

# News Bulletin



LIGHTHOUSE  
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

Issue 8: 1 November 2023



*In this week's edition...*

ANNOUNCEMENTS, INFO & UPDATES	AUDIENCE	TASK
Introduction	All	Info
Upcoming School Leaders' Meeting	Heads	Info
Follow up from Operational Review Engagement Sessions	Heads, SBMs and Chairs	Info
Reminder: Autumn School Census 2023	SBMs	Info
Outcome of the valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme	Heads and SBMs	Info
Appraisal Policy Working Party	Heads and Teaching Staff	Action
Safeguarding Declaration for Governors and Trustees	SBMS, Clerks and DSLs	Action
GL Assessments for Dyslexia and Dyscalculia	Heads, SBMs and SENDCOs	Action
Assessment Calendars for KS1 and KS2	Primary Heads	Info
FINANCE UPDATES	AUDIENCE	TASK
Reminder: Financial Reporting Workshops	Heads, SBMs and Chairs	Info
Funding Allocations	SBMs	Action
CPD UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES	AUDIENCE	TASK
Ofsted Preparation Session with Neil Lankester	Primary Head	Action
Reminder Wednesday 1 November LSP SEND staff meeting - Teaching Assistants as Scaffolds.	Primary Heads and SENDCOs	Info
Reminder: Sign up for Tom Sherrington on Thursday 17 November (Primary INSET)	All Headteachers	Action
Keynote Speech from Early Years Conference	Primary Heads and EY Leads	Info
Upcoming Lighthouse Learning and CPD Networks	Primary Heads	Info
Exemplary Leadership Programme School Visits	Primary Heads	Info
Bath and Wells Diocese: Term 2 CPD and Networks	Church Schools	Info
'School Improvement Snippets' - Effective Checking for Understanding	All	Info
KEY LINKS, DATES AND DEADLINES		



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## Introduction

As ever Term 2 is off to a flying start! Ofsted are visiting Blagdon this week (today is the second day of inspection). Colleagues at Blagdon have been working and preparing for this for a very long time and are in a strong position so the inspectors have been very welcome this week.

We have a number of consultations scheduled this term:

- Hannah More and Grove (Whiteoak Academies) are [running a consultation](#) for a new Resource Base on their school site. This would offer specialist speech, language and communication provision to 10 primary aged children with Educational Health Care Plans. A public information session is being held at Grove Juniors on Monday 6 November from 6.30pm and the initial consultation and feedback period closes on Friday 10 November.
- The LSP will begin the consultation period on the Admission Arrangements for 2025-26 later this month. This is being handled centrally so we will ensure all stakeholders are updated and included directly in this consultation so there is nothing further for individual schools to do at the moment.
- We also have a number of policy publications and consultations over the next few weeks, including the Complaints Policy. Please keep your eye on future bulletins for more details on these, including how to give your feedback.

Plans are also well underway for the joint INSET days later in November:

- Thursday 17 November primary colleagues have a day focussing on pedagogy with Tom Sherrington (more details below)
- Wednesday 22 November secondary colleagues will spend the day together in teaching and learning workshops and subject networks.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Leah Evans to the LSP Central Team. Leah is our Communications Officer working Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. These weekly bulletins will shortly come to you directly from her email address and not mine.

She will also be responsible for our social media; a reminder that we share news, vacancies and updates across [Facebook](#), [X \(formally Twitter\)](#) and [LinkedIn](#). Please do mention us in any posts you may do as a school on your platforms.

*Eleanor Capel-Davies*  
*Head of Administration*

## Upcoming School Leaders Meeting

The next School Leaders Meeting takes place on Wednesday 8 November.  
It is being held at Nailsea Baptist Church and starts at 8.30am.

[Click here](#) to view the agenda for this meeting.

## Follow up from Operational Review Engagement Sessions

Thank you to all those who attended the Operational Review Engagement Sessions in the last week of Term 2. The initial thoughts and ideas we received are very much appreciated.

In the coming days we will email out the presentation slides, and short further feedback form, to Heads, Chairs and School Business Managers.

*Louise Malik*

## Reminder: Autumn School Census 2023

The 2023 autumn school census date was Thursday, 5 October. The deadline for returns is today: Wednesday, 1 November.

