



Ox Close Federation Governor Newsletter

Summer 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

John Heron – Chair of Curriculum, School Performance and Welfare

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 – Headteacher

Steven Bowen – Parent Governor

Alan Boddy – Local Authority Governor

Geoff Darkes – Co-opted Governor

Margaret Ward – Co-opted Governor

Anna Bowen – Co-opted Governor

Jeanne Taylor – Community Governor

What a year this has been for us all!

In March, we received the Government guidance that regrettably the Nursery and Primary schools had to be partially closed and we were keen to work closely with the Headteachers and staff to maintain the learning of the children and maintain links with our community. This meant that we had to explore other ways to communicate with you by improving digital and social media interactions.

In these unprecedented times, Team Ox Close has risen to the challenges with passion and dedication to follow the mantras of 'Be the Best' and 'Work Together to encourage happy, confident Learners'. The response from children, parents and carers was truly fantastic and this has helped us to prepare for any future closures or lockdowns. One call out is to Rebecca Lawrence for organising the video which cheered us all up. We have had some outstanding events this term including Ox Close Beat and VE Day celebrations supported by Brendon Renwick.

Our staff team have continued to be very committed; many having to work outside of their comfort zone for the children and school leaders working continuously throughout the Bank Holidays. For this we are very grateful. We have also been supported well by our team of caretakers and cleaners who have worked hard to keep our buildings clean and hygienic and also to our brilliant Cook, Karen and her catering team. During these times, Ox Close Friends have once again been amazing in donating funds for us to be able to make awards to the children.

We have sadly not been able to hold our usual transition events for those moving from Nursery to Primary and Primary to Secondary but hope that the digital support will have helped to assist their moves to new schools. Unfortunately, we have also not been able to hold Nursery Graduation and Primary Celebration of Excellence in the traditional ways but hopefully our replacement arrangements will recognise the occasions. For the children who are not returning to Ox Close, we wish them the very best for their future education.

Plans for September are well underway – additional transition for Reception, staggered starts, finishes, breaks and lunch times. We are confident that a tremendous amount of planning and organising has gone into make sure that we will provide a full and broad curriculum, using innovative ways to ensure catch up and rapid progress for all pupils whilst providing a happy and safe level of care.

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 at the end of the Autumn Term 2020.

Wishing everyone a rejuvenating and healthy summer holiday!

