

# WEEKLY BULLETIN

## 20 January 2025



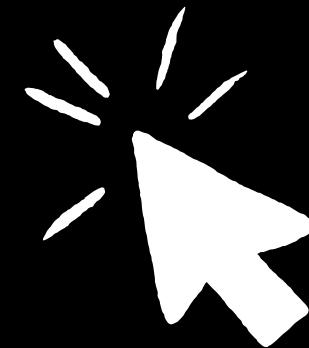
**BDSIP** | HELPING  
STUDENTS  
SHINE

# BDSIP

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PARTNER IN  
EDUCATION

BDSIP IS YOUR EDUCATION PARTNER - OWNED BY SCHOOLS, FOR SCHOOLS





# **BDSIP UPDATES**

**BDSIP SPOTLIGHT: SUPPORTING NEURODIVERGENT  
LEARNERS**

**SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE WRITERS**

**CONFIRMING HEADS CONFERENCE DATE**

**KS2 EXTERNAL MODERATION 2026**

**CPD**

**B&D RE AUTUMN TERM NEWSLETTER**

**B&D EDUCATIONAL VISITS GUIDANCE**

# BDSIP SPOTLIGHT



## It Takes All Kinds of Minds: Fostering Neurodivergent Thriving at School

It Takes All Kinds of Minds is a multi-contributor handbook. It provides an inspiring and accessible introduction to neurodiversity in educational settings, informed by research and real-world experience.

The book is available to pre-order from the 1st of December from [www.routledge.com](http://www.routledge.com)

Use Code - GDM30 - 30% off



@gdmorewood @studioiii  
[www.studio3.org](http://www.studio3.org)



## Supporting Neurodivergent Learners

A new book, **It Takes All Kinds of Minds: Fostering Neurodivergent Thriving at School (2026)**, edited by Rachael Davis, Claire O'Neill and Sue Fletcher-Watson, has been published, and includes a chapter by Gareth titled **Creating Inclusive Learning Spaces for Neurodivergent Young People: A Personal Journey, 30 Years in the Making**.

The book brings together contributions from leading voices and offers valuable insight for SENCos, aspiring leaders, and all staff interested in inclusive practice.

### £ Discounts available:

- 30% off using code GDM30 at checkout

If you would like to explore bulk purchase options or be put in touch with the publisher, please get in touch.

# Support for Vulnerable Writers

 If you are concerned about some of your vulnerable writers, we have a two-part course that you may find useful to support your teachers and teaching assistants.

The sessions will explore ways to engage some of our more vulnerable writers, who are often difficult to motivate, and reluctant to put pen to paper. Practical strategies will be provided, alongside resources to try out in between sessions.



Please see here for the attached [flyer](#) for further details and the [booking link](#).

# KS2 External Moderation 2026:

## Head Teacher Briefing

### CPD to Support KS2 Teacher Assessment in 2026

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#### Training To Assess Writing in Year 6

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2026, 1pm-3pm, BDSIP Eastbrook School

<https://bdsip.co.uk/our-services/cpd/?cadpath=bdsip%2Ftraining-to-assess-writing-in-year-6>

This course will include guidance on assessment and moderation for Y6 teachers – please ensure you register at least one member of your Year 6 teaching team.



#### Strengthening Understanding of 'Greater Depth' at the End of KS2

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026, 1.30pm-4pm, BDSIP Eastbrook School

<https://bdsip.co.uk/our-services/cpd/?cadpath=bdsip%2Fstrengthening-understanding-of-greater-depth-at-the-end-of-ks2>

If you want to develop knowledge and understanding of the greater depth standard and confidence in making accurate teacher assessment judgements at the end of KS2, this course is for you!



#### Strengthening Understanding of 'Working Towards' at the End of KS2

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2026, 1.30pm-4pm, BDSIP Eastbrook School

<https://bdsip.co.uk/our-services/cpd/?cadpath=bdsip%2Fstrengthening-understanding-of-working-towards-at-the-end-of-ks2>

If you want to develop your knowledge and understanding of working towards the expected standard and how it differs from the pre-key stage standards, for greater confidence in making accurate teacher assessment judgements at the end of KS2, this course is for you!



