



Welcome back!

ANNOUNCEMENTS, INFO & UPDATES	AUDIENCE	TASK
Introduction	All	Info
Welcome to LSP...and a few leadership updates	All	Info
Primary Moderation Day—Friday 16 January	Primary Leaders	Info
Upcoming Headteachers' Meeting	Headteachers	Info
Consultation: Core Services Charge for 2026-27	Heads, Clerks/ Chairs and SBMs	Action
Deadline for Primary School Applications	Primary Heads	Action
Admission Arrangements 2027-28	All	Info
TRUST SERVICES & ESTATES	AUDIENCE	TASK
Bromcom—Census Processes	SBMs/OMs	Info
Census Day - Primary Food Festival	Heads & SBMs/ OMs	Action
FINANCE UPDATES	AUDIENCE	TASK
Pupil Premium rate updates 2026/27	Heads, SBMs & FBPs	Info
Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) Funding	SBMs & FBPs	Info
CPD UPDATES & OPPORTUNITIES	AUDIENCE	TASK
Upcoming Lighthouse Learning Sessions and CPD Networks	All	Info
Nurture UK Boxall Profile Information Session	Heads & SENDcos	Info
SEND Webinar: Behaviour is a form of communication	All	Info
Upcoming CPD for Governors	Clerks, Chairs and Governors	Info
KEY LINKS, DATES & DEADLINES		

Introduction

Firstly welcome back and a Happy New Year to you all.

I found myself turning back towards work in that gap between Christmas and New Year in a really positive way. There is nothing like a break from work to make you value the satisfactions and pleasures of doing your job!

I'm also conscious of the very full schedule of important things that we are doing together at this moment in time - supporting our Bristol schools as they navigate so much change, working to tighten up supply of school places to address the decline in birthrate, supporting schools to set balanced budgets, building our capacity in Professional Learning, training to support the precise and adaptive teaching that we aspire to, developing our in-school SEND capacity and refining our governance model. Every one of these things is hugely important and probably too much for a single school to deliver on, but together we can make progress. I feel energised by this and let's hope that the January energy boost lasts!

You will see later in the bulletin that we are welcoming Abi Oldfield to High Down Schools. Abi already has an impressive record of headship in London schools and I feel very fortunate to have her join us. I am sure that she will make a big contribution at High Down and across the Trust. Amy Townsend should have been starting at Yatton this week but most of you will know that she had been seriously ill with Sepsis last term. I am glad to say that the infection was successfully treated but the medication deployed was necessarily aggressive and although Amy is recovering well she is not yet ready to return to work. She hopes to be back soon.

Our first day of term included a phone call from Ofsted at St Mary Redcliffe CE Primary (SMRP). As I write this I am just about to leave to meet the Lead Inspector and myself, and many Central Team colleagues, have been supporting the school since they received the call. This is our second inspection under the new framework and once again, I have been reassured by the fairness and inclusive spirit of the Ofsted team. SMRP has been on a journey (forgive the cliché) and I am confident that the scorecard will show the progress that Christina has made there.

As ever,

Gary Lewis, Chief Executive



Welcome to LSP...and a few leadership updates

We have two new colleagues we wish to introduce to you all via this week's bulletin:

Abigail (Abi) Oldfield started this week as Head of High Down Schools following Andrey's retirement at the end of last term. Abi is new to the Trust and joins us from Willowbank Primary School in London, but already has connections in this area. We look forward to introducing you all in person at our next Headteachers' Meeting.



Alison (Ali) Gray joined in the LSP Central Finance Team in the last few days of Term 2 as Finance Administrator. Ali will be working alongside Natalie Fear and her team on invoicing and pay runs and can be contacted via finance@lsp.org.uk

There are a few others leadership updates to note within the Trust:

- Catrin Batista has taken on the role of Executive Headteacher of St Peter's, St Mary's (Portbury) and Wraxall until the end of this academic year. She is supported by Vicki Sheppard as Head of School at Wraxall/St Mary's and Angela Hunt as Head of School for St Peter's.
- Helen Clarke and Sarah Howard will continue as Acting Headteachers at Yatton Schools for the first few weeks of Term 3 as Amy Townsend returns to work and starts her new role as Headteacher.

