back on the calendar. Having been approached by year 8 Dragon student, Ocean, I have signed myself up for the 'Throw a Sponge at a Teacher' event – whilst also reminding him of our school value of #BeKind – eekkkk! In addition to these daily fundraising events the final day of term, **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February will also be a non uniform day** with all proceeds going to the house charities.

#TeamNailsea

**Finally...**

thank you so much to the 122 parents/families that completed the 'Thank you' document for staff that I have mentioned in this letter throughout January. The comments have been shared with staff this week and I know your kind words are really appreciated. Working in a school, although being incredibly rewarding, can also be very 'full on' and the fact that the hard work of our staff has been recognised in this way really does mean a lot. I know I am biased but Nailsea really is a great place to work and this email received yesterday from a parent really sums it up:

*I just wanted to say a massive thank you to you and your team at Nailsea School. My daughter started with you this year. We were both so nervous about the move from another North Somerset school But wow! She is a new girl. It is like I have a new daughter on my hands, happy to go to school and feels safe and valued within the school. So thank you for all the little things and thank you for all your team have done, as finally I have a happy girl again!*

Take care and be kind

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dee Elliott". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Mrs Dee Elliott  
Head teacher