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Dear Parents,

Tuesday 6th October 2015

Federation Newsletter - September Edition

Welcome to the first edition of the monthly federation newsletter. For new parents, we aim to publish at the end of every month and in this way, you will be kept up to date with all of the exciting things that are happening at both of our schools. The first thing I need to do, however, is to very warmly welcome you back after the long, hot summer holidays! Looking out of my window this morning, as the wind blows and the rain gently falls, this seems like a very long time ago! Anyhow, the children have settled really well into their new year groups and I rather sense that they are looking forward to the new school year as much as the staff!

Staffing

I am now in a position to formally welcome our two new members of teaching staff, Miss Pattern and Mrs. Wright, both of whom are based at the Lutton St. Nicholas site. I am sure you will all agree with me that they have made a very strong start and I hope that you have had an opportunity to say hello! The first year of any teaching career is always the most difficult and we are lucky to have two such dedicated and effective practitioners working for us. We also welcome Miss Jacobs and Mrs. Thurgood to their new roles as Senior Teacher based at Lutton and Gedney respectively. Lots of changes, but change is not always a bad thing and I am very much looking forward to working with all staff in what promises to be a very exciting year ahead.

Macmillan Coffee Mornings

Thank you very much indeed for supporting our coffee mornings on **Friday 25th September**. You will be very pleased to hear that we have exceeded the target of £350.00 that had been set beforehand, with the children at Gedney raising **£230.03** and Lutton raising **£267.00**. When added together, this makes a grand total of **£497.03**, which is an amazing amount! This has now been donated to this most worthwhile cause with our thanks and good wishes. The real challenge, now, will be to exceed this next year!

Celebration of the Harvest

The Harvest celebrations at both of our schools were very successful and I thank you, once again, not only for your generous donations of produce, but also for attending on the day. I do not think our churches have ever been so well attended for this annual school event. My sincere thanks go to all of the staff and children for their efforts and it was appropriate that both celebrations coincided with Lincolnshire Week. All proceeds will be donated to the Holbeach Community Larder, Agape Food Bank and Christian Aid.

Engage Days

With the beginning of a new school year, our topics change once again and this presents an additional challenge for staff as they plan exciting and enjoyable Engage Days for all of the children. We feel this is important because if the children can be enthused about their learning before they start any aspects of formal study, they are likely to give of their best through high levels of engagement.

In Early Years, the staff particularly enjoyed offering a very messy day indeed as the children began to engage with Muck, Mess and Mixtures. This involved so many different concoctions of familiar liquids and solids, all of which can be combined to make pieces of art and find out about the different states of matter. I am pleased that the children came into school in old clothes for this highly creative day but I am not sure that our cleaners were quite so impressed!

The children in lower Key Stage 2 enjoyed a day of musical history as they explored different instruments and sounds down the ages. It is amazing how the difference in instruments, songs and lyrics can tell an historical tale of their own. Since then, the children have been engaged with their topic on 'Playlist', which focuses on how music reflects each period of our history.

Finally, the children in upper Key Stage 2 very much enjoyed their visit to the Centre for Computing History in Cambridge. This is a museum I was unaware of but having been with the children, I will be sure to go again. Every computer from the last 50 years was available for the children to engage with but what made this visit special was that they were all in working order and available for the children to program and control. This will set them up for a very exciting topic that looks at 'Tomorrow's World.'

Diary Dates

We have now agreed some important diary dates for the autumn term and I wanted to give you advance notice, as I know how much you like to be prepared:

Gedney Church End		Lutton St. Nicholas	
Date	Event	Date	Event
19.10.15	School photographer visit	16.10.15	School photographer visit
22.10.15	Halloween dress down day	22.10.15	Halloween disco
22.10.15	Last day of term	10.11.15	Parents' evening 1
02.11.15	School reopens to pupils	12.11.15	Parents' evening 2
09.11.15	Parents' evening 1	27.11.15	Dress down day – Christmas
11.11.15	Parents' evening 2	09.12.15	Key Stage 2 Christmas performance 1 – 2.00
27.11.15	Christmas Fayre	10.12.15	Key Stage 2 Christmas performance 2 – 6.30
w/b 30.11	Year 6 residential	11.12.15	Reception/Key Stage 1 Christmas performance – 2.00
08.12.15	Christmas Play (Class 1) – 2.00	w/b 30.11.15	Year 6 residential
08.12.15	Christmas Play (Classes 3 and 4) – 6.00	w/b 14.12.15	Carol concert at St. Nicholas Church with Reception nativity
17.12.15	Last day of term	16.12.15	Christmas Fayre
18.12.15	Staff training day	17.12.15	Last day of term
		18.12.15	Staff training day

Yours sincerely,

Mr. L. Whitney - Head Teacher

Gedney Church End and Lutton St. Nicholas Federated Primary Schools