The Griffin Federation
Nurture to Flourish

23rd October 2025

Newsletter

Diary Dates

Thursday 23rd October – End of term 1
Monday 3rd November – Start of term 2
Monday 10th November – Westmere open day – Reception 2026
Wednesday 10th December – FOW Bingo
Saturday 13th December – Breakfast with Santa
Thursday 18th December – Christmas Lunch
Thursday 18th December – FOW party games/raffle
Friday 19th December – End of Term 2
Tuesday 6th January – Start of Term 3

Attendance (Thursday -Wednesday)

Weekly attendance for each school:
Holbeach St Marks –96%
Gedney Drove End – 98%
Westmere – 93%

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

Portugal, Canada, Spain and Norway- Anglo-Saxon Adventure at Lincoln Castle

We're thrilled to announce an exciting educational visit to Lincoln Castle on Thursday 27th November for a day of immersive Anglo-Saxon workshops, hosted by Investigate Learning. This experience will bring history to life as children explore the early medieval world of Anglo-Saxons through hands-on activities, storytelling and artefact investigation. We would like the children to wear their school uniform, federation hoodies and sensible shoes. Children should arrive at their own school by 7:45am via the office. Coaches will leave promptly at 8am from both Gedney Drove End and Westmere. All children will need a packed lunch in a named, disposable bag. If your child has a school lunch, these are available to order on the Ideal meals' website. We aim to be back at each school by 4pm and will update Facebook. Children can be collected from the office. This trip promises to be a memorable journey into the past, helping children deepen their understanding of Anglo-Saxon life, beliefs and legacy. For more details about the workshops, visit the Investigate Learning website. The cost of the trip is £21.15 per child but we are subsidising some of the cost and ask for a contribution of £15 towards the cost of the trip. Please complete the slip at the end of the newsletter or email the office to give permission for your child to attend.

Marvellous Me Week

The first week back after the holiday will be our Marvellous Me Week. As well as their English and Maths this week, children will have sessions on Protected Characteristics, Firework safety, Road safety, Online safety, Water Safety and Anti-Bullying.

Hot School Meals

Menus for next term, including Christmas lunch, are now available on the Ideal website. Meals for the week commencing 3rd November need to be ordered by next Wednesday.

Open Days for Reception Starters September 2026

Please see the attached flyer giving details of our open days for parents of children due to start school next September. Westmere is at 9.15am on 10th November. For Gedney Drove End and Holbeach St Marks please contact the school to make an appointment.

Secondary School Applications

Just a reminder that the last date for applications for secondary school places is 31st October 2025.

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.

Cancelled Club - HSM

Mrs Thompson's drawing club will not take place on 4th November.

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.

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%.

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 next week is: **Good Listening.**

Kind regards,
Sally Massey
Assistant Executive Headteacher

Saxon Adventure at Lincoln Castle – 27th November – Westmere - Portugal, Canada & Spain

I give / do not give permission for my child(ren) .....to attend Lincoln Castle on Thursday 27th November

I do / do not enclose a contribution of £15 per child towards the cost of the trip.

Account details for bank transfers
Account Name: Westmere County Primary School Fund.
Sort code: 30-99-50
Account Number: 12661063
Reference: Child's Name

Signed ..... Parent/Carer Date.....

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Saxon Adventure at Lincoln Castle – 27th November – Gedney Drove End Norway

I give / do not give permission for my child(ren) .....to attend Lincoln Castle on Thursday 27th November

I do / do not enclose a contribution of £15 per child towards the cost of the trip.

Account details for bank transfers
Account Name: Gedney Drove End & Holbeach St Marks Federated School Fund.
Sort code: 30-97-95
Account Number: 01058013
Reference: Child's Name

Signed ..... Parent/Carer Date.....