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## Introduction

Dear Colleagues,

This is turning out to be a very important week in the life of our Trust. This morning (Wednesday) we have the official re-opening of Yatton Infant School (some photos below). I have been looking forward to seeing the new building in action and also to saying thank you to the many people who have brought this project to completion and who also coped with the many difficult days between the fire more than two years ago and this moment of renewal. Our own leaders at Yatton, especially Jo, Helen, Sarah and Judith have played a key roles both in developing the design and in keeping the school operating so well despite having a major construction project on the site. I know that they would also want to share credit with colleagues from the Central Team who rallied around so well in the aftermath of the fire and who also have been so effective in securing strong contactors to deliver the project – a particular mention for Tim Monelle, Mark Middleton and John Finch but I know that they would point to the whole Trust Services and Estates Teams most of whom have been involved. I'll be thanking Coreus, Bray & Slaughter, Davies Group and, of course, our insurers RPA for delivering the building to us, on time and budget and to such a high standard. Lastly, I would like to thank our colleagues in North Somerset Council. Cllr Wendy Griggs, who is also a governor at the school especially supported us in securing the planning permissions on what was a very tight schedule.

The second reason why this is an important week for us will be found on page three of the newsletter. St Mary Redcliffe and Temple School in Bristol have opened a consultation with their community about their proposal to join our Trust. I am delighted by this and wholeheartedly believe that this partnership will strengthen both SMRT and LSP. It is a development that will have real importance for our existing Bristol schools both in the potential and capacity that SMRT would bring but also to the heft that they would add to our presence and participation in the city. Del Planter, Headteacher at SMRT, has already visited many of our events and I expect will be even more present with us as the school engages in due diligence. We will hope to see other staff and governors from SMRT at LSP events and I am sure that you will give them a warm welcome when you see them.

The work at Yatton has been to design and develop a building to serve our children. Our partnership with SMRT is about building a Trust, also to serve our young people. In both endeavours we are creating something of enduring importance. For me this week has been a time to reflect on the privilege that I have to work in a sector that is so focussed on the future and also in a time when the quality of education has been improving at such a pace.

As ever,

*Gary Lewis, Chief Executive*

## Yatton Infant School: Official Re-opening

Here are a few photos from the official re-opening of Yatton Infant School which took place on Wednesday 3 December.

A full news article will be uploaded to the LSP website in due course, and will be included in the next edition of The Beacon.



## Consultation on SMRT joining LSP

As mentioned in the introduction the Governing Body at St Mary Redcliffe and Temple School (SMRT), in Bristol, are consulting with their community on becoming an academy and joining Lighthouse Schools Partnership.

More details about the consultation [can be found here](#).

We will shortly begin due diligence work, which, along with feedback from the consultation, will help the LSP Board of Trustees and the SMRT Local Governing Body make their final decision on this proposal.

Any decision would require Department for Education Agreement and we would expect the earliest date for joining to be September 2026.



# St Mary Redcliffe and Temple School

## Reminder: LSP Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that an Annual General Meeting of the Lighthouse Schools Partnership (“the Trust”) will be held online on **Thursday 11 December 2024 at 5.00pm**.

The purpose of the Annual General Meeting is for Members to formally receive the accounts and annual report.

This meeting is open to all stakeholders, including Trustees, Headteachers, school staff and Governors.

The AGM will be an online meeting. To allow us to prepare for this event, please complete [this form](#) to confirm your attendance so we can distribute the Teams link, by **12noon on Monday 8 December**.

If you have any questions, please [email Sarah Cran, Lead on Governance](#).

## Reminder: LSP Trustees - Applications Open

We are looking for new Trustees to join our Trust Board.

Our Trust Board thrives on the richness and diversity of our community, and we're looking for individuals who reflect this to join us as trustees. Trustees play a vital role in shaping the strategy and governance of our schools, and their contributions are central to our ongoing success. The closing date for applications **9.00am Friday 9 January 2026**.

**Please share this on newsletters/emails home to parents we would like to reach a wide and diverse audience as possible.**

[Click here](#) to download the image below.

We have also posted this to our Facebook and LinkedIn pages and would really appreciate these being reported from school/your professional social media accounts.

More information can be found on the LSP website: [Lighthouse Schools Partnership - Become a Trustee](#)



**COULD YOU HELP CREATE A  
BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR CHILDREN  
AND SCHOOLS IN YOUR AREA?**

Becoming a Trustee is a rewarding and enriching opportunity to assist in shaping the future of our schools and helping staff and pupils to flourish

## Changes to top up funding in North Somerset

Following recent sessions on the imminent changes to top up funding in North Somerset, we asked colleagues in the LA a few additional questions.

