



Ox Close Federation Governor Newsletter

April 2022 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

Sarah Aungiers—Parent Governor

Liam Clough—Parent Governor



Another great term at Nursery and Primary!

Since the restrictions were lifted at the end of February, we have been able to hold more face to face meetings and Governor site visits have recommenced. We continue to monitor all aspects of life at Ox Close from the quality of education, behaviour of the children, safeguarding, wellbeing of pupils and staff as well as keeping an eye on the finances.

Events

It has heart-warming to hear that normality has resumed and the children have been able to make visits to the local community and the parents have started to be invited back in to see us. The Nursery trips to the library were a huge success and the School Reception Mother's Day craft session was very popular. There are already plans in place for more events including a whole school Platinum Jubilee Picnic at the end of May.

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 very soon 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.

Happy Easter!

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 Easter.



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 Summer Term.