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Headteacher: Mrs Lou Rhodes  
Deputy Headteacher: Mr Alex George

13<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I'm writing to share some important news about the leadership at Paxcroft.

Mrs Rhodes, our Headteacher, has made the difficult decision to step down from her role at the end of this academic year. As many of you will know, she has experienced a period of ill health. While she has made a good recovery and has returned to school, she has decided that now is the right time to step back, recognising that the demands of the role require full-time energy and capacity.

On behalf of the Governing Body, I want to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you to Mrs Rhodes for everything she has done for Paxcroft. Under her leadership, the school has been on an improvement journey exemplified by a well-deserved 'Good' rating in its most recent Ofsted inspection. She has worked tirelessly to strengthen the support available for our children and has helped to build important partnerships. The school is in a much better place than when Mrs Rhodes joined in 2022 and this is due to her strong leadership. Her dedication, compassion, and ambition for Paxcroft have made a lasting difference, and we are truly grateful.

Looking ahead, I want to reassure you that plans are in place to ensure stability and continuity. I have spoken with colleagues at EQUA Mead, the Multi-Academy Trust Paxcroft will be joining in September. We've agreed that Mr George will again be Acting Headteacher from September while a recruitment process for a new permanent Headteacher begins. Mr George has already provided strong leadership over the past year while Mrs Rhodes was away, so his continued presence offers valuable consistency for the children, staff and wider school community. We hope to appoint a new permanent Headteacher to join the school in early 2026.

Next year also marks an exciting new chapter for Paxcroft. As we become part of EQUA Mead, we'll benefit from the additional support, resources and collaborative opportunities that come from being part of a wider family of schools. It's a step that we believe will help the school to go from strength to strength.

I know change can bring mixed feelings, but I want to reassure you that the Governing Body remains fully committed to supporting the school through this next phase. We're confident that, with the support of EQUA Mead and the continued efforts of our brilliant staff team, Paxcroft will continue to thrive.

Kind Regards

Dr Andrew Ross  
Chair of Governors

