

Lyndhurst Primary School

Board of Governors



10 December 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and members of the Lyndhurst community

It is hard to believe that we are almost at the end of the Autumn term. School life remains busy and challenging in the face of the “new normal”. Your children continue to impress us all with their adaptability and resilience in these uncertain times. We are grateful for your support around the new safety measures recently re-introduced, ensuring we are all doing our best to protect our community.

I know you will understand that it has been necessary for the school to make adjustments to the traditional end of year events. One of the highlights of the annual calendar is always the Lyndhurst Winter Fair, which was swiftly reorganised and the alternative Covid-safe arrangements were a great success! The school is immensely lucky to benefit from the support and resourcefulness of the Friends of Lyndhurst and I send heartfelt thanks to all who helped to make this event a success.

Despite the challenges in recent weeks and months, Lyndhurst staff have been focused on ensuring that children have an enjoyable run-up to the Christmas holidays, with plenty of new experiences and extra-curricular enrichment. Rest assured that every effort is being made to create wonderful opportunities for your children to remember. We are grateful for the truly Herculean efforts of teaching and support staff this term, and we hope that they all have an opportunity to relax and recuperate over the holidays.

Meanwhile, the work of the governing body continues. Something we have focused on this term has been to develop our relationships with the Charter Schools Educational Trust. I have joined a regular Chairs meeting, which offers a great opportunity to exchange views and best practice. Similarly, as Safeguarding and SEND link governors, Alison Miln and Oliver Morley and I have connected with our counterparts on Lyndhurst staff and the other schools in the TCSET family. I know I speak for all governor colleagues when I say that we have found the governance and training infrastructure to be significantly enhanced by our membership of TCSET. We are confident that there will be many more opportunities for growth and development within the governing body, which will benefit Lyndhurst children in the longer term. I know that the Senior Leadership Team and the wider staff have also seen the benefits of this deepening relationship, with curriculum development, subject collaboration, increased support from our school development partner and mentoring opportunities.

It has been a great pleasure to resume our regular face to face governing body meetings, as well as visits to the school and learning walks, and we hope to be able to continue with these next term. It was also good to meet some of you in a “Meet the Governors” session earlier in the term and we plan to run another of these sessions on Tuesday 1st March 2022 at 09h10 – so please do make a note of this. This is an opportunity to ask questions, share your ideas and for governors to learn more about the school and the views of parents and carers.

In other governor news, we have said goodbye this term to Dee Adebakin and Shelby Roberts, who are moving on from their governor roles for personal reasons. They leave with our thanks for their service to the school, and our very best wishes for the future. I am delighted to confirm the appointment of two outstanding governors in their place:

- Mark Sherin, who will be known to many in the school community as the former head of the Dyslexia Centre at Lyndhurst. Mark is a highly respected SEND practitioner and brings with him a wealth of SEND professional experience as well as a long-standing connection to the school.
- Jess Moxham Lynch, an architect, writer and experienced school governor who also happens to be a Lyndhurst alumna and parent of three children, two of whom attend Lyndhurst. Jess has a rich understanding of SEND issues and brings a valuable perspective to the governing body.

Please join me in extending every welcome to Mark and Jess as they join the governing body.

My very warmest wishes to all of you for a Very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Pancha Ganapati, Winter Solstice, Newtonmas, Dongzhi, Ōmisoka, Hogmanay, New Year, Yule or just a jolly good rest and holiday! Let us hope for an enjoyable, successful and re-invigorated 2022.

Ruth Ashby

Chair of Governors

On behalf of the Local Governing Board