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Interim Executive Head Teacher: Mr. Bill Lord

The first term seemed to fly past and we now into the darker nights. The first term was a vertical learning curve and I do thank parents and carers for their patience as we have sought to adapt to the new way of working. I apologise fully that communication has not always been as swift as I would have liked and I am working on ways of improving this with my Senior Leadership Team over coming weeks. We are seeking to use the website as a first place to visit and to maintain the use of letters and newsletters.

INSPIRE+

I was able to tell you in the last newsletter that we have invested in membership of Inspire+, the sporting charity from Grantham. We were very pleased to host Sophie Allen just before half term who talked about her career as an Olympic swimmer and then worked with different year groups on dealing with pressure.

inspire+



We have started working with coaches this term. Beth Arnold will be teaching dance at Lutton St Nicholas whilst Colin Gibson will be teaching squash and basketball at Gedney Church End.

Today, the schools hosted Sam Ruddock, the Paralympian who gave an inspirational talk to the children in both schools. Our next assembly with an Inspire+ ambassador will be with Ben Smith, the man who ran 401 marathons in 401 days to raise money for charity. He is a truly remarkable man who will give the children much to think about.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

I am pleased to be able to let you know that Mr Chapman has joined the Federation of Schools for this year to lead on work with children on outdoor education including the baked potatoes before half term. The cookery lessons cover mathematics, English, working in groups and use of the outdoors. His work will develop with groups over the year and he will also be working with Mrs White on our provision for Gifted and Talented children.

CONGRATULATIONS, MRS POWLEY

Mrs Powley left us at the end of last half term on maternity leave and I am delighted to be able to tell you that she had a baby girl, Frankie, on Wednesday. Mother and baby are absolutely fine and we are impatiently waiting to meet her.

We advertised for maternity cover for the Learning Mentor post and are delighted to announce that Mrs Shepley has joined us for the foreseeable future. She has already started working with the children and we have been pleased to see how they have responded.

CPD

I am aware that there have been some half days when we have had class teachers covered by supply staff. This is because the school has joined a local network of schools who provide Continuing Professional Development (ongoing training) for staff. I have spoken to a couple of parents who were concerned that their child's teacher has been absent due to the needs of the new working arrangements across the Federation. It is to meet the needs of the recently changed national curriculum, to ensure that staff are able to access the best quality training and we continue to provide the very best education to the children. This currently includes training from leading trainers in mathematics, English and PE. Current courses include place value and reasoning in mathematics, writing expectations for Year 2 and 6, mastery in early years mathematics, the teaching of PE and the development of Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar.

MARKING AND FEEDBACK

I have been working with Mr Bland and Miss Jacobs on our approach towards marking and feedback in classes. We are looking at different ways of developing the impact of marking on children's work. We have asked Miss Pattern to carry out a short term research programme which will use one of the approaches we are investigating. Parents in Class 2 at Lutton St. Nicholas School will be able to see where the research takes place in the books. We will keep you up to date with the results of the research.

Website

We are working very hard to keep the websites up to date with information on what the children are doing and with forthcoming dates. Teachers have posted some lovely photographs of the children working and also some videos of activities in class. Please take a look.

Dates

November

8th and 9th	Parents evenings (Lutton St Nicholas)
9th Thursday	Inspire+ Paralympic Sports taster sessions (both schools)
17th Friday	Children in Need (both schools)
23rd Thursday	Assembly with Ben Smith (401 marathons in 401 days) (both schools)
23rd Thursday	Dress Down day at Gedney Church End
24th Friday	Tallington Farm visit (Reception, Y1+2) (both schools)
25th Saturday	FoGS Christmas fayre

December

4th Monday	9:30 Nativity Gedney Church End
5th Tuesday	9:30 Nativity Gedney Church End
6th Wednesday	2:00 Nativity Lutton St Nicholas
7th Thursday	2:00 Nativity Lutton St Nicholas
8th Friday	9:30 Nativity Lutton St Nicholas
11th—15th	Year 6 Residential at Longtown
15th Friday	Christmas Jumper Day
19th Tuesday	Terms End

Term 3 starts Wednesday 3rd January

