



# Ox Close Federation Governor Newsletter

December 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

Cllr Liz Maddison – Local Authority Governor and Safeguarding Lead

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

Daniel Harrison – Executive Headteacher

Steven Bowen – Co-opted Governor and Chair of Quality of Education

Nic Milne - Co-opted Governor

Anna Bowden – Deputy Executive Headteacher and Staff Governor

Sarah Aungiers—Parent Governor

Liam Clough—Parent Governor

Jayne Phillips—Associate Governor



What a busy term!

## Christmas Performances

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

## Attendance

Attendance has continued to a priority this term. This is an area of importance nationally post Covid and all schools have been asked to ensure that as much is done as possible to remove barriers to attendance and support the children to attend school as much as possible to maximise learning opportunities.

## New School

In July, we informed you that our new name from September 2024 will be Springmoor Grange School. This was chosen to represent the original land which was made up of gorse bushes which flowered in yellow annually in the Spring - this place was officially known as Tudhoe Grange. It will be really sad to see the Ox Close name end however it would be simply too confusing as the schools will no longer be part of Ox Close Crescent.

In the New Year, we are planning to hold open mornings for current parents and members of the community to showcase the new school plans - watch out for more details of these events.

## New School Logo

The competition to design our new logo closed last Friday. There were some fantastic entries and the decision was very difficult. We have selected four designs which will now be sent to the designer - well done to Logan T, Macey W, Eila B and Caleb W! These will be used by our designers in the new year and we hope to be able to share the final logo with you soon.

## New Uniform

We are delighted to announce that our new school colours will be purple, white, lemon and grey.

From September 2023, we will start to introduce our new uniform. This is in preparation for the September 2024 opening and will give current parents and children the chance to move over from the current uniform to the new one with minimal cost. We appreciate that this will mean that we will have several months of children wearing a combination of old and new, however we decided that this was the best option in these trying financial times. Further details on uniform will be given next term.

## 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 priorities with you:

### **Oracy and Reading:**

To develop and improve oracy.

To create language rich environments linked to areas and subjects.

To improve reading skills in order to increase the percentage of children working at and beyond ARE expectations.

### **Nursery Curriculum:**

To develop detailed curriculum plans for the nursery

### **Nursery Assessment:**

Implement the use of OPAL assessments to complete effective assessment of pupils.

### **More Able:**

To increase the proportions of children working at greater depth in all areas of the curriculum, with a particular focus that a greater number of children leave KS2 working at greater depth.

### **Boys:**

To increase the proportions of boys working at expected and greater depth in all areas of the curriculum.

### **Cognitive Load:**

To assist the children with developing effective strategies so that knowledge sticks and can be recalled in the future.

Leaders and Governors will be monitoring against these objectives throughout the year.

## 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](mailto: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.