The school census data will be used to finalise funding allocations. It is important that you [run and check your reports](#) carefully to ensure the data submitted is correct. Submitting inaccurate data risks your funding allocation being lower than it should.

Full guidance to help with completing the census [is available](#) on GOV.UK.

## Outcome of the valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Department for Education (DfE) has published the outcome of the valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme.

The outcome confirms a need to increase the employer contribution rate by 5% from 1 April 2024 to ensure that the Scheme continues to meet present and future obligations. The DfE has confirmed that it will provide additional funding to cover the increase in the employer contribution rate from April 2024. The costs for future years (from 2025/26 onwards) will be considered as part of subsequent spending review rounds. Details of the funding package have not yet been published but are expected to be similar to the formula methodology used recently for the increase in teachers' pay.

We are not planning to make any changes in IMP for this until we see the details of the grant methodology. We can then make the necessary changes to reflect both the increased income and expenditure.

## Appraisal Policy Working Party

This year the LSP will be completing a review of the current Teaching Staff and Headteacher Appraisal Policy and Procedures with a view to updating this policy ready for launch and implementation from September 2024.

Neil Lankester, Director of School Improvement, will be leading this process and is forming a working party which will meet online around 3-4 times across the year as we work through the process. We are looking for around 6-8 volunteers to join the group to represent colleagues from both primary and secondary schools and ideally this will involve at least 1 of each of the following:

- Primary Headteacher
- Secondary Headteacher
- Head of Department (Secondary)
- Primary School Teacher
- Secondary School Teacher

The first meeting will be held on Thursday 7 December from 3.00-4.00pm. If you are interested in joining the group [please email Neil directly](#) by Monday 20 November.

## Safeguarding Declaration for Governors and Trustees

Thank you to those who have chased or completed the Annual Safeguarding Declaration for Governors and Trustees.

The spreadsheet has been updated as of 11.30am on 31 October 2023 and there are still a number of schools who are missing a significant number of signed declarations.

Updated responses received so far have been saved [here on the Clerks' SharePoint](#).

Please can SBMs and DSLs check with clerks that all your governors have [completed the form](#) by the end of this week (we are now three weeks past the original deadline date).

If you are currently without a Clerk it is essential that your SBM and DSL complete this task. Please contact [Chris Hills](#) for access to the document on SharePoint.

## GL Assessments for Dyslexia and Dyscalculia

As part of a school's graduated response to dyslexia/ dyscalculia, some schools are using a screener to highlight need before making a referral to an Educational Psychologist. The graduated flow chart of dyslexia/ dyscalculia was shared in SENDCO networks last year.

The screeners are available to purchase from GL Assessments in batches of 10 or unlimited access.

Please could schools wishing to purchase any of the screening tools below email [Beth Watts](#) by **Monday 6 November**. Trust pricing can then be obtained and shared before placing an order.

- Dyslexia Screenings (10)
- Dyscalculia Screenings (10)
- Unlimited licence Dyslexia
- Unlimited licence Dyscalculia

## Assessment Calendars for KS1 and KS2

Earlier this month, the Standards and Testing Agency (STA) published their [downloadable calendars](#) with all the important dates for the academic year 2023 to 2024.

You can download each of these as a new calendar, or import the items into an existing one, within your usual calendar software including in Apple or Android phones, Google Calendar or Microsoft Outlook by clicking the links below.

[Key stage 1 assessments calendar 2024](#)

[Key stage 2 assessments calendar 2024](#)





## Reminder: Financial Reporting Workshops

A reminder that we have planned some workshop sessions to enable Governors, Trustees, Headteachers and SBMs to have a better understanding of the financial framework within which we work and to ensure an understanding of the budget setting and monitoring timetable and governor responsibilities within it.

The session dates available are:

- Monday 6 November 6.00pm - 8.00pm - Face to Face at Backwell School
- Wednesday 8 November 2.00pm- 4.00pm - Online via MS Teams
- Thursday 9 November 4.00pm - 6.00pm - Online via MS Teams
- Tuesday 14 November 6.00pm - 8.00pm - Face to Face at Gordano School

Please [click here to book your place](#) at one of these sessions.

