

Newsletter

Attendance

Weekly attendance for each school based on Friday - Thursday:

Holbeach St Marks – 89%

Gedney Drove End – 96%

Westmere – 94%

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.

Absence & Fines

Please carefully read the following information from the local authority about children being absent from school:

Children of school age must attend regularly and on time during term time.

Your child can only miss school if:

- they are too ill
- you have signed permission from the headteacher for an authorised absence.

Your child may be allowed to miss school for:

- doctor, hospital or dental appointments (you should bring an appointment letter or show a text / email to the school office)
- a death in the family or funeral
- religious observation

Headteachers can only permit leave for a holiday in term time where there are exceptional circumstances. Exceptional circumstances do not include the cost of holidays, surprise holidays or being gifted a holiday.

If you wish to seek approval for any request of absence for holiday for your child(ren) from school, then you must complete a holiday form at least four weeks in advance of the planned absence. You should only then remove your child(ren) if the absence has been authorised, and notified to you in writing by the school. Any exceptional circumstances must be clearly set out in the written request to the Headteacher who will consider each case upon its merits.

If you then choose to take your child out of school during term time and it is not deemed to be exceptional circumstances and/or has not been approved by the school, then this will be coded as an unauthorised absence and a Fixed Penalty Notice will be issued by Lincolnshire County Council for the period of absence. The current penalty charge is £60 per child per parent. Failure to pay the Fixed Penalty may result in further legal action being taken against you, and the cost increasing. If your child has over 4.5 days unauthorised absence in a six week period, you may also be fined.

Earrings

Following guidance from the Association for Physical Education, earrings must not be worn for PE. Ideally, these should be removed for PE days and sports club days before children come to school. You should aim to get your child's ears pierced at the beginning of the summer holidays, giving time for them to heal before coming back to school. If your child has had recent piercings, these may be taped by parents in the mornings, but it must be padded well enough so that the back of the earring cannot be felt: this should prevent the earring piercing the back of the ear / head. The guidance also states that school staff should not remove or tape earrings for pupils: this is a parental responsibility.

Smoking and Vaping

We politely remind you that smoking and vaping on school site is strictly forbidden.

Value of the Week

Our school values are: Perseverance, Respect, Wisdom & Knowledge, and Koinonia (team work). Each week in school, we have a value of the week where children can earn certificates for demonstrating that value throughout the week.

Harvest Service – GDE & HSM

We will be having a joint Harvest Service on Tuesday 17th October at 1.30pm, it 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 picked up at the end of the day. The postcode for the church is PE12 9NL. We are not collecting donations of food this year, but you may want to donate at your local supermarket or foodbank if you are able to.

Diary Dates

17th October – Harvest GDE / HSM Dawsmere

19th October – Harvest Westmere

20th October – End of Term 1

31st October – Deadline for secondary applications

31st October (Tues) – Start of Term 2

3rd November – School Photos





Harvest Service – Westmere

We will be having two harvest services at Westmere on Thursday 19th October. The first service will start at 9.15am and will be for China, France, Italy and Greece classes. The second service will start at 10am for Brazil, Mexico, Portugal, Canada and Spain classes. Parents are welcome to attend the services. We are not collecting donations of food this year, but you may want to donate at your local supermarket or foodbank if you are able to.

Secondary School Applications

Just a reminder that the deadline for secondary school applications is 31st October, please use the link below to make your application <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/school-admissions/apply-school-place>. If you are waiting for 11+ results, they will be emailed to you on Friday 13th October. If your child has achieved the appropriate mark, you can then apply for a place at either Spalding High or Spalding Grammar School. If your child is entitled to school transport then you should apply for that at the same time.

Into Film Festival

The Into Film Festival is a free, annual, nationwide celebration of film & education for children, we have arranged cinema visits for the following classes.

France and Italy – Wednesday 8th November

On Wednesday 8th November, France and Italy will be going to watch Paw Patrol at the Light Cinema in Wisbech. We would like all the children to wear their blue PE hoodie on this day. We will be leaving school at 9:15am and should return to school at approximately 12:00pm. Please return the permission slip below.

Canada and Spain – Friday 10th November

On Friday 10th November, Canada and Spain will be going to watch Haunted Mansion at the Light Cinema in Wisbech. We would like all the children to wear their blue PE hoodie on this day. We will be leaving school at 9:15am and should return to school at approximately 12:40pm. Please return the permission slip below. The children will have their lunch on their return to school. There will be no hot meals on this day and all children will need a packed lunch.

Brazil, Mexico and Portugal – Tuesday 14th November

On Tuesday 14th November, Brazil, Mexico and Portugal will be going to watch Minions: The Rise Of Gru at the Light Cinema in Wisbech. We would like all the children to wear their blue PE hoodie on this day. We will be leaving school at 9:15am and should return to school at approximately 12:15pm. Please return the permission slip below.

Norway, Sweden, St Lucia and Barbados – Wednesday 15th November

On Wednesday 15th November, Norway, Sweden, St Lucia and Barbados will be going to watch Ruby Gillman, Teenage Kraken at the Light Cinema in Wisbech. We would like all the children to wear their blue PE hoodie on this day. The coach will leave Holbeach St Marks at 8.40am and pick up Gedney Drove End at 9am. We will be back at school in time for lunch. Please return the permission slip below.

Flu Vaccinations – Reception to Year 5

If your child is in Reception to Year 6 and you would like them to be immunised in the Autumn, then please use the following link and the appropriate school code from the table below;

<https://www.lincolnshireimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu>

	Date of immunisation	School Code	% of Pupils Already Registered
Gedney Drove End	15 th November (PM)	EE120410	35%
Holbeach St Marks	10 th November (AM)	EE120549	42%
Westmere	8 th November (PM)	EE120502	30%

Kind regards

Sally Massey

Assistant Executive Headteacher





Cinema – France and Italy – Wednesday 8th November

I give / do not give permission for my child(ren)to attend the cinema on Wednesday 8th November.

Signed Parent/Carer Date.....

Cinema – Canada and Spain – Friday 10th November

I give / do not give permission for my child(ren)to attend the cinema on Friday 10th November.

Signed Parent/Carer Date.....

Cinema – Brazil, Mexico and Portugal – Tuesday 14th November

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