



Sheerness West Federation
West Minster Primary School
Week Ahead
16 November 2020



Federation Message from Mr Cooper ...

Please read this important letter from our Chair of Governors. Thank you.

Dear Federation Parents and Children,

I am writing to update you regarding the appointment of a new Executive Head Teacher for the Federation, starting in the summer term of 2021.

It is, a reflection of the exciting opportunity that working with our staff and your wonderful children presented, that the advertisement attracted a strong field of applicants from leading schools across London and the South East. One candidate, above all others, met all the requirements of the post both personally and professionally.

We are delighted to announce that the appointing panel offered the job to Mrs Anna Pattenden, and that she has accepted. Mrs Pattenden's appointment has since been warmly endorsed by the full governing body and by KCC.

Mrs Pattenden will take over the Executive Headship of the Sheerness West Federation after the Easter break, at the start of the summer term of 2021, when Mr Cooper's interim contract with us will end.

We asked Mrs Pattenden to prepare a small introduction to you all for this announcement (as I am sure you are keen to know more about her!) and she has written as follows: -

"I was born and bred in the Medway Towns, so am local to Swale. My dream when I was much younger was to become a primary school teacher. I have had an interesting and varied teaching career; working with early years children right up to secondary aged pupils, mostly in Medway but my first Headship was near Dartford. In 2016, I came back to Medway for my second headship to experience working in an Academy Trust. During this time, I had the exciting opportunity to be an Executive Head overseeing a primary school, which at that time was not part of the Academy Trust – but now is.

However, it's not all been work and no play. I have played hockey, tennis and now enjoy walking and going to yoga classes (and getting to grips with online sessions during this current time!).

It is my strong belief and passion that children deserve the very best start in life; to learn, to grow and to succeed. I am really excited about joining the Sheerness West Federation. I look forward to meeting and seeing you all; talking to you and working with staff and parents, for the best of all of the children."

Over the coming months Mrs Pattenden will be working with Mr Cooper, and with all the governors, to be sure that her transition and induction to her new post is smooth and successful from the word go. I am sure that she will write to you in due course to introduce herself further. We ask you to give her a warm welcome as the newest Leader in an illustrious line of leaders at the Sheerness West Federation.

Yours sincerely,
SWF Governing Body

- **Confirmed cases today**

We have had two further confirmed cases of staff and two further confirmed cases of children at West Minster come to our attention today, but fortunately, ***none of them have had been a contact for other children or staff***, so there is no action that we need to take beyond wishing them a speedy recovery where they are feeling poorly.

- **Applying for a Primary School place**

If you, or may be someone you know, has a child due to start school in September 2021 (whose date of birth falls between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017) you can now apply for a place at West Minster School via the link www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions. Applications will close on 15th January.

We now have a virtual tour available on our website on the home page

(<http://www.west-minster.kent.sch.uk/>) to show you our lovely school so that new parents do not miss out on their 'Open Day' experience. Please spread the word, thank you!

Message from Miss Brewer ...

Dear Parents/ Carers

During the autumn term we would usually invite you all into school for parents evening. It feels very alien to us at the moment that these will not be able to take place due to the ongoing COVID situation, and we are missing not having you all in. Instead we are having to think of ways to adapt and do things a little differently so these can take place. More information will be shared with you soon on how this will be carried out. Again, thank you all for being patient and supportive during this time and I hope you all have a good weekend.

Message for the children from Miss Ovenden ...

What a week; having to start it by sending three classes home was not a nice feeling, but those at home have done fantastically engaging in your home learning and keeping in contact with your class teachers. I have been having a look at the work you have been posting and I am very impressed. I hope you are enjoying the stories the teachers are reading to you too. Please keep yourselves safe and we look forward to welcoming you all back on Thursday 19 November.

In EYFS you have been looking at celebration this week, finding out about how people celebrate their birthdays and learning when your own birthday is. In Year 1 and Year 2 you have been focusing on subtraction and then looking at question marks in your writing. In Year 3 and Year 4 I have seen lots of exploding volcanoes – it has looked at lot of fun and in Year 5 and Year 6 you have been researching the Victorian inventions and how they have shaped the world today. Ivy Centre you have been working hard looking at toys from the past and then they disappeared! I wonder if you were able to find any clues and then relocate the toys?

To end this week we all celebrated Children in Need with a virtual assembly where you got to see each other and the other teachers; I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did!

Have a lovely weekend.

Well done to Violet and Snapdragon their attendance of 98% this week! (Friday – Thursday)

- **West Minster Primary School Website** <http://www.west-minster.kent.sch.uk/>

Our school website is a valuable source of information for parents, we are currently working to make it even more accessible and helpful.

- **West Minster Facebook Page** <https://www.facebook.com/WestMinsterPrimarySchool/>

Our Facebook page is updated with any current information.

- **ClassDojo** <https://www.classdojo.com/invite/?s=5e835485d302677528890d7e>

Follow this link to get signed up to your child's page. You can have more than one adult to the child. ClassDojo allows you to have contact with the class teacher.

- **Safe Internet Use**

Please click on the link for information from our website regarding online safety - <http://www.west-minster.kent.sch.uk/parents/e-safety/>

This week's letters/emails sent and on our website, Facebook page and Class Dojo were:

- Update on COVID testing procedures (Published 10 November)
- Bubble closures for classes Periwinkle, Orchid and Lily (Published 9 November)

Future Dates

19.11.20 – Periwinkle, Orchid and Lily Class return to school

17.12.20 – End of Term

Attendance:

Please remember if your child is not attending school you must either phone the school office or text them on 07874873901 with the reason why they are not in.