The Griffin Federation
Nurture to Flourish

5th June 2026

Newsletter

Attendance

Weekly attendance for each school:
Holbeach St Marks – 88%
Gedney Drove End – 93%
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

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**.

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

International Day of Play

On Thursday we will be celebrating the International Day of Play. The day is recognised each year on June 11 to champion every child's right to play, rest, and leisure. Adopted by the United Nations in 2024, the day highlights that play is vital for healthy cognitive, physical, and emotional development. All children should come to school in their PE kit. At Westmere, this is the same day as the cricket enrichment day.

Cricket Enrichment Days

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

Westmere	Thursday 11th June
Holbeach St Marks	Wednesday 16th June
Gedney Drove End	Wednesday16th June

Toys

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.

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 5th June. 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

The Multiplication Tables Check (MTC)

The Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) will be administered between Monday 1st June – Friday 12th June, within school time. It is a statutory Key Stage 2 assessment that is taken by every pupil at the end of Year 4. The purpose of the MTC is to ensure the children's times table knowledge is at the expected level for Year 4, enabling them to fully access the upper KS2 Maths curriculum. During the test, which is taken online, pupils are asked 25 questions on times tables ranging from 2x2 to 12x12. Children will have 6 seconds to answer each question. To help your child prepare for the test, they should continue to practise over half-term. The best way for them to do this is to log on to their Times Tables Rock Stars account and complete a Soundcheck, as this replicates the actual test. Your child's teacher will have sent home their log in details and the children are already familiar with how to play through practice in school. If you do have any questions, please read the attached parent information guide, ask class teachers or visit: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multiplication-tables-check-information-for-parents

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.

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.

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 **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 next Golden Behaviour is **Respect People and Property**

The Griffin Federation
Nurture to Flourish

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 **Democracy.**

Kind regards,
Sally Massey
Assistant Executive Headteacher