



# Sheerness West Federation Week Ahead 29 March 2021



## Federation Message from Mr Cooper ...

Dear Parents,

It has been a privilege to work with you, your wonderful children and the amazing staff at both of the schools over the last few months. My appointment was only ever a temporary one, but I will miss my connection with Sheerness West Federation, and I hope to keep in touch. I know that I leave both schools in good shape and in good hands. Thank you all.

Mr Cooper

PS Please read the important letter from our Chair of Governors below...

Dear Parents,

As you are aware, we have recruited a new permanent Executive Head Teacher who will be starting with the Sheerness West Federation on the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

We are absolutely over the moon that we have managed to recruit Mrs Pattenden to the post. She has extensive primary school experience at Head and Executive Head level and at interview, presented a strong and ambitious vision for where she would like to take the Federation and how it will play a part in being a community leader. I know Mr Cooper has also been meeting with her to ensure as smooth as possible a handover, so you may have already seen Mrs Pattenden at the school gates over the last few weeks.

Throughout his recent time with us Mr Cooper's support, leadership and commitment to the Federation has been second to none. He has been a constant source of knowledge, encouragement, assistance, and compassion throughout his time here, leading with steadfast optimism and expertise through an unprecedented time in our history, always knowing what to do and when to do it. However, all good things must come to an end and Mr Cooper will be leaving us on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021. It will be a bittersweet moment for us as although it will be sad to see him leave us, it is because we have a new permanent Executive Head Teacher starting that will take us long into the future.

Also, from next term, we have made a few changes to how our leadership team looks, so to make these changes clear, please see the explanation below.

The new Federation leadership team, starting on Monday 19th April will be:

- Executive Headteacher (federation) –Mrs Pattenden
- Head of School West Minster –Miss Brewer
- Head of School Rose Street –Mrs Mackay
- Deputy Head West Minster and Assessment across the federation– Miss Ovenden (1/1.5 days at RS)
- Deputy Head Rose Street and Inclusion across the federation -Mr Cates (1/1.5 days at WM)
- Assistant Head West Minster –Mrs Gransden
- Assistant Head Rose Street –Mrs Bower
- Schools Business Leader - Mrs Nunn
- HR & Professional Development Manager –Mrs Gates

So, with Mrs Pattenden as full time Executive Headteacher of both schools:

At Rose Street, we will have

- Head of School–Mrs Mackay
- Deputy Head -Mr Cates
- Assistant Head–Mrs Bower

And at West Minster, we will have

- Head of School–Miss Brewer
- Deputy Head– Miss Ovenden
- Assistant Head–Mrs Gransden

The one key change is that there is the appointment of an individual Head of School for each school, with each Head of School, supported by a Deputy Head and an Assistant Head. This will really help with the day to day running of the schools and will ensure that the schools can fully function in their own right, whilst being supported by and contributing to the federation. We also have an appropriate and effective structure which is fair for both schools.

As Rose Street and West Minster will now have a specific Head who is the person in charge, this will mean that parents can more easily identify the appropriate person to go to at all times.

The respective deputy heads for each school are balanced with a clear tie both to one particular school, deputising for the Head of school, but also to the Federation, with a specific important Federation level responsibility, and each spending some time at the other school. This ensures there is always one deputy at either site, in addition to the Head of School, and it is usually the same person, but both Mr Cates and Miss Ovenden, whilst normally at the school listed above, will be at both schools at some point each week.

Most importantly, the biggest impact of all these changes will be the ability to enable the improved pupil outcomes and interventions needed across the Federation, especially in the light of the recent periods of partial school closure, to be made at a faster pace, for the maximum and more immediate benefit of the children both this year and in the future.

I hope that this explanation clarifies the new structures and personnel that will be in place on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021, when Mrs Pattenden joins us officially as the new Executive Headteacher.

Ken Mackness  
SWF Chair of Governors

### Other Federation messages

#### Friday end of day times

This academic year has been a challenge with children being able to physically attend school. Therefore, moving forward, we will be extending the Friday finish time to the same as the rest of the week so that children are in school full time five days a week. This does not affect Nursery hours. This will start from the first Friday back.

#### Online safety

With children having more access to online platforms as a way of keeping in touch with friends and family they have added a great comfort during this time allowing us to feel connected when we are far apart however, unfortunately they can also make children vulnerable to content and strangers which are not appropriate. With this newsletter we are sending a guide to online safety which we feel could help support you with this area that is constantly changing allowing the children to only receive the benefits from being online. If you need any more information the NSPCC do great resources that can be shared with children about being safe online.

## Information for Rose Street parents and carers

It's been a lovely week and we've certainly enjoyed the better weather and hope to see more of the sunshine! The children have been enjoying the outside areas around the school very much! Thank you to the children for wearing their odd socks on Monday in support of World Awareness Day for children with Down's Syndrome; the children found Mrs Wood's PowerPoint very interesting and loved seeing her daughter. Next week the children will be at school for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and will be engaged in Spring and Easter activities such as a whole school big art attack and an Easter egg hunt; we hope this will be a pleasant way to finish off the term. As mentioned above we know that lots of the children have devices and access the internet which was an absolute life saver for us all during lockdown, however we are experiencing an increase in issues related to online safety so please read the attached leaflet to help us support the children to keep safe online.

Have a lovely weekend and keep smiling!

## Information for West Minster parents and carers

We started this week with the children wearing odd socks to show our support for the World Awareness Day for children with Down's Syndrome, the children really enjoyed the day; finding out about how special everyone is. On Tuesday we also took part in the National Day of Reflection thinking about how the last year has been and how amazing the children's adaptability was throughout whilst they have been in and out of school and adhering to the changes of routine and procedures without any problems. Although an extremely hard year a positive from it will always be how proud our children made us.

In EYFS they have been looking at the joys of spring, in particular looking at frogs. For their PE lesson this week they were practicing their frog leaps and seeing how high they can go. The changing of the seasons also featured in Year 1 and 2 as they were looking at the different seasons and what weather is likely to happen in each one. They were also thinking about the kind of clothes that can be worn. Year 3/4 they have been writing stories this week; with a focus on the words that they use to create a visual picture for the reader and making sure there is a flow to the events of the story keeping the readers hooked. In Year 5 and 6 they have been looking at the importance of staying safe online; they have had discussion on 'How do you know the person you are talking to is the person you think they are?' and what they need to do if they are ever unsure of something online. In the Ivy Centre, Clover class have been completing instruction writing to make rock cakes, which they then went on to follow and make – they were delicious! Then finally, Foxgloves have been looking at the Roman's and the roads that they built. What a busy week.

### Last day of term

Wednesday 31 March is the last day of term, the school day will finish and normal time but the kitchen is changing the menu to the popular Fish and Chips option to celebrate the last day of term

A lot of the school have been observing the changes of spring this week, we are extremely lucky with The Fleet running alongside our school field allowing us to see the trees budding and the wildlife bursting back to life. We will also be talking to the children about the World Wildlife Fund's Earth Hour day; where one day each year everybody across the globe is asked to turn off their lights for one hour, in the UK it is 8.30pm-9.30pm – maybe this is something you could do over the weekend?

Have a lovely weekend

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:

- Bubble class reopen after a negative positive test letter (Published 22.03.21 – WM)

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

## **Future Dates**

- 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