

Newsletter

Attendance

Weekly attendance for each school based on Friday - Thursday:

Holbeach St Marks – 85%

Gedney Drove End – 86%

Westmere – 89%

Our target is 96%

Each week, one child from each class will get the attendance award, and one class from each school will get the class certificate for the week.

Absences for Appointments

We remind parents that wherever possible, medical appointments should be booked after school or in the holidays. If you do have to collect your child for an appointment, please ensure the office is informed in advance and that a copy of the appointment letter is provided as evidence. If you do not provide a copy of the letter or appointment card, the absence will be marked as unauthorised.

School Meals

Just a reminder that the deadline for ordering is Wednesday - you should receive an email reminder. If you are not getting these, please let the office know. We also ask that over the weekend or on a Monday morning, you check what meals you have ordered for your child for the upcoming week and ensure you provide a packed lunch for days you haven't booked a meal.

Strike Action

Following recent ballots by teacher unions, I am writing to inform you that the National Education Union (NEU) intend to carry out industrial action over the national pay offer and their members plan to strike over a number of days in the coming months.

Whilst as a school we regret any inconvenience this may cause, we must respect that members of any professional association/union have the right to take this action following a legal ballot. I would like to recognise that I understand the frustrations of many teachers with workload and pay issues, something we have seen documented by recent strike action in other professions. The commitment of our staff to your children remains as high as ever and any decisions that staff make will not be taken lightly.

Greece and Mexico classes will be closed on Wednesday 1st February due to teacher strike action, but will reopen again on Thursday 2nd February. All other classes will be open as normal to pupils.

Staffing Changes.

Miss Sage, class teacher for Finland, will be starting her maternity leave at the end of next week. From w.c 6th February we will be making the following staff changes; Miss Ashby from Westmere, will be moving over to GDE to teach Finland class. Miss Taylor will move from France class to teach Portugal. France class will be taught by Mrs Cropley and Mr Timmins. While I appreciate that swapping teachers half way through the year isn't ideal, we have to make these changes to ensure that long term sickness absences and maternity leaves are covered by consistent adults. Should you have any concerns please arrange an appointment with the office to speak to a member of our leadership team. All of these classes will have a transition day next Thursday 2nd February, where they will be taught by their new class teachers.

Reading Sessions

Each class will be having a reading session which we would like to invite parents to. Please see the table below for your session;

Class	Date	Time
China	Wednesday 1st February	2pm – 3pm
France	Friday 3 rd February	2.15pm - 3pm
Italy	Wednesday 8 th February	2pm - 3pm
Brazil	Tuesday 7 th February	2.15pm – 3.15pm
Mexico	Wednesday 8 th February	2pm – 3pm
Portugal	Friday 3 rd February	2pm – 3pm
USA	Wednesday 8 th February	2pm – 3pm
Canada	Tuesday 31 st January	2.15pm – 3pm
Spain	Tuesday 31 st January	2.15pm – 3pm
Gedney Drove End – all classes	Thursday 2nd March	9am – 10am
Holbeach St Marks – all classes	Tuesday 7 th February	2pm -3pm

Diary Dates

10th February – End of Term 3

20th February – Start of Term 4

31st March – End of Term 4

18th April – Start of Term 5





The Griffin Federation

Learning Together for Excellence

Illness

This is a reminder that while we want to encourage good attendance, it is imperative that children who are too ill for school do not attend. We are aware that children have diarrhoea and sickness for a number of reasons - sometimes this is due to a sickness bug, due to coughing or something they have eaten. If your child has a high temperature, diarrhoea or sickness they must not be sent to school. We require a minimum of 24 hours clear of diarrhoea and sickness and be showing no other signs of illness such as a temperature or feeling poorly. If your children are still feeling unwell or have a temperature then they must stay off for 48 hours following diarrhoea or sickness.

Bikeability – Westmere Year 5 and 6 only

In June we have arranged for a Bikeability course at Westmere. If your child is in year 5 or 6 and didn't participate last year then you should have received a letter with a permission slip attached. Permission slips need to be returned by Monday 6th February, if you haven't received a letter please contact Mrs Thomas, Joanna.thomas@griffinfederation.co.uk.

Kind regards

Sally Massey

Assistant Executive Headteacher

