

The Lumen Link

A newsletter from The Lumen Partnership – connecting and reflecting on leadership together

Welcome to the fourth edition of The Lumen Link!

As we come to the end of another year, I'd like to say a thank you to everyone for your support, enthusiasm and willingness to share ideas. It's been a real pleasure working with you all.

A special thank you to **Colin** for his valuable finance input, to **Michael** for sharing such insightful thoughts on how SEND is organised in his school, and to **Stephen** for his contribution on pupil progress meetings and ensuring children are effectively targeted to close gaps and improve outcomes.

Thank you, too, to everyone who has joined and engaged with the website. If you haven't had a chance to look recently, please do take another look. I'd really welcome any suggestions or ideas you have for developing it further, as I'm keen to make it an even more useful resource for us all.

I hope you all have a well-deserved, restful summer break. Thank you once again for making this such a positive and rewarding year. I look forward to seeing you all at our next meeting on **29th September**.

Warm wishes

Edel

Spotlight on a school

Following a successful funding bid to the Department for Education, Someries Infant School is delighted to announce that, from September 2026, it will welcome a new cohort of two-year-old children who will learn in a purpose-built facility.

This exciting development will enable us to expand our nurturing, high-quality early years provision to more local families, ensuring that our youngest learners benefit from the very best start to their educational journey.



In the know

SEND continues to be a significant national focus, with schools preparing for the direction of travel set out in the government's Every Child Achieving and Thriving white paper. The emphasis is on earlier identification, strengthening inclusive practice in mainstream schools, and ensuring that children receive the right support at the right time. Alongside this, there is a growing expectation that schools will provide consistent, high-quality provision through clear graduated support, with a stronger focus on outcomes for children and young people rather than processes alone. ([GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk))

As these reforms develop, collaboration between schools, families and specialist services will become increasingly important. Over the coming year, we'll continue to share key updates, practical guidance and examples of effective practice to help navigate the changing landscape and support the best possible outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

This term's wellbeing tip



Say "no" once this week – and mean it. In a role that constantly demands more, protecting your time is essential.

A well placed "no" isn't negative – it creates the space and energy needed to focus on what truly makes a difference.

Worth a read

The Sound of Laughter by Peter Kay

An oldie but a goldie!

My recommended read is 'The Sound of Laughter' by Peter Kay.



Whilst it may be coming up for the 20th anniversary of its release, it is a definite go to read when all you want is a good chuckle and some light relief.

Written as only Kay can, it recounts his youth, attempts at getting behind the wheel of a car, and the variety of jobs he held (in the loosest sense of the term) before finding fame as a comedian. For those of us who remember the 1980s and 90s, fondly or not, it's time to relive the nostalgia through the eyes of a very cheeky and funny northern lad. It truly is a laugh out loud piece of escapism and does feel like the man himself is stood next to you recalling these events.

Colin Pickard - Putteridge Primary

Leadership reflections

Strong leadership is often quiet and steady, rather than loud and visible. It sits in the daily decisions we make – choosing clarity over complexity, consistency over quick wins, and people over processes.

In the busyness of school life, it can be easy to focus on what is urgent, but the real impact lies in what is important: the culture we build, the expectations we hold and the example we set.

Next meeting: Tuesday 29th September 2026, 11am-1pm

Looking Ahead to Our September Meeting

We're already looking forward to our September meeting, which promises to be another informative session. Kate will be sharing reflections from her school's recent Ofsted inspection, offering practical insights, handy hints and tips to help us all prepare as we navigate the new Ofsted inspection framework and report card approach.

Following Colin's excellent finance presentation at our previous meeting, he will be returning with a further update on key financial developments affecting schools. Topics are expected to include the new framework for supply staff, potential changes to agency transfer fees, banking comparisons to help schools maximise the value of their reserves, and the new Energy for Schools purchasing arrangements, which aim to secure better value for gas and electricity. Colin will also provide any additional finance and funding updates that emerge over the summer.

This promises to be another valuable opportunity to share learning and keep up to date with the latest developments.

As we head towards the end of term, I just wanted to say a huge thank you for everything you have given this year. It's been a busy one and the commitment and determination across our schools never goes unnoticed. I hope the summer brings you a real chance to switch off, recharge and spend time doing the thing you enjoy most. You've earned it! *Edel*