



Welcome!

ANNOUNCEMENTS, INFO & UPDATES	AUDIENCE	TASK
Introduction	All	Info
Listening Period: Future of Wraxall CofE Primary School	All	Info
Guidance and reminders for in-year admissions	NSC Heads & SBMs/OMs	Info
Reminder: INSET Days 2026-27	Heads	Reminder
Bad Weather Processes	Heads, SBMs/OMs	Info
Congratulations to Whitchurch Primary School	All	Info
Latest issue of The Beacon - LSP Newsletter	All	Info
FINANCE UPDATES	AUDIENCE	TASK
Budget Planning Timetable 2026/27	Heads, Governors, SBMs and FBPs	Info
CPD UPDATES & OPPORTUNITIES	AUDIENCE	TASK
Upcoming Lighthouse Learning Sessions and CPD Networks	All	Info
Upcoming CPD for Governors	Clerks, Chairs, Governors	Info
KEY LINKS, DATES & DEADLINES		

Introduction

You will see overleaf that we have begun a 'listening period' on the proposed closure of Wraxall CofE Primary School. Visiting the school on Monday afternoon to tell the staff was one of the most difficult experiences that I have had as an educational leader. It is terribly sad that a school that has existed in one form or other since the very early nineteenth century could be approaching the end of the road. As news has broken with staff and parents it has felt like one of those experiences that is a shock but not a surprise. We have all seen how the decline in the birthrate is affecting the educational landscape and we are having to regroup and make changes so that we continue to offer a high quality education to our pupils and a rewarding and enjoyable career to our colleagues.

I would like to express my thanks to my colleagues Catrin Battista (Acting Executive Head) and Vicki Sheppard (Head of School) who have had to implement decisions that they could not be part of and support colleagues and families in a very testing time. Their professionalism is humbling. I am also grateful to the governors at St Peter's who have so typically and generously released Catrin for this work. Governors at St Mary's and Wraxall have also offered guidance and support on the decision making process and although they have not been a party to the actual decision I have appreciated their challenge and counsel. I have also been collaborating closely with our partners at North Somerset Council and the Bath and Wells Diocese who have given tremendous support as we have worked through a complex process with the Department for Education.

The listening period is the testing of a decision made in principle to close the school. The Minister of Schools Standards is the ultimate decision-maker and will review the outcomes from the consultation. If the school does close, the Diocese is eager that we collaborate with North Somerset to keep the site in use for educational provision of some sort. That is a positive thought.

As ever,

Gary Lewis, Chief Executive

Listening Period: Future of Wraxall CofE Primary School

Lighthouse Schools Partnership, working with the Department for Education, has opened a formal listening period regarding the closure of Wraxall CofE Primary School from September 2026.

Over recent years, the school has experienced a significant and sustained decline in pupil numbers and projections suggest ongoing declining birth rates in the local area. Should the closure of Wraxall School be agreed to ensure continuity for pupils who will enter Year 6 in September 2026 (current Year 5 pupils) education provision will continue, at Wraxall School, for these children until July 2027 so they can complete their primary education before moving to secondary school.

More information [can be found here](#).

Listening Period

This is running until 12 noon on Monday 2 March.

As part of the listening period, we will be holding a public meeting at the **Cross Tree Centre, Wraxall Church, BS48 1LB on Thursday 12 February at 5.30pm**, where representatives from Lighthouse Schools Partnership, the Department for Education, Bath and Wells Diocese and North Somerset Council will be available to provide further information and listen to views of parents, staff and the wider community. Please [click here](#) to register if you wish to attend this meeting.

If you would like to comment during this listening period, please send your response to enquiries@lsp.org.uk using 'Future of Wraxall School' as the subject of your email by 12 noon on Monday 2 March.

Next steps

Following the closing date the Department for Education will review comment and feedback received before making a final decision, which is expect at the end of March 2026. Appropriate detailed information and support will be given to staff and the school's families once the decision is known.

