

Newsletter

Attendance

Weekly attendance for each school based on Friday - Thursday:

Holbeach St Marks – 88%

Gedney Drove End – 96%

Westmere – 92%

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.

Attendance Raffle

Next week, we will hold our attendance raffle. Children with an attendance of 96% or higher for the term will be entered. Prizes are:

1st prize - £100

2nd prize - £50

3rd prize - £25

Westmere – Parents of children in Choir Club only

Parents are invited in on Monday 27th March, at 3:30pm, to watch the choir club perform the songs that they have learnt this term.

Easter Service – GDE & HSM

We will be having an Easter Service on Tuesday 28th March at 1.30pm, which will be held at **Christ Church, Dawsmere**. You are welcome to attend and you may take your children home directly from the church after the service if you wish. Children from both schools will be transported by coach and any children that are not collected from the church will return to school to be collected at the end of the day. As it is a while since we have been to the church at Dawsmere and some parents may never have been there, the postcode is PE12 9NL.

Easter Service – Westmere

We will be holding our Easter services on Wednesday 29th March.

1:30pm – China, France, Italy and Greece classes

2:00pm – Brazil, Mexico, Portugal, USA, Canada and Spain classes

Parents and carers are welcome to join us.

Club Cancellations

Unfortunately, due to parents' evening the following clubs will be cancelled.

Holbeach St Marks	Tuesday 28 th March	Colouring Club
Gedney Drove End	Wednesday 29 th March	Japanese Club
Westmere	Tuesday 28 th March	Board Games Club & Dance Club
Westmere	Wednesday 29 th March	Dance club
Westmere	Thursday 30 th March	Construction Club & Craft Club
Holbeach St Marks	Thursday 30 th March	Dance Club

Swimming – Gedney Drove End and Holbeach St Marks starting 20th April

We have arranged swimming lessons for children in Norway and St Lucia classes. Mr Timmins will be taking both classes to Whaplode School on a Thursday afternoon commencing on **27th April**, where we will have sole use of their pool and swimming teachers. Children should come to school in their PE kit and bring their swimming kit in a bag. Earrings must not be worn to school on swimming or PE days. The coach will collect Gedney Drove End at 12.10pm and then travel to Holbeach St Marks for 12.30pm. They will leave Whaplode at 2.30pm and be back at school by the end of the day. To cover the cost of the pool rental and swimming teachers we need to ask for a contribution of £2 per week: the total for this term will be £10 which can be paid in one payment or weekly. Please sign the permission slip, or email your permission and return to school by Monday 17th April. Contributions can be paid in cash weekly or as a lump sum. You can also pay by bank transfer to the Gedney Drove End and Holbeach St Marks Account; if you don't have the bank details please contact the office.

On Thursday 20th April St Lucia class will again be travelling to Gedney Drove End for PE, this is the last week of PE before swimming starts on 27th April.

Diary Dates

28th March – Parents' Eve Spain and Canada
 28th March Parents' Eve HSM
 28th March – HSM/GDE Easter Service at Dawsmere
 29th March – Parents' Eve GDE
 29th March – Parents' Eve Westmere – **not** Greece
 29th March – Easter Services Westmere
 30th March – Parents' Eve Westmere **not** Year 6
 31st March – End of Term 4
 18th April – Start of Term 5
 10th May – Bingo Westmere
 26th May – End of Term 5



South Holland Easter Bunny Hunts

The Communities Team have planned a host of free activities taking place throughout the district this Easter holiday which we would be grateful if you could share to parents/carers, children and young adults. Activities include Nature Lab and Spring Craft days, Cheerleading taster sessions, guided walking trails and much more.

As part of the South Holland Outdoor Festival, we also have planned 7 Easter Bunny Hunts to take place in Crowland, Pinchbeck, Moulton, Holbeach, Long Sutton, Sutton Bridge and Donington.

The Easter Bunny Hunts will be taking place from Saturday 1st April to Sunday 16th April. Answer sheets can be found in the shops taking part or can be downloaded from our website. A winner will be randomly picked to receive an Easter Hamper from each hunt.

More information can be found on our Facebook page SHDC_Communities and a full list of our events can be found at www.sholland.gov.uk/outdoorfestival

Sports Clubs Gedney Drove End and Holbeach St Marks

Mr Timmins' sports clubs will be changing from the week commencing 24th April, Holbeach St Marks will have club as normal on 20th April but unfortunately due to swimming lessons there won't be a club at Holbeach St Marks after that. Gedney Drove End Clubs are as follows;

Thursday from 27 th April	Rounders	Years 4, 5 and 6
Friday from 28 th April	Team Games	Years 1, 2 and 3

Please email Mrs Lintott if you would like your child to take part.

Online Safety

Please find below some information from the County Council regarding online safety;

Over the last few months, we have seen an increase in the number of schools reporting that students, while at home, have accessed content which is not always appropriate, some of which has been quite scary or upsetting. We have also had a report of worrying trends on TikTok encouraging nudity from its users. This can have legal implications for our children and young people that they often aren't aware of.

While there is no perfect way to eliminate this risk, we feel that there are things parents and carers can do to support their children online, reduce the risk or manage it after the fact. Remember to keep lines of Communication open with your children and young people. Just like we ask them how their day was at school and what they got up to it is equally important to have this conversation about their Online lives. If you can keep technology out of the bedrooms and private spaces this is also an effective tool in safeguarding our children.

Here are some more practical steps parents and carers can follow:

Contact their Internet Service Provider (ISP): Companies that provide broadband such as BT, Sky and Virgin, offer free protection for parents and carers. They can filter your internet connection directly, without having to install anything. Guide on how to use this can be found here:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/broadband-mobile/>

- YouTube is a fantastic resource, but not all the content is appropriate for children and not all YouTube channels are made for young audiences. YouTube has an app just for children – YouTube Kids – but many people don't realise that the main YouTube app has a restricted mode. Check out more about how it works here: <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/entertainment-search-engines/youtube-app/>
- Parental Controls for Devices - <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/smartphones-and-other-devices/>
- Games consoles have features that can limit what games they can play based on the age ratings and can even turn off certain features to allow gaming to be a little safer. To learn more about these features visit <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/gaming-consoles/>
- Games are also rated based on the content; not how difficult they are. 18 rated games can have very graphic violence, adult language and themes, sexual content, and horror elements. Learn a bit more about appropriate games by visiting <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming-whats-appropriate-for-your-child/> or visit this site for more about game ratings <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/pegi-games-ratings-explained>
- Social Media privacy guide - <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/social-media/>

Have you heard about Tik Tok Family Pairing <https://newsroom.tiktok.com/en-us/tiktok-introduces-family-pairing> Family pairing allows adults to link their accounts to their teenagers account so you can customise their safety settings such as content, privacy and well being settings.

It's important to remember that no filters or controls are 100% effective so make sure your child knows that they can, and should, talk to someone if they see or hear anything upsetting online so we can offer them some reassurance. This information from Thinkuknow might be useful <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/im-worried-my-primary-aged-child-might-see-something-inappropriate-online/>





The Griffin Federation
Learning Together for Excellence

Kind regards
Sally Massey
Assistant Executive Headteacher

Swimming St Lucia & Norway Classes

I do / do not give permission for my child(ren) to attend swimming lessons from Thursday 27th April.

I do / do not enclose £10 contribution.

Signed Date

