The Griffin Federation
Nurture to Flourish

12th September 2025

Newsletter

Attendance (Thursday -Wednesday)

Weekly attendance for each school based on Friday - Thursday:
Holbeach St Marks – 98%
Gedney Drove End –98%
Westmere – 95%

Diary Dates

22nd-23rd September – GDE Bikeability
24th-25th September – HSM Bikeability
Tuesday 21st October – School Photos
Thursday 23rd October – End or term 1
Monday 3rd November – Start of term 2
Friday 19th December – End of Term 2

Westmere Frostie Friends Foodbank

We are delighted to introduce our Westmere Frostie Friends Foodbank. Bakkavor has kindly donated a freezer and will keep on filling it with meals to help those in need. If you are in need and would like to know more about this please speak to Mrs Wiles in the office, or email nicola.wiles@griffinfederation

Baby News – Gedney Drove End

Miss Hardstaff is expecting a baby and will start her maternity leave at Christmas. Details of maternity cover will follow nearer the time.

Breaktime Snack

Fruit is provided, under a government scheme, for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. If your child is in Year 3 – 6, they may bring their own healthy snack for break: this could be fruit, vegetables, a healthy cereal bar or a plain biscuit.

Hot Meals

All new children have been set up with our hot meals provider Ideal. To activate an account with them please follow the instructions on the attachment. If your child is not a new starter but would like to try a hot meal or a packed lunch, please follow the same process. You can also look at the website to see the different menu options.

Free School Meals

If you receive any benefits, you could be entitled to free school meals and school can get extra funding called the Pupil Premium grant. This includes:

- Universal Credit - your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
- 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 state Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

If you think you could be entitled, use the following link Apply for free school meals – Lincolnshire County Council

All children in reception, Year 1 and Year 2, are entitled to Universal Infant Free School Meals.

Medicines

If your child requires medicine, including inhalers, to be administered in school, please complete a medicine form at the office. The medicine needs to be clearly labelled with your child's name and class. With regards to asthma, the following procedures will take place in school if your child needs to use their inhaler:

EYFS and KS1 - inhalers will be kept in the class medicine cabinet and inhalers will be administered by an adult and a medicine form signed with the date, time and how many puffs were given.
Y3/4 – inhalers to be kept in the child's tray so they have access to it. They should notify an adult that they need it and an adult will supervise self-administration. A form will be completed with the date, time and how many puffs were given.
Y5/6 – inhalers to be kept in the child's tray so they have access to it. They should self-administer and complete a form with the date, time and how many puffs they had. The child should get an adult to sign this also.

Friends of Westmere

If you would like to be part of the Friends of Westmere team, please email nicola.wiles@griffinfederation.co.uk . Without the help and support from more people, we will not be able to put on events for the children. Friends of Westmere also have a Facebook page so please give us a follow for the latest events happening in school.

Our **AGM meeting will be Friday 19th September, at 9am in Westmere school**. Please come along if you are interested in joining.

Extra Funding available for your child's education

If you're caring for a child under a Special Guardianship Order (SGO), Adoption Order or Child Arrangements Order, additional funding is available to ensure they are given extra support at school. Please see the information attached.

Lincolnshire Stay Safe Partnership

We will be sharing online tips from the Lincolnshire Stay Safe Partnership each week. This week's guide is all about WhatsApp. Please see attached.

Home Time Collection

When you collect your child at the end of the day, please keep them with you rather than let them play on equipment. Bikes and scooters must not be ridden on school grounds by anyone as we want to keep everyone safe.

Headlice

Please check your child regularly for headlice and treat if you find any. Here is the NHS advice on treating headlice.

How to get rid of head lice

Treat head lice as soon as you spot them. You can treat head lice without seeing a GP.
Check everyone you live with, or have close contact with, and start treating anyone who has head lice on the same day.
There's no need to keep your child off school if they have head lice. You do not need to wash your laundry on a hot wash.

Wet combing

Lice and nits can be removed by wet combing. You can buy a special fine-toothed comb (detection comb) online or from pharmacies to remove head lice and nits. There may be instructions on the pack, but usually you:
wash hair with ordinary shampoo
apply lots of conditioner (any conditioner will do)
comb the whole head of hair, using the detection comb, from the roots to the ends
It usually takes about 10 minutes to comb short hair, and 20 to 30 minutes for long, frizzy or curly hair. When you've finished combing the hair, comb through all the hair again for a second time.
Do wet combing on days 1, 5, 9 and 13 to catch any newly hatched head lice. Check again that everyone's hair is free of lice on day 17.

