



# SHEERNESS WEST FEDERATION

## Isle of Sheppey, Kent



Executive Head Teacher: Steve Davies  
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Head of Schools: Hazel Brewer  
Schools' Business Manager: Diane Jones



### *Executive Head Teacher's newsletter*

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

I am writing to welcome you back and wish you all a very happy new year. I hope you all enjoyed a peaceful Christmas and you got to enjoy valuable time with your children.

I am delighted to report that the Christmas Fair at West Minster raised £757 and the disco raised £470 and the fair at Rose street raised £702, so a huge thank you to all of you who supported these events and helped us to raise much needed funds for the children.

I was delighted with the Executive Head Teacher's Christmas card competition this year with some excellent entries. Huge congratulations to the winners for each class and for the overall winners who were Tyler Shoebridge from Penguin Class at Rose Street and Sophie Tooke from Poppy Class at West Minster. Well done to all the children who entered.

The visit to the pantomime at the end of last term went really well and all the children seemed to enjoy the experience yet again. The behaviour of our children was again exemplary and I was very proud of both schools.

I met with a representative from Forsters uniforms just before we broke up and explained that I thought they needed to reduce some of their prices to make the uniform more affordable, and I am delighted they have promised to give discounts in future. I have arranged for a link to their website to be put on our school websites so you can directly access information. Daniel from Forsters agreed the following;

- Sweatshirts previously £11.99 will now be sold at £10.99
- Any spend over £30 will entitle you to some free items.
- Stall to be given at school fairs and any items sold will entitle the school to take a % amount of items sold.
- Free click and collect option for our parents.

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I am also delighted to report that the new Sheerness West federation Dads Matter group has met twice and they have big plans to get more involved in both schools. I am currently arranging dates for the first ever "Bring Your Dad to School week" which will be announced later this term. Any dads wishing to come along to the Dads Matter meetings please contact the school for the upcoming dates. All are welcome.

In other news, we have been hosting the new Isle of Sheppey Local Cultural education project and as part of this group we have managed to bid for 50K to ensure that we can gain access to even more creative artistic opportunities for the island schools. The application is a strong one and we have been informed that we stand a very good chance of receiving this funding. This will mean arts projects in collaboration with local partners such as the Dockyard Trust and Canterbury university, and our children from Reception to Year 6 will benefit not only from this but from further funding that we could get as a result of this initial bid. I am very excited by this and it is not only good for our schools but also good for all island schools as we can all benefit from such funding opportunities, especially in a time when school budgets are so low.

The federation also has a new chair of Governors in Daniel Goodwin and he has already started working with the staff and myself to ensure that both schools continue to improve and grow ever stronger in order to serve our community in the ways that we should. Daniel is a personnel and recruitment expert, father and local resident on the island, and I am really looking forward to working with him.

At Rose street for the first week back, we are trialling a new system for teaching spellings and Times Tables which will involve classes moving to different teachers for these lessons. It is something we believe will make an impact in the two areas where the school needs to improve. Children will stay within their Key Stages so infants will swap with infants and juniors with fellow juniors and this will happen now at the beginning of each term. We will monitor and assess the success of this new strategy.

I have listed below some events that are taking place over the next few weeks at both schools which parents are encouraged to attend;

#### **Rose Street:**

- New parent and toddler group begins on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January in the Parent Hub building
- Next Kindred Spirit group is at West Minster School on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January and the next one will be at Rose Street on 8<sup>th</sup> February. Both meetings start at 9am.
- Amanda and Claire are about to announce details for the upcoming Entrepreneur workshop for parents between the ages of 18-30 which will provide support for any parents who have an idea for starting a business venture. Dates for this will be sent out soon.

#### **West Minster**

- Reception children start swimming lessons on 11<sup>th</sup> January
- Parents coffee morning on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February
- Parent and Toddler group will take place on Wednesdays the 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> January and on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February from 2-3pm
- Family Games Club will take place every Thursday from 3.15-4.30pm
- Kindred Spirits Group on January 11<sup>th</sup> and again at Rose Street on 8<sup>th</sup> February at 10am

**NB:** Year 6 from both schools will be attending the Young Voices event at the O2 again on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February

**NB: Mini Bus Notice:**

*In exceptional circumstances, we have a Federation mini-bus which can offer morning pick-ups to bring children into school, therefore providing **short-term help** to the family and ensuring good school attendance is maintained. These exceptional circumstances must be **Rare, Unavoidable and Short-term**.*

*All requests for a mini-bus pick up will be considered by members of the Well-being and Inclusion Team. If you feel a mini-bus pick up would help you with the difficulty you are facing, please contact the Claire Carter or Sally Creavin in the Wellbeing Team as soon as possible via the school office.*

I would like to end by wishing you all a very happy new year and I look forward to continuing to work with you and your children to ensure we provide the very best educational opportunities for the children and families of Sheerness.

Yours sincerely,



**Steve Davies (Executive Head Teacher)**

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