The Griffin Federation
Nurture to Flourish

12th June 2026

Newsletter

Attendance

Weekly attendance for each school:
Holbeach St Marks – 92%
Gedney Drove End – 90%
Westmere –95%

Diary Dates

Friday 19th June – FOW Colour Run/Non-Uniform
Monday 22nd June – Thursday 26th June – Westmere Bikeability
Friday 3rd – Sunday 5th July – Hilltop
Thursday 9th July – GDE Summer play
Friday 10th July – FOW Sponsored Walk
Monday 13th July – Westmere Y6 Play
Wednesday 15th July – HSM Summer Play
Thursday 16th July – Year 6 Leavers' Trip
Monday 20th July – Sports Day GDE / HSM morning
Monday 20th July – Sports Day Westmere afternoon
Tuesday 21st July – Celebration & Leavers HSM AM / GDE PM
Tuesday 21st July – FOW EOY Disco/Non-Uniform
Wednesday 22nd July – Celebration & Leavers Westmere
Wednesday 22nd July – End of Term 6

Changes to Free School Meals

Please find below a communication from Lincolnshire County Council regarding important changes to Free School Meals (FSM) eligibility that will take effect from September 2026.

Going forward, schools will record FSM eligibility under one of two categories:
Targeted FSM – for families receiving Universal Credit with household earnings below £7,400 per year. These pupils will receive a free school meal and are eligible for the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme. The child's school will also receive Pupil Premium funding.
Expanded FSM – for families receiving Universal Credit with earnings above £7,400 per year. These pupils will be entitled to free meals only.
(Please note: ALL pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will continue to receive a free meal under the Universal Infant Free School Meal scheme.)

What this means for you

If your child currently receives FSM, their eligibility will be re-checked before the new school year. If Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) do not hold the relevant information you may be asked to provide updated information to confirm whether your child qualifies.
As re-checks are processed, if you have previously applied and LCC hold your email address, you will receive an email notifying you of updated eligibilities.
Households that no longer meet the criteria will not automatically continue to receive FSM, as previous transitional protections in place since April 2018 will end when the current school term finishes.

Next steps

If you have previously applied for Free School Meals via the LCC website and your details remain the same, you do not need to do anything else at the moment. If you have not previously applied, even if your child is currently receiving free meals in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, please apply by visiting https://lcc.cloud.servelec-synergy.com/SynergyWeb/PortalHome/
Please note, once your child has their updated status this will last for a full school year. The status will only be changed if a re-check is requested by a parent/carer or school.
If your child (from Year 3 upwards) currently receives FSM, and after re-checking is not entitled to free meals from September, please ensure you have made arrangements for lunches upon their return in September.
Thank you for your attention to this important update and for your continued support.
Kind regards,
Education Support, Lincolnshire County Council

Uniform Orders for September

We will be starting to send out the uniform order forms for September in the next few weeks. **All uniforms will need to be paid for in full at the point of ordering**.

Cricket Enrichment Days

A cricket coach will be in school on the following dates: all children will need to wear their PE kit:

Holbeach St Marks	Tuesday 16th June
Gedney Drove End	Tuesday 16th June

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Toys & Personal Belongings

Children should not bring in toys of any kind, please. They can cause fallouts, get lost and broken, and cause disruption in class. Anything brought into school will be removed and handed over to parents at the end of the day. Children should also not bring stationery of their own – we will provide all pens, pencils etc that they need for their learning.

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

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 **Rule of Law.**

Kind regards,
Sally Massey
Assistant Executive Headteacher