The Griffin Federation
Nurture to Flourish

19th December 2025

Newsletter

Diary Dates

Friday 19th Dec – End of Term 2
Tuesday 6th January – Start of Term 3
Thursday 22nd January – Reports out to parents

Attendance (Thursday -Wednesday)

Weekly attendance for each school:
Holbeach St Marks –91%
Gedney Drove End – 93%
Westmere –92%

Merry Christmas

We would like to thank all children, parents, staff and friends for your support this term. It has been as busy as ever, but has been a success. All of the children who performed plays and took part in Christingle services, did an absolutely amazing job. We hope you all have a safe and merry Christmas with family and friends. We look forward to welcoming all children back on **Tuesday 6th January.**

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

Staffing Changes

We have a few staffing changes after Christmas.

Miss Hardstaff will be going on maternity leave, her last day is 19th December.
Mrs Ransom and Mrs Cropley will be moving from Westmere to Cuba class at HSM.
Mr Allcorn and Miss Stubbs will be moving from HSM to China class at Westmere, and a new teaching assistant, Miss Calimas, will also be joining China class.

Hot Meals

Don't forget to order your hot meals for the first week back. We have attached copies of the menus for next term.

Thank You

We would like to thank the following companies who have helped us make this a Happy Christmas for all our pupils.

Sutton Bridge Farm Shop who provided all our Christingle oranges at a discounted price.

BJ Books (Anness Publishing) in Wisbech who made a large donation of books and toys to all three schools. We were overwhelmed with their generosity.

Bakkavor in Holbeach St Marks who have fundraised in their factory shop for the children of Holbeach St Marks School.

Bakkavor in Sutton Bridge - thank you to Terry and the team at Bakkavor for donating Christmas gifts to Westmere.

Open Days and Applications for Reception Starters September 2026

If your child is due to start school in September 2026 and you would like to have a look around, please contact the school to make an appointment. If your child was born between 01/09/2021 and 31/08/2022, you can apply for a reception place from now until 15th January 2026.

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: **Kind Words, Kind Hands, Kind Feet**

Kind regards,
Sally Massey
Assistant Executive Headteacher