



Ox Close Federation Governor Newsletter

December 2020 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 – Co-opted Governor and Safeguarding Lead

Wendy Hall – Co-opted Governor and SEND Lead

Helen Collingwood – Parent Governor and Pupil/Sports Premium and Catch up Funding Lead

Daniel Harrison – Executive Headteacher

Steven Bowen – Parent Governor and Chair of Quality of Education

Alan Boddy – Local Authority Governor and Chair of Behaviour and Attitudes

Geoff Darkes – Co-opted Governor and Health & Safety Lead

Margaret Ward – Co-opted Governor

Anna Bowen – Head of School and Co-opted Governor

Jeanne Taylor – Head of Nursery and Staff Governor

We are now at the end of an exceptional term for so many reasons!

Again, Team Ox Close ensured that the run up to Christmas was magical for the children with highlights being the Staff Advent Calendar on our Facebook site, Christmas craft making, Christmas Jumper Day and the performance of 'The Little Christmas Elf' for our Nursery children.

This week we had our fabulous Nursery Christmas Performance and Christmas Story Videos including all children and staff. The planning and dedication that is needed from the staff to produce such a project under social distancing guidelines is huge, especially whilst keeping the usual day to day activities running. We would like to especially thank Brendon Renwick for compiling these for us.

At the weekend, the consultation with Durham County Council to amalgamate Oxclose Nursery and Ox Close Primary into one new school, in a new location in Durham Road, closed. We are expecting to receive an update from DCC by mid-January and we will keep you informed of any decisions that are made. During the consultation, there were some common concerns and opinions expressed. The main ones are potential traffic congestion around Durham Road and the impact of increased pupil numbers. Should the proposal go ahead, the Governing Body is fully committed to both current and future pupils and staff. As part of this, we would engage with our school community for suggestions for the best possible solutions.

You will know from the school newsletters that attendance has been excellent this term and our COVID-19 cases have been very low comparatively. Thank you for the support and common-sense approach shown by parents and carers to allow us to provide as stable as possible education for the children.

Finally, we would like to thank the children and staff of the Nursery and Primary for their unwavering dedication and hard work during these difficult times and wish all of you 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.

Our School Improvement Plan

Our School Improvement Priorities for 2020 - 2021 are:

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 and Reception 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 February 2021