We are committed to ensuring that the process is handled in a fair and open manner and know that this announcement could be upsetting and unsettling. Please ensure you support our colleagues, and pupils, during the listening period with patience and compassion. All LSP staff have access to our [wellbeing and support service](#) via Schools Advisory Service (SAS), and unions have also been made aware of this listening period.

Guidance and reminders for in-year admissions

In light of the news regarding Wraxall CofE School we expect that schools in the local area (many are LSP schools) could see an increase in enquiries from parents about school places for their child either to move now, or from September 2026.

We have created [this guidance document](#) to remind you of a few key points regarding admissions legislation that will apply to any in-year application requests you may get. Please share this with other colleagues who may find this information useful.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the [Central Admin Team](#).

Reminder: INSET Days 2026-27

A reminder that schools have the option of setting one (primary) or two (secondary) INSET dates for 2026-27 themselves. Please [use this form](#) to submit your 'school choice date(s)' (both primary and secondary) to the Central Team by **Friday 30 January**.

Thank you to all those schools who have already done so. We hope to confirm publication of INSET days to your communities next week.

Bad Weather Processes

A few week's ago, when it was thought there could be some snow in the area, some schools were asking for clarification on the procedures they need to follow should they need to close their school.

[This flowchart](#) demonstrates the headline actions that need to take place if we experience extreme weather (snow, ice or flooding).

Schools are likely to have your own, more detailed, processes detailing specific contacts and staff involved as part of your Business Continuity Plan and this flowchart is not intended to replace your school specific plans.



Congratulations to Whitchurch Primary School

We'd like to say a big congratulations to Carl Hornsby and his team at Whitchurch Primary School for being recognised by the Secretary of State for Education [Bridget Phillipson](#), for their success in delivering excellent outcomes for disadvantaged children. The letter, delivered to Whitchurch alongside other schools across the country, recognises the school's achievement and encourages them to share the effective practice that has contributed to their success. Delivering great outcomes for disadvantaged children is one of our key priorities and values as a Trust, so well done to Carl and his team!

Latest issue of The Beacon - LSP Newsletter



Staff should receive the latest edition of the Beacon **later this week** (this will be emailed to them directly).

Clerks please can you forward this onto your LGB so they can also have a copy.

We have also created a parents/carers' version of The Beacon looking back over Terms 1 and 2 and celebrating news and successes from across the Trust. Headteachers will be emailed the direct link to this Parents' Edition of The Beacon **next week** to share with your communities.

Thank you to all those who have submitted articles for The Beacon - it's great to be able to share news from across our schools.

Leah Evans, Communications Officer

Budget Planning Timetable 2026/27

Following on from the key dates already shared as part of the 2025-26 Annual Planner, we have been giving some thought to the 2026-27 budget planning timetable. The plan is to continue to build on the benefits of using IMP, and the work schools have already done to produce balanced budgets for 2026-27, to again set the initial deadline for producing a draft 3-year budget early in Term 5.

This will enable both schools and the Central Team to have early oversight of any organisational change that may be required to set in-year balanced budgets for 2027-28. This will also give time for review of Deployment Models (for primaries) and the use ICFP (for secondaries) before final draft budget plans need to be scrutinised by your LGBs (deadline Friday 3 July) and approved by the Board of Trustees (Wednesday 15 July).

Although the full timetable will be published as part of our budget assumptions guidance, we would like to share the key dates and expectations to help you plan ahead:

Date	Action
Wednesday 4 February 2026	Budget Assumptions agreed by Board of Trustees
16 - 20 February 2026	Budget assumptions will be updated in IMP
Monday 23 February 2026	Budget Assumptions and any spreadsheet tools will be shared with schools
By 31 March 2026	IMP updated with GAG statements & Post 16 Funding Allocations as they become available
By 31 March 2026	Deployment Model updated with information from GAG Statements and shared with Primary Schools
23 February–21 April 2026	Schools to have reviewed draft budget in Master Scenario for 2026-27 considering budget assumptions and funding. Primary schools should produce a revised Deployment Model using the updated tool for 2026-27. This draft 3-year budget will allow schools to review the projected in-year position for 2027-28, but schools will not be expected to be projecting an in-year balanced budget for 2027-28 by this deadline. The updated Deployment Model will ascertain whether organisational change is required to set an in-year balanced budget for 2027-28 and what Central Team support will be required for next phase of budget planning.

