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Introduction

Dear Colleagues,

It always feels as if time is speeding up once we are into July. We have had four SIAMS inspections in recent weeks and Ofsted are currently at Fishponds (good luck, Mo!). We also have another UKHSA warning to navigate plus all the ordinary business of school with end of year events.

To turn to the heat alerts from UKHSA, we are in a better position for this heatwave; the temperatures are not forecast to be extreme, just high. I know that you will all be taking the sensible precautions of moving sports days to mornings etc. If you need any help or advice, reach out. At this point I wouldn't be expecting any closures or reduction of service.

We usually welcome new staff at the beginning of the year but we have a couple of exceptions to that rule at Blagdon. Their new Headteacher Hannah Neilan joined us at the beginning of the month and their new Office Manager Emma Owen has also started; a warm welcome to both. It has been a difficult year for Blagdon and I'm grateful to the team from across the Trust who rallied around, especially to Janine Ashman who has lived, worked and breathed Blagdon offering extra support to Victoria Reyes who has been supporting the school this year. That has been a good temporary solution but the community there will be glad and relieved to have the stability of their own Head once again.

All of us have been digesting the announcement of the Teachers Pay Award. As you will see later in the bulletin we have estimated the impact of this which suggests some improvement in our financial position. There are still quite a number of unknowns; confirmation of the pay awards (teachers and support staff), how grants will be calculated etc. We will of course keep you all up to date!

Lastly, despite the hectic nature of these weeks, the end of the school year is often a time when we feel most proud of our work in schools. As a Head, I used to love the experiences of greeting the Year 6s on 'moving up day', seeing the school art exhibition, enjoying the school spirit of sports day and being moved to tears at the music concert. Most jobs just don't have that variety. I hope you find a moment to smell the roses.

With best wishes as ever,

Gary Lewis, Chief Executive



KS2 results delay: Informing school communities

You will be aware that [the release of KS2 SATS results have been delayed](#) by over a week due to technical issues at Pearson. They will now be released to schools on 16 July 2026. The deadline for submitting reviews has been extended to Monday 7 September at 11.59pm.

If you have not already done so, please update parents/carers and your governors on this delay and what impact that may have on you releasing information to them (delays to reports etc).

Bridgit Phillipson MP, Secretary of State for Education, has provided the following wording for schools to use to update their communities:

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to let you know about a delay to this year's Key Stage 2 (KS2) test results, which affects all schools nationally.

Schools were due to receive results on 7 July 2026. However, Pearson Education Limited, the provider responsible for administering, marking, and returning Key Stage 2 results to schools has informed the Department for Education of a delay affecting the national system used to make results available to schools. Results will now be available on **16 July 2026**.

[You may wish to add your own acknowledgement here – for example: "We know this is frustrating, and we share that feeling. But it won't get in the way of celebrating everything your child has achieved at the end of their primary school journey."]

Importantly, the delay is not related to the quality of the tests or the accuracy of pupils' results. Test papers have been marked in line with usual processes.

This will not impact your child's transition to secondary school and no action is required from parents or pupils. We will share results with you as quickly as possible after we receive them on 16 July.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

If you have any questions, please contact the school office.

Yours sincerely,

[Headteacher's name]

[School name]



Pupil Leavers: Informing your local authority

A reminder that primary schools need to update their local authority every time a pupil leaves/is taken off role, particularly when your local authority manages your in-year admissions for you (all North Somerset Primary Schools for example). This is so the vacant place can be recorded and offered as quickly as possible.

North Somerset Council should be contacted via: admissions@n-somerset.gov.uk

If you have any questions relating to this please email [Eleanor Capel-Davies, Head of Administration](#).

Changes to class structures: informing the Central Team

If your school is changing class structures/moving to mixed aged classes, in any year group, could you please email enquiries@lsp.org.uk with the details. For example: from September 2026 mixed aged class for Yr1&2. Two classes with 28 children in each.

This information allows us to help schools with budget planning, future planning and setting of Planned Admission Numbers (PANs) as well as discussions with local authorities around place planning in the area.

We do appreciate that moving to mixed ages classes/reducing classes is an important decision to take with schools considering budgets and educational benefits/challenges for such changes. We ask that you keep the Central Team updated when this decision is made so the relevant department (Education Team etc) can offer support.

Coming Soon...Ready for September Bulletin Special Edition

We are making the final tweaks to our special edition of the bulletin to ensure you have all of the information you need to start the new academic year smoothly.

We have created two editions: one for School Leaders and one for Clerks and Chairs of Governors.

Please keep your eyes peeled as we sent this out over the next week.



Farewell Foldr

You will be aware that we use a system called Foldr for sharing documents between the Central Team and leaders within schools. We appreciate that it is not the easiest system to use and so we will be undertaking some work over the summer to close down Foldr and move all of the information to SharePoint instead.

More information, including the all-important access link you will need, will be shared in due course.

