



Ox Close Federation Governor Newsletter

March 2024 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 – Local Authority Governor, Chair of Personal Development, Behaviour and Attitudes Committee and SEND Lead

Nicola Milne - Co-opted Governor and Chair of Quality of Education

Anna Bowden – Acting Executive Headteacher and Staff Governor

Sarah Aungiers—Parent Governor

Liam Clough—Parent Governor and Safeguarding Lead

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

The term may have been short in weeks, but it has been jammed with activities.

Spectacular Spring Term

We have hosted a number of special events this term including a fabulous World Book Day where the children dressed up as their favourite fairy tale characters. It was great to see the children have lots of fun. Following on from this, the staff welcomed parents and carers in to school to complete reading activities with the children. The Governors were really pleased to hear how successful these events were. Within Early Years, the Mother's Day and Stay and Play events were also well attended with excellent feedback. Yesterday also saw the annual EggsFactor Competition take place - it was a great occasions with talented performance from our amazing children. The celebrations ended today with our annual Easter Parade in Nursery—it was lovely to see our youngest children display confidence and enthusiasm.

Changes to the Leadership Team

As you know, Mr Harrison has not been in Nursery or Primary for a number of weeks as he has been unwell and he made the decision earlier this term to leave the role of Executive Headteacher and explore other opportunities. The Governors appointed Miss Bowden into the role of Acting Executive Headteacher and following the Easter break, Mrs Phillips will support her as Acting Deputy Executive Headteacher as well as covering her Early Years and SEND responsibilities. We wish them both every success in their new roles. We are now working towards more permanent appointments and will update as this progresses.

Consultation of Hours

Thank you to all who responded to our Change of Hours consultation which will ends today. Governors will review this feedback and we will update you once a final decision has been made ready for September 2024. We aim to get this to you by Friday 26th April.

New Build Update

We are sure that you will have seen the progress being made at our new site. This is also the case for the internal works and decoration will commence shortly. Exciting times! We are continuing to liaise with Durham County Council and ESH Construction who are doing a first class job.

Happy Spring!

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 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

This term, we thought we would share our Personal Development and Behaviour and Attitudes priorities with you:

Personal Development

Character Development:

To embed the ENRICHED values and use these as a vehicle to prepare the children for their future.

Equalities:

To continue to promote positive equality and diversity and celebrate differences across the Federation.

Cultural Capital:

To map out Cultural Capital from Nursery to Year 6 to ensure children are given a wide range of experiences.

Behaviour and Attitudes

Attendance:

To reduce the number of persistent absentees and close the gap between vulnerable groups.

Behaviour for Learning:

To ensure that our younger children know what behaviours for learning look like. To ensure that there is a consistent approach to behaviour at all points during the school day.

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.