Primary Moderation Day—Friday 16 January

We are looking forward to our Primary Moderation Day on Friday 16 January 2026 at St Peter's Primary School. We have over 300 members of staff scheduled to attend and have structured the day so that all year groups will have a half day moderation session and then a half day CPD input linked to their key stage.

All teaching staff attending have been emailed earlier this week (Tuesday) with key information and logistics for the day including what they need to prepare/bring with them. Please can you ensure that all teachers have received this and are prepared for the day. If you have a school minibus and can utilise this to support with travelling to St Peter's this would be much appreciated as parking is limited.

Upcoming Headteachers' Meeting

Our next LSP Headteachers' Meeting is taking place on Thursday 22 January from 8.30am at Nailsea Baptist Church (BS48 2DS).

The agenda is being finished and will be circulated in due course.

Consultation: Core Services Charge for 2026-27

Today we are launching our annual consultation on the Core Services Charge for the 2026-27 financial year.

The Trustees will agree the Core Services Charge for the 2026-27 financial year at their meeting on Wednesday 4 February 2026. This is in order to ensure that schools have this information in time to prepare your budget for 2026-27, through your Local Governing Body and to submit this information to the Board of Trustees by Friday 3 July 2026.

To inform the Trustees' decision making, and to enable you to influence the arrangements for the future, this consultation will run from **Wednesday 7 January** until **5.00pm on Friday 23 January**.

The consultation is aimed at Headteachers and Chairs of Governors although we would encourage you to consult or share with other key stakeholders such as Business Managers. Please submit your comments on the consultation to enquiries@lsp.org.uk. If you would like to submit changes to the policy, please highlight your changes or make them using tracked changes and also send them to this email address. The results of the consultation, following the decisions of the Board of Trustees, will be issued in the LSP News Bulletin on Wednesday 11 February.

We had intended to propose some relatively minor changes for 2026-27 but just before Christmas the triennial review of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) was issued and this has prompted us to propose some further changes. I'm delighted to say that the LGPS review has provided some very welcome good financial news and will provide some financial relief to schools as well as providing us with an opportunity to address some inequity that currently exists in the distribution of these costs to schools.

Please do not hesitate to [contact me](#) if you have any questions on the consultation and I look forward to your responses.

The policy and consultation documents for this consultation are available [on Foldr](#) (please see pathway below) and the proposed changes have been tracked for your information.

LSP Communications\Consultations\Core Services Charge for 2026-27

Louise Malik, Chief Financial and operating Officer

Deadline for Primary School applications

The deadline to apply for both Reception and Year 3 places for September 2026 is 11.59pm on **Thursday 15 January 2026**. Please can you remind families of this in emails home this week.

We have an image (right) you can use should you wish - [download here](#).



 **DON'T FORGET**

Thursday 15 January
is the deadline for applying for
Primary School places for 2026

Primary School places will be confirmed
on National Offer Day (16 April 2026)

 **LIGHTHOUSE**
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

Admission Arrangements 2027-28

LSP Arrangements

The consultation for LSP Admission Arrangements for 2027-28 is now running and will close at 12noon on Friday 30 January 2026.

You can [click here](#) to see the draft arrangements and an overview of the changes being proposed.

Any responses should be sent to enquiries@lsp.org.uk by the deadline above.

Consultations for other schools

A reminder that we have a summary of other admission consultations taking place across North Somerset, Bristol and BANES should you wish to review or respond. [Click here](#) to view the latest list.

The following two articles relate to the next school Census Day which is on **Thursday 15 January 2026**.