**Sarah Carpenter**  
Senior Education Adviser  
[sarah.carpenter@bdsip.co.uk](mailto:sarah.carpenter@bdsip.co.uk)



**Barbara Turner**  
Moderation Manager  
[Barbara.turner@bdsip.co.uk](mailto:Barbara.turner@bdsip.co.uk)

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# UPCOMING CPD

Click on the course titles to learn more and register

CPD

Mon

Tues

Fri

Weds

Thurs

w/c 26 January			Arbor – Custom Report Writer		
w/c 2 February		Secondary Religious Education Network Meeting ----- Training to Assess Writing in Year 6		Science Leadership Meeting: Driving Excellence in KS4 and Beyond	Inspire and Develop the Vulnerable Writer
w/c 10 February	Primary English Subject Leader Briefing		Strategic SEND Support for B&D Secondary Schools - Preparing for September 2026		
w/c 23 February		Primary Religious Education Network Meeting	Governor Accredited Programme (GAP) Module 5	Mastering Physics Required Practicals: AQA Combined Science Paper 2 Made Simple ----- EYFS Coordinator Meeting	
w/c 2 March				Primary Computing Professional Learning Network	
w/c 9 March			Arbor Assessment - Analysis Tools	Governor Accredited Programme (GAP) Module 6: Preparing for Ofsted – ‘How to demonstrate impact of governance to inspectors’ ----- Arbor Assessment - Analysis Tools	
w/c 16 March		Nursery Meeting		Strengthening Understanding of 'Greater Depth' at the End of KS2 ----- Primary Maths Professional Learning Network	

This calendar shows the upcoming CPD for the term ahead, further dates  
can be found via our website

# B&D RE Autumn Term Newsletter

## B&D Dates for Your Diaries

### **Junior RE Conference**

A unique leadership and dialogue experience for Y4/5 pupils and teachers.

Dates: 20th Mar 2026 & 7th May 2026

Book: [nnadeem@bdcs.org.uk](mailto:nnadeem@bdcs.org.uk)

Please find in our BDSIP resources:

[\*\*Summary Advice for Schools on Ramadan 2025\*\*](#)

[\*\*A Briefing Paper on Ramadan by B&D SACRE for Schools 2025\*\*](#)

[\*\*RE Agreed Syllabus for Barking and Dagenham 2025\*\*](#)

Please click [here](#) for the Autumn Newsletter.

# B&D Educational Visits Guidance

**All maintained and voluntary controlled schools must follow OEAP national guidance, have a trained Educational Visits Co-ordinator (EVC), and gain Local Authority approval for higher-risk trips.**

**Schools should ensure robust risk assessments, use licensed providers, and record all visits on EVOLVE. EVC training is renewed every 3 years, and audits are carried out every 3–4 years.**

**For advice or training, contact [educationcoreteam@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:educationcoreteam@lbbd.gov.uk).**

**Click [here](#) to read the full guidance.**

# CONTACT US

All feedback and questions are welcome. If you have any queries about any aspects of this briefing or any wider issues, please use the contacts below:

Lee Boyce, Chief Executive – [Lee.Boyce@bdsip.co.uk](mailto:Lee.Boyce@bdsip.co.uk)

Paul Claydon, Deputy Chief Executive – [Paul.Claydon@bdsip.co.uk](mailto:Paul.Claydon@bdsip.co.uk)

Nicole Leah, Director of Learning – [Nicole.Leah@bdsip.co.uk](mailto:Nicole.Leah@bdsip.co.uk)

General enquiries – [info@bdsip.co.uk](mailto:info@bdsip.co.uk)

CPD enquiries – [cpdevents@bdsip.co.uk](mailto:cpdevents@bdsip.co.uk)



# **USEFUL RESOURCES**

**MATHS WEEK LONDON 2026**

**NATIONAL STORYTELLING WEEK 2026**

**NSPCC NUMBER DAY 2026**

**BOOKMARK LAUNCHES SCHOOL NETWORK**

**YEAR 10 REGENERATIVE AI ROADSHOW**

# Maths Week London 2026

## Spring MSL Twilight Meeting

Traditionally, Maths Week London is held in the last week of June. They have recently announced that this is being discontinued owing to running costs. Their website is going to be phased out also, so please download the available resources ASAP before they disappear.

Please still participate though as this is a great way of engaging children and getting them to think differently about maths. For instance, last year I delivered a whole day workshop in a school focusing on outdoor reasoning and problem solving chalked games. Pleasingly the children continued playing these independently thereafter, applying the skills acquired.

I will discuss this further at the spring MSL twilight meeting (online) on Thursday 19th March 2026 (book here:



[Click here for resources](#), but please do not hesitate to contact me if you require anything specific for your school.

**Peter Warwick**  
**Associate BDSIP maths advisor**  
[hello@warwickmaths.co.uk](mailto:hello@warwickmaths.co.uk)  
**07923 548 525**

# National Storytelling Week 2026

## Soundtrack Your Story

National Storytelling Week is from **Monday 2nd to Sunday 8th February 2026**. This event is a celebration of oral storytelling, reading and writing for pleasure - the power of sharing stories.

The theme for this year is **Soundtrack your story**, and there are free online events running on **Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th February**.

For further information, and to sign up for the workshops and resources, please visit the website [\*\*here\*\*](#).



# NSPCC Number Day 2026

## NSPCC's Mega Maths Fundraising Event

**Number Day is the NPSCC's maths fundraising event - this year it will be held on Friday 6th February 2026. Schools can fundraise for the NSPCC by having fun with maths.**

**Schools can sign up for free, and receive access to hundreds of free learning resources.**

**Full details can be found [here](#).**



# Bookmark Launches School Network Programme in B&D

## Fully Funded Support for Schools

Bookmark is launching its fully funded School Network Programme in Barking & Dagenham, offering eligible schools up to £1,000 of free follow-on support during 2025/26.

