



Ox Close Federation Governor Newsletter

December 2023 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

Wendy Hall – Co-opted Governor, Chair of Personal Development, Behaviour and Attitudes Committee and SEND Lead

Daniel Harrison – Executive Headteacher

Nicola Milne - Co-opted Governor

Anna Bowden – Deputy Executive Headteacher and Staff Governor

Sarah Aungiers—Parent Governor

Liam Clough—Parent Governor

Paul Wilson - Co-opted Governor

Gary Robinson - Co-opted Governor

Jayne Phillips—Assistant Executive Headteacher and Associate Governor

Hannah Shepherd - Assistant Executive Headteacher—Associate Governor

Michelle Bowman - Assistant Executive Headteacher—Associate Governor

Tracey Jackson - Federation Business Manager—Associate Governor

It has been another action packed term across the Federation!

Christmas Performances

It has been a pleasure to welcome parents and carers into school for the amazing Christmas performances this year. All of the children took to the stage so well and it was clear that we have lots of talented actors and singers in our team. Thank you to the staff and parents for your support in making sure these important events happen.

This year was extra special as these were the last Christmas performances to be held in Ox Close. Next year, we will have brand new stage, lighting and sound systems in our new school.

Changes to the Governing Board

This term, we have said goodbye to Cllr. Liz Maddison and Steven Bowen from our Governance Team. Both have supported us superbly and been involved in shaping our Federation. We wish them both well for the future.

Cllr Maddison has been a member of our Governing Board for over 15 years but will continue to work with us in her role as County Councillor in any way that she can.

We have welcomed Gary Robinson into the role of Co-opted Governor. He works within specialist education and his expertise will be a great addition to the Governing Board.

Springmoor Traffic and Travel Survey

Thank you to all who completed our parent/carer survey a few weeks ago. This has really helped to shape up plans and has been reviewed at our Traffic and Travel Working Party. We will be in touch early next year to keep you up-to-date with our progress.

New Build Update

We are sure you will have seen that the build is progressing very well and is now water tight. Work will now continue internally and in the grounds so that it is ready for the Summer. Next year, we will be launching a Springmoor Grange Facebook page where we will share updates of the progress being made.

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 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

This term, we thought we would share our Quality of Education and Early Years priorities with you:

Quality of Education

Writing:

To enhance the writing curriculum in order to develop the children's writing skills and increase the percentage of children working at and beyond age related expectations.

Reading:

To embed a reading curriculum which promotes a love of reading, develops children's reading fluency and understanding and increases the percentage of children working at and beyond age related expectations.

Maths:

To enhance the teaching of reasoning skills in order to increase the percentage of children working at and beyond age related expectations.

Cognitive Load:

To assist the children with developing effective strategies so that knowledge sticks and can be recalled in the future.
To explore methods of assessment to check on knowledge retention.

Early Years

Communication and Language:

To ensure opportunities for communication and language are embedded in all areas of the curriculum in order to increase the number of children reaching ARE in Communication and Language Early Learning Goal.

Provision Environments:

To develop the environments to maximise opportunities for learning.

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.

