



**Sheerness West Federation**  
**West Minster Primary School**  
**Week Ahead**  
**23 November 2020**



## Federation Message from Mr Cooper ...

### Parents Evenings

We are holding virtual parents evenings in the week beginning 30<sup>th</sup> November (see dates section below). Guidance for how to book your appointment online and how to join the video call meeting will follow early next week.

We are using a simple system (though it is a new one...and that may need some getting used to, of course) which enables you to have a 10-minute video call appointment with your child's teacher.

The system is very strict in terms of time keeping, so a top tip to remember is to get ready 5 or 10 minutes before your appointment time. It also just does a countdown and stops the conversation, which may feel a bit rude...this is the system and not us!!! On the positive side, you won't be kept waiting, your appointment won't run late, there is nothing to install and you won't need a babysitter to attend!

I have used it last week at Swalecliffe (my other school) and all went pretty smoothly, with some parents even saying that they preferred it!

So please look out for the guidance when it comes and try and sign up as soon as you can, as it is first come, first served, any problems, our lovely office staff will help, so don't panic!

### **Lockdown matters**

With the exception of the two classes currently closed at West Minster, school continues very much as normal for the rest of the children and staff. I will always inform you of any confirmed cases which have any possible impact on the children in school rest assured. Parents, equally, please let us know anything that we need to know regarding any test and either the positive or negative results as soon as possible if that does happen, preferably via Class Dojo, even if it is at the weekend, we need to know.

***Please make sure that you and your children also stick to all the lockdown rules outside of school or else you may bring the virus into school yourselves, and we are trying so hard to avoid this. Hopefully we can beat this together...***

I wrote last week that:

*I think there are 3 things that schools can do at the moment to protect children, staff and families. Keep bubbles as small and as secure as possible, increase the wearing of face coverings amongst adults on the school site, and take the guidance and recommended measures seriously.*

We still seem to be doing all three better than most other schools, and the children are all really benefiting from their time at school, where others are now at home; the smiles on their faces say it all. It is so good for their mental health to be going to school and seeing their classmates, with all the other uncertainty in the world around us. Let's keep the attendance as strong as it has been. Thank you, parents, for your faith and trust in us.

And finally, I will say this every week, the staff are just amazing, especially the way they have just done whatever else they are asked to, to make things work for the children, at this most challenging of times.

- ***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 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017) you can now apply for a place at West Minster School via the link [www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions](http://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 Parent/carers,

Yet another week has gone past and now that we are in winter, the days are becoming colder. With this in mind we are going to try our best to provide the children with a hot meal, as you can imagine this is going to take a lot of planning as the children will have to have their lunch as they do now in the classrooms. But watch this space for an update. Thank you for your understanding when we are contacting you on the odd occasion out of school hours. However we think this is essential as it is letting us react to situations as soon as we are made aware of them.

At West Minster the latest update is that we have been informed of two more positive cases of children who were already self-isolating and so therefore the school does not need to take any action apart from advising parents as promised and sending our good wishes. Have a good weekend and keep safe.

### Message for the children from Miss Ovenden ...

You have all been very busy this week whether you have been home learning or in school. In reception you have been looking at weddings; practicing your letters by writing wedding invitations and looking at photos of weddings from different religions and cultures. In year 1 and 2 you have been studying The Tiger Who Came to Tea, sharing the story, retelling it and thinking about your favourite part. In year 3 and 4 you have been looking at the 5Ws that feature in a newspaper; looking at real life examples and finding the who, what, where, when and why within them. In Year 5 and 6 you have been doing some really hard work with fractions and completing your Sherlock Holmes stories – I cannot wait to read them. In the Ivy Centre you have been reading, speaking and writing instructions; it sounds like you had a lot of fun with your volcanos.

Have a great weekend and please keep safe.

### Well done to Poppy Class their attendance of 96% 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:

- Christmas dinner letter (Published 20.11.20)
- National Achieves competition (Published 18.11.20)
- Friday closing update (Published 16.11.20)

- General letters updates of cases from Mr Cooper (Published 14.11.20, 16.11.20 and 17.11.20)

**Future Dates**

- Kent Test results to parent – Thursday 26 November
- Virtual Parent Consultations - Monday 30 November 3.30pm-5.30pm and Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 3.30pm-6.30pm
- Christmas dinner days and Jumpers days – Wednesday 16 December and Thursday 17 December
- End of term for the pupils – Thursday 17 December

**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.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to school and should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

If you do carry out a test please could you inform the school as soon as you have the results either through class dojo (even at the weekend and evenings) or contacting the school directly as this will speed up sharing information with anyone that may have been a direct contact. Thank you.