



# Sheerness West Federation Week Ahead 4 May 2021



## Federation Message from Mrs Pattenden ...

Dear Parents/Carers

We have been asked to share some exciting news for the Isle of Sheppey – please see below the message we have received from the Local Authority.

There is a planned new special school for the Isle of Sheppey. The school is still hoping to open for September 2022 but due to delays in the process for the building of the school, the school may not now be able to open until 2023, however everything is being done to open the school as soon as possible. The SABDEN Multi Academy Trust were appointed to run the school. The Trust is very experienced in running excellent schools and you will be able to find out about schools that they already run via this link: <http://www.sabden.org.uk/>

The school is due to open as a Secondary School for young people with social, emotional and mental health difficulties with autism spectrum conditions or social communication difficulties. It is planned that once established, consultation will take place to open a primary department in the future.

As part of the Trust's development of the curriculum and preparation to open the new school, they are keen to consult with parents and carers who are willing to engage with a short questionnaire that can be done via phone or zoom. Gareth Lucas from the Trust will conduct the research and provide an independent report to SABDEN MAT. He is experienced in managing research and consultations and is an experienced headteacher. We are asking whether you can either identify parents that have children with aspects of SEMH, Autism or related needs and who would be happy to talk to Gareth, or to put something in your newsletter or on your school's website encouraging parents to contact Gareth either via email: [gareth.lucas@sabden.org](mailto:gareth.lucas@sabden.org) or via his mobile: 07809657589.

Other news – we are aware that Graduations and Award assemblies are due to take place during the summer term. We are currently planning behind the scenes for these to happen in some way. We will keep you posted!

On behalf of the Federation, we hope you all enjoy the Bank Holiday and hope that it actually warms up!

### **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.

## Federation message from Ms Brewer and Mrs Mackay

Dear Parents/Carer

Useful/general reminders

As it is fairly early on in the start of term, we thought we would take the opportunity to send some useful information/general reminders:

- Please can we remind you to keep to the staggered times as much as possible and wear face coverings on site.
- **If children are riding bikes/scooters to school – please encourage them to get off and walk with them as soon as they are on the school sites.**

- Uniform must be worn (other than PE days when the children need to wear PE kits).
- Following on from the success of children wearing their PE clothes to school on their PE days we'd like to continue with this arrangement. Please ensure your child wears appropriate PE clothing (and hair must be tied back).
- Health and Safety: Following on from some guidance from British Association of Advisers and Lecturers in Physical Education (BAALPE); 'that the taping of earrings 'creates a perception of safety and is not recommended'. Children are not permitted to wear jewellery, including pierced earrings, during PE lessons.
- Teachers are not allowed to take out or replace children's earrings if they are unable to do so themselves and taping children's ears is no longer an option. Therefore, it would be helpful if earrings could be taken out at home on PE days, or please ensure your child can manage this independently. PE is a statutory subject set by the government and ears being pierced in term time will not be an excuse to not participate. The safety of the children is our paramount concern.
- Good attendance is essential for children to achieve their potential. Children have faced a great deal of disruption over the academic year and so attending school is even more meaningful at this time, lateness can also have an impact on the amount of learning that is missed.

If there are any issues, please remember to contact your child's teacher in the first instance. We are here to help but cannot do this unless you talk to us.

We will keep you posted regarding usual school/Federation events as Covid restrictions are updated. We thank you for your continued support.

### **Number Day Friday 7 May (For the Federation)**

**NSPCC Number Day** is a maths-inspired fundraising event where schools across the UK raise money for the NSPCC. This year we'd like to invite the children to wear non-uniform or dress up with the theme around numbers, if you would like to make a donation it would be much appreciated.

### **WEST MINSTER ONLY**

### **THURSDAY 6 MAY**

This is Polling day the school is open however this will affect the reception classes and Nursery. A letter will be going out to these year groups with further information about what arrangements will be in place

## **Message from the Wellbeing Team**

The Wellbeing Team are here to help with any worries or concerns you may have about anything to do with your child's wellbeing. If there is something on your mind, please let us know. There will be things that we can do to help and support you. You will see us on gate duty of a morning and afternoon and we are also available via ClassDojo.

We can also help with practical things, such as access to Swale Food Bank, second-hand school uniform, signposting and referrals to other agencies and much more.

Please look out for our weekly "Wellbeing Wednesday" posts on ClassDojo, which provides advice and activities.

**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:**

Year 6 bus transfer form – Published 29.4.21

West Minster Polling Day arrangements for Nursery and Reception - Published 30.4.21

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

### **Future Dates**

- Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May – Bank Holiday
- Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May - Polling day school open (West Minster)
- Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May – NSPCC Number Day (Rose Street and West Minster)
- 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> May – Mental Health Awareness Week
- 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> May – Parents Evenings
- Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May – Staff Development Day

- Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May – Term 5 ends
- Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June – Term 6 begins