**Bookings will close at 12noon on Friday (3 November).**



## Funding Allocations

The Department for Education (DfE) have published a number of funding allocations as outlined below. We have downloaded the allocations to Foldr for ease (under 'Information for 2023-24 budgets'). Please review the allocations to ensure you are using the most up-to-date information for your October Budget Forecast.

*All of the links below are to Foldr and the documents can be found in the following section: School Business Managers > Trust Wide > Information for 2023-24 Budgets*

**Pupil Premium** - the download includes the number of pupils eligible for the Deprivation Pupil Premium (based on the October 2022 census) and will determine your income for 1 September 2023 until 31 March 2024. It does not include service pupils or PLAC pupils. Please use this information to update Pupil Premium pupil numbers in your IMP Master Scenario.

It is Funded Pupil Premium Numbers Primary/Secondary for 2022/23 that you are reviewing rather than overriding the calculated value for funding. If you have not already done so, you should use your October 23 pupil census to estimate pupil numbers for 2023-24.

[Foldr link for Pupil Premium Information](#)

**Covid-19 Recovery Premium** - the allocations have been published for Recovery Premium for the 2023-24 financial/academic year which will be paid in four instalments on nominal code 1058. This funding is focused on pupil premium eligible pupils because of the additional impact of the pandemic on these students. However, schools can use it to deliver evidence-based approaches for supporting any pupil based on an assessment of individual need.

Recovery premium allocations for mainstream schools will be based on pupil premium eligibility. Recovery premium allocations will be calculated on a per pupil basis, based on £145 per eligible pupil in primary schools and £276 per eligible pupil in secondary schools. There continues to be a minimum payment to ensure that eligible primary and secondary schools will not receive less than £2,000 and £6,000 respectively. Funding for looked-after children will be paid to the local authority and should be managed by the virtual school head in consultation with the child's school.

[Foldr link for COVID-19 Recovery Premium](#)

**Teachers' Pay Additional Grant (TPAG) 2023-24** - allocations for September 2023 to March 2024 have been published and will be paid to schools in November. Please review the TPAG grant estimated in your Master Scenario on IMP under nominal code 1045 and ensure you include a value for 12 months. TPAG will continue to be paid as a separate grant for the whole of the 2024-25 financial year as well after which it will be rolled into core budget allocations.

Schools should therefore continue to project TPAG across all years until more information becomes available.

[Foldr link for Teachers' Pay Additional Grant \(TPAG\) 2023-24](#)

**Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (MSAG)** - allocations have been published for the period September 2023 to March 2024 and will also be paid in November on nominal code 1023. As above for TPAG, please review the MSAG grant included in your Master Scenario on IMP and ensure that you include a value for 12 months until August 2024.

MSAG will be rolled into core funding allocations from 2024-25 onwards (although schools should continue to project MSAG across all years until 2024-25 funding is finalised).

[Foldr link for Mainstream Schools Additional Grant \(MSAG\)](#)

## Ofsted Preparation Session with Neil Lankester

A number of LSP schools are expecting an Ofsted inspection in the next 12-18 months.

If you are unsure of the date you will be visited by, the [Ofsted Inspection Handbook](#) sets out timelines for inspection from paragraph 34.

To support your preparation for your next inspection Neil Lankester, Head of School Improvement, will be offering 2 optional MS Teams seminars for Heads, Deputy/Assistant Heads and SENDCOs on:

Thursday 23 November between 4-5pm [Link here](#) to register

Monday 11 December between 2-3pm [Link here](#) to register

If they or you would like to attend please click on the relevant link above to register **no less than 48 hours** before the session you would like to attend begins.

If you are not able to make either of these dates Neil will also run another session later in the year.

## Reminder Wednesday 1 November LSP SEND staff meeting - Teaching Assistants as Scaffolds.

Please find below the link to share with your colleagues for those who are attending the LSP SEND staff meeting with Sally Franklin this afternoon (Wednesday 1 November).

Sally is a SEND consultant and expert supporting LSP with the Learning Partners Model. This training will be useful for any teacher who works in partnership with a teaching assistant or Learning partner.

I look forwards to seeing you there!

