

# News Bulletin



LIGHTHOUSE  
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

Issue 17: 17 January 2023



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## Introduction

Many thanks to the Heads, school leaders, teachers, support staff and governors who interacted with our Challenge Partners Reviewers last week. We had a very positive and also very challenging week, with much food for thought. The review came at a very timely moment for us in that we are growing and necessarily will need to do some things in a somewhat different way. I took great pleasure in hearing from the reviewers that you value the reality of our partnership and feel confident that you will be fully involved in making the choices about how we need to adapt. That is the case! I'll be talking to Head and Trustees at our meeting tomorrow about the headlines of feedback, and will return to that here and in other forums soon.

I would like to congratulate the Head, staff and governors at Flax Bourton Primary School on their recent [SIAMS report](#). It is a superb outcome, and the report is full of superlatives. The inspector was incredibly impressed by the school focus on outdoor learning and how that supports the development of pupils' values and character. Flax has also been in my priority list as Jane Bennett has announced her decision to step down as Head at the end of the year. As we prepare to advertise the vacancy, I am struck by the amazing legacy that Jane leaves at Flax and how much we will miss her.

We heard yesterday that NEU have met the threshold to move to strike action, beginning on 1<sup>st</sup> February. I'll be sharing some guidance with Heads on this tomorrow and we will be aiming to support schools with virtual learning in situations where we have to close or partially close. We will also be providing draft communications for parents. This is a very difficult position for us to be in as although we are the employer, the dispute is not with us; and although we will want to remain open for children, we recognise the legitimate grievance and action of the union. Let's hope that a solution is found quickly. As ever, when the times are tough we lean on each other and that is one of the great benefits of a partnership.

Gary

## UKHSA: advice for schools

As winter illnesses continue to circulate at high levels, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has published a [reminder on how to minimise the spread of illness in education and childcare settings](#).

UKHSA advice is that children can continue to attend as normal unless they are unwell and have a high temperature. [Further information](#) on when a child is too ill for school or nursery is available. There is no requirement to be absent from school on a precautionary basis.

For further information, please also see DfE's Education Hub post on the [latest guidelines around COVID-19](#) and for Strep A, and the separate post on the [exact circumstances in which children should be kept off school](#).

UKHSA is providing regular updates on [Strep A](#). Both UKHSA and DfE are continuing to closely monitor the situation.

To help reduce the risk of some illnesses, including flu, vaccinations are being provided in schools. UKHSA, in collaboration with NHS England and DfE, has produced a [briefing for secondary schools](#), giving details about all vaccines offered to adolescents in schools and the role that schools play. This includes information on the flu vaccination programme being offered this year to those in Years 7, 8 and 9.

## DfE: CO2 monitors and air cleaning units

The government is providing additional CO2 monitors to schools and other education settings to cover all teaching and childcare spaces, to help balance ventilation and manage energy costs. Most schools should receive their CO2 monitors automatically, with no action needed.

The DfE will continue to accept [applications](#) for funded air cleaning units until Friday 10 February. These are for use in classrooms where it is not possible to maintain adequate ventilation and where CO2 levels are consistently over 1500ppm, as measured by CO2 monitors. Air cleaning units can help reduce airborne contaminants while remedial work is undertaken.

The DfE has published detailed guides on [how to apply](#) and on [how to use](#) an air cleaning unit.

## Employee Wellbeing and Support



### Health Assured | EAP, Workplace Health & Wellbeing

Each month, wellbeing articles, webinars and podcasts are made available to staff on various subjects via the Health Assured Wellbeing Portal [here](#).

### Wellbeing Portal Log-in Details

**Username:** wellbeing

**Password:** MoreKindMind11

We would like to share with you the [Health Assured Awareness Days Calendar 2023](#), so that you can share this with staff.

[LSP Gateway](#) also has a wellbeing centre, which provides information, support and wellbeing tools, that staff can access. From healthy eating recipe suggestions, exercises to mindfulness techniques.

### Teachers' Pensions | Financial Wellbeing - Planning for Retirement

Teachers' Pensions offer free online presentations to help members understand more about their pension. They're split into bite sized topics to ensure they're relevant no matter what

stage of the member's career they are at. The following presentations are available for members to book in February and March.

### February 2023

Planning for Retirement 15 February 2023 4pm

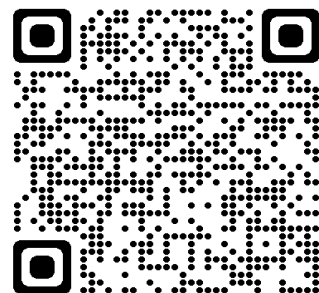
Getting the most from your teacher's pension 22 February 2023 4pm

### March 2023

Planning for Retirement 15 March 2023 4pm

Getting the most from your teacher's pension 29 March 2023 4pm

Please share this with members of staff at your school.



Members can click [here](#) for further information and to book. Alternatively, if they have a smart phone, they can scan the QR code we have included.



## Chairs Development Group Sessions

Chairs of LGB organisations are reminded that two Chairs Development Group sessions are scheduled for the 24th at 10.30 a.m. and the 25th at 19.00 a.m. These are an important part of governance and are highly recommended. Please make every effort to attend one of the sessions. If you haven't already received an invitation to these virtual meetings, please contact Christopher Hills, LSP Governance Officer [chills@lsp.org.uk](mailto:chills@lsp.org.uk)

## LSP Swap Shop

A reminder to post any school items that you no longer need on our [LSP Swap Shop](#) via MS Teams, where you can reuse and recycle items that you have in school that someone else may be able to benefit from. This is a great way to keep things out of landfills, potentially save some money in the process, and demonstrate that we are really committed to our green agenda.