### What schools receive:

-  Story Corner magazine (termly subscription)
-  Two Bookmark Rocket Packs (themed book collections, £150 value)
-  Networking events and CPD to share practice and build expertise

### Commitment:

-  No cost to schools
-  Light-touch feedback only:
  - Two short termly email responses
  - One brief video call
  - End-of-year impact survey



### How to apply:

Eligible schools can apply via a short application form.

 Click the [link](#) to apply.

# Year 10 Regenerative AI Roadshow

## Tech She Can Partnership with Accenture

In partnership with Accenture, Tech She Can are embarking on a roadshow from February to July, touring schools across the UK to provide free in-person AI learning experiences.

- Available to schools (with 25.7%+ FSM) across the UK, including London
- Whole day workshop for 30 Year 10 students (takes place on the school grounds)
- 25 minute KS4 assembly
- 90 minute teacher CPD
- No teacher prep required - they bring everything



For further details, and to register your interest, please visit [here](#).



# **NATIONAL GUIDANCE**

**EDUCATION SECRETARY SPEECH AT UK AI**

**AUTISM ACT:GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO LORDS**

**THE NATIONAL YEAR OF READING IS HERE!**

**STRATEGY TO BOOST UK EDUCATION ABROAD**

# DFE: Education Secretary Speech at UK AI for Education Summit

## Speech - 19 January 2026

The DfE has updated its **Generative AI product safety standards**, announced by Bridget Phillipson at the **Global AI Safety Summit**. While aimed at edtech developers, the standards are also useful for schools and colleges when assessing AI tools.

### Key updates include:

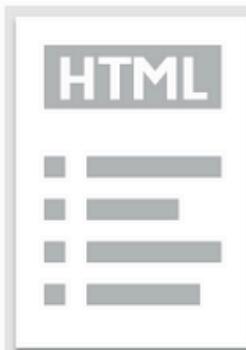
-  **Reducing cognitive harm** – limits over-reliance and ‘deskilling’
-  **No anthropomorphism** – AI must not mimic human relationships or foster emotional dependence
-  **Distress awareness** – systems should recognise signs of anxiety, depression or self-harm and signpost to human support
-  **Less manipulation** – restrictions on persuasive design (e.g. flattery, pressure, excessive-use incentives)

👉 Access the updated standards: [AI product safety standards](#)

📄 A short summary is attached and also shared by [Mark Anderson](#) on [LinkedIn](#).

# DFE: Autism Act: Government Response to Lords Select Committee Report

## Policy Paper - 23 January 2026



[Government response to Lords Select Committee's report Time to deliver: The Autism Act 2009 and the new autism strategy](#)

Ref: ISBN 978-1-5286-6145-4, CP 1477

HTML



[Government response to Lords Select Committee's report Time to deliver: The Autism Act 2009 and the new autism strategy \(web accessible\)](#)

Ref: ISBN 978-1-5286-6145-4, CP 1477

PDF, 466 KB, 32 pages

### ✿ Details

**The command paper outlines the government's response to the House of Lords Autism Act 2009 Committee report Time to deliver. It sets out current support for autistic people and confirms that the committee's recommendations will be considered in developing the next autism strategy.**

# DFE: The National Year of Reading is here!

Teacher Bulletin - 14 January 2026



The Go All In campaign celebrates reading by showing that whatever children and young people are passionate about—sport, music, gaming or more—there's a book to match. If you're into it, read into it.

**What's on offer:**

-  **Termly professional development**
-  **Ready-to-use resources**
-  **Engaging events for children and young people**

**Choose your level of involvement:**

-  **Go All In: A whole-school approach with a nominated representative, guided termly support via the LMS, and a participatory award with prizes.**
-  **Dip In: Sign up to individual events and access resources as they're released.**

# DFE: Strategy to Boost UK Education Abroad in Major £40bn Growth Drive

Press Release- 20 January 2026

**The government has set out a new International Education Strategy to grow the UK's world-class education offer overseas as part of its plan for national renewal.**

**Key aims:**

-  **Increase education exports to £40 billion a year by 2030**
-  **Support UK schools, colleges and universities to expand internationally**
-  **Cut red tape to help providers enter new and growing markets**

**Education already contributes £32 billion annually to the UK economy. The strategy shifts focus from international student number targets to exporting UK education overseas, building partnerships abroad and widening access to UK qualifications worldwide—supporting jobs, investment and growth at home.**

A young girl with brown hair tied back with a yellow bow is sitting at a desk in a classroom, looking intently at a computer screen. She is wearing a dark blue school uniform with a white collared shirt. The computer monitor is on the left, and a keyboard and mouse are in the foreground. The background shows other classroom desks and chairs.

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