Continued...

Budget Planning Timetable 2026/27

Continued...

Date	Action
By Thursday 4 June 2026	<p>Schools to have final budgets ready for Central Team quality assurance including review of updated Deployment Models. Schools will be expected, as far as possible, to set 3-year budgets with an in-year balanced position for both 2026-27 and 2027-28 and to have considered, costed and incorporated the changes to staffing and non-staffing budgets necessary.</p> <p>Schools will not be expected to have written Business Proposals for any organisational change required by this date, but to have built in the action required as part of their 3-year budget plans and to update the Master Scenario by this date. This will ensure that the Approved Budget is an accurate reflection of the Trust’s budgetary position.</p> <p>Schools should make no further changes to Master Scenario (unless agreed with Central Finance Team) until Tuesday 7 July.</p>
By Friday 3 July 2026	<p>LGBs should scrutinise and propose a balanced budget to Trustees for ratification by this date. Changes requiring organisational change will need to be agreed as part of the draft budget.</p> <p>NB: All reporting to LGBs and Trustees will from Master Scenario only and it will be the Master Scenario that will be frozen as the final agreed budget</p>



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 2 February 3.30-4.45pm	Primary Maths Network	Primary Maths Leads

SEND Webinar: What does a child need to feel safe and thrive in the classroom environment

All LSP staff are invited to join this upcoming SEND webinar, hosted by Louise O'Rourke, Lead for Nurture and Behaviour. [Click here to book your place](#)

SEND WEBINAR

What does a child need to feel safe and thrive in the classroom environment?

WEDNESDAY 28 JANUARY 3.45-4.45PM

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

This session will focus on:

- **Introduction**
- **The 'Why'** – Why it is important to create a classroom environment where children feel safe, with a focus on the science and the nervous system.
- **The 'How'** – How practitioners can foster safety, and how they can adapt and respond to ensure this remains in place.
- **Reflection** – Opportunities for staff to reflect on their own practice and identify key takeaways

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
Thursday 29 January 6.00-7.00pm	<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>
Wednesday 4 February 5.00-6.30pm	<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>

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



Bath and Wells Diocese Governance Training and Events

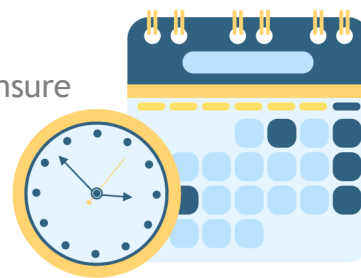
Please see the Governance Training and Forums information below, which should be shared with your schools LGB:

DATE	EVENT	BOOKING LINK
Tuesday 10 February	Foundation Governors Spring Forum	Further info and booking
Wednesday 25 February	Clerks Spring Forum	Further info and booking
Tuesday 3 March	Trustees Spring Forum	Further info and booking
Wednesday 11 March <u>or</u> Thursday 12 March	School Leaders and Parish Partner Conference 2026	Further info and booking
Thursday 26 March	SIAMS for Schools	Further info and booking
Tuesday 28 April	New Chairs of Governors Training	Further info and booking
Tuesday 5 May	Church School Governance* for Renewing Foundation Governors	Further info and booking
Tuesday 12 May	Church School Governance* for new Members and Trustees	Further info and booking
Tuesday 19 May	Church School Governance* for new Foundation Governors	Further info and booking

*Church School Governance: Please note, this course is required if you are a new Foundation Governor/ Trustee or Member or if you are renewing your term as a Foundation Governor.

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
Tuesday 3 February 2026	Deadline for schools to have reviewed their final revenue outturn (2024-25) against their April forecast	Heads & SBMs



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