



# Ox Close Federation Governor Newsletter

July 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

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

The end to a very different school year!

Following the return to school in March, it has been very busy in our schools to help children settle back into school life and continue with their education and development. The response from children, parents and carers has been fabulous and we are very proud of our high attendance rates at both schools during these uncertain times.

We would like to extend our grateful thanks to all of the staff for their dedication and hard work to ensure that all aspects of school life were the best they could be.

Wellbeing and Mental Health have been key priorities this year and Team Ox Close will continue to embrace this by supporting all children and staff through these unprecedented times. We promote Equality and Inclusivity and highlights have included the 'Tell Me Trees' introduced to help the children to return to school life and our PRIDE events over the past few weeks.

Once again, we have sadly not been able to hold our usual transition events for those moving from Nursery to Primary and Primary to Secondary but hope that the support we have been able to provide will help to assist their moves to new schools. For the children who are not returning to Ox Close next year, we wish them the very best for their future education.

Plans for September are well underway and we are confident that a huge amount of planning and organising has gone into making sure that we continue with the catch up and rapid progress for all pupils whilst providing an innovative curriculum and safe level of care.

The Durham County Council proposal to amalgamate our two schools and move us to a new site was approved in late April and the process is continuing with the new building plans and tenders for the work to be carried out. Whilst very exciting, we know that we have some work to do over the next few years to ensure that all aspects of this project are considered thoroughly and that we maintain and improve our outstanding offering at Ox Close through the process.

As Governors, we are always keen to know your views about the strengths of our schools and areas for improvements. Thank you for those who completed our short survey in May. We were very pleased with the comments made regarding how safe and happy your children feel in school, our schools have positive respectful cultures and everyone is valued equally. We do pride ourselves on supporting the children to develop resilience, confidence and independence. From September, we will be working on your feedback regarding better communication on Nursery children's progress during challenging times, start times for Primary children and increased Governor visibility. We will also repeat the survey in 2022. 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](mailto:p.sneath600@durhamlearning.net)

Have a lovely Summer break!

## 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.

## Federation Improvement Priorities

Our Federation Improvement Priorities for 2021 - 2022 are:

1. Make sure that there continues to be a strategic focus of leadership upon teaching and learning.
2. Make sure that all children know how to keep themselves safe and healthy.
3. Improve Communication, Literacy and Language for all Nursery and Reception children.
4. Improve the progress all Primary children make in Writing skills
5. Ensure that all children are challenged to achieve their full potential and achieve increased proportions of children working at greater depth.
6. Continue to ensure that funding is used effectively to accelerate the progress of disadvantaged children.

## How can we be contacted?

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

