The Griffin Federation
Nurture to Flourish

6th March 2026

Newsletter

Attendance

Weekly attendance for each school:
Holbeach St Marks –96%
Gedney Drove End – 90%
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

A Message from our Chair of Governors

It is with sadness that I write to inform you that Justine Sands has stepped down as Chair of Governors and as a member of the Governing Body due to family commitments. Justine has played a pivotal role in the successful leadership of the Federation over many years, bringing a wealth of experience, insight and dedication to the Governing Body. Her contribution has been greatly valued, and she will be sincerely missed. We thank her for her commitment and wish her every success in the future.

Following this change, I have been appointed as the new Chair of Governors. It is a privilege to take on this role and to support the Federation in its continued commitment to providing the highest standards of education, care and opportunity for every pupil. I would like to thank my fellow governors for their confidence in me and to recognise the dedication of our staff, leadership team and Governing Body, who work tirelessly for the benefit of our children.

The Governing Body plays a vital role in both supporting and constructively challenging school leaders, ensuring strong safeguarding practice and financial accountability, and shaping the long-term strategic vision of the Federation. We greatly value the partnership we have with parents and carers and recognise the essential role you play in your child's education.

I look forward to working with you and to meeting many of you at school events in the coming months. Should you wish to contact the Governing Body, details are available via the school office.

Thank you for your continued support of our schools.

David Rogers
Chair of Governors

Diary Dates

Thursday 12th March – FOW Mother's Day Afternoon Tea
Friday 13th March - Westmere PJ Day
Wednesaday 18th March – FOW Easter Bingo
Friday 20th March – Red Nose Day
Monday 30th March – Parents' Evening Westmere
Monday 30th March – Parents' Evening HSM
Tuesday 31st March – Parents' Evening GDE
Wednesday 1st April – Parents' Evening Westmere
Thursday 2nd April – Easter services Westmere
Thursday 2nd April – Easter Service HSM/GDE
Thursday 2nd April – End of Term
Tuesday 21st April – Start of Term 5

FOW Donation - Greencore Sutton Bridge

A massive Thank You to Greencore for raising £1050 for FOW by holding a bingo night at the Anchor Inn. See the attached flyer.

Westmere Pyjama day

Westmere will be having a pyjama day on Friday 13th March. We ask for children to please bring donations of chocolate or Easter eggs, as prizes for bingo.

Travelling Book Fair

From Thursday 12th March to Wednesday 18th March, the federation will be holding a book fair. Books will be available to purchase from Westmere and the fair will be open daily, after school until 4pm. All schools are welcome to visit the fair. There will be a range of books on sale and cost as little as £2! You will be able to use your World Book Day voucher to get a £1 discount per purchase. The balance will need to be paid by card only as they are unable to take cash.

Please come and support the fair, as the more you purchase, the more books school will get for our library as a result.

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Friends of Westmere Easter Bingo

Friends of Westmere will be holding a bingo event on Wednesday 18th March. Doors open at 6pm, eyes down at 6:30pm. Refreshments will be on sale. Everyone is welcome.

Mystery Reader – Come and read with us!

We are excited to launch Mystery Reader, a fun opportunity for parents, carers, and family members to surprise a class by coming in to share a favourite story or book! If you'd like to take part, simply contact your school office to arrange a suitable date and time. We'll keep your visit a secret so the children can enjoy the surprise! We can't wait to welcome our Mystery Readers and share the joy of storytelling together. Thank you to our visitors who have been in so far.

Lincolnshire children starting primary school or secondary school in September 2026

If your child is starting primary school or transferring to secondary school in September 2026, they may be eligible for school transport. If you think your child is eligible, please apply for transport from 2nd March (secondary offer day) or 16th April (primary offer day) once you have your offer of a school place. Applications can be made online at the website below.

Please do not apply until you have a formal offer of a school place. For more information about the home to school transport policy and online applications please go to www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/school-college-transport. Queries can be emailed to schooltransportapplications@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

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.

Each week, we will publish attendance figures for the week and one child from each class will get the attendance award and become an attendance hero. 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 shown evidence of that value during the week. Our next value is **Wisdom and Knowledge.**

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 next Golden Behaviour is: **Be Honest.**

Kind regards,
Sally Massey
Assistant Executive Headteacher