



SHEERNESS WEST FEDERATION

Isle of Sheppey, Kent



Executive Head Teacher: Steve Davies
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Head of Schools: Hazel Brewer (West Minster) and Rachael Sharrad (Rose Street)
Schools' Business Manager: Diane Jones (SWF)

Tuesday 10th January 2017

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

I am writing to welcome you back and wish you a very happy new year, and I hope you enjoyed a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas break with your children.

I was again delighted to be able to finance our federation Christmas visit to the pantomime in Maidstone just before the holiday and was immensely proud of the way our children from both schools conducted themselves. Indeed, there were many positive comments made by the general public on how well our children behaved both on the short walk to the theatre and when they were being seated in the theatre. Everybody had a fantastic time cheering and enjoying the fun. This is quickly becoming a feature of what we do at this time of year and I fully intend to continue to do this with the children in the future.

Last term ended with the highly successful Ofsted inspection of West Minster School which we are all delighted about. The inspection team were highly impressed with all aspects of the school and the improvements we have made since the last inspection two years ago. They judged the school to be good overall with outstanding leadership and Early Years provision in our nursery and Reception classes. Inclusion, Special needs and safeguarding were also judged to be very good. I have sent a copy of this report to all parents of the school and please feel free to let us know what you think.

Rose Street is expecting their inspection any day now and we are busy preparing for this. I fully expect the inspection team to be just as positive about the changes and improvements we have made at Rose Street as they were at West Minster.

We have started the new term well, and as it is a short term (just over 5 weeks) we have to hit the ground running in making sure we continue to offer the children excellent learning opportunities at both schools.

This term, amongst other things, we are welcoming the Red Panda group who will be helping us to celebrate Chinese New Year in February. There will be a dragon dance and an acrobatic group who will come and perform with and for the children so please look out for this. I have worked with this group before and they always deliver high quality experiences for the children which live long in their memory. So we are all really looking forward to this.

We have also made a major investment into Apple Mac technology and will be introducing I pads to the Year 5 and 6 children across the federation and using these to pilot the new approach to the teaching and learning of technology and computing. This will then be rolled out going forward into the other year groups as we become more proficient at using this new kit. I fully intend to continue to fund this exciting new approach so that the children of our federation get access to the very best technology and learning tools to equip them better for life in the 21st century.

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Our value that we are celebrating this month is Honesty and all our assemblies and some of the class work that will take place will focus on this. We are now starting the second year of the Values education cycle and we are delighted with how the children have really taken to this. They are more than able to talk at length about the values we live by as a federation. This was something that I was especially pleased about when the children were interviewed at West Minster by the Ofsted inspectors. The inspectors were highly impressed with the children and that they knew all about the values such as trust, respect, honesty and courage, because of the work we do with them in class and through our weekly assemblies.

I will be holding this term's Parents' Forums for both schools fairly shortly so please look out for the text and letter regarding this and please pop in for a cup of tea and a cake and to hear what we are doing as a federation and hear more about things such as the curriculum developments, parent groups, and the building expansion works taking place at both school sites at the moment.

I know this is going to be another successful term and I look forward to working with you and your children again to continue to improve the learning opportunities we are providing at the Sheerness West Federation.

As ever, please feel free to contact me via the school office should you wish to discuss anything further.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Steve Davies', is placed on a light grey rectangular background.

Mr Steve Davies (Executive Head Teacher)



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