Bromcom—Census Processes

Those schools who have now migrated to Bromcom, or are in the process of migrating this week, will be doing their first Census return within Bromcom. There are various support routes available:

The link below takes you to the Bromcom Census Guidance but also provides access to Webinar recordings which go through the guidance. Alternatively, you can book onto a live webinar if you prefer.

[Spring 2026 School Census - Bromcom - Documentation Centre](#)

The link above also lists answers to any known queries or issues so should be a useful source of information. For any other specific queries you should contact the support centre.

Schools yet to migrate and therefore undertaking their census return within SIMS are High Down, Portishead, St Peter's, St Mary's Portbury, Wraxall, Bishop Sutton, Stanton Drew, East Harptree, Ubley, Whitchurch, Winford, and Backwell, Chew Valley and Gordano secondary schools.

As always, please do not hesitate to [contact Trust Services](#) with any queries.

Census Day - Primary Food Festival

The Street Food Burger Bars are all geared up in preparation for orders as we head towards Census Day next week.

All primary schools received the menus and marketing materials from Aspens prior to the end of last term. Please ensure that the menus are circulated to parents, popped up around the school and that the event is followed up in newsletters and school communications.

As communicated previously, **all children will be able to access a free school meal**. For KS2 children this net cost will be met by the school along with the loss of general profit (GP) for one day.

The January census provides the last opportunity this academic year to ensure maximum uptake for the meal, giving your school the best possible chance of receiving maximum funding and continuing to encourage future cash sales from the KS2 children. Both of these are essential with regard to the position of current school budgets.

The uptake for October census was slightly lower than previous events, so this January date is crucial as both uptakes are put together to finalise figures for KS1 funding.

We look forward to seeing the pictures!



Pupil Premium rate updates 2026/27

Pupil Premium rates are increasing from April 2026 - see table below.

IMP will be updated on Thursday 8 January in time for December forecasting.

Funding rates for the 2026 to 2027 financial year

This table shows how the pupil premium grant is allocated to schools and local authorities in the 2026 to 2027 financial year, based on per pupil rates.

Funding criteria	Amount of funding for each primary-aged pupil per year	Amount of funding for each secondary-aged pupil per year	Funding is paid to
Pupils who are eligible for free school meals, or have been eligible in the past 6 years	£1,550	£1,100	School
Pupils previously looked after by a local authority or other state care	£2,690	£2,690	School
Children who are looked after by the local authority	£2,690	£2,690	Local authority

Service Pupil Premium is also increasing from £350 to £360 per eligible pupil.

Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) Funding

The Central Finance Team developed a tool a few years ago to help schools track their expenditure against Devolved Formula Capital (DFC). The tool includes the additional school capital funding allocated to schools in 2022-23 to improve energy efficiency, which a small number of schools have not yet fully spent. The spreadsheet has now been updated to reflect final 2024-25 capital balances and is [available in Folder:](#)

School Business Managers - Trust Wide - Information for 25-26 Budgets - Devolved Capital Funding Tracker 2025-26

We would encourage schools to use this tool and work with their Hub Estates Lead to ensure that your DFC is effectively budgeted.

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](#).

DATE	EVENT	AUDIENCE
Monday 12 January 3.30-4.45pm	Primary English Network Online via Teams	Primary Attendance Leads
Wednesday 14 January 3.30-5.00pm	Secondary Maths, MFL & Curriculum networks Online via Teams (Natalie Wilcox to circulate)	Secondary Maths, MFL, T&L Leads
Thursday 15 January 3.30-5.00pm	Secondary English Networks Online via Teams (Natalie Wilcox to circulate)	Secondary English Leads
Monday 19 January 1.00-4.00pm	Trust-wide SEND network Online via Teams	SENDCos (all phases)
Wednesday 21 January 3.30-4.00pm	Secondary Raising Standards Network Online via Teams	Secondary Progress Leads
Wednesday 21 & 28 January 3.45-5.00pm	Primary Geography Curriculum Training for tranche 3 schools <i>Sign up link to follow</i>	Tranche 3 primary staff
Reminders of the dates for late January/February will follow in due course		

Nurture UK Boxall Profile Information Session

Nurture UK is hosting a free information session about the Boxall Profile online on Tuesday 27 January, 3.45- 4.45pm.

