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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

September 2020

Dear parents, carers and members of the Lyndhurst school community

My name is Ruth Ashby, and I am writing as the new Chair of Governors of Lyndhurst Primary School. I have been a part of the governing body as a parent governor for the last two years and was elected chair in July 2020. I am delighted to be working with Sarah Quarmby and Alison Miln as newly elected Co-Vice Chairs, along with the rest of the team of governors.

Welcome to a new year at Lyndhurst. We hope that you have had a good summer and that your children have returned full of energy and ready to learn. The last academic year was challenging in ways that could not have been predicted. It has been heartening to see how the collective efforts of the senior leadership team, staff and the wider community have helped to steer the school successfully through these unprecedented times.

I truly believe that this is a unique and exceptional school. As a parent and a governor, I have had experience of how our staff work as a team, care about each child's wellbeing and encourage all children to challenge themselves and develop their confidence. Lyndhurst succeeds in creating a friendly, nurturing environment where children love learning. It is a genuinely inclusive school, where diversity is valued and celebrated. The school is also fortunate to have a supportive community and a dedicated, proactive and positive parent body in Friends of Lyndhurst.

The Governing Body's role is to ensure that the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school are clearly and successfully implemented. Governors work collectively in the best interests of all pupils, each contributing their skills, time and experience to support and challenge the school in key areas while allowing the senior leadership team to manage the day to day running of the school.

We are committed to building a governing body for Lyndhurst that reflects the diversity of our community. Good governance needs a range of voices from volunteers of all ages, cultures and backgrounds to ensure strong decision-making and the best outcomes for all children. We are in the process of appointing three co-opted governors to fill vacancies and there will be elections for a staff and parent governor during the first half of this term. Please consider sharing your skills, time and experience to serve our school. More information on how to stand as a candidate will follow shortly.

We would like to express our gratitude for the leadership and dedication of our outgoing chair of governors, Julia McTavish, and vice chair, Jim North. Their contribution to Lyndhurst over several years has been immense and they step down from their roles with our heartfelt thanks and best wishes.

If you have queries or concerns or there are issues you would like to discuss, please contact your child's class teacher, a member of staff or the senior leadership team. More information on communication procedure can be found under [Contact on the school's website](#).

All the very best for a happy and successful year at Lyndhurst.

Kind regards,

Ruth Ashby