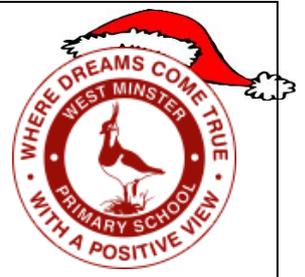




Sheerness West Federation Week Ahead 4 January 2021



Federation Message from Mr Cooper ...

Dear all,

Thank you for continuing to trust us to keep things as safe as we possibly can in school and for your support throughout the year.

Last week, I wrote "As we approach Christmas, we are particularly conscious that we do not want to be sending a class bubble home to isolate all over the Christmas holiday. Whilst we cannot be 100% sure that this won't happen, we can take every possible measure to avoid this."

At the time of writing, we are still in this position across the federation, but I am well aware that I may yet have to send an unwelcome message home, so my sincerest apologies in advance if any of you do get a letter asking your child to isolate over the Christmas period. We have done our very best I promise. But anyone who is identified as a close contact of someone testing positive is required to isolate for 10 days, whatever the time of year. Should this happen over the next few days, then the period of isolation may, therefore, extend through the Christmas period.

The DFE have asked schools to make parents and staff aware of the arrangements in terms of Covid-19 cases during the school holidays and so it would be helpful if you could familiarise yourself with the following:

- For the first 6 days after teaching ends (18th-24th), **if a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school**, the school is asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school. **Please report all cases via class dojo.**
- Where a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms **more than 48 hours since being in school, the school should not be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace. In this instance, please do not mention school or classmates as possible contacts, as they are not.**

Clearly, case numbers remain high in Swale and are likely to increase over the Christmas period if we are not all extremely careful. In the light of that, we would ask parents/guardians once again to not send your child into school if they are unwell at the start of next term.

So... Important guidance clarification and update on when you must not send your child to school next term:

1) They are at all unwell; even if they are not suffering with one of the 3 main symptoms, please keep them at home if you have any concerns.

2) Someone in your household tests positive or the result is inconclusive. Nobody from the household should go out even if they have no symptoms.

3) Someone in your household has symptoms.

4) Someone in your household is getting a test, whatever the circumstances. Everyone should stay at home whilst that person gets a test. **Children should not attend school during that time until the result comes back negative** (if the result is positive you must follow the above points in number 2).

Thank you for your help in sticking to the guidance above to protect all our federation and the local community. Thank you for your continuing support, and a huge thank you too to all my staff team, who are managing to make Christmas just as special at school, even if in a different way. They are all A-MAZING!

I hope you all have a lovely relaxing and well Christmas at home with your families in the safest and most magical way you can!!!



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from



Mr Cooper and all the Sheerness West Federation staff and governors

- **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 Rose Street or 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 websites on the home pages (<http://www.rose-street.kent.sch.uk/>) and (<http://www.west-minster.kent.sch.uk/>) to show you our lovely schools so that new parents do not miss out on their 'Open Day' experience. Please spread the word, thank you!

End of term round up

End of term at Rose Street

The children have had a lovely week with their parties, virtual staff panto and quiz etc. and they - and us - are now ready for the Christmas break! Unfortunately, we did have to close one bubble this term although thankfully those children will not have to isolate over the Christmas break. As Woodpecker missed their Christmas party, we are organising for them to have a New Year party early next term instead!

End of term at West Minster

The children have had a great week with their parties, pyjama and film day, Christmas lunch, snacks and treats...and much much more. We are all now ready for the Christmas break too! Unfortunately, we also had to close another bubble this week, which had only just reopened, though at this stage no one will need to isolate over the Christmas period. As Sunflower missed their Christmas party day, we will be arranging a New Year party for them in January.

This week's Dates for your diary:

- Monday 4th January Term 3 starts