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Dear Parents,

Monday 30th November 2015

Newsletter – November Edition

Welcome to the November edition of the monthly federation newsletter and I trust this missive finds you in a state of preparedness for the many Christmas festivities that lie ahead; more on this later. At the time of writing, you will be interested to hear that the children in Year 6 are getting ready for their long-awaited residential. I think it is fair to say that excitement levels are already through the roof, especially as we are being much more ambitious with what we are hoping to achieve this year. Instead of staying local, we will be travelling all the way down to Longtown in Herefordshire, for a week of outdoor education including canoeing, caving, gorge-walking, mountain walking, orienteering, climbing and team-based challenges. I will be taking the children alongside Miss Jacobs, Mr. Bland and Mrs. Edwards. We will be returning to school on Friday 4th December but if you wish to keep up with our travails, please be sure to see copies of the Longtown Newsletter which will be published daily at each of our schools. Exciting times indeed!

The Gedney Church End Christmas Fayre

Many, many thanks to all those parents who attended at the Gedney Church End Christmas Fayre, which took place on Friday 27th November. This was primarily a trade event but a number of activities had also been organised for the children, most notably a visit from the real Santa, who was happy to pose for professional portraits courtesy of Bateman's Photography. A very special note of thanks must go to Mrs. Carla Matson, who took responsibility for organising the vast majority of this event. On the day, our takings were split between the school and World Challenge for Daniel White with a trip to Swaziland in 2017, with **£195.95** going to the school and **£151.41** to World Challenge for Daniel White making a grand total of **£347.36**. Thank you once again.

Websites

My thanks go to the many, many parents who took the time and trouble to complete the autumn term parents' consultation. Your ideas and suggestions have been taken forward and I am happy to announce that the new websites for each school should be up and running by the end of the autumn term. Once they go live, I will be seeking further feedback as I am eager for the websites to become the first point of contact for all parents in terms of school events, news, letter, publications, policies, images and other downloadable content. We will also be looking at the creation of dedicated spaces where children, parents, governors and staff can access content that is specifically relevant to them. Finally, I hope you will agree that both websites are a significant step-on from what we have offered previously.

The Voice of Gedney Radio/The Voice of Lutton Radio

I hope that all parents will be excited to hear that our schools are currently in the process of setting up an internet-based radio station with fully downloadable content that covers the full genre of traditional radio stations including drama, news, current affairs, music, special interest pieces, local history, sports, global affairs, commerce and comedy. While we do not have the facility or resources to make live broadcasts, I hope you will be motivated to download our archived programmes from each of the websites. They will be presented as basic sound-files that can be played via a Windows based PC or via Apple/Android platforms. As always, we would be delighted to receive feedback about what we have created and our hope that in time, we will have a substantial body of work which engages and

entertains a large number of listeners, both locally and further afield. Finally, to help the children to be truly inspired, we are hoping to arrange a visit from KLFM and a possible trip to their studios in King's Lynn for the pupils most closely involved to meet presenters, journalists, producers and other media experts. Finally, if any of you have experience in the world of radio communication or media, please let us know because widening the children's understanding is central to what we are trying to achieve. Exciting times indeed!

Reception New Entrants for September 2016

On Monday 16th November, the window opened for new pupils to enrol at both of our schools for a place in next year's Reception class. To be eligible, pupils will need to be aged 4 between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017. As always, we are hoping that many children will apply to our schools for a Reception place but if you know of any children or families in the local area, I would be most grateful if you could point them in our direction. Many thanks.

BBC Children in Need 2015

A huge note of thanks to the children and parents who supported our fundraising efforts for the annual BBC Children in Need appeal for 2015. I was very pleased to see so many children engaged by our programme of events and you will be pleased to hear that the following amounts have been raised at each of our schools:

- Gedney Church End: £79.83
- Lutton St. Nicholas: £213.85

This money has already been paid in to the BBC Children in Need accounts on behalf of the children and it is always good to know that we can make such a generous donation to such a worthwhile cause.

After School Clubs

I wanted to publish a quick reminder that after school clubs have now finished for the autumn term. We have had to do this a little early because of the Year 6 residential and a number of staff will not be available to deliver their clubs as a result. The following week will be taken up with Christmas performances at both schools and then we will be into the final week of the term. As always, your children have worked incredibly hard and I hope you are pleased with their achievements. After school clubs will start up again early in the spring term and to this, I feel sure we can all look forward.

Tag Rugby Festival

I am pleased to announce that our commitment to competitive sport has taken another step forward with children from both schools representing the federation at the Festival of Tag Rugby that is due to take place on **Tuesday 1st December** in Spalding. I am aware that rugby is a specific strength in Spalding and a number of our older children regularly take part in club matches at a very high level. It is always good to broaden our involvement in this respect and although I will not be there, I would like to wish the pupils from Year 5 every success as they compete against other local schools.

The Christmas Post

The Christmas Post is due to open at both schools from **Monday 7th December**. If your child wishes to send a card to their friends, they will be most welcome to do so. We will remind them of how envelopes should be addressed but this must include the name of the recipient and also the class they are in. Members of the respective School Councils will be responsible for sorting the cards and delivering to the children in their classes each day.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. L. Whitney – Head Teacher

Gedney Church End and Lutton St. Nicholas Federated Primary Schools