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Dear Parents,

Thursday 20th October 2016

Federation Newsletter - October Edition

Welcome to the October edition of the monthly federation newsletter and what a busy time we have been having, of late. It only seems like five minutes ago that the children were skipping into school on their first day back after the summer holidays! Time always passes more quickly when you are having fun, however.

Lateness

Just a quick note of thanks to you all for reducing lateness at both schools. This is a really significant achievement that will help to improve the quality of education for all of our pupils. Just on a point of clarification, the registers close at 9.15 and if your child comes into school after this time, they will either be recorded as 'late' if there no reason for the absence, or an authorised/unauthorised absence, depending on the reason. I am always happy to talk about these matters so please feel free to contact me at school if anything is unclear. Thank you, once again.

Redeemed

As a federation, we are always eager to build relationships with other providers of education. Over many years, one of our strongest links has been with Act2, a dance, drama and theatre group that are based in Spalding. Each year, Act2 join with the local faith community to create what has become known as Redeemed. The culmination of this work is the presentation of a show at 4 of the main churches in the local area. All of the local primary schools are invited to take part and it was my pleasure to sit back and enjoy the joint presentation at St. Nicholas Church, Long Sutton, on Wednesday evening. As always, our children were brilliant and it was so good to see them coming together with Tydd St. Mary, Gedney Drove End and Long Sutton primary schools. My thanks, as always, go to Act2 as well as Father Johnathon, who has developed this very worthwhile project over many years.

Junior Police Cadet School Officers

Another link that we have been developing is with Lincolnshire Police. Previously, local beat officers and the PCSO's have visited school to talk about aspects of safety but we all felt it was time to do a little more with our children. Part of this is the Junior Police Cadet School Officer programme, which has been made available to the children in both of the Class 4's. Primarily the programme is targeted towards empowering our pupils to support others in school, particularly those who may need to talk, are anxious or lonely. It is a proactive role but for them to become JPCSO's, prospective candidates have to complete a number of challenges, all of which are then presented to representatives from Lincolnshire Police. 4 children from both schools have successfully been appointed to these roles and they are easily recognised as they have their own notebooks, lanyards, hi-vis jackets and various items that they can share with children they have identified at school. I am looking forward to seeing how this programme will develop and would like to thank Lincolnshire Police for their strenuous efforts in support of such a good cause.

Coming into and Leaving School

Each morning and evening, procedures have been established to ensure that our children can come into school and leave safely. At Gedney, our children are very good as they cross the car-park and I think we all recognise that this is unavoidable. At Lutton, walking across the car-park can be avoided through use of the main school gates. Of late, I have noted quite a large number of parents using the side gate and wish to discourage this as to get to the gate, walking across the car-park is a requirement. When we return after the holidays, this gate will be locked and I hope you can understand that safety is the key factor that has driven this decision.

Diary Dates

It does seem amazing to think ahead to the busy second half of the autumn term but I wanted to give you advance notice of all the exciting events that have been organised for the children in the run-up to Christmas.

Gedney Church End		Lutton St. Nicholas	
Date	Event	Date	Event
01.11.16	Children return to school	01.11.16	Children return to school
03.11.16	Longtown parents' meeting (7.00)	03.11.16	Longtown parents' meeting (7.00)
04.11.16	Halloween Disco	04.11.16	Halloween Disco
07.11.16	Parents' evening 1	08.11.16	Parents' evening 1
09.11.16	Parents' evening 2	10.11.16	Parents' evening 2
11.11.16	Remembrance Day	11.11.16	Remembrance Day
11.11.16	Choir at Springfields (6.00-9.00)	11.11.16	Choir at Springfields (6.00-9.00)
18.11.16	BBC Children in Need	18.11.16	BBC Children in Need
06.12.16	EYFS and Y1 Christmas Play (2.00)	18.11.16	FOLS Shopping Night
06.12.16	Y2-Y6 Christmas Play (6.30)	01.12.16	FOLS Christmas Fayre
08.12.16	FOGS Christmas Fayre/ Victory Hall	02.12.16	Dress Down Day for Raffle Prizes
11.12.16	Year 6 leave for Longtown (12.00)	07.12.16	Y2-Y6 Christmas Play (2.00)
13.12.16	Baytree visit for EYFS pupils	08.12.16	EYFS and Y1 Christmas Play (9.30)
16.12.16	Christmas Jumper Day	08.12.16	Y2-Y6 Christmas Play (6.30)
16.12.16	Year 6 return from Longtown	09.12.16	EYFS and Y1 Christmas Play (2.30)
19.12.16	Pantomime visit (all pupils)	11.12.16	Year 6 leave for Longtown (12.00)
20.12.16	School closes for Christmas holidays	13.12.16	Baytree visit for EYFS pupils
		16.12.16	Christmas Jumper Day
		16.12.16	Year 6 return from Longtown
		19.12.16	Pantomime visit (all pupils)
		20.12.16	School closes for Christmas holidays

And Finally....

On Friday 21st October, our schools will close for the half-term holidays. Please note that we return to school on **Tuesday 1st November** at the normal times. On behalf of the children, governors and staff, I would like to wish you all a very enjoyable time and hope that the children will be able to have fun at Halloween safely.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. L. Whitney - Head Teacher

Gedney Church End and Lutton St. Nicholas Federated Primary Schools