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Dear Parents,

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2016

### Federation Newsletter – March Edition

Welcome to the March edition of the monthly federation newsletter and I have to say, it only seems like a few days ago when I was writing the February edition. Time seems to pass by so quickly but I am also very aware that this is often a sign of old-age, so I'll keep quiet on this, for now. Anyhow, I have a very exciting Easter related version of the newsletter to present and I hope this adequately summarises just how hard the children have been working during this very short half-term.

### Easter Bonnets

Our children's creativity really knows no bounds and this was typified by the amazing Easter Bonnets they all produced. Some of their creations were awe inspiring and it was lovely to see such great diversity across both schools. Parades were held on Wednesday afternoon at Lutton and Thursday morning at Gedney. Judging for the best in class was a particularly difficult job but Miss Lewis stepped up at Lutton and Mrs. Oldfield at Gedney. After much deliberation, the winners were finally announced, as follows:

Gedney Church End		Lutton St. Nicholas	
Class	Winner	Class	Winner
1	Arav Khunti	1	Ava Hopkins
-		2	Maisie Gregory
3	Dylan Howard	3	Kacey Wayman
4	Ford Campbell	4	Jake Hitchin
-		5	Layla Mascall

Pictures of all of the children as well as the winning entries from each class have already been posted online and can be accessed via the websites, as follows:

- [www.gedneychurchendprimary.org](http://www.gedneychurchendprimary.org)
- [www.luttonstnicholasprimary.org](http://www.luttonstnicholasprimary.org)

### FOGS and FOLS

I am always grateful to the fundraisers from the Friends of Gedney School (FOGS) and the Friends of Lutton School (FOLS) who have been working very hard for the children at Easter. They have managed to provide funding for all of the children to have an Easter egg and it was very enjoyable to see their gratitude when they received this on Wednesday at Lutton and Thursday at Gedney. These are the kinds of things that children will long remember and it is great to know that we have such committed fundraisers who work so ceaselessly on our behalf. As you probably know, FOGS and FOLS are always on the look-out for new members so if any of you would like to become involved, please see Mrs. Matson or myself at Gedney or Mrs. Stevenson (Chair) or Mrs. Shepperson (Vice Chair) at Lutton.

### Easter Activities at St. Mary Magdalene's/Lutton Easter Fayre

I am always indebted to the amazing volunteers who work so hard at St. Mary Magdalene's in Gedney. Every year, they provide fun and exciting activities for our children to complete at the church and this year was no exception. The theme was a puzzle but all of the pieces were missing! They had to find as many as possible to make a clear picture with a message. Prizes were awarded during afternoon assembly and at the time of writing, these had not been announced. I will make sure that I report this information back to you in the April edition of the newsletter. Over at Lutton, the children enjoyed taking part in the annual Easter Fair. This took place on Wednesday afternoon and it was great to see the children having so much fun with different Easter-related games and activities. Parents joined us at 3.30 and although a precise total has yet to be calculated, we are expecting this to be in the region of £300.00, which is a magnificent effort all round!

### **Staffing**

When the children return to school on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April**, they might notice a couple of small differences. First and foremost, we will be very happy to welcome Mrs. Karen Johnson to our federation. Mrs. Johnson is taking over Mrs. Casswell's old role by becoming our new Bursar. She will divide her time equally between the two schools and I know that you will all get an opportunity to meet her soon. It also gives me great pleasure to announce that Mr. Stephen Rate will be taking over as the Caretaker at Gedney Church End, where he will succeed Mr. Mark Edwards, who has done an amazing job for us since taking up his appointment. While we are on this subject, I would like to publicly pay tribute to the work that Mark has carried out. He actually needed to leave way back in November but has very kindly agreed to continue supporting as a new member of staff is recruited. Such selfless loyalty is quite rare in this day and age and I will very much miss him when he leaves. Being a native of Lutton and also Mrs. Edwards' husband, I rather suspect he will still be in school and to this, I shall look forward. Finally, Mrs. Faye Rowe will be officially joining us from **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April** as PPG teacher, working closely with Miss Chelsea Howard, in her role as Primary Learning Mentor. Together, they will meet the needs of all PPG pupils across both schools, ensuring that their learning is as good as it can be.

### **Mr. George Hoyles**

It is with much sadness that I must announce that Mr. George Hoyles, one of our longest serving governors, has decided to retire. George has been very instrumental in driving our schools forward and his work has always been of the highest standard. He has served on many different committees, chairing Personnel and also acting as our Vice Chair. I sincerely hope that he enjoys his well-deserved retirement and to honour this, we have set up a new award, namely the George Hoyles Annual Award for Creative Writing. At the end of each year, he will return to school to present this important award and the winning piece of writing from each school will be professionally printed, framed and given to him as a lasting memory. Thank you George for all you have done.

### **And Finally....**

Our schools close today for the Easter holidays, reopening to pupils at the normal times on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April**. On behalf of the children, governors and staff, I wish you all an enjoyable break and hope that the Easter Bunny is bountiful to you and the children!

Yours sincerely,

Mr. L. Whitney – Head Teacher  
**Gedney Church End and Lutton St. Nicholas Federated Primary School**