Any queries please email [Eleanor Capel-Davies, Head of Administration](#).

Access to LSP Primary Curriculum SharePoint

Please can you email the name and email address for any new starters who need to be given access to the [LSP Primary Curriculum SharePoint](#) to lighthouselearning@lsp.org.uk

In September, once permission has been given, individuals will be emailed directly confirming they have access.

Research Community Poster event

We have about 30 of our staff engaged in Educational Research Projects with the University of Bristol and the Chartered College of Teaching. The LSP Research Community has really been thriving this year and we have been operating in three subgroups.

Our teacher researchers will be participating in a poster event on Monday 20 July from 4.30pm at [The Fry Building | School of Mathematics | University of Bristol](#). A poster event is where researchers summarise their projects on one page of text/graphics/data. They can then informally tell people about their work while visitors browse the posters. The university will be providing refreshments.

If you are free to, it would be great if you could pop in, especially if you have researchers in your school. Please also feel free to share the invitation with colleagues or governors.

Gary Lewis, Chief Executive



Primary Assessment calendar 2026-27

With huge apologies I am recirculating [the assessment calendar for 26-27](#). There have been two changes. In Year 2 an additional phonics check has been added in Term 2 for those children who haven't passed the check and in Year 1 we have changed the Spring 1 mock phonics paper to the 2025 paper.

Please circulate this to your KS1 teachers with my apologies for the changes.

Thank you.

Chris Chamberlain, Senior Primary Advisor





Budget Forecast as at 30/04/26

Thank you to School Business Managers, and any other staff involved, for your April budget forecast report for the 2025-26 financial year. The Central Team have now checked your submissions for reasonableness and have reported the collated information to the Board of Trustees Finance Committee. The feedback from our quality assurance checks can be [found on Foldr](#).

School Business Managers- Trust Wide - Information for 2025-26 Budgets - Monitoring Feedback - Submission based on 30.04.26

Please enter your LA and DfE number to find the information for your school. Please ensure that this feedback is reported to your next LGB meeting. Please be aware that we do not have sufficient information to determine whether your projections are completely accurate or not. Checks have been carried out for reasonableness and information has been provided to indicate any areas that may need further investigation to ensure that your projections are accurate. If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the [Central Finance Team](#).





Updated budgets for the 3-year period starting in 2026-27

Thank you for all of the work that you have done to set your budgets for the next three year period. A particular thank you to primary schools, that had to produce a new budget taking into consideration, as best as possible, the withdrawal of the PE & Sports Premium. Whilst we are still projecting in year deficits, they are considerably lower than previous estimates and this is down to the challenge that you have applied to your spend and the difficult decisions that you have made - thank you.

The Finance Support Team have now undertaken the quality assurance checks on your submitted budgets and you will shortly receive the outcome of this review for your school(s). Approved Budget 2026/27.V3 (APPBUD202627-V3) in IMP is now frozen and this incorporates any changes following the quality assurance process if they were made before governor sign-off. The V3 budget for both revenue and capital should be the same as the budget reports presented to your governing body. Please contact the School Finance Team if this is not the case.

Last week we received a number of announcements that will have a material impact on the budgets that have been produced. We have been informed of the recommendations from the STRB in relation to teachers pay. This is recommending teacher pay awards of 3.5% in September 2026 and 3.0% in September 2027 and 2028. The recommendations for September 2026 and 2027 have been agreed by the Government. The Government has also announced grant funding to support the pay awards for both teachers and support staff in 2026-27 and 2027-28. Details of the grant funding have not yet been released but are expected within the next couple of weeks. The table 1 below provides details of what the new grant funding is designed to cover for 2026-27 and our best guess of what it will provide in 2027-28:

Table 1: Estimated funding of pay awards	2026-27		2027-28 estimated	
	Teachers	Support	Teachers	Support
Estimate Pay Award	3.5%	3.3%	3.0%	3.0%
Amount deemed affordable in school budgets	-0.8%	-0.8%	-1.0%	-1.0%
Amount for schools to find through efficiency savings	-1.0%	-1.0%	-1.0%	-1.0%
Amount to be grant funded	1.7%	1.5%	1.0%	1.0%

Continued...



Updated budgets for the 3-year period starting in 2026-27

Continued...

It should be noted that neither the teachers or the support staff pay awards for 2026 have been agreed and, therefore, these figures may change again.

Table 2 below shows the difference between our current budget assumptions (included in V3 of the budget mentioned above) and our updated proposals taking into consideration the information in table 1:

Table 2: change in assumptions	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Original assumptions			
Funding for pay awards	0%	0%	0%
Teachers pay award	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%
Support staff pay award	3.0% (later updated to 3.3%)	2.5%	2.5%
Employers contribution to teachers pension scheme	28.68%	28.68%	28.68%
Updated assumptions			
Funding for pay awards	Teachers 1.7%	Teachers 1.7% for 2026-27 award and 1% for 2027-28 award	Continuation of grants for previous years but no increase
	Support 1.5%	Support 1.5% for 2026-27 award and 1% for 2027-28 award	
Teachers pay award	3.5%	3.0%	3.0%
Support staff pay award	3.3%	3.0%	3.0%
Employers' contribution to teachers pension scheme	28.68%	28.68%	28.68%

Continued...