*Debbie Coker*

*Director of Inclusion*

### LSP SEND staff meeting on Teaching Assistants as Scaffolds with Sally Franklin (UCL)

#### Joining Instructions:

Topic: Twilight - EEF SEND Guidance

Time: Nov 1, 2023 03:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81225922760?pwd=3QiBNyOi9GSjwJJ1obStCBDd1Ac6du.1>

Meeting ID: 812 2592 2760

Passcode: 187913



## Reminder: Sign up for Tom Sherrington on Thursday 17 November (Primary INSET)

We are looking forward to a day of pedagogy with Tom Sherrington on Thursday 17 November. We will send out details closer to the time but a few operational headlines are:

- It will be held at St Peter's in Portishead 8.30am - 3.30pm
- Parking is restricted so please car share
- We will provide refreshments and a sandwich lunch (we won't be able to cater for specific dietary requirements)
- It is a tight fit to fit everyone in! Seating will be on adult size chairs - but they are plastic! We will not be able to provide any other seating so staff are free to bring a cushion etc if needed.
- We'll send any resources to schools if they need printing but please let staff know they'll need to bring something to make notes on.

### Actions for you:

- **Primary Heads**—Please can you provide a list of staff who are attending [using this spreadsheet as a format](#) (Foldr link). A copy of the spreadsheet was also emailed to you by Jannine Ashman on Thursday 12 October. Please can this be sent to the [Lighthouse Learning email](#) by 10.00am on Friday 3 November. This will allow us to set up electronic signing in systems. Thank you to those who have already submitted their spreadsheets.
- We have around 25 places available for HLTAs who **deliver whole class teaching**. If you would like to send a HLTA please can you let us know [on this online form](#) by 10.00am on Friday 3 November (we will confirm places with you).
- **Secondary Heads** - if you would like to send anyone to this training day [please email](#) their name, job title and email by Friday 3 November.

## Keynote Speech from Early Years Conference

We had a wonderful day with Early Years Leaders at our conference this week (Monday 30 October).

The day started with a keynote from Kirsty Godfrey and Julian Grenier OBE from Ofsted. They shared a session on curriculum, pedagogy, tackling disadvantage, CLL and early writing - all of which we are focusing on as a Trust. If you weren't able to attend you can watch their [key-note speech here](#).





## Upcoming Lighthouse Learning and CPD Networks

Please email [Lighthouse Learning](#) if you have any questions about the below events.

Date	Event
Friday 3 November	<b>Deputy/Assistant Headteacher Network:</b> Marc Rowlands and continuing work around disadvantage.
Monday 6 November 3.45-5.00pm	<b>Primary Assessment Network: Online</b> (invitations to follow)
Thursday 9 November 3.30–4.30pm online	<a href="#">PAPYRUS SP-ARK training for DSLs</a>
Friday 24 November 1.15 - 4.00pm in person	<b>Primary English Network:</b> English Hub Building, St Peter's School
Friday 17 November	LSP Shared Primary INSET -Tim Sherrington @ St Peter's School
Monday 20 November 1.15-4.00pm	<b>Primary Science Network:</b> Online (more details to follow)
Monday 4 December Timings TBC	<b>SEND Network:</b> Online (more details to follow)

## Exemplary Leadership Programme School Visits

Two LSP schools - Whiteoak Academies and St Peter's - have been chosen to host visits as part of the exemplary leadership programme. They will both be hosting visits for schools leaders from across the country (and beyond!).

St Peter's is hosting a visit on Thursday 23 November focusing on behaviour culture.

The day includes:

- Observing KS2 Collective Worship and Whole School Break (Transitions)
- Learning Walks across all key stages
- Visit to 'The Cocoon' (Nurture provision)
- 

There are still a few places left if any LSP Primary Heads or Deputy/Assistant Heads would like to attend.

Please email [Catrin Battista, Headteacher](#), directly, by 10.30am on Friday 3 November if you would like to attend. Please also include any dietary requirements you may have.

