The Griffin Federation
Nurture to Flourish

19th June 2026

Newsletter

Attendance

Weekly attendance for each school:
Holbeach St Marks – 95%
Gedney Drove End – 89%
Westmere –91%

Personal, Social and Health Education Policy, including Relationships and Sex Education

Following updated DfE guidance, we have updated our PSHE policy – please see attached. If you have any queries, please email admin@griffinfederation.co.uk

Bikeability - Westmere

All children who are taking part in Bikeability will need to make sure they bring their bikes and helmets to school on Monday 22nd June. Bikeability will run for two days, Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd June.

Afterschool Clubs – Westmere

There will be no construction club with Mr Allcorn on Monday 22nd June.
Mr Timmins' club will be cancelled on Monday 29th June.

Diary Dates

Monday 22nd June – Tuesday 23rd June – Westmere Bikeability
Friday 3rd – Sunday 5th July – Hilltop
Tuesday 7th July – Year 5 Experience Day at UALS
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

Stay Safe Team Online Newsletter

The attached newsletter from the Lincolnshire Stay Safe Partnership provides practical advice to help children stay safe, kind and confident online. It highlights common risks such as inappropriate content, bullying, or contact from strangers, and explains how using reporting and blocking tools can protect users and others. It also offers simple tips for parents, including checking privacy settings, having open conversations, and encouraging children to speak to a trusted adult.

Westmere – End of School

We ask that parents keep their school-age and non-school-age children with them during pick-up at the end of the day. Children should not play with the equipment or run into the woods or fields. The riding of bikes and scooters on school grounds is not allowed by anyone. School site needs to be secured ASAP due to the safeguarding of children at clubs, so we ask everyone to leave site as soon as they've collected their children.

Holiday Activities and Food Programme

Lincolnshire HAF has moved to a new booking platform, called Eequ. All children and young people who receive benefit-related Free School Meals (FSM) will now be automatically eligible and accepted within the booking system. This means families no longer receive a HAF voucher. Families can now simply log in to the Eequ platform to browse and book available HAF clubs across Lincolnshire .https://eequ.org/lincolnshirehaf This new system is designed to make the booking process quicker, easier, and more accessible for everyone. If families do not log in to Eequ and create an account, this may delay their ability to book a club when bookings open on 24 June at 11am.

Toys & Personal Belongings

Despite many reminders, children are continuing to bring in toys (cuddly toys, cards, fidgets etc) from home. They can cause fallouts, get lost and broken, and cause disruption in class. When staff have asked for the toys so they can keep them safe, some children have become rude and disrespectful towards adults. Children should also not bring stationery of their own – we will provide all pens, pencils etc that they need for their learning. To avoid all these problems, please ensure these items remain at home.

Hilltop Parents' Meetings

Please see the dates for each school for the parent Hilltop meeting:
Gedney Drove End – Wednesday 24th June 3.15pm
Holbeach St Marks – Tuesday 23rd June 3.15pm
Westmere – Monday 22nd June 3.15pm

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

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. 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 Manners and Be Polite.**

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