The answers received are provided below and we hope will be of use. We still expect to receive your funding allocations from January 2026 in mid December.

1. What period will you be giving the funding for?

*Funding will be aligned to the academic year, not the local authority's financial year. The new model starts on 1 January 2026, with funding prorated from January to August for the first year. From September onwards, allocations will follow the academic cycle to ensure consistency with school operations.*

2. What census data you will be using for the formulaic flexible funding each year e.g October or January preceding the financial year?

*For January 2026 it will be January 2025 census data and this will be used until 31 August 2026. Then from September 2026 it will be the January 2026 census. October data may be used as a supplementary source to validate trends and ensure fair allocation for the January 2027.*

3. How will it work for cross border children?

*Cross border arrangement will continue as normal for children resident in another LA and attend schools in North Somerset.*

*For North Somerset children attending another LA school then the current processes will continue.*

4. If a school thinks that a child's need should be assessed as band D what is the process for this? Is it only through the EHCP process or is there a process outside of this?

*Band D is linked to the matrix banding level and aligns with EHCP provision. If a school believes a child's needs warrant Band D: The primary route is through the EHCP process, supported by evidence from the school and professionals.*

5. I believe that the new arrangement don't apply to specialist provision. Please could you confirm that resources bases are considered as specialist provision for this purpose.

*Yes resource bases are funded differently (Normally block funded) and each have an SLA which details the funding agreement that is in place.*

*Louise Malik, Chief Financial and Operating Officer*



## Annual Safeguarding Declarations and Childcare Disqualification - Action Needed

The deadline for all staff to complete the Annual Safeguarding Declaration and Childcare Disqualification on Employee Self Service (ESS) for this academic year was Friday 26 September.

There are nearly 600 members of staff, across the Trust, who have not completed the Annual Safeguarding Declarations and about 200 members of staff who have not completed their Childcare Disqualification.

Both of these forms need to be completed on ESS to be compliant with our Safeguarding Policy and so your Single Central Record (SCR) is correct and legally compliant.

Using ESS allows SBMs/OMs to run a report for their school identifying who has signed the declaration and who is pending through iTrent and keep the Designated Safeguarding Lead updated. The LSP Central HR Team will run these reports for SLA schools and provide them to the school.

### Actions needed:

- Run and review your ESS report to identify who still has forms to be completed.
- Ensure staff have completed outstanding declarations by **Friday 12 December**.

Instructions for staff were provide in advance of the start of this academic year and [can be found here](#).

## Key information from Standards and Testing Agency

The Standards and Testing Agency (STA) has published it's latest Assessment Update which includes the following important information for primary schools:

### Primary assessment general

[Reminder: download materials from the Primary Assessment Gateway before it closes on 19 December](#)

[Reminder: confirm local authority monitoring and moderation agreements by Friday 9 January - for academies](#)

### Key stage 2

[Publication: 2025 multiplication tables check attainment data](#)

[Information: revised 2025 KS2 data](#)

[Action: apply to become a marker for the KS2 tests from Monday 8 December](#)

[Click here to view the full update](#).

Please share this information with relevant colleagues within your school.

## Finance Manager Vacancy: Churchill Academy & Sixth Form

Churchill Academy & Sixth Form are currently recruiting for a Finance Manager to manage their Finance Team and its functions including budgeting, financial management/accounting, payroll, contract management and financial audits.

Grade: JM1

Contract: 27-30 hours a week, term time only plus INSET and two additional weeks.

The successful candidate will be an enthusiastic and self-motivated individual, with a strong background in finance/accounting.

More details, and all other LSP vacancies, can be [found here](#). Please share this opportunity, and others, with those you may know who could be interested.

## Reminder: Primary Moderation Day 16 January 2026

Primary Heads and Assessment Leads were emailed last week (Friday), with details, and a link to a list of staff to check regarding the Primary Moderation Day on Friday 16 January 2026.

Please ensure you have checked your school's tab on the spreadsheet, and provided the information requested, by **9.00am on Tuesday 9 December**.

Thank you to those who have already checked and updated their list.

Any questions please email the [Lighthouse Learning Team](#).

## Reminder: Early December pay day date

A reminder that the pay day date for December is Friday 19 December.

Please ensure colleagues are aware of this change.

## Guidance from Delegated Services: Winter Vomiting Bugs

Delegated Services have provided [this poster for schools](#) regarding preventing the spread of Norovirus/winter vomiting bugs.

