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Dear Parents

We wanted to write to introduce ourselves as the Cantrell Primary School new Chair and Vice-Chair of school governors.

Our names are Andrew Moore, Chair of Governors and Nicola Curzon, Vice-Chair of Governors. We look forward to working with the whole Cantrell Community and this introduction is intended to let you know what the Governing Body do, and to let you know a little of what we are currently doing both to support the school and staff, and our plans moving forward.

We were shocked and saddened at the passing of our former long-standing Chair of governors Sue Anthony, who has led the governors successfully over many years including winning the Governance East Midlands Award and steering the school to a good Ofsted grading.

Our intention is to build on this work and the many previous successes. We both have an in-depth knowledge of the school and the amazing way the children, staff and parents make it so successful - both from a parent and a governor point of view. We want the very best for all the children at Cantrell. Our shared vision is to shine as an outstanding community-maintained school.

The Governors at Cantrell play an important role and have considerable responsibility in setting the strategic direction of the school along with the head teacher and senior leadership team. Governors do not manage schools, this is the role of the head teacher and senior leadership team, but we do oversee the development of the school, the main aim of which is always to provide a high standard of education for all children of all abilities. In essence as the accountable body for the school, the governing body has three main roles:

- Provide a strategic view of where the school is heading. This is done by reviewing and agreeing policies, targets and priorities and monitoring and reviewing aims and objectives.
- Act as a critical friend to the school. The governing body works with the head teacher to create a clear understanding of the challenges faced in managing the school. The governing body should feel able to question and challenge and this is achieved through trust and mutual respect.
- Hold the school to account for the educational standards it achieves and the quality of education it provides. The governing body uses its collective skills to benefit the children, by gathering views and asking questions to determine what is best for the school.

The governors visit the school throughout the year and most have a link to specific subjects and their teachers or areas of the school such as Safeguarding, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, Finance, Attendance and Children's Progress. This is an important opportunity to see the school in action and governors enjoy the chance to meet staff and children and learn about what makes Cantrell special. You can find out more about us and what we do on the school website <https://www.cantrell.nottingham.sch.uk/>.

We are looking forward to meeting everyone in our new roles and want you to know we have a totally open-door policy and culture, with our focus on pastoral care for all, where we want you to feel free to chat to us when you see us around school!

At this early stage we want to say a huge thank you to all the staff who work at the school and wellbeing and work life balance are right at the top of our priority list.

Our school community is incredible, particularly when parents and the school come together in harmony, working together as a team.

Thank you

Andrew Moore  
Chair of Governors

Nicola Curzon  
Vice Chair of Governors