



Ox Close Federation Governor Newsletter

March 2021 Edition

Who Are We?

Pam Sneath – Co-opted Governor, Chair of Ox Close Federation and Looked After Children Lead

Dave Stone – Co-opted Governor, Vice Chair of Ox Close Federation and Chair of Finance and Resources

Debra Swinburn – Co-opted Governor and Chair of Leadership and Management

Liz Maddison – Co-opted Governor and Safeguarding Lead

Wendy Hall – Co-opted Governor and SEND Lead

Helen Collingwood – Parent Governor and Pupil/Sports Premium and Catch up Funding Lead

Daniel Harrison – Executive Headteacher

Steven Bowen – Parent Governor and Chair of Quality of Education

Alan Boddy – Local Authority Governor and Chair of Behaviour and Attitudes

Margaret Ward – Co-opted Governor

Anna Bowen – Head of School and Co-opted Governor

Jeanne Taylor – Head of Nursery and Staff Governor

Nic Milne - Co-opted Governor

It has been another busy term for the pupils, parents and staff of the Ox Close Federation. We would like to thank all of the staff for their hard work and commitment to ensuring that our lockdown learning was the best it could be. Also, well done to all parents and carers who embraced the home learning and supported their children so well.

It was great to welcome all of the children back on Monday 8th March - the children were all excited to be back and the staff were really pleased to see them all.

Our partnership with the The Solan Connor Fawcett Family Trust continues and the children have enjoyed taking part in another competition aimed at spreading kindness. We have had the Spring Term birthday parties in school this week - thank you to Ox Close Friends for funding the cakes and presents. Also this week we have held the annual Eggs Factor in which we have managed to include not only all of the children in school but those at home as well. Finally, thank you to Spennymoor Town Council for providing all of the children with an Easter Egg - the children were all very happy to receive them.

The Durham County Council proposal to amalgamate our two schools and move us to a new site is continuing through the process. The next step is for this proposal to go to the DCC cabinet in late April. After this, we will know for sure our future plans and we will let you know as soon as we can.

As Governors, we are every keen to know your views about the strengths our schools and areas for improvements. Next half term, we will be consulting with you via a short survey. In the meantime, should you have any comments or concerns these can be addressed via our Chair of Governors by emailing: p.sneath600@durhamlearning.net

Finally, we hope that you all have a lovely Easter break and manage to have time to relax in the Spring weather.

What do the Governors do?

We have three core functions which are:

- Giving the school a clear vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding the Executive Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Our School Improvement Plan

Our School Improvement Priorities for 2020 - 2021 are:

1. Make sure that there is a strategic focus of leadership upon teaching and learning.
2. Improve the progress all Primary children make in Writing skills.
3. Improve Communication, Literacy and Language for all Nursery and Reception children.
4. Continue to ensure that funding is used effectively to accelerate the progress of disadvantaged children.
5. Make sure that all children know how to keep themselves safe and healthy.

How can we be contacted?

If you would like to speak to a member of Governing Body, then messages can be passed on via the school office or through emailing the Chair of Governors at p.sneath600@durhamlearning.net

Where can I find out more about the Governing Body?

More information can be found on the website below:

<http://www.ox-close.durham.sch.uk/about-us/our-governing-body/>

Future Updates

Our next Governor Newsletter will be at the end of the Summer Term.