If you are concerned about levels of sickness in your schools advice on deep cleaning etc. can be sought from [Delegated Services](#).

## Update: Migration to Bromcom

- Group 1 primary schools are now up and running within Bromcom and have been brilliant at adapting quickly and flexibly to the change in MIS.
- Group 2 have received their live handover sites and are making excellent progress with their next steps of data checking and setting up their users and systems.
- Group 3 (Whiteoak, Golden Valley, Backwell Junior and West Leigh, Flax Bourton, North-leaze and Yatton) are preparing for their key dates coming up in the last couple of weeks of Term 2.

We will keep you posted along every step of the way of your transition, but each time a new school migrates we are ensuring we collate any new, useful information.

These are being added to the Bromcom folder [in Folder](#) (*School Business Managers, Trust Wide, Bromcom*) so please use this resource if you need it.

This folder also holds details for a dummy site where staff can log on and familiarise with the system alongside their training.

If you have any questions please contact the [Trust Services Team](#).

**IMPORTANT** - ParentPay and Schoolcomms, should be contacting schools with instructions regarding how to migrate their services over from SIMS to Bromcom. We have seen many of these being sent to schools already. Please do look out for their emails as there may be actions for schools to take prior to their data cut day (particularly if there are dinner payment modules used). Wonde are also contacting schools ahead of the process.

As said previously, 2IT will be supporting the primary schools with the process of re-connecting Third Party Connectors and largely this is actioned after Bromcom goes live in your school. For secondary schools - further information will be circulated shortly.

If you haven't received any contact from ParentPay or Schoolcomms and your data cut date is approaching then please raise a case with the Help Desk for either company, both are contacted within the ESS/ParentPay Support Portal and let [Trust Services](#) know, and we will ensure you are supported.



## Upcoming Lighthouse Learning Sessions and CPD Networks

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

The full programme of Lighthouse Learning CPD on offer for 2025-26 can be found on the [LSP website](#).

### ULS Training for LSP Staff

Our next funded Unlocking Letters And Sounds (ULS) training event is on **Friday 23 January**, from **8.30am - 3.15pm**.

Please click here to book your place: [LSP Unlocking Letters and Sounds Training 2025-26](#).

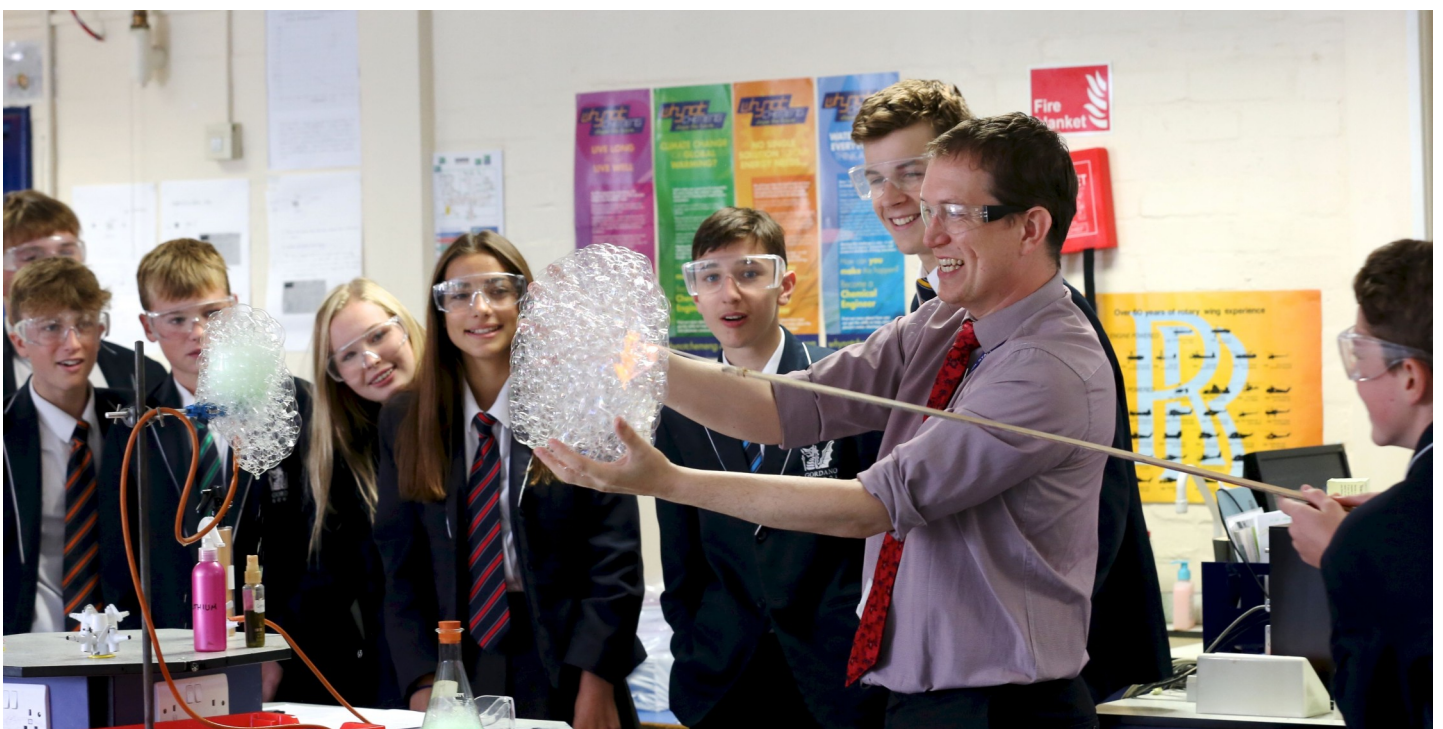
### Primary Geography Curriculum Training (Tranche 3)

