



# Sheerness West Federation Week Ahead 15 March 2021



## Federation Message from Mr Cooper ...

### WELCOME BACK

It has been so lovely to see all the children back this week. Full attendance is now expected, and we were really pleased to see almost everyone back in school. We have had a great week with the children, and to hear the joy of laughter and excitement bubbling through the schools as they see their friends, or join in the Science activities, has been wonderful. They have all enjoyed catching up with their friends and have quickly settled into their routines, most of which are familiar to them. Once again, the staff team have been brilliant in welcoming them back.

### OVERDUE THANK YOU AND WELL DONE

Before we go on with the reminders for the current situation, I wanted to pause and say a very important thank you and well done. To all the teachers/staff/children and to you, our parents too. This last period of time where you have had the children at home with you, juggling everything, has been an extraordinary challenge, but you can all be very proud of all that you have achieved in that time. The children were safe, they had school work to do, they could see their friends and teachers, and they now appreciate the true value of school, like no other children before them. Well done everyone!!!! You have all been amazing, as has your support and patience with us. THANK YOU!!!

### FALSE POSITIVE OUTCOMES FROM LATERAL FLOW TESTS

You may well have read in the media that a small percentage of lateral flow tests produce a false positive result, in that when the individual then takes a more accurate PCR test, this comes back negative.

With all the staff regularly taking lateral flow tests twice a week, there is always the possibility of this happening at some point, as we have about three hundred tests being taken every week.

This means that if a member of staff tests positive with a lateral flow test that they have completed at home, we have to shut a class bubble and ask the children and staff in that bubble to isolate, and then let them know the outcome of the PCR. If negative, this means that everyone returns, and we treat it as a false alarm. Obviously, we have to act as if it might be a confirmed case, but **unless we get a positive PCR result, it is not one.**

So, you may find at some point, your class bubble shuts for a day or two and then reopens at some point. This is not a cause for alarm if this happens, so to help that, we wanted you to be prepared. We are sorry in advance for any inconvenience it may cause. We will always let you know the results of the PCR test as soon as possible in that instance.

*(Unfortunately, we have already had this false positive situation in Sweetpea class at West Minster this week, and the class reopened the following day, as the PCR test was negative, so there is no case.)*

The good thing is that the lateral flow tests may detect an asymptomatic positive case which would not have been noticed previously, so will keep school even safer.

### LUNCHES

We're very pleased about the return of hot meals, it has been a real success this week; with the children showing how sensible they can be collecting their lunch in a socially distanced manner. With hot meals now being available they have been able to have lasagne and the most looked forward to dinner fish and chips on a Friday! **Please can we ask that all hot lunches are pre-booked.** A huge well done to the children and a huge thank you to all the amazing staff involved.

### DEVICES

We're still awaiting the return of a few devices; if you have borrowed an iPad or similar from the school, please do NOT return it to the class teachers, instead return them to the main office ASAP please.

## WHAT TO DO IF YOUR CHILD TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID OR IS UNWELL

Up until Easter at least, we are still asking all parents to ensure that you **do not send your child to school if 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.** If you do keep your child home, you must, of course, notify school in the normal way.

We would also remind parents of the following:

1. **If someone in your household tests positive the whole household MUST isolate for 10 days – please inform the school urgently via the office email between 8-4 or via ClassDojo if out of hours.** Nobody from the household should go out even if they have no symptoms. (if this is from a lateral flow test you have done **at home**, you should then get a PCR test, and once again let us know the result.)
2. **If someone in your household has symptoms or is getting a test, everyone should stay at home whilst that person gets a test. Children should not attend school during that time.** If the result is negative you can return to normal. If the result is positive you must follow the above points in number 1.

## Week one news and information for Rose Street parents and carers

Week one done! A huge well done to everyone children, parents and staff you have all been amazing. We're so impressed with how the children have settled back into school and adapted to any new changes so quickly. We started the children's return by having a Science week which I think we can all say has been a roaring success, we will continue the term with a curriculum that supports the children's well-being. Lunchtimes have also gone very well and the children have enjoyed having hot meals again! Well done to both Reception classes who ate in the dinner hall for the first time this year and were brilliant. Please can we ask that you pre-book your school dinners, from next week any school dinners that are not pre-booked parents will receive a phone call asking for a packed lunch to be brought in.

School timings – Please can I ask that unless you have siblings you stick to your child's drop off and pick up times. A large percent of parents are coming as the gates open which cause huge congestion and there is no social distancing. The timings are there to keep everyone safe so please stick to your child's time.

As we've said before we get the children out as much as we possibly can even if it's raining, cold or windy **SO PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD HAS A SUITABLE COAT.**

Thank you to everyone for say good morning/afternoon to the adults on the gate it makes the time pass quickly.

## Week one news and information for West Minster parents and carers

What a great week we have come back to, the children were so excited and had such smiley faces it was wonderful to see. They have settled back into their usual classroom routines with relative ease and it has made this week such a good one.

We have had an incredibly exciting time with the children participating in Science Week where they have been planning, designing and creating inventions; who knows one day these could go on to change the world!

The children have done incredibly well at lunchtimes under a slightly new system with hot lunches. A special mention has to be made to Reception children who ate for the first time in the school hall and did so superbly. A huge thank you to all parents who have continued to wear masks, this is really helping to keep everyone safe around school.

Could we ask that if you bring an electric scooter onto the premises that you walk it round rather than ride it to keep everyone as safe as possible, thank you.

This week's letters/emails sent and on our website (<http://www.rose-street.kent.sch.uk/>) and (<http://www.west-minster.kent.sch.uk/>) were:

Parking letter – Published 9<sup>th</sup> March

First day back review from Mr Cooper – Published 8<sup>th</sup> March

Reminder of drop off times – Published 8<sup>th</sup> March

## **This week's Dates for your diary:**

### **Future Dates**

- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March – Comic Relief – what each school will be doing will be announced separately
- Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March – odd sock day to raise awareness for Word Down Syndrome Day
- 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> March – Easter themed days
- Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March – Term 4 ends
- Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April – Staff Development Day
- Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April – Term 5 begins