The Griffin Federation
Nurture to Flourish

4th July 2025

Newsletter

Attendance

Weekly attendance for each school based on Friday - Thursday:
Holbeach St Marks –96%
Gedney Drove End –98%
Westmere –94%

Collecting Children

When you pick up your children at the end of the day, please ensure they remain in your care, and close by. Recently, several children have wandered off or have gone off to play in areas away from the person who has collected them. Once children have been collected, please leave site straight away so the gates can be closed and the site secured for the children who have after-school clubs.

Diary Dates

9th July – GDE Play Village Hall 5.30pm
10th July – Westmere Cricket Day
15th July – GDE / HSM Sports Day
17th July – GDE / HSM Celebration Services
17th July- Westmere Y5/6 Play 5.30pm
21st July – Westmere Awards:
EYFS / KS1 – 9.30am. KS2 – 10.30am
21st July - HSM Play 5.30pm
21st July – FOW EOY Disco
22nd July – Westmere Sports Day 9.30am
22nd July – End of Term 6

OPAL Saturday

On Saturday 12th July, we will be opening for OPAL Saturday where your child can come and use the OPAL equipment for two hours, fully supervised by school staff and Friends of Westmere. There is a cost of £5 per child which will go towards the cost of further equipment. Children should be dropped off at the main school gate on Anne Road at 10am, bring their own drinks and snacks in a clearly labelled or identifiable bag, and be collected at 12pm at the same gate. Please ensure you apply sunscreen to your child before they come. Children from all 3 schools are welcome. Please sign up at the school office and pay by cash.

Clubs – All Schools

All clubs will finish on Friday 11th July, meaning there will be no clubs from 14th July onwards.

Gedney Drove End Celebration and Awards Service Thursday 17th July

The celebration and awards service will be held in the village hall at 1.30pm on Wednesday 17th July - everyone is welcome.

Holbeach St Marks Celebration and Awards Assembly Thursday 17th July

The celebration and awards service will take place at the church at 9.15am - everyone is welcome.

Westmere Celebration and Awards Services Monday 21st July

Our awards services will be held on Monday 21st July. There will be two services; the first at 9.30am is for China, France and Italy. The second service at 10.30am is for Peru, Brazil, Mexico, Portugal, Canada and Spain. You will be allocated two seats per family if your child is receiving an award and all Y6 parents are welcome to attend the 10.30am service. Unfortunately, due to lack of space, we cannot invite all parents to attend. If your child is receiving an award, we ask that you please do not tell them ahead of time, so it is a surprise on the day.

Gedney Drove End School Play Wednesday 9th July

Our school play this year is 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory', which will take place at the village hall at 5.30pm on Wednesday 9th July. Please ensure the children arrive at the village hall between 5.15pm and 5.20pm to allow time to change into their costumes.

Holbeach St Marks School Play Monday 21st July

Our school play this year is 'Monster High – The Musical', which will take place in the church at 5.30pm on Monday 21st July. Please ensure the children arrive at the church by 5.15pm in their costumes.

Westmere Portugal, Spain & Canada School Play Thursday 17th July

Our school play this year for Portugal, Spain and Canada will take place at 5.30pm on Thursday 17th July in the school hall. Children should arrive at 5.10pm to allow time to get changed. Parents of Portugal, Spain and Canada pupils are invited to attend.

Gedney Drove End and Holbeach St Marks Sports Day

Our joint sports day will take place at Gedney Drove End School at 9.30am on Tuesday 15th July (weather permitting). All children (including preschool) will be transported from HSM by coach. Parents and families are welcome to join us to watch the races. Children from Holbeach St Marks will eat at Gedney Drove End and then travel back to school at approximately 12.30pm. If it is raining on the day, please check with us to make sure the event is still going ahead.

Westmere Sports Day

Our sports day will take place on Tuesday 22nd July at 9.15am (weather permitting). Parents and families are welcome to join us. The gates will be locked when the event starts for safety reasons and will not be opened until all the races have finished. Please make sure you have everything you need with you as you will not be able to go back outside. Also, just a reminder that smoking and vaping are not permitted on the school site. Children should come to school in their PE kit, with the correct colour T-shirt for their house, jewellery removed, long hair tied back and trainers tied properly.

Westmere – Year 5 Taster Day UALS

Year 5 Pupils from Westmere will be attending UALS on Tuesday 8th July 2025. Packed lunches will be provided for FSM children. Children should come to school in their PE kit with blue PE hoodies. Please sign and return the permission slip below or email your permission for your child to be transported by coach to UALS.

End of Year Disco – Monday 21st July

FoW are holding an end of year disco at Westmere on Monday 21st July. This disco will be held outside so children should come appropriately dressed for the playground and the field – children should come to school in the clothes they will wear for the disco. Year 6 pupils are able to go home at 2.45pm if they would like to change into their party outfits for their Leavers' VIP room. The start time will be 3.15pm and it will finish at 4.30pm. Entry to the disco is by ticket only. You will not be able to pay on the door. Tickets for the disco will be available from the school office from Monday. The cost of a ticket is £2. Refreshments and glitter tattoos will be available. Children should bring no more than £5 spending money. Please ensure this is in a named purse / wallet and is in change - children are responsible for their own money. No mobile phones are allowed at the disco due to safeguarding.

Westmere Cricket Enrichment Day

A cricket coach will be in school on Thursday 10th July. All children will need to wear their PE kit:

Year 6 Transition Days

Please find below a list of transition days for children in year 6 to visit their new secondary schools.

UAH	10th and 11th July

Attendance

The Department for Education has updated school attendance guidelines, effective from 19th August 2024, stressing the importance of regular attendance for academic and social development. Parents must report absences by 8:30am daily and provide proof for medical appointments during school hours. Term-time holidays are no longer allowed and will be marked as unauthorised unless exceptional circumstances apply. Unauthorised absences, including late arrivals or unapproved holidays, will lead to penalty notices after 10 sessions (5 days) of absence within a 10-week period. Parents could face fines or legal action if absences persist. Please read the information sent home this week for further details. If you are struggling with attendance in any way, please come and talk to us as we can often offer some kind of support.

We will publish attendance figures from next week based on Friday - Thursday:
Each week, one child from each class will get the attendance award and become an attendance hero, and one class from each school will get the class certificate for the week. Our weekly target is 95%.

The Griffin Federation
Nurture to Flourish

Value of the Week

Each week we have a value of the week where we focus on one of our federation values. We discuss what this value is and how we can live this out in our everyday lives. At the end of the week, certificates are awarded to children who have who have shown evidence of that value during the week.

Our Value for the first week back is: **Perseverance**

Golden Behaviours

Our Golden Behaviours in school are:

- Good manners and be polite
- Good listening
- Kind hands, kind words, kind feet
- Respect people and property
- Be honest

Each week, we will focus on one of the behaviours, discussing what this means, modelling it and looking out for children who demonstrate that behaviour. Certificates will be awarded to the most noticeable pupils each week. Our Golden Behaviour for the first week back is: **Respect People and Property**

Kind regards,
Sally Massey
Assistant Executive Headteacher

Westmere Year 5 Taster Day UALS – Tuesday 8th July 2025

I give / do not give permission for my child(ren) …….. to attend UALS.

Signed …….. Date ……