## Update on financial prospects

In all my time in education, I have not known a period with so much financial uncertainty. This makes it very difficult for schools to plan. The Central Team are putting together our assumptions for the budget setting process for the 2023-24 financial year with the best information available, and this will be available to schools in March.

I thought it may be of use, in advance of this, to provide a high level summary of the financial prospects for schools for the next few financial years.

As you will know, our financial prospects following the 2022 pay awards were very concerning. Through our 'Resourcing our Partnership' discussions we identified some key pieces of work to help us to continue to deliver high quality education despite the squeeze on our finances. This work includes:

- a review of our classroom delivery model in primary schools in line with the Education Endowment Foundation's research into making the best use of Teaching Assistants
- a review of our classroom delivery model in primary schools in line with the Education Endowment Foundations research into making the best use of Teaching Assistants

The allocation of additional resources from the Autumn Statement is welcomed. However, because we expect costs pressures to remain high over the coming year or more, this additional funding is just likely to give us a little longer to deliver the projects detailed above rather than being a solution to our financial concerns. We will obviously keep you updated on any developments.

## Changes to Income Nominals

As schools will be aware, we experienced some difficulties reconciling Funds Workbooks as part of year end processes due to income nominal codes being used inconsistency across schools, including re-coding by schools of income processed by the Central Team to alternative nominal codes. Additionally, it became apparent that the Trust needs additional income nominal codes to enable us to report effectively on various income streams in line with the Academies Accounts Direction.

The Finance Team have therefore set up some new income nominal codes in PSF as well as re-named some existing codes. We have also included some specific guidance on the use of each nominal code. See list below:

Nominal code	Description	Heading in Annual Accounts	Comments
1055 (amended)	Other ESFA/DfE	Other ESFA/DfE	e.g., 16-19 Tuition funding
1059 (new)	Supplementary funding	Other ESFA/DfE	School Supplementary Grant only
1023 (new)	Mainstream Schools Additional Grant	Other ESFA/DfE	Mainstream Schools Additional Grant only
1022 (new)	Ukrainian Pupil Funding	Other ESFA/DfE	Ukrainian Pupil grant funding only
1021 (new)	National Tutoring Programme	Other ESFA/DfE	i.e., funding for School-led tutoring via NTP allocations
1058 (new)	Recovery Premium	Catch up premium	Recovery Premium only – previously paid on 1051
1046 (new)	Other grants from Local Authority	Other Government Grant non-Capital	Funding from LA only not ESFA for other grants e.g., Healthy Schools grant, Household Support grant
1047 (new)	Restricted non-government grants	Other income from the Trust's Education - restricted	Grant income from other organisations usually for a specific project (i.e., NOT LA or EFSA) e.g., Quartet Community Foundation, Hinkley grant
1100 (amended)	Donations - restricted	Donations - restricted	Restricted donations, not grants – see note below
1101 (amended)	Donations - unrestricted	Donations - unrestricted	Unrestricted donations, not grants – see note below

This means that nominal code 1090 which is Other income: Self-generated will be included as traded income for education activities on the annual accounts and may include Feed-in Tariffs, Commission from the sale of school photographs, etc.

**NB:** *A donation is given by anyone, usually for charitable purposes and to benefit a cause, e.g., a donation from the Parents Association, and may be restricted or unrestricted.*

*Unrestricted donations are those that come without donor restrictions and can be used for any legal purpose. Restricted donations can only be used for specific projects or purposes and are restricted because the donor wants the money to go to a specific project.*

*Grants are funds given by a specific party and are usually received after making an application or writing a proposal.*

*Donations from the PTA to cover trip costs can be coded directly to nominal code 1135 as can Voluntary contributions from parents for trips.*

Please note that it is imperative that all income gets coded to an income nominal code. For example, please do not use an expenditure nominal code to record an insurance reimbursement to offset the expenditure. In the same way, please ensure that expenditure is not coded to an income nominal code.

The timing of the implementation of these new and revised codes will be important **SO PLEASE DO NOT TAKE ANY ACTION YET**. We obviously do not want to disrupt the forthcoming budget monitoring exercise but we do need the coding in place to enable you to start budgeting for 2023-24 at the start of term 4, as well as ensure that all income is correctly coded for year end. It is proposed that existing codes will be used until 19<sup>th</sup> February (once December monitors have been reviewed by the Central Team). After this date, the Central Team will journal all income originally processed by the Central team to the correct code, as appropriate, and then process any Period 6 Accruals and Prepayments. Journals for income entered by school staff will need to be undertaken at the school as the Central Team do not have sufficient information to ensure that the correct coding is used. We will communicate this with you again nearer the time, and please feel free to use the new codes for any new income being processed by yourself, but do not move existing income until 20<sup>th</sup> February so that we are able to review your monitors.

We appreciate that this is another additional task for you for Term 4, although expect that the journals to be actioned by schools themselves will be minimal. However, once the new codes are in use, and IMP and/or Orovia are mapped accordingly, this work should alleviate the need for a detailed breakdown of income as part of the Funds Workbook in the Autumn term, although a breakdown of expenditure against various income streams will still be necessary.

### Revised Estimated Core Services Charges

Now that we have *estimated* allocations of Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (MSAG) for April to August 2023, the Core Services charge has been recalculated for 2022-23. Please use the revised value for your December budget monitor available to download [here](#). However, please note that these values are estimates only and we will update and process revised re-charges for Core Services with effect from April 2023. We will update the charges for future years once GAG statements for 2023-24 have been received.