Next term (term 3) will be the final round of training for the launch of the LSP Primary Geography Curriculum.

So that there is not a clash with the TLAC training (Wednesday 4 February) the geography sessions have been rescheduled to:

- Wednesday 21 January, 3.45-5.00pm
- Wednesday 28 January, 3.45-5.00pm

The Teams link for these sessions will be sent out closer to the time.



## Upcoming CPD for Governors

Please see below upcoming CPD sessions available for Governors. Clerks, please share this with all Governors in your LGB.

DATE / TIME	EVENT	LINK
Thursday 4 December from 5.30pm	<b>POSTPONED</b> <b>SEND and Inclusion Webinar</b> Due to staff absence this has been postponed. Those signed up to attend have been emailed, and we will let you know when this is rescheduled.	<b>POSTPONED</b>
Wednesday 14 January 7.00-8.00pm Or Thursday 15 January 10.30-11.30am	<b>Chairs' Forum</b> An opportunity to discuss the latest governance themes and developments and share best practice.	MS Teams invitations will be circulated in due course.
Monday 19 January from 5.30pm	<b>IDSR Webinar</b> Online webinar for LSP Primary School Leadership Teams and Local Governing Bodies.  This session, run by Chris Chamberlain - Senior Primary Advisor, will look at the School inspection data summary report (IDSR) and how to understand and use the data to challenge and improve your school.	<a href="#">Click here</a> to sign up for the webinar

A reminder that the full Lighthouse Learning CPD for Governance Programme can be found [on our website](#).

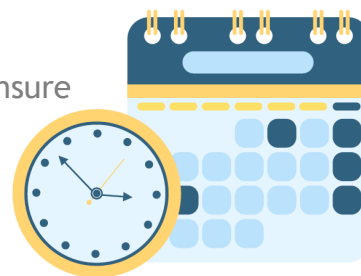
## CPD webinar: Financial Reporting

Thank you to those who attended the Governance Webinar on Monday (1 December) on Financial Reporting.

You can [click here](#) to view the recording of the session.

# KEY DATES, DEADLINES & REMINDERS

These reminders do not replace the LSP Annual Planner so please ensure you are checking this regularly (link on next page).



## Key Dates

DATE	INFORMATION	FAO
12noon on Monday 8 December	Deadline to request link to attend LSP AGM on Thursday 11 December 2024 at 5.00pm. Please complete <a href="#">this form</a> to confirm your attendance.	All
Friday 16 January 2026	LSP Primary Moderation INSET Day. Please ensure you have checked your staff list by <b>Tuesday 9 December.</b>	Primary Heads



## KEY LINKS

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](#).



### Annual Planner 2025/26

Click to view the Annual Planner for next academic year (Via Sharepoint)

### Bulletin Index

Click to access an index of previous bulletin articles



### Previous Bulletins

Click to access previous editions of the LSP Weekly News Bulletin

### The Beacon

Click to read the latest edition of the LSP Newsletter: The Beacon



## SHARE WITH US

Don't forget, you can submit your school news stories to be shared in our newsletters and on our social media.

Email your stories to: [newsletter@lsp.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@lsp.org.uk)