

# Lickey Hills Primary School & Nursery

*dream together • believe together • achieve together*



## **Annual report to parents and carers for 2019/2020**

Welcome to our Governor annual report for 2019/2020. At this point in the year, we usually reflect on our key achievements and the significant successes and changes which have occurred during the academic year. As my first year as Chair of Governors, I was looking forward to celebrating our successes in the usual manner. Our last letter in October shared the academic focus for the coming year. None of us could have foreseen a global pandemic which would see a national lockdown and children being home-schooled from mid-March onwards. This has overshadowed many plans the school had in place, and the whole staffing body has had to respond with agility and courage to deliver the guidance released by Government. To this end we would like to say some thank you's.

A huge thank you to the Senior Leadership Team. Under Miss Salisbury's direction, the school has worked tirelessly since March to ensure that we continue to provide:

- school provision for keyworker children,
- support for children learning at home and their families, and
- support for our vulnerable families.

We are extremely proud and appreciative of our superb teaching staff, support staff, office staff and site staff. They have stepped up at a challenging and uncertain time to continue to provide a school provision to our Community's keyworker families during this period, including throughout the Easter holiday, whilst juggling their own family demands and personal circumstances. So, a special thank you to them.

In early June we were able to open our doors to Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children and have welcomed these children alongside our keyworker children into designated hubs. As you can imagine, the planning and preparation for the wider opening of the school has been an enormous task, and work continues through the summer to open up the school for everyone in September in as safe way as possible. This has involved additional meetings providing constructive challenge to operational plans and detailed risk assessments to ensure that our children, staffing body and wider community have and will remain safe throughout this period. Thank you to all my Governor colleagues for their time and energy in helping to support the school through all these changes, and a special thank you to the Clerk to the Governing Body, Sarah Lamb, who has kept up to date with a significant amount of guidance which has been provided and helped steer us through this. There is also a special thanks for the staff in the Hive, who under the management of Miss Lynch have worked hard to adapt and refine their procedures to ensure they can offer our before and after school club provision for key worker children throughout, but also for all children from September. We recognise that not all schools are opening their wrap-around care, and we also know how many parents rely on this facility. So, we are delighted that our premises and the forward thinking and dedication of the Hive team have been able to maintain this vital service.

I would also like to thank the parents who have been fantastic in supporting their children through the challenge of home-schooling. As a parent, I am aware that juggling dedicated time with each child and responding to work demands has been tremendously difficult at an already stressful time, and motivation within the household has been variable. For those families whose children have been able to return this term, thank you for your patience and understanding as we adapt to a new way of working. It is also fantastic to know that all children have stepped up during this time, adhering to school rules throughout and helping to re-establish the first steps to normality. We are all very much looking forward to returning to school in September.

I would also like to express my sincere thanks for the parents and carers who support our PTA. This team works tirelessly behind the scenes to provide support to the school, both with social events and financially. Whilst their activities have been hindered by the recent lockdown, I wanted to acknowledge the hard work and dedication shown over the first two terms. We really look forward to them engaging with the wider school community once we are back in September.

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**Headteacher** Miss Amanda Salisbury, B.Ed(Hons), NPQH



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There are only a few changes to our staffing body this year where we say goodbye to Miss Coe, a Nursery teacher who is moving to a new post, and welcome Mrs Virnals to Nursery for next year. We have also been pleased to welcome back Mrs Ray and Mrs Hawthorne after their maternity leave and look forward to working with them again next year.

Finally, it would like to wish our Year 6 children who are moving up to high school a big thank you for their hard work throughout their time with us. I know that this year group started in 2013, the year that we welcomed Miss Salisbury, and we were all very much looking forward to the usual year end celebrations. Our thanks for the school staff who facilitated their Year 6 leavers send off. It was important for all to make sure they didn't miss out during these 'unusual times' and the teaching staff really enjoyed seeing these children to say a proper goodbye. As Governors we are also disappointed to not see their SATs results after all their hard work, in particular, to assess the impact of the investment in, and changes we have made to our teaching of maths. We know that these children will have benefited from this, and we wish them well in their future learning.

In September, we hope infection levels continue to be low and we look forward to having everyone back to school. Although school is likely to remain disrupted for some time to come, we appreciate everyone's patience at this difficult time and we wish all families a happy and healthy summer break.

Emily Mayne  
On behalf of the Governing Body

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