The Griffin Federation
Nurture to Flourish

15th May 2026

Newsletter

Attendance

Weekly attendance for each school:
Holbeach St Marks –95%
Gedney Drove End – 92%
Westmere –92%

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

Diary Dates

Tuesday 19th May – Church Schools Festival HSM Year 6 only
Friday 22nd May – FOW Non-Uniform Day
Friday 22nd May – End of Term 5
Monday 1st June – Start of Term 6
Friday 19th June – FOW Colour Run/Non-Uniform
Friday 3rd – Sunday 5th July – Hilltop
Friday 10th July – FOW Sponsored Walk
Thursday 16th July – Year 6 Leavers' Trip
Tuesday 21st July – FOW EOY Disco/Non-Uniform
Wednesday 22nd July – End of Term 6

Friends of Westmere Colour Run

Following the huge amount of fun and success of last year's event, Friends of Westmere are holding a Colour Run on Friday 19th June at 3:15pm. All children from the federation are welcome to take part, as well as older siblings and parents / carers. Tickets are £6 per person. Everyone who wishes to take part will need to provide their own white t-shirt and sunglasses. Please purchase your tickets from the school offices, by Friday 22nd May. ALL UNDER 18s MUST BE SUPERVISED BY PARENTS. Refreshments will be available during the event. If any parents would like to help, please email nicola.wiles@griffinfederation.co.uk

Sutton Bridge Community Larder

Sutton Bridge Community Larder will be holding a foodbank drive on Wednesday 3rd June from 10am - 4pm.
They will be holding this at the Lincolnshire Co-op food store on Bridge Road, Sutton Bridge in the hopes of filling a parking bay with donations which will go directly to the foodbank and provide much needed support for the community of Sutton Bridge.

Westmere School has volunteered to be a collection point for food donations, if you are able to support the Community Larder, please bring any donations to the office by Tuesday 2nd June.

Non-Uniform Day – Westmere

Westmere will be holding a non-uniform day on Friday 22nd May, Children must come in suitable clothing and footwear. Friends of Westmere are asking for £1 donation. Donations will add to our current balance of approximately £9000. We are planning some larger OPAL projects like a large sand / beach area which will be funded by some of this amount.

OPAL- Westmere Donations

We are continuing to improve our lunchtime OPAL play and would be grateful for any unwanted bikes or scooters, fully working with brakes – broken chains will be fine. If you have any of these items, please bring them to school. If you have anything else you think might be useful, get in touch to let us know. Thank you in advance.

Flu Immunisation Information

We have attached a document from the School Immunisation team. This gives information about how the registration process will be changing this year.

Holbeach St Marks Preschool

From September we have a few places available in the preschool at Holbeach St Marks. If you are looking for a nursery place, and your child turns three before 31st August, please contact us for a chat or to arrange a visit. Telephone the school on 01406 701266 or email enquiries@st-marks.lincs.sch.uk . Please feel free to pass this information on to friends or family.

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 okay 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.

Year 4 Multiplication Check

Between 1st and 12th June, Y4 children in all schools will complete their national multiplication check. Please encourage your child to practice their times tables in preparation for the test.

Lincolnshire Stay Safe Partnership - Online Safety Webinar for Primary Aged Parents

Learn about apps, games, social media and online risks – plus practical ways to keep your child safe.

- Understand what your child experiences online
- Use parental controls effectively
- Navigate age-appropriate apps, games, and social media
- Ask your burning questions about online trends and risks

Online Safety Webinar will be on Wednesday 20th May at 18:00-19:00 through Microsoft teams. Register via the link below.
https://www.tickettailor.com/events/staysafepartnership/2160051

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 **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 next Golden Behaviour is **Good Listening.**

Fundamental British Values

- Democracy - A culture built upon freedom and equality, where everyone has an equal say, and the government is accountable to the people.
- The Rule of Law - The principle that all individuals are subject to the same laws, ensuring a safe, orderly, and fair society
- Individual Liberty - The freedom to make personal choices, pursue goals, and express oneself freely within the bounds of the law.
- Mutual Respect and Tolerance - Understanding that people have different faiths, beliefs, and values, and respecting those differences without imposing one's own views.
- As part of our curriculum, we teach about British Values and how these are lived out in life and around our school. Each week, we will focus on one of the values. Our next British value is **Individual Liberty.**

Kind regards,
Sally Massey
Assistant Executive Headteacher