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Dear Parents,

Tuesday 1st March 2016

Federation Newsletter – February Edition

Welcome to the February edition of the monthly federation newsletter. As I sit in my office, I notice the rain gently falling outside and am left feeling grateful that the winter, which promised so much, has actually delivered so little. I know that this will come as a disappointment to the children, who, no doubt, were looking forward to the snow. For us staff, however, it makes life a little more difficult so let us be grateful for small mercies! As always, the children in our schools have been incredibly busy and despite the week off, much has been achieved during the month of February but more on this later.

Parking

Normally, I am the bearer of bad tidings when it comes to the controversial issue of parking outside the school gates but this time, I wanted to start by thanking you all. After recent and unexpected visits from Lincolnshire Constabulary, the quality of parking has improved immeasurably and I know that the local residents fully appreciate your efforts. Let us hope that we can continue in this positive manner. Having a school in the local community is such an amazing asset and I am eager for all people to benefit from our presence, including local residents. Thank you once again.

Wear It, Beat It!

A quick note of thanks to you all for your very positive support of our termly nominated charity – the British Heart Foundation. The children were very busy on the day and I thought it might be a good idea to try and jog alongside one of the pupils in Year 6 at Gedney as they completed their 1km bike ride. This certainly brought home to me how unfit I have become. I managed it but did notice an increase in my heart rate! On a more serious note, it was really good for our children to learn about the importance of good coronary care and linking this to their topic based studies in the classroom was a very good way of achieving this. The respective amounts raised were as follows:

Gedney Church End: £64.25	Lutton St. Nicholas: £92.00
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Private Tutor Availability

As a school that likes to provide open and comprehensive support to all of our parents, I wanted to direct your attention to the Private Tuition services that are being provided by Mrs. Tracy Pegler in key skills, literacy, numeracy and the 11+. Tracy has long been one of our parents and for those of you at Lutton, you will remember her amazing artistic skills as she was entirely responsible for producing the wonderful backdrops for each of our school plays. Over the years, she has worked closely with the children in our schools and I will happily pay testimony to her work, her commitment and effectiveness. If any of you might be interested, Tracy has very kindly

dropped some business cards into both schools so please feel free to come and collect one. Alternatively, she can be contacted direct via the following e-mail address: peglertutor@sky.com

Dropping Children off at the Beginning of the Day

Just a quick reminder about dropping children off in the morning at both schools. Officially, we open at 8.15 for Breakfast Provision. At Gedney, no appointments are necessary but if you need to drop your children off at short notice at Lutton St. Nicholas, Mrs. Mascall can be contacted via the following e-mail address:

- Natalie.Mascall@lutton.lincs.sch.uk

It does make our lives much easier if the children can be brought into school at 8.15 and not any earlier because this is the published start time after which we are allowed to take full responsibility for them. A similar picture is also in evidence for those pupils who do not attend Breakfast Provision. The drop-off time is 8.45 and at Gedney, the children come in through the main school entrance. At Lutton, the window from 8.45-8.55 can be used to drop your child off via the pupil entrance and staff will be on duty from 8.45. Please can you ensure that your child is not dropped off before this time, even if you see other parents in the playground. Thank you.

World Book Day – Thursday 3rd March 2016

As I am sure you are all aware, World Book Day takes place on Thursday of this week and I know that the children are all looking forward to coming into school dressed as their favourite book characters. I am aware that it has been a number of years since we last offered a fancy-dress competition for World Book Day but also felt the time was right to revisit this old favourite! Please keep in mind that costume parades will be held at both schools with prizes available for the most imaginative costume in each class. Don't forget, also, that the children will be asked to explain who their character is, the name of the book they are from, the author and any other interesting information about them. Please note that no money will be required and all of the children will get to take home their book vouchers at the end of the day. Finally, photographs of all the winning children will be posted on the respective websites, hopefully by the end of the working day!

Attendance Reports

Given that parents' consultation evenings take place next week, I wanted to ensure that the attendance reports I publish are as up to date as they can possibly be. With this in mind, the last date will be **Thursday 3rd March** with reports being published on **Friday 4th March**. I will be making a point of discussing these reports with you next week and offering a note of thanks to all families who have maintained a figure in excess of 95%. Where attendance has dipped, together we will explore the reasons for this and the ways in which school can help to ensure that attendance gets back on-track. Finally, we will inform you of your child's total attendance for the current academic year as well as their total for the spring term only and we again hope that you find this information of interest.

And Finally....

If any of you are interesting in volunteering in school, please feel free to come and see me. We are always eager to broaden the range of adults that our children come into contact with and volunteering can also help parents to develop wider skills and expertise.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. L. Whitney – Head Teacher

Gedney Church End and Lutton St. Nicholas Federated Primary School