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Dear Parents,

Friday 27th May 2016

Federation Newsletter – May Edition

Welcome to the May edition of the monthly federation newsletter and looking out of my window, I think I can safely say that summer has arrived! I dare say it will be raining again on Bank Holiday Monday but it's good to have a little bit of optimism at the end of a very busy term. Anyhow, our children have been working very hard since they came back to school after Easter but I guess the real highlight, if this is an appropriate word, is the SAT's in years 2 and 6; more on this later.

Careers Week

As part of their topic, the children in the top classes at both schools will be organising a careers week. This will relate to all of the jobs, occupations and professions they are hoping to go into once they have left school or university. Different people will be invited to come into school to talk about their careers, what a normal day is like, share some of their skills and also the training and education they received to qualify them for the role they fulfil. First of all, I wanted to thank those parents who have already offered their services but if any of you would still like to come in to talk about your work, we would be delighted to hear from you. As with all such events, the more people we get, the better it will be for the children. Our primary intention is to really fire their imaginations and to be ambitious in terms of what they want to achieve. I shall look forward to hearing from you all.

Cricket at the Peele

As part of our commitment to broadening the range of sporting opportunities available to our pupils, our older children enjoyed a day of coaching and competition at the Peele School on Thursday of this week. The morning saw some very intensive coaching in the connected areas of batting, bowling and fielding and this more than equipped the children for competitive matches in the afternoon. There were 4 schools in attendance on the day and I am delighted to be able to report that Lutton came second. Let us hope that we can now build on this considerable success back in the classroom during our summer-term PE lessons.

Dentistry at Lutton

On Monday, the children from Class 3 at Gedney and Class 4 at Lutton very much enjoyed a visit from Jayne, a Dental Nurse at the Holbeach Practice. She spoke to the children about their teeth and really emphasised the importance of daily, effective brushing. Pleasingly, the children had also brought in their toothbrushes from home so this gave them an opportunity to have a go with the techniques they had been introduced to. The children were also very interested in the disclosing tablets that had been provided. These highlighted the parts of the mouth where plaque was still in place and this really encouraged the children to brush with great attention to detail. My hope, of course, is that they will now take all of this important learning home and ensure that their teeth are as clean as they can possibly be!

More Dentistry at Lutton

It was also very good to see the Lincolnshire Smiles Project rolling out at Lutton. This started at Gedney over 4 weeks ago and is a supervised, daily brushing scheme that is being supported by the practitioners from Holbeach Dental Practice. The session, for pupils in classes 1 and 2, began with the children meeting a comedy dinosaur. They all had to have a go at brushing the dinosaur's teeth. If they got it right, everything was okay but if they got it wrong, the dinosaur would roar at them! This provided much amusement but was also an effective way of showing the children the best methods for brushing their teeth. Next, they had an opportunity to engage in some role-play as dentists and dental nurses. We took lots of lovely photographs of this special time and I have to say there are some children I'd happily have my teeth examined by but there are also one or two others where I might have to think twice! On an overall basis, this was a really enjoyable session and if you are in school, please pop into the hall to check out the photographs or alternatively, have a look online!

Sponsored Walk at Gedney!

A huge note of thanks for the amazing support you provided for the sponsored walk at Gedney on Thursday. It was so good to see such a large number of parents encouraging and supporting their children to complete the course. The weather was ideal and I think all of the children managed to complete. The current total collected stands at just over £140.00 but I am expecting more to come in after the holidays. As always, it would be greatly appreciated if you could support your child to collect this in and I will notify you of the grand total early in the new term. Finally, a special note of thanks to Mrs. Matson for organising this event on behalf of the Friends of Gedney School and hope that you are all looking forward to our next great and new fundraiser – the Chocolate Bingo Night!

Moses at the Victory Hall

This week, children from Year 4 at both schools very much enjoyed visiting the Victory Hall where they found out about the story of Moses. This involved dance, drama, music and variety of art and craft activities. At the end of the morning, they were all presented with a commemorative t-shirt which they then wore with pride as they returned to school afterwards. I am always grateful to the benefice for the support that they provide to local schools and it also good to see parishes of South Holland coming together in this way.

SAT's!!

As the end of the month comes into sight, I think it is appropriate to reflect on the SAT's in years 2 and 6 and also celebrate the very hard work of all of the children. Education seems to be in such a state of change at the moment but our children remain a constant throughout the process and this has helped to ensure they have done their best. The level of challenge has been much greater and it is to their eternal credit that they have taken such huge changes in their stride.

And Finally....

Please remember that our schools close today for the half term holiday and we will re-open to pupils on **Monday 6th June** at the normal times. On behalf of the children, governors and staff, I would like to wish you all a happy and restful time.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. L. Whitney – Head Teacher

Gedney Church End and Lutton St. Nicholas Federated Primary School