

Schools' IT Newsletter

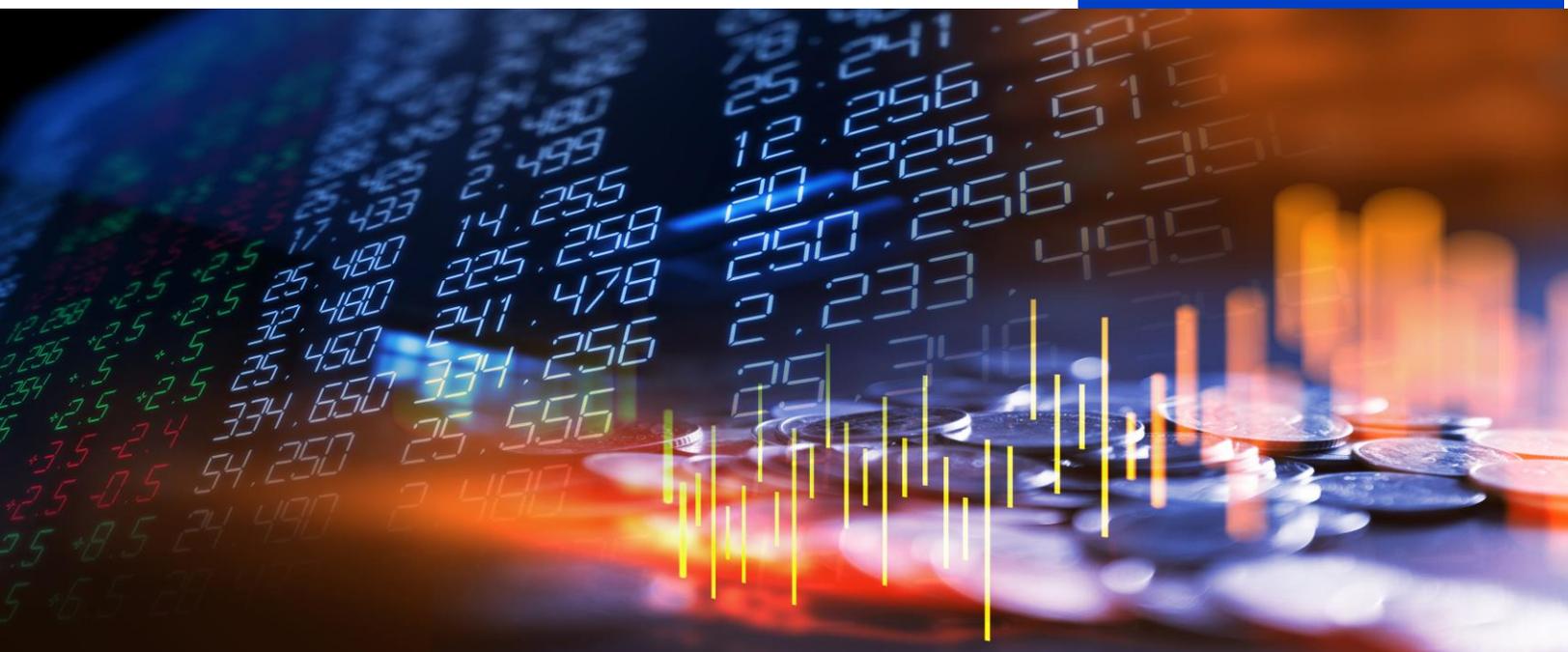
JANUARY 2022

Included in this month's issue:

- [School Census Spring 2022](#)
- [Future Census Dates for 2022](#)
- [Clarity for the Future - Update](#)

We would like to wish all our customers a very happy New Year and welcome back to the new school term.

We hope that you all had a restful break and we look forward to continuing to offer support with all our IT Services for the forthcoming year. For any enquiries our contact details are listed below.





SCHOOL CENSUS SPRING 2022

The School Census Spring 2022 is on 20th January 2022

The SIMS Census Helpline

01473 260666

Open 17th January 2022 – 21st January 2022

8.30 – 17.00 Monday – Thursday and 8.30 – 16.30 Friday

For up to date documentation and advice on current issues please refer to this [LINK](#) which you can save as a favourite/bookmark for future guidance requirements.

Your SIMS System will need to be upgraded to v7.202 to start your dry run as soon as possible.

Any enquiries should be sent via the IT Service Desk contact 01473 265555 or itservicedesk@suffolk.gov.uk



CENSUS DATES FOR 2022

For Head Teachers and administration staff responsible for submitting the termly census returns to the DfE



SIMS

Every school in England has a statutory duty to complete the school census each term.

Please put the following dates in your diaries to ensure your census returns are submitted on time.

Summer census – Thursday 19th May

**Autumn census – Thursday 6th October
(provisional date – not confirmed)**

**Workforce census – Thursday 3rd November
(provisional date – not confirmed)**

The census helpline, 01473 260666, will be open the week of each census, from Monday to Thursday 08.30am – 5pm and Friday 08.30am - 4.30pm. All enquiries outside of census week can be logged in the normal way, via the IT Service Desk on 01473 265555.





CLARITY FOR THE FUTURE – UPDATE

You may already have seen the email that we sent out prior to the Christmas break (dated 16-12-21) with regards to *ESS - Clarity for the Future* (please see below in case you missed that email):

‘Following our communication dated 30th November 2021 regarding ESS – Clarity for the future, we stated we would hope to be able to confirm further this week, so here is an update as promised.

Suffolk County Council are not opposed to change and support the development of services that benefit schools in Suffolk.

We do however have a responsibility to technically assure services that schools purchase through Suffolk County Council. We also need to consider any implications where these systems integrate with statutory services and be a source of impartial advice. Consequently, we need to ensure that we have completed all due diligence around services, which will then enable us to sign-off on our technical assurance and be able to offer advice to schools.

The timescale being proposed by ESS does not enable us to achieve this and therefore we propose the following:

- 1. SCC will work with ESS to arrange, promote, and run a series of stakeholder engagement workshops with all schools impacted by the contractual change. These workshops will enable schools to question ESS directly and for ESS to demonstrate Next Gen services and SIMs connected.*
- 2. After these workshops we will survey all participants to obtain their views on the proposed changes. These responses will then enable us to confirm whether schools are happy to progress with the contractual change.*
- 3. Parallel to this we will commence a project to technically assure the SIMS connected service for schools in Suffolk. This will include but is not limited to the completion of a DPIA, cloud assurance, assessment of impact on other services. Although committed to doing this, it seems important to not conflate the contractual change with the SIMS connected offering, as this is an additional service that schools can choose to take.*

Given the time required to complete the above, we do not believe that we will be able to agree to the new proposal from ESS at this time. However, we are prepared to review that decision prior to the 2023 renewals subject to the satisfactory completion of the above actions.

We will be in touch in the spring term with further information on the stakeholder engagement process’.

HOW TO CONTACT US!

You should continue to raise all standard incidents and service requests via the IT Service Desk on 01473 265555 or via itservicedesk@suffolk.gov.uk, our offices are open 08:30-17:00, Monday-Friday.

We have set up a mailbox for non-standard queries, e.g. enquiring about a new service, please email us at Schoolsitservices@suffolk.gov.uk

