



Sheerness West Federation End of Year Newsletter July 2021



Federation Message from Mrs Pattenden ...

Dear Parents/Carers

Where has this academic year gone? It has been such a challenging year for all concerned. I would like to thank you all for your support and patience towards the Federation whilst restrictions have been in place.

I would also like to thank you so much for your welcome and smiles (over the last 2 terms) when I have seen you in either school.

Although current government guidance suggests from September there will be little to no restrictions with regards to Covid 19, we are planning to take a slightly more cautious approach as the infection rate continues to rise, as referenced below:

- From 1/9/21 – 10/9/21 we will move to year group bubbles this way we can still limit contacts while we assess the children's return and monitor updated government guidance.
- If you wish to continue to wear a mask or visor you can but it this will not be compulsory.
- Year group assemblies will take place, but we will not run whole school events between 1/9/21-10/9/21.
- After schools' clubs will not begin until at least the week beginning 13/9/21 if there no change in the guidance.
- Breakfast Clubs will be open but children will be seated in year group bubbles and specific arrangements will differ in each school.
- Timings will no longer be staggered but return to 8.35-8.45 and 3.15. At Rose Street the one- way system will remain in place, at West Minster this will be lifted but will be monitored.
 - Children can continue to come to school in their P.E Kits on their P.E day and earrings are not to be worn

It is only for me to wish the Year 6s and staff who are leaving all the very best of luck for their next step. We look forward to working with our new pupils and staff.

We hope that you all have a fun-packed and well-deserved break – happy summer holidays to you all!

Take care, stay safe and we will see you all in September.

Message from Mr Cates

Dear Parents, carers, staff and children

As you will have seen in this newsletter or perhaps by now have heard, I am saying farewell to teaching after 36 years, the last 10 of which have been at the Federation. To think that when I came to work at West Minster as the SENCO it was for three days a week, and I only planned to stay for a year! Many of the things that made me want to stay are also, alongside the positive changes that I have helped to introduce, are the things that make it hard to leave.

My decision to retire was not an easy one to make but is the right decision for me. I am sad to be leaving two schools that I have devoted so much time and energy to, and the staff - many of whom work behind the scenes and who don't always get the recognition they deserve - who work so hard for the children in all sorts of ways.

To the children of both schools, you will all hold a very special place in my heart, and I will continue to smile as I hear about you reaching your targets and achieving your dreams.

My very best wishes to you all for the future and thank you for your support. May you all stay safe and well over the summer holiday.

Message from Ms Brewer

It has been a very challenging year and I would like to say how wonderful the children and all the staff have been. Thank you also for all your support. I wish you all well and keep safe over the summer. I look forward to welcoming you all back on the 2nd September.

Also, we would like to say a fond farewell to a couple of members of staff. Mrs Standish, a class TA, who has been with us since 1994 has decided to retire this year, we are all going to miss her as she has been an unsung hero of the school for so many years. Mr Cates has also chosen to retire, he has brought to the school so many positive attributes that we will continue to support through the school allowing the children to still benefit from his outstanding work. Finally, we are saying goodbye two lovely teachers that left us to have babies and have decided to not return for the time being. Both Miss Towler and Miss Barret have been with us a long time starting their teaching careers here with Miss Towler starting as a TA and developing into a teacher and Miss Barret being a student teacher – we wish them both all the luck in the world and want to remind them (again) that the door is always open if they wish to return.

Can everyone be aware that now restrictions have been lifted that all bikes and scooters are left in the bicycle shelter so there is no need to bring them onto school premises.

Message from Mrs Mackay

What a year it's been! In my 19 years of teaching I can honestly say this has been one of the most challenging years I've experienced, but as is always the case at Rose Street the children and staff have been amazing and I'm hugely proud of them all. Today we say goodbye to 6 members of staff: Mr Cates, Miss Purtiz, Miss Bennett, Miss H Carter, Miss Mead and Mrs Pullinger, we wish them all well. We also say goodbye to our wonderful Year 6 children; what a special year group you've been!

As well as saying goodbye we also welcome several new members of staff who I'll introduce you to in the first newsletter of next academic year. I'd like to take the opportunity to say congratulations to Mrs Bower and Mrs Montielli who both have acting roles for September; Mrs Bower Acting Deputy Head and Mrs Monticelli Acting Assistant Head.

I hope you all have a lovely summer break and enjoy some family time and I look forward to seeing you in September.

Message from the Well-being Team

The well-being team would like to wish you all a happy, safe and restful summer. We are all hopeful the weather is kind and gives us all plenty of opportunities to get out and about to make some wonderful memories for our children and families. It has been a very challenging year for us all and we can't praise the children enough for the resilience they have shown. We remain hopeful that we can return in September with little to no disruption and look forward to all the exciting things we are hoping to put in place once normality resumes.

As reminded at the end of Term 5 please stay safe and take precautions, especially if taking the opportunity to explore our beaches. A reminder of the link: <https://rnli.org/safety/beach-safety> The government have recently launched a campaign to encourage families to rediscover summer, the guide can be found using the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rediscover-summer>



Stay safe and look after each other and we look forward to having our West Minster and Rose Street families back together in September.

This week's Dates for your diary and additional information

Future Dates

- Staff Development Day – 1st September
- Term 1 begins – 2nd September

Please be aware your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

Your child may also get free school meals if you get any of these benefits and your child is both:

- younger than the [compulsory age for starting school](#)
- in full-time education

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>