



Ox Close Federation Governor Newsletter

December 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 – Local Authority Governor and Safeguarding Lead

Wendy Hall – Co-opted Governor and SEND Lead

Daniel Harrison – Executive Headteacher

Steven Bowen – Co-opted Governor and Chair of Quality of Education

Margaret Ward – Co-opted Governor

Nic Milne - Co-opted Governor

Anna Bowen – Head of School and Co-opted Governor

Jeanne Taylor – Head of Nursery and Staff Governor

We have had a very busy term in Nursery and Primary! All of the new children to Nursery and Reception have settled in really well.

The lead up to Christmas has been magical for the children with our highlights being visits to see Santa at the Town Hall, Christmas parties and our amazing Ox Close Winter Wonderland that has raised an excellent amount of money for the school.

Attendance

Attendance has been very good this term and we would once again like to thank you for the support and common-sense approach that has been shown to allow us to continue with as much stability as possible for your children during these challenging times.

Amalgamation

The proposal to amalgamate our two schools and move us to our new site continues to be worked through. We are expecting to receive a decision regarding the building plans early next year and then we can start to consider all aspects of this project in more detail, whilst maintaining and improving our outstanding offering at Ox Close.

Governor Mark

This month we received the news that our Governing Body achieved Governor Mark Status. For this, we were assessed and evaluated on how our governance impacts on the outcomes for your children. We were delighted to receive this as it is only awarded to the top bodies nationally. It is confirmation that we are striving for continuous improvement and that we conduct our business efficiently and effectively at all times.

Vacancies

From the start of next term, we will have two vacancies for parents of Nursery or Primary children to join our Governing Body. If successful, the position will be for 4 years which will include being involved in several decisions regarding the amalgamation and move to our new school in September 2024. If you are interested or would like to know more about the work we do, please contact Pam Sneath, our Chair of Governors by emailing: p.sneath600@durhamlearning.net by Monday 10 January 2022.

Merry Christmas!

Finally, we would like to thank the children, parents, carers and staff for their hard work, support and dedication and we wish you all a safe, healthy and happy festive period.



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

1. To ensure that there is a consistent vision across the Ox Close Federation.
2. To ensure that there is a strategic focus of leadership upon teaching and learning including a strong focus on developing assessments in line with the new Early Years reforms.
3. To continue to ensure that funding is used effectively to accelerate the progress of all children, including disadvantaged.
4. To ensure that we continue to 'Covid-proof' the Quality of Education so we are fully prepared for the potential of local lockdowns, COVID absences and also families self-isolating.
5. To improve outcomes for pupils by ensuring clear progression in learning from Nursery entry to the end of Reception
6. To continue to embed the curriculum and assessment approach with consistency so that pupils' gaps in learning are identified and addressed.
7. To increase proportion of the Quality of Education which is outstanding including a new whole school approach to increase the proportion of children working at the expected standard in writing.
8. To ensure that all groups of pupils, particularly the most able, are challenged to think harder about their learning in subjects across the wider curriculum.
9. To continue to develop our children's personal, social and emotional development.

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

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 Spring Term.