The Griffin Federation
Nurture to Flourish

16th October 2025

Newsletter

Diary Dates

Tuesday 21st October – Individual School Photos
Thursday 23rd October – Westmere Harvest Festival 9:30am EYFS/KS1 10:30am KS2
Thursday 23rd October – HSM / GDE Harvest
Thursday 23rd October – End or term 1
Monday 3rd November – Start of term 2
Wednesday 10th December – FOW Bingo
Saturday 13th December – Breakfast with Santa
Thursday 18th December – FOW party games/raffle
Friday 19th December – End of Term 2

Attendance (Thursday -Wednesday)

Weekly attendance for each school:
Holbeach St Marks – 98%
Gedney Drove End – 97%
Westmere – 95%

Assessment Dates

Please find the dates of statutory national testing which will take place this year. Please make every effort to ensure your child is in school during these times, and avoid booking any holidays.
Y1 Phonics Screening Check: 8th – 12th June 2026
Y4 Multiplication Check: 1st – 12th June 2026
Y6 KS2 SATs: 11th -14th May 2026

Headlice

We have had some cases of headlice in school.
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 headlice. 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.

FOW Stay and Play

Thank you to all of you who supported the Saty and play/Disco: we raised an amazing £543. Huge thanks to all the FOW volunteers and staff that stayed to make this happen. The children always have a lot of fun and enjoy spending extra time with their friends. If you are interested in becoming part of Friends of Westmere, please speak to Mrs Wiles in the office or email nicola.wiles@griffinfederation.co.uk. We really need more volunteers as events cannot happen without your support.

Morning Gates

Morning gates are opened at 8.35am and are closed at 8.45am when the school day starts. The gates cannot be kept open for even a few more minutes as the adults need to be ready to start activities in school. Please try your very best to make sure your children arrive on time.

End of Day
Lessons end at 3:15pm. Children will be let out from classes shortly after this time.

Wrates School Photos
The school photographer is due to visit on Tuesday 21st October. They will be taking individual and family group photos. If your child has PE on that day, they should wear their normal uniform and bring PE kit to change into.

Cancelled Club - HSM
Mrs Thompson's drawing club will not take place on 4th November.

Harvest Service – Westmere
Our harvest services will be held on Thursday 23rd October. China, France and Italy will hold theirs at 9.30am and KS2 will have theirs at 10.30am. You are welcome to join us. We are not collecting donations of food this year, but you may wish to donate at your local supermarket or foodbank if you are able to.

Harvest Service – GDE & HSM
We will be having a joint Harvest Service on Thursday 23rd October at 1.30pm, it will be held at Holbeach St Marks Church. You are welcome to attend, and you may take your children home directly from the church after the service if you wish. Children from Gedney Drove End 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 8DZ. We are not collecting donations of food this year, but you may wish to donate at your local supermarket or foodbank if you are able to.

Flu Immunisations – Reception to Year 6
If your child is in Reception to Year 6 and you would like them to have the flu nasal spray next term, then please use the following link and the appropriate school code from the table below; https://www.lincolnshireimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu. You can find a copy of the letter on our website newsletter pages.

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

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.

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%.

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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: **Respect**

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