



# SHEERNESS WEST FEDERATION

## Isle of Sheppey, Kent



Executive Head Teacher: Steve Davies  
Email: [S.Davies@swfed.co.uk](mailto:S.Davies@swfed.co.uk)

Head of Schools: Hazel Brewer  
Schools' Business Manager: Diane Jones

### Executive Head Teacher's newsletter:

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

#### Welcome Back:

I am writing to welcome you back after the summer break and I hope you managed to enjoy some of that lovely and very welcome sunshine.

The teachers, support staff and governors of the school began the term on Monday at the INSET day at West Minster where we set the priorities for continued improvement across the federation for the coming year. The new Quality Improvement Plan is in the process of being finalised and once this is done, I will send out a summary of this for you to read.

We welcomed the children back on Tuesday at both school sites and they have come back just as eager and enthusiastic to learn as ever and I am currently catching up with them on what exciting things they did over the summer holiday.

#### Apple I-pad learning:

This term is again a busy one as we continue to press forward as a federation. The teachers are looking forward to getting to grips with the revised and more creative curriculum we are constantly designing with the teachers for the children to learn, and I am delighted to say that we have managed to fund the Apple Mac project for another year. This means that even more children will have the opportunity to use the I-pads and apple TVS that we have purchased for them. This will mainly focus on years 4, 5 and 6 at both schools and we are hoping to roll this out to all year groups in the coming years.

#### SWF Goes European:

I am very excited to report that the funding application we made to the British Council to enable us to lead a European project over the next two years has been successful and we received our grant notification during the holidays. This means that we can invite teachers from Poland, Holland, Lithuania and Portugal to come and visit our schools and we can send

teachers to them to learn how to ensure that children become even more independent in their learning. This is a very prestigious award and will ensure that the Sheerness West

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Federation's profile is being celebrated on a much wider scale. More importantly, the children will benefit from the teacher's being exposed to different teaching techniques across a range of subjects in a range of different countries.

### **Artists in Residence at Rose Street:**

I am further delighted to report that we have been successful in gaining two separate pieces of funding to ensure that children at Rose Street gain access to excellent artistic expertise. Earlier last term the children worked with Oliver Budd, who is a mosaic specialist to create the history of Sheppey mosaic which is about to be put up on the perimeter fence at the front of the school for all to see and celebrate. The second artist is Richard from Squarecube arts who is about to start working with the children to create a mural on the Reception class building at the rear of the school near to the parents' hub. The theme for this will be the Sheppey crossing and the plan he has drawn up for this is amazing. Once this is completed it will be a major addition to our school environment at Rose Street. Needless to say, the children are very excited about both projects.

### **Happy 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday West Minster:**

This year we are celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of West Minster school and on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September we have invited a number of special guests to help the children and staff commemorate this very important landmark. We will be planting a tree and a time capsule on the school field to mark the event and are hoping that the local press will cover this as there will be many local people who want to hear about this. If you have any past memories, older family members with stories to tell of the past years at West Minster please let Debbie in the office know and I may contact you to discuss these further.

### **Budgets:**

As you are by now very aware we are getting less and less money from central government and all schools in Kent are suffering. We are no different and are having to make serious decisions about what we can continue to spend our money on. I know some parents were upset about price rises for things such as breakfast club fees but as I have said this is unavoidable if we want to continue to provide this excellent service for our parents and children.

Whilst I am determined that we will not sink to the levels some school are having to in terms of asking parents to bring in pencils, pens, and even in some circumstances toilet paper, I am asking for a voluntary school fund where parents pay £25.00 per family at the start of the school year and this will be used to subsidise (not pay for completely) certain school visits and visiting shows and speakers we will invite in over the year. If parents support this scheme then it will mean that budget cuts (and there are more proposed by the government for this year,) will not impact on our schools as much as they may do elsewhere. We will therefore, be able to protect the range of educational visits that we do which enhance the children's learning.

I will be sending a separate letter out which will further explain the school fund contribution later this term.



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### Well Being Team:

### Key dates at West Minster: (Please see the list below:)

- Kindred Spirit (family caring for family members) Group-13<sup>th</sup> September at 9am in Parents Hub.(FOR BOTH SCHOOLS)
- Macmillan Coffee morning-26<sup>th</sup> September at from 8.45am in the Parents' Hub.
- Tea and Toast-10<sup>th</sup> October from 8.45am in the Parents' Hub.
- Parent and Toddlers-Every Wednesday at 2pm in the Parents' Hub.
- NSPCC workshops-coming soon for years 5 and 6
- Board Game Club-13<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> September and 11<sup>th</sup> October at 3.15pm in Parents' Hub.
- Dads Matter meeting-18<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm in the COOP club on St Georges Avenue. All dads are welcome..

### Key Dates at Rose street: (Please see the list below:)

- FORS meeting-14<sup>th</sup> September at 9am in the parents' Hub.
- English as a second or other language classes-18<sup>th</sup> September at 9.30am in the parents' Hub.
- MacMillan Coffee morning-26<sup>th</sup> September at 8.45am in the Parents' Hub
- MacMillan non-uniform day-8<sup>th</sup> September

I have now been the Executive Head Teacher of the Sheerness West Federation for the last three and a half years and I am delighted with the progress we have made in that time in making these two proud Sheerness schools the very best places for learning. I am very much looking forward to working with you and your children again this year.

Yours sincerely,

**Steve Davies (Executive Head Teacher)**

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