Updated budgets for the 3-year period starting in 2026-27

Continued...

We are taking this opportunity to increase our estimate for the support staff pay award from 2.5% to 3.0% for both April 2027 and 2028.

As you will see in table 2 above, employers' contributions to the teachers pension scheme have been maintained at the current rate in the updated assumptions. A reduction of 11% to 17.68% is due to be implemented from 1st April 2027. However, the DfE have confirmed that funding will be adjusted to remove any financial benefit from this change. As we do not yet have any details on how this will be done, we have maintained the status quo for the time being.

The above changes have been input into a new budget scenario on IMP called APPBUD2026/27.V3PAY. The difference between V3 and V3PAY on IMP will enable you to see the financial impact on your school(s) of the changes detailed above. The overall impact of the change is provided in table 3 below:

Table 3: Impact of change in year		2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
V3	In year (surplus)/deficit	£758,224	£1,182,583	£4,029,855
V3PAY	In year (surplus)/deficit	£315,025	£550,616	£3,773,627
Impact of change in year	(positive)/negative	£(443,199)	£(631,967)	£(256,228)

We have not yet updated the master scenario on IMP. As we are expected details of the grant to be provided in the next couple of weeks, we will make all of these changes to the master scenario once we have this information.

The Support Fund assessment panel are due to meet on to consider funding allocations for 2026-27 and 2027-28 on 14th September and 19th October Support fund. This will be based on the latest information available at these points in time.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions



LSP First Aid Policy and LSP First Aid Needs Assessment

As noted in the Bulletin last week, the new LSP First Aid Policy template is now available for schools. The policy refers to a first aid risk assessment that should be completed in order to determine e.g. the number of first aiders required, and the contents of first aid kits. To assist you with this, an LSP First Aid Needs Assessment template is now available and can be found in the same place as the LSP First Aid Policy template [on Foldr](#):

Foldr / LSP Policies / Operational Policies / LSP First Aid Needs Assessment





Governor Recruitment

Now is a good time to think about recruiting new governors ready for September. As we do so, it is worth asking ourselves an important question: what do we actually mean by "skills", and are we making sure we have the right people around the table?

Over the years, there has rightly been a stronger focus on recruiting people with the skills needed to provide effective governance. Strong financial oversight, legal expertise, educational knowledge and leadership experience all have an important place. But the risk is that we define "skills" too narrowly and end up overlooking people who bring something equally valuable.

Effective governance is about more than what is written on a CV. Community insight, lived experience, the ability to build relationships, bring people together and understand how decisions impact children, families and staff are all skills too. The strongest governance comes from combining professional expertise with local knowledge and diverse perspectives, ensuring that our decision-making remains informed, balanced and connected to the communities we serve.

As you consider governor recruitment for September, **please think about the broader range of skills and experiences** that can strengthen your governing board. We should also consider using routes that reach people who may never apply through conventional channels, working through community organisations, faith groups, parent networks and local employers to identify talented individuals who have much to contribute but may not see themselves as "governor material".

Here is the [link to the recruitment video](#) which you are welcome to share on social media / emails to parents etc.

Sarah Cran, Lead on Governance



Lighthouse Learning CPD Booklet for 2026-27

We are pleased to share with you the [Lighthouse Learning CPD booklet for 2026-27](#).

Please take a look and share with colleagues - we have a [dedicated page on the LSP website](#).

Thank you for confirming who will be attending each network, they will be sent a welcome email before the end of term and calendar invites will follow in the new school year.

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

The Governance CPD booklet will follow shortly.

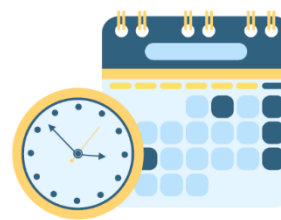
DATE	EVENT	AUDIENCE
2026-27		
Friday 4 September	INSET Day for Learning Partners Backwell School	Learning Partners



KEY LINKS, DATES & DEADLINES



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



DATE	INFORMATION	FAO
Thursday 9 July (all day)	Operations Away Day @ Leigh Court	SBMs/OMs
Friday 10 July	Last day for submitting orders for goods and services for the current financial year	All
Tuesday 21 July	Final weekly news bulletin circulated for 2025-26	All
Wednesday 22 July	Final Day of Term 6	All

KEY LINKS, DATES & DEADLINES



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
(Via Sharepoint)



Annual Planner 2026/27

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



Bulletin Index

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Previous Bulletins

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The Beacon

Click to read the latest edition of
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be shared in our newsletters and on our social media.

Email your stories to: newsletter@lsp.org.uk



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