

18th October 2024

Dear Parents/carers

This is my penultimate letter of term 1 with the week's break very much on the horizon. With a 7 week term for students and an 8 week one for staff, term 1 can often be a challenge especially given the weather changing and the days getting darker.

The clear highlight this week is that we received our confirmed Progress 8 score. This is a type of 'value-added' measure that indicates how much a secondary school has helped pupils improve (or progress) over a five year period when compared to a government-calculated expected level of improvement. Essentially this measure takes a pupil's performance in relation to their peers at primary school level, compares it with their performance at GCSEs (their Attainment 8 score) and then, after some mental arithmetic, establishes whether the individual has progressed at, above or below the expected level. As before, the scores for individuals are not published but they are grouped together to get an average for a school's overall score. A positive score indicates that students have done better than expected. Scores are published nationally at the end of October and when I am able I will share this and other data from the most recent set of exam results with you.

INSET Day - Friday 25th October

As a reminder term finishes for students at 3pm on Thursday 24th October, as next Friday is an INSET day for staff.

Term 2 starts on Monday 4th November which will be a week 1

Music Lessons during the school day

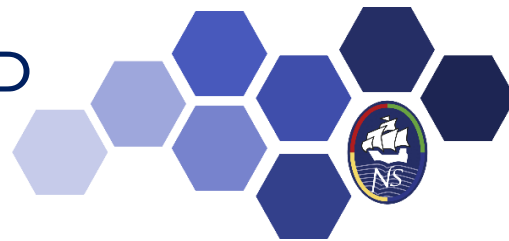
As parents are aware from their Classcharts accounts registers are taken every lesson as part of our safeguarding procedures. It has been noted that sometimes students who have music lessons during the school day are being reported as being missing from lessons and this prompts further actions from staff that are, in effect, unnecessary. Students are now being asked to report to reception before going to their music lesson so that their temporary absence can be recorded correctly. Thank you for discussing this with your child at home, if this applies.

Invigilator vacancies

If parents are interested in having a role as an invigilator further details about the role can be found here: [Current Vacancies – Nailsea School](#)

Medical information

We are currently conducting an audit of our medical data. It is a good opportunity for you to ensure that we hold the most accurate and up to date information for your child by completing and returning a medical information form. Copy attached, if you would prefer a paper copy your child can obtain one from Reception, or First Aid.



School policies

A number of policies were updated in the summer term. A reminder parents can access the most up to date version of school policies on the school website [Policies – Nailsea School](#)

Payments using cards

If your child requires a new cardkey please allow 24 hours from the request for the system to be updated and the card printed and issued before the card can be used to purchase food.

Lost property

As a reminder during half term lost property will be sorted through and any items without a name will be bagged up and taken to charity. For ease of returning any lost property to their owners, clothing and equipment should be clearly named. If your child has mislaid anything, all items are stored in the racking at the main student entrance in the canteen. Currently a number of coats and school jumpers without names are in lost property.

Remembrance Day display

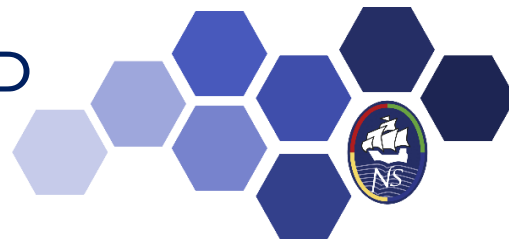
For the past 2 years Nailsea School Library has held a Remembrance Day display and alongside this, a memory wall. We have been overwhelmed with the response and we would like to continue. We are asking students and staff to send scanned photos of family members who served in either World War I or World War II. If you sent in photos the previous years and would not like them displayed please can you let us know by Monday 4th November. A special area of the display will be dedicated to those currently connected to warzones around the world and with respect to serving personnel. These scanned images will be on display in the library throughout the month of November. If you have any photos you would like to display please can you scan them directly to the School Librarian, Mrs Conner at aconner@nailseaschool.com with the name of the person in the photo. Photos of the memory wall and Remembrance display will be available to view in the Weekly newsletter sent out in the early December edition.

First Aid in School

Mrs Neilson is the member of staff who supervises our First Aid room. She does a fantastic job as our emergency response providing immediate and temporary care for the ill and injured. Mrs Neilson is not a school nurse and cannot treat long standing issues or dispense medications, for example, for headaches.

So far this term there have been well over 400 separate incidents of students reporting to First Aid in just 28 days and clearly this is not sustainable. On many occasions, students are not coming to First Aid for issues that Mrs Neilson can deal with. This means that at these times, students will be sent back to class. We would really appreciate you discussing the use of the First Aid room with your child at home.

ASPIRE | BELIEVE | SUCCEED



Finally...we received the reports from the two Trust visits this week and I thought it only right that I shared the overall summary with you. Please find comments below:

- *'All students felt safe in school and have a trusted adult. Students were clear that bullying was not present and when it does happen is dealt with swiftly by staff'*
- *'Students feel a sense of belonging to their tutor group'*
- *'Conduct in assembly was impeccable'*
- *'The ABSolute curriculum is spiralled through the year groups and is age appropriate. The lesson visited enabled students to ask questions in a safe space and group work was prioritised. Students were impressed with the topic of learning, referring to it as 'the important stuff'*
- *'The lessons visited were of high quality, with high level questioning, frequent use of Assessment for Learning and embedded routines that helped contribute to strong working environments'*

The areas for improvement identified by the student voice group related to the use of toilets, house events and summer uniform and have been noted and plans are starting to take shape in how these are addressed. I will update you on these in due course.

Have a lovely weekend

Take care and Be Kind

Dee Elliott

Head teacher