



Ordsall Primary School

Mr Karl Hopkinson (Headteacher)

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FROM THE HEADTEACHER

I really couldn't have asked for a more positive start to my time at Ordsall Primary School.

It feels like a recurring theme, but I have been blown away by the warm welcome I have received from everyone since September. It has been a joy meeting and getting to know lots of you already, and I am very much looking forward to working with you.

It is my intention that these half-termly newsletters will give you an insight to the wonderful things that are happening in school.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say 'thank you' for the feedback and suggestions I have already received on how to make further improvement to the school and its processes. If you have any ideas, please do not hesitate in speaking to me.

Thank you.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES

Each year, the school identifies areas that it deems need improvement, which form the basis of the 'School Improvement Plan'.

This year, the school has identified four main priorities which everyone involved with school will have a part to play to achieve them.

I am sure that you will be able to see how at least one of these areas for improvement will be of benefit to your child.

- 1) Further improve the standard of reading and phonics through school.
- 2) Work closely with children and families to improve school attendance and the number of children attending Ordsall Primary school.
- 3) Further develop the Early Years Foundation Stage, making it representative of best practice.
- 4) Implement a visuals programme to support all children with their communication.



YEAR GROUP PAGES

Stay up to date with what your child is doing by regularly visiting their year group page on the school's website. These can be found here:

<https://www.ordsallprimary.com/all-about-our-classes/>



Some of last year's School Councilors visiting Wonderland Bookshop to purchase books for the school – Thursday 12th October 2023.

YEAR GROUP HIGHLIGHTS

NURSERY

This term in Nursery the children have settled in well and have made amazing friends through play. We have celebrated Artist Day, Black History Month and Mental Health Day. The children had great fun in exploring the autumn environment and have found some exciting treasures.



RECEPTION

Each week, the children in Reception take part in 'Children's Kitchen' in the bungalow. This is a food exploration session where the children explore different foods, looking closely at them, cutting them up, and most importantly, eating them!



YEAR 1

In Year 1 this half term we have been learning all about ourselves. Some of our favourite learning involved exploring our senses. We felt lots of different materials and described them using adjectives. We used the musical instruments to test our sense of hearing and then we really enjoyed the smell and taste tests.



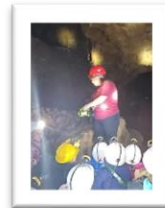
More of us liked the sour taste of lemon than expected but we all agreed that the onion smell was not nice. We could smell it in the classroom for days.

YEAR 2

In Year 2, we have been investigating and exploring our big question, "How do I grow and stay healthy?" We have found out about the lives of Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole, conducted experiments and have learnt and adapted the story of 'Once There were Giants', making it our own.

YEAR 3

Our topic has been "How did people survive in the Stone Age?" We have been learning and retelling the story of 'Stone Age Boy' in our English lessons and have composed Stone Age rhythms in music and have learnt about tools and dwellings from the Stone Age in History. The highlight of our half term has been our visit to Creswell Crags where we learnt about survival in the Stone Age, different sorts of rocks and stones and went in the caves wearing our hard hats!



YEAR 4

This term in Year 4 we have been investigating our big question, "Why are all living things different?" and experienced an amazing day at Austerfield Study Centre, handling different creatures, pond dipping and investigating woodland habitats. The Year 4 children have also been sharing brilliant pieces of homework linked to living things. Thank you for your support with this.



YEAR 5

We have had a great start to year



5 with the highlight being our Whitby residential! During this, the children also had the opportunity to visit York, an important city during the Anglo Saxon and Viking period, where the children got to experience what daily life would have been like throughout this time. A particular favourite was the Jorvik Viking Centre where children went back in time to witness the sights and even the smells of Saxon and Viking Britain!

YEAR 6

This half term Year 6 have been working towards answering their big question, "Can we live forever?" The children have specifically looked at the circulatory system and, following lessons of building their knowledge, they put this into practice when dissecting a pig's heart! In small groups, the children used various tools to dissect a pig's heart and were able to identify key parts including arteries, atriums, and ventricles. The children pushed themselves out of their comfort zone and were able to become surgeons for an afternoon



SCHOOL COUNCIL

Ordsall Primary School Council representatives consist of children from years 2 to 6 who are elected by their class members during the summer term and begin their new roles at the start of the academic year.

School council meet once every half term.

We have had our first meeting where we discussed fundraising ideas for Children in Need, what we wanted our school disco to look like and upcoming council events including Remembrance Service.



Councilors are then given time in their class to feedback information from the meeting and, if any issues/concerns are raised, these are discussed at the next meeting.

Our Year 6 councilors have already represented the school in our local community during an unveiling of a replacement headstone for a war veteran at All Hallows Church.



WINTER DISCO

On Wednesday 29th November 2023, the school will be hosting a Winter Disco for all children of Ordsall Primary School.

The cost of a ticket is £2, which includes a burger and drink.

A professional DJ has been booked, complete with lights, music and plenty of dancing games.

Due to the number of children we have at school, the disco has been split into three sessions, once for each phase:

Phase 1: 2.15 – 3pm.

Phase 2: 3.15 – 4.15pm.

Phase 3: 4.30 – 5.30pm.

Please refer to the letter sent out for further details.



MAKATON SIGN OF THE WEEK

At Ordsall Primary School, we have launched 'Makaton sign of the week'. This is a whole school initiative to learn one sign a week and inspire everyone to get signing. Makaton is used in school to support some of our children who have speech and language difficulties and also additional needs. We do the sign whilst saying the word. The signs of the week are recoded and uploaded to our Twitter feed each week: <https://twitter.com/ordsallschool?lang=en-GB>.