If you or your school has had a change in leadership since the start of our Trust using the Boxall Profile, then this webinar might be a good opportunity for new personnel to gain a swift understanding of why we have access to using this toolkit in our schools.

Use this link to book yourself or your colleagues on to this webinar:

[Unlocking Potential: The Boxall Profile® Online in Action - nurtureuk](#)

SEND Webinar: Behaviour is a form of communication

All Lighthouse staff are invited to join this upcoming SEND webinar, hosted by Louise O'Rourke (Nurture and Behaviour Lead, Lighthouse Trust).

[Click here to book your place](#)

SEND WEBINAR

Behaviour as a form of communication

WEDNESDAY 28 JANUARY 3.45-4.45PM

Hosted by: Louise O'Rourke - Lead Teacher for Behaviour and Nurture

All Lighthouse staff are invited to join this upcoming SEND webinar.

This session will focus on:

- An introduction to understanding behaviour.
- Signs and Symptoms - What might we notice in the classroom and around school.
- Strategies for support - Practical suggestions and approaches to use in everyday practice

This session will be recorded and will be made available for a limited time after the event. Please have smart devices available to take part in interactive sections.

BOOK YOUR PLACE

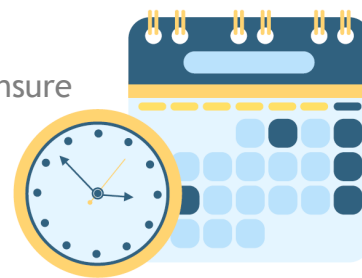
Upcoming CPD for Governors

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

DATE / TIME	EVENT	LINK
<p>Wednesday 14 January 7.00-8.00pm</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Thursday 15 January 10.30-11.30am</p>	<p>Chairs' Forum</p> <p>An opportunity to discuss the latest governance themes and developments and share best practice.</p>	<p>MS Teams invitations will be circulated in due course.</p>
<p>Monday 19 January from 5.30pm</p>	<p>IDSR Webinar</p> <p>Online webinar for LSP Primary School Leadership Teams and Local Governing Bodies.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Click here to sign up for this webinar</p>
<p>Thursday 29 January 6.00-7.00pm</p>	<p>Ofsted Preparations</p> <p>Online webinar for all LSP LGBs looking at the new Ofsted framework and how to ensure your school, and LGB, can prepare for inspection</p>	<p>Click here to sign up for this webinar</p>
<p>Wednesday 4 February 5.00-6.30pm</p>	<p>Reorganised—SEN for Governors</p> <p>Online webinar for all LSP governors looking at SEN provision in LSP schools and how this can be supported and challenged by the LGB.</p> <p><i>Originally scheduled for 4 December 2025</i></p>	<p>Click here to sign up for this webinar</p>

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
5-15 January 2026	Spring 1 Assessment Window including PSC for Year 1, NFER for Years 2 - 5, 2023 R&M KS2 SATS for Yr6. Data to be uploaded to Insight by 31 January 2026.	Primary Heads
Friday 16 January 2026	LSP Primary Moderation INSET Day	Primary Heads
Thursday 22 January 2026 8.30am-12.30pm	LSP Headteachers' Meeting @ Nailsea Baptist Church	Headteachers
Friday 23 January at 5.00pm.	Deadline for responding to the consultation on the Core Services Charge for 2026-27	Heads and Chairs
Tuesday 3 February 2026	Deadline for schools to have reviewed their final revenue outturn (2024-25) against their April forecast	Heads & SBMs

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