## Bath and Wells Diocese: Term 2 CPD and Networks

Date	Event	Time	Online or in person	Cost
06.11.23	Church School governance part 1	6.00pm -8.00pm	Online	Free
08.11.23	Heads and Chairs	1.00pm-2.00pm & 6.00pm-7.00pm	Online	Free
14.11.23	Collective Worship; Guidance, Planning and Resources	4.00pm-5.30pm	Online	£25 per person
21.11.23	Church School governance for members and Trustees	6.00pm -8.00pm	Online	Free
23.11.23	Theologically rooted Christian vision	4.00pm -5.30pm	Online	£25 per person
23.11.23	Forum for Members	6.00pm—7.30pm	Online	Free
30.11.23	Understanding Christianity Day (includes lunch)	10.00am-3.30pm	In person at Flourish House	£50 per person*
04.12.23	Church School governance for renewing foundation governors	6.00pm -8.00pm	Online	Free
05.12.23	Trustees Forum	6.00pm-7.30pm	Online	Free
06.12.23	Church School governance part 2	6.00pm -8.00pm	Online	Free

\*Additional £80 for the folder

Bookings for all of these events can be made directly via the [Bath and Wells Diocese website](#).

### 2024 Pilgrim Services

Plans for the 2024 Pilgrim Services are underway, and these sessions will be renamed 'Moving Up Celebrations'. Organised by the Go Team they will still be archdeaconry based and dates are below. There will be 2 services available at each venue to allow seating to be in the main body of the site. Booking will be available from the middle of December.

- Wells Cathedral - 18 (afternoon) & 19 (morning) June 2024
- Taunton Minster - 12 June 2024 (morning and afternoon)
- Bath Abbey - 13 June 2024 (morning x2)

### Bath and Wells Partner Conference

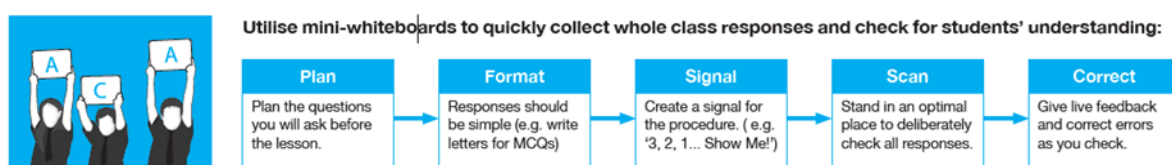
Do also 'save the date' of either the 14 or 15 March 2024 for their Heads, Chairs and Parish Partner Conference, an invitation to this will be coming out in November. Margaret James from the National SIAMS team and Paul Rusby are confirmed as keynote speakers.

# 'School Improvement Snippets' - Effective Checking for Understanding

In my final section on effective questioning in the classroom I have attached below a '1 pager' on checking for understanding.

When done effectively, checking for understanding allows the teacher to deliberately and systematically 'check in' with pupils across different attainment groups within the classroom to see how they are keeping up with the learning. This checking should support teachers to make decisions about what to do next - carry on with the lesson or clarify and spend longer on the point being taught as children have not quite got it yet. The 1 pager points to Rosenshine's Principles of Instruction and the need for 80%+ to achieve the success rate in order for the teacher to move on.

I really like the procedure around whiteboards that is indicated as this is also one of the Walkthrus that lots of schools are working on at the moment across the Trust.



I know the idea is simple but when used effectively by teachers it allows the teacher to actually see what all children are thinking at once rather than 'guessing what is in their heads'. It also builds in accountability for pupils - 'I have been asked to do something, I need to show what I know' so therefore supports positive behaviour for learning as part of a culture of positive behaviour management. As teachers become more experienced in the use of whiteboards the key becomes how they are used through live feedback and probing questions.

Neil Lankester, Director of School Improvement

## Further Reading

'Principles of Instruction: Research Based Strategies That All Teachers Should Know'  
Article by Barak Rosenshine

# Checking for Understanding

## Guide the direction of teaching and remedy common misconceptions

### Checking for Understanding

Checking for Understanding (CFU) is a fundamental aspect of effective teaching. It involves teachers consistently finding out what students know about the material being taught. Checking for understanding serves as a means for teachers to adjust their teaching methods and improve learning by assessing student understanding in real time, allowing them to make necessary instructional decisions such as re-teaching during the lesson.