Medicated lotions and sprays

If wet combing has not worked or is not suitable, you could try a medicated lotion or spray. These kill head lice in all types of hair, and you can buy them from pharmacies, supermarkets or online. Head lice should die within a day. Some lotions and sprays come with a comb to remove dead lice and eggs. Some treatments need to be repeated after a week to kill any newly hatched lice. Check the pack to see if they're OK for you or your child to use, and how to use them. If lotions or sprays do not work, speak to a pharmacist about other treatments.

The Griffin Federation
Nurture to Flourish

Afterschool Clubs Term 1 & 2 starting 15 September

Afterschool Clubs - HSM

Please find details of clubs: places are allocated on a first come, first served basis. Please let Mrs Lintott know if your child is interested in taking part in any of these angela.lintott@griffinfederation.co.uk

Day	What	Which year groups	Who
Monday	DT Junk Modelling	Reception – Year 6	Mr Allcorn
Monday	Film Club	Year 3 -6	Miss Wells
Tuesday	Drawing	Reception – Year 6	Mrs Thompson
Friday	Team Games	Year 3 – Year 6	Mr Timmins

Afterschool Clubs – Westmere

Please find details of clubs: places are allocated on a first come, first served basis. Please let Mrs Wiles know if your child is interested in taking part in any of these. nicola.wiles@griffinfederation.co.uk

Day	What	Which year groups	Who
Monday	Colouring	Year 1 & Year 2	Mrs Ransom
Monday	Board Games	Year 3 – Year 6	Miss Pooley
Monday	Cooking	Year 6	Mrs Watts
Monday	Computer Coding	Year 5 & Year 6	Miss Taylor
Monday	Film	Year 1 – Year 6	Miss Winn
Tuesday	Team Games	Year 5 & Year 6	Mr Timmins
Tuesday	Art	Year 3 & Year 4	Mrs Richardson
Tuesday Lunch	Times Tables Rockstars	Year 3 & Year 4	Miss Sage
Thursday Lunch	Craft	Year 3 – Year 6	Miss Richardson
Thursday	Colouring	Year 3 – Year 6	Miss Spriggs
Thursday	Team Games	Year 3 & Year 4	Mr Timmins

After School Clubs – Gedney Drove End

Please find details of clubs, places are allocated on a first come, first served basis. If your child would like a place, please email karen.baxell@griffinfederation.co.uk . . Spaces will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Day	What	Which year groups	Who
Monday	Board Games Club	All	Miss Hardstaff
Tuesday	Arts and Crafts	All	Mrs Ashby-Morley
Thursday	Colouring Club	All	Mrs Bills
Friday	Team Games *** (HSM)	Year 3-6	Mr Tmmins

***** Team Games on a Friday is at HSM. Children will need to be collected from HSM on the Friday if they attend. They will be dropped off at HSM after swimming / PE.**

PE Days

Please check the tables below for your PE days. Children should come to school in their PE kit on these days. PE kit is as follows:
Blue PE Hoodie or plain blue hoodie
House coloured plain PE T-Shirt
Dark coloured leggings / jogging bottoms / shorts (to mid-thigh)
Trainers / plimsolls
NO JEWELLERY including earrings
No clothing with branded commercial logos is allowed (e.g. Nike, Adidas, football shirts)
Hair longer than shoulder length should be tied back.

Gedney Drove End

Class	**PE Days**
Finland	Thursday & Friday
Sweden	Monday & Friday
Norway	Friday

Holbeach St Marks

Class	PE Days
Cuba	Thursday & Friday
Barbados	Thursday & Friday
St Lucia	Friday only

Westmere

Spain has now changed to Monday and Tuesday
Canada has now changed to Wednesday

Class	PE Days
China	Wednesday & Friday
France	Monday & Tuesday
Italy	Wednesday & Thursday
Brazil	Wednesday & Thursday
Mexico	Thursday & Friday
Portugal	Tuesday & Friday
Spain	Monday & Tuesday
Canada	Wednesday

Flu Vaccinations – Reception to Year 6

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 If you would like to see a copy of the letter, please navigate to the newsletter page for your school.

School	School Code	Provisional Date
Gedney Drove End	**EE120410**	**12th November**
Holbeach St Marks	**EE120549**	**7th November**
Westmere	**EE120502**	**5th November**

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%.

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: **Koinonia**

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 next week is: **Good Manners and Be Polite**

Kind regards,
Sally Massey
Assistant Executive Headteacher