



Ox Close Federation Governor Newsletter

November 2020 Edition

Who Are We?

Pam Sneath – Chair of Ox Close Federation

Dave Stone – Vice Chair of Ox Close Federation & Chair of Finance and Resources

Debra Swinburn – Chair of Personnel and Pay

Liz Maddison – Co-opted Governor and Safeguarding Lead

Wendy Hall – Co-opted Governor and SEND Lead

Helen Collingwood – Parent Governor and Pupil/Sports Premium Lead

Daniel Harrison – Executive Headteacher

Steven Bowen – Parent Governor

Alan Boddy – Local Authority Governor

Geoff Darkes – Co-opted Governor

Margaret Ward – 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 so far and the children have settled back into our 'new' school life really well.

Whilst we have not been able to hold our Autumn Term events in the usual way, Team Ox Close has found innovative ways to celebrate key events with the children. In particular Tell Me Tree for World Mental Health Day, celebrating Halloween in bubbles, Harvest Hearts and our fabulous Remembrance Corridor display.

We would like to thank Reverend Matt Tarling for helping us with our special Harvest assembly last month and we are very proud of our new partnership with the Solan Connor Fawcett Family Cancer Trust to help families in our town.

Last week, you were informed of the proposal from Durham County Council to amalgamate Oxclose Nursery and Ox Close Primary into one new school, in a new location in Durham Road.

Both of our schools came together under a new Federation in November 2018 under the Executive Headship of Mr Harrison and one Governing Body. We have an effective senior leadership team and with the dedication and passion of all of our staff, this has already worked very well.

Following the council's review of the need to increase primary school places in the town, the proposed solution is to relocate our expanding school and create additional places. The school leadership team, including the governors are totally committed to ensuring that we maintain and enhance the education and welfare of all of our current and future children. It is testament to the outstanding Ox Close ethos for teaching, learning and care that we may be trusted with this project.

So far there have been some initial queries expressed on some social media sites relating to the proposed location of the new build, the possible increase in traffic flow and the increase in overall pupil numbers. Whilst the Governing Body will have no part in the decision making other than to express our views through the consultation process, should the plans be approved, we are all totally committed to work closely with the council to make sure that the amalgamation and new build is as successful as possible and enhances the provision we already have.

The consultation is open for you all to express your views until 13 December.

The governors would like to thank the children, parents, carers and staff for their hard work, support and dedication to get us through these challenging times.

What do the Governors do?

We have three core functions which are:

- Giving the school a clear vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding the 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.

Our School Improvement Plan

Whilst recently we have had to devote our attentions into maintaining our aims above, we have a wider school improvement plan which we will be continuing to work through on our return after the summer.

These include:

1. Make sure that there is a strategic focus of leadership upon teaching and learning.
2. Improve the progress all Primary children make in Writing skills.
3. Improve Communication, Literacy and Language for all Nursery children.
4. Continue to ensure that funding is used effectively to accelerate the progress of disadvantaged children.
5. Make sure that all children know how to keep themselves safe and healthy.

How can we be contacted?

If you would like to speak to a member of Governing Body, then messages can be passed on via the school office.

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 December 2020.