"Checking for student understanding at each point can help students learn the material with fewer errors."  
- Barak Rosenshine

### Rosenshine's Principles of Instruction

According to Barak Rosenshine in his 2012 article, 'Principles of Instruction' effective teaching involves asking questions and checking students' responses to help them practice new information and connect it with their prior knowledge. Rosenshine's research suggests that teachers should ask questions during instruction to facilitate the practice of new material. The most effective teachers engage all students by having them share answers with peers, summarise key points, write responses, or express agreement with others.

### Questioning

A straightforward and effective method for assessing student knowledge is through questioning. Teachers can employ various questioning strategies to gauge understanding. These include cold calling students and asking follow up questions to probe their knowledge such as, "Why do you think that is?" Elaborative interrogation questions such as "Why is this true?" are also powerful to check the depth of students' understanding and help them connect their knowledge to existing schema.

### Summarising

Frequently having students summarise what they are learning is a highly effective method for improving their understanding and memory of new information. Additionally, it allows teachers to gauge whether students have a firm grasp of crucial concepts. By observing which topics students either avoid or find challenging to summarise, teachers can identify areas that may need further attention in the next lesson. Ask students to verbally summarise the main steps or write key ideas in dot point form.

### Choice Statements

Present students with a few choice statements or questions and have them select a response. For example, 'True or False', 'Agree or Disagree' and share it via a mini-whiteboard, or hand signal (thumbs up or down). This efficient technique is particularly effective to use in checking students' prior knowledge or potential misconceptions before beginning new instruction. It also enables learners to elaborate on the material and 'augment connections to other learning in their long-term memory.'

### Correcting

Another highly efficient and effective method for checking students' understanding is through identifying and correcting common misconceptions. This involves presenting students with a common misconception or procedural error and evaluating their ability to identify and rectify it. Collect whole-class responses or circulate the room purposefully checking students' work and providing feedback on how to rectify specific errors.

### Visualising

Getting students to draw or create visual representations, such as graphic organisers and concept maps, can be useful in checking the depth of their understanding. Have students create a visual or symbolic representation (for example a graphic organiser, simple table, or concept map) of information and abstract concepts and then be prepared to explain their graphic to a partner. Picturing techniques are especially useful to see if students understand how various concepts or elements of a process are related. Model this process over time so that students know how to create effective visual maps independently. For example in English: Ask students to draw a visual web of factors influencing the growth of a protagonist in a novel.

### Testing

Use short informal assessments, such as quizzes or exit tickets to check the depth of students' understanding. Conducting weekly (or even monthly) low stakes quizzes is an effective method of checking understanding and monitoring students' progress. Try simple paper quizzes or whole class quizzes using digital tools (such as Quizizz) to get more nuanced data on all students.

### 80% Success Rate

CFU guarantees high student success rates. Aim for 80%+ so that you can respond and adjust your teaching.

### 09 Questions

The least effective teachers only asked 9 questions in an entire lesson resulting in more error prone learning.

### 23/40 Minutes

The most effective teachers spent 23 of a 40 minute lesson explaining, questioning, & giving working examples.

One-Pager Designed by Jamie Clark | @XpatEducator | jamieclark.com

## KEY LINKS, DATES AND DEADLINES

These reminders not replace to Annual Planner so please ensure you are checking this regularly.

*Please note the following links will only work for those who already have access to the relevant site or folder. If you feel you need to be given permission to access something please let us know.*

[Click here to access the Annual Planner \(via Sharepoint\)](#)

[Click here to access an index of previous bulletin articles](#)

[Click here to access previous editions of the LSP weekly bulletin](#)

DATE	KEY DATE OR DEADLINE	FAO
Wednesday 1 November 2023	Deadline to return Teacher Pay Progression Spreadsheet to HR	Heads & SBMs
Tuesday 7 November 2023	Deadline for Primary Headteachers to submit the Headteacher's declaration form (HDF) on the DfE Baseline e-portal (BeP)	Primary Heads
Wednesday 8 November 2023	School Leaders' Meeting @ Nailsea Baptist Church <a href="#">Click here</a> to view the agenda for this meeting.	Headteachers
Friday 17 November 2023	Primary INSET Day @ St Peter's with Tom Sherrington	Primary Heads
Wednesday 22 November 2023	Secondary INSET Day @ Gordano School	Secondary Heads



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