



Sheerness West Federation
West Minster Primary School
Week Ahead
14 December 2020



Federation Message from Mr Cooper ...

Dear all,

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."

Thank you for your help in sticking to the guidance below to protect all our federation and the local community.

We have now been made aware that mass testing is coming to Sheerness soon, and so have amended our guidance to reflect what to do should that happen for next week only, so please read today's letter especially carefully. Thank you.

Important guidance clarification and update on when you must not send your child to school next week

I would like to remind parents that we are now asking all parents to ensure that:

You must not send your child to school next week if...

1) Mass testing is something that any member of your family is invited to participate in, or decides that they might do so, then please do not send your child into school on Monday and indeed until the test has happened and the results of this return as negative. (If the results are positive you must follow the points in number 3.) THIS ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE IS ONLY A TEMPORARY MEASURE UNTIL WE KNOW MORE ABOUT THE MASS TESTING...but will prevent bubbles being affected next week...

2) 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.

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

4) Someone in your household has symptoms.

5) Someone in your household is getting a test. 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 3).

- **Change in the required period of isolation from 14 days to 10 days.**

I am also aware that a number of you have counted back from Christmas Day and worked out that if your child was a contact of a child or member of staff from 11th December onwards then that would mean your child and the staff connected to that bubble having to self-isolate over the Christmas period. The maths for

all this has now been changed, as I have found out via the news today, and since writing this this morning...Anyway...

To help with the maths...if Friday 11th was their last contact with a confirmed positive case, then this would mean isolating until 21th December, and returning to normal activities on 22nd December
Monday 14th...isolating until 24th (Christmas Eve) back to normal on 25th (Christmas Day)
Tuesday 15th...isolating until 25th (Christmas Day) back to normal on 26th (Boxing Day)
Wednesday 16th...isolating until 26th back to normal on 27th
Thursday 17th...isolating until 27th back to normal on 28th

I just want to be honest and open with you, and to emphasise the importance of sticking strictly to the guidance above. We will be open as normal and doing a pretty good version of the normal Christmas activities/parties which it would be a shame for your children to miss.

Please continue to trust us to keep things as safe as we possibly can in school...but ultimately only you will know the balancing factors that your family will have to weigh up at this time. We cannot authorise any absence as a result of your decisions, but recognise that for a few of you, there is an almost impossible choice to be made. **We will respect your decision, but please let us know.**

Because we stop on Thursday 17th, we can at least be certain that from 28th December through to the New Year, a school bubble closure, will not result in a child having to be in isolation.

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-MA-ZING!

Mr Cooper

- **[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!

To answer a few questions...

- Yes, you can bring presents in for teachers, teaching assistants and other staff, we are suggesting teachers have a place the children can simply put them in the classroom, rather than handing them directly to the teacher. We do not expect presents of course...but I can't say that staff don't deserve them this year of all years!! I hope that helps.
- Yes, children can bring Christmas cards into school. Each class has a box or collection point. But please bring them in **by Monday 14th at the latest**, then we can safely deliver them before the end of term.
- Yes, you are right, Miss Brewer has not been in school for the last couple of weeks. She is taking some compassionate leave. All our thoughts, love and best wishes are with her and her family.

Message for the children from Miss Ovenden ...

We have had such a festive week here at West Minster with us zooming in to local care homes to sing and sign, children dressing up with hair to make them happy and a visit from the Christmas Dinosaur, it has been great to see you all smiling and having such a good time. All the teachers and support staff are working so hard to make sure you are having a great lead up to Christmas and I really am thankful for that.

In the Ivy Centre you have been learning signs to different Christmas songs which you have been performing to different people including the whole school – well done, I know everyone really enjoyed it. In Reception you have really got into the swing of the dinosaur and want to write him a letter, I know he will really like that. In Year 1 and 2 you have been all been practicing your videos that are getting put up on ClassDojo to show how we have celebrated Christmas. Year 3 and 4 you have been enjoying the Tom Fletcher stories of The Christmasaurus, do

you think that might have been why Rex came to visit us today? In Year 5 and 6 you have been looking at the different celebrations in different cultures and what they do.

I cannot wait for our exciting events we have lined up for next week. We really are going to see 2020 out with a big sparkling bang.

Have a great weekend.

Well done to Periwinkle and Daisy Class their attendance of 96% this week! (Monday – 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:

- Crazy Hat Day (Published 10.12.20)
- Christmas Lunch (Published 08.12.20)
- Design your own Christmas Jumper Competition (Published 08.12.20)
- General Covid letter (Published 06.12.20)
- Christmas date and activity list (Published 30.11.20)

Future Dates

- Pyjamas and Christmas film day – Monday 14 December
- Christmas dinner days and Jumpers days – Wednesday 16 December and Thursday 17 December
- How West Minster Celebrated Christmas Video – Thursday 17 December
- Performance from the West Minster Band – Thursday 17 December
- End of term for the pupils – Thursday 17 December
- Monday 4 January – Children return for term 3

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.