



Telephone 01406 362383

Telephone 01406 363392

Head Teacher: Mr. Luke Whitney MBA, B.Ed (Hons), NPQH, ACEM

Dear Parents,

Thursday 21st July 2016

Federation Newsletter – July Edition

Welcome to the final edition of the federation newsletter for 2015-2016 and what a busy, busy year we have had! Now, with the advent of the hot and muggy weather, I think we are all beginning to feel tired and exhausted but all of our successes will help us to get through and I hope you are as proud of our amazing children as I am. This year, for the first time ever, we enter the holidays as OfSTED 'Good' schools and I cannot emphasise enough how important this is. The journey we have been on has been long and hard but now we have achieved this success, we can look forward to taking steps towards outstanding. This will become a key feature of our work when we return in September.

Mrs. Diane Howard – our Chair of Governors

After 25 years of the most amazing service, our much-loved and incredibly hard-working Chair of Governors has decided that the time is now right for her to retire. Diane has had an amazing impact on our federation and much of the success we have experienced has been down to her. In the modern age, governors have so many responsibilities and all of their time is given on a voluntary basis. It is impossible for a school to be graded as 'good' unless all governors can show high levels of effectiveness. We have been very lucky to have benefited from her work and early in the new term, we will be marking this momentous occasion in a suitable manner. For now, I would like to dedicate the OfSTED reports to her and thank her, personally, for the care, guidance, support and challenge she has shown to the children, parents, staff, fellow governors and myself. Dr. Simon Bowen will be taking over this role and I am sure you will all get an opportunity to see him soon. I am very much looking forward to working with him in the weeks, months, terms and years to come!

Staffing

At the end of every year, there always appears to be a small turnover in staff. I have been a Head Teacher for more than 16 years and there has not been a single year that has passed without changes in the staffing structure. This year we will be losing Mrs. Thurgood, Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Charnley, all of whom will be pursuing new and exciting adventures away from our federation. Mrs. Thurgood will be returning to a supply teacher role and I would like to again pay tribute to her work at both schools. She has worked across all age-phases and I know the high regard you have for her effectiveness, care and concern for children and staff. She will be missed but I am fully expecting to see her from time-to-time as a resident of Lutton. Mrs. Wilson will be taking a small career break before returning to what she knows and does best, namely inspiring our Early Years Foundation Stage children to go even further in their learning. Initially, she was due to work with us for a period of 3 terms but I have been really pleased to extend this, providing care and stability for our youngest pupils at Lutton St. Nicholas. Finally, Mrs. Charnley is moving to Suffolk to provide support for her daughter who has started a family. This is a tremendous change for her but also an exciting new challenge as the generational wheel begins to turn once again. I would like to again pay tribute to the work of all three colleagues, who will leave with our love and best wishes for the future.

With the departure of staff, I am delighted to be able to welcome new faces to the team, namely Miss Stacie Eden who will be joining us as a class teacher at the Gedney Church End site. Stacie is currently

working at Westmere and is very much looking forward to taking up her new role. Mr. Bland will be taking on Mrs. Thurgood's old role and when we return in September, he will be the senior teacher. I am sure that you will all wish to join with me in welcoming them to their new roles and wish them every success for the future.

Connected to this is the deployment of admin and clerical staff and I want to bring in a number of small changes from September. As you will know, Mrs. Matson spends all of her time at Gedney and Miss Lewis does the same at Lutton. When we return, to begin with, they will be sharing these roles so all of you will get to meet and work with them both. This is one of the key benefits of a federation and I know how much both Carla and Zara are looking forward to this new and even greater challenge!

SAT Results

After all the changes to SAT's, it is gratifying to note that results have been notified to us and again, we appear to have done very well at both schools. The national figure for pupils achieving age-related expectations in reading, writing, GaPS and maths is 53%. This is a 27% reduction from 2015 and shows how much harder the tests have become. Both of our schools are significantly above this figure and I again pay tribute to the hard work of children, parents and staff. As more data becomes available, I will be interested to see how we compare on a national basis but I do rather suspect that further changes will become evident as the new Government begins to engage with education policy. Finally, I also wanted to highlight the excellent work of our pupils in Early Years Foundation Stage (Profiles), Year 1 (Phonics Screening Check) and Year 2 (SAT's and Teacher Assessment data). All of you have done incredibly well and I know that these results fully justify our OfSTED grading of 'good.'

Year 6 Leavers

Yesterday and today, I had the great pleasure of hosting leavers' assemblies for the amazing group of children we have in Year 6. Today, they finish their primary school careers, excited in the knowledge that their next great adventure is about to begin. As Head Teacher, this can be a worrying time but I can honestly say that all of our children are ready for this next great step. I know that we will hear how well they do and I expect great things from all of them. Finally, I thoroughly enjoyed presenting the annual trophies to some highly deserving recipients. This has now become an established way of working and gives all of the children something that they can work towards. Exciting times indeed....

Summer Fayres

Summer simply wouldn't be summer without the annual summer fayres at both schools and this year's events have been of the highest standard. Both were very well attended and managed to raise much-needed funding to enrich provision for all of the children. At the time of writing, a figure for Gedney was unavailable but at Lutton, we managed to raise **£883.05**, which is a brilliant outcome. Again, if any of you are interested in helping us out, please see myself, Mrs. Carla Matson at Gedney or Mrs Shepperson/Mrs. Stevenson at Lutton St. Nicholas.

And Finally....

Please remember that our schools close today for the long, hot summer holidays. We will re-open to the pupils from years 1-6 on **Monday 5th September** and to our new reception intake on **Thursday 8th September**. After such a busy and successful year, I would like to wish you all a happy, peaceful, safe and rewarding time and shall look forward to seeing you and your children in September!

Yours sincerely,

Mr. L. Whitney – Head Teacher

Gedney Church End and Lutton St. Nicholas Federated Primary School