



Ordsall Primary School

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FROM THE HEADTEACHER

It has been a fantastic (and busy) half term at Ordsall, made all the better for the festive activities that have taken place during the past month.

It has been amazing to see the support given to the children, from watching Nativity performances to taking them to extracurricular activities (including at weekends), so a big thank you to all of our parents and families!

I appreciate this message has been shared several times now, but a polite reminder to ensure you are parking safely and considerately around the school site, particularly during busy drop off and collection times. We have had incidents of local residents being blocked in their drives and cars parking in 'no parking' areas. It really is a collective effort to ensure we keep everyone safe around school, particularly the children.

I would like to wish everyone a merry Christmas and I hope you managed to spend some quality time with your families over the festive break. **We return to school on Monday 8th January.**

Thank you.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

Last term I shared with you the priority areas the school is focusing on this year, so this term I have included some updates on the progress against these priority areas.

The school has purchased **£7,000** worth of new phonics and early reading books to align with our phonics programme, Read, Write, Inc. These will be getting delivered in the new year and will be getting organised for the children to use in their phonics sessions and take home.

Through some restructuring in our Nursery classes, we have been able to provide more spaces and better quality provision. We are currently working with Early Excellence to invest in new resources, toys and furniture across our Nursery and Reception classes.

School staff have undertaken training on the use of visuals to support all children with their communication, and the learning from this training is already being implemented into the daily teaching and learning in school.



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/>



Our Year 6 after school Book Club feeling very happy with their purchases after our visit to Wonderland Bookshop in Retford. – Tuesday 5th December 2023.

YEAR GROUP HIGHLIGHTS

NURSERY

In Nursery we have been taking part in Forest School. This has provided us with lots of fun activities that enabled us to investigate our outdoors. We even toasted marshmallows on a fire! We used a flint and searched for sticks to help us create delicious s'mores.



RECEPTION

The children in Reception did a fantastic job performing their Christmas Nativity for family and friends. They dressed in their Nativity costumes and did amazingly when singing and signing a range of songs. The audience turnout was brilliant – well done children!



YEAR 1

In Year 1 the children have learnt about where they live in Retford and what it looked like in the past. We have explored different types of maps and made our own using a bird's-eye view. We have also been looking at the traditional tale, *The Three Little Pigs*, retelling the story using Makaton and enjoying a story telling workshop.



YEAR 2

In Year 2 we have become chocolate experts by exploring the journey of a cocoa bean from tree to bar, taste testing chocolate and working with a professional chocolatier to create our own chocolates – Willy Wonka watch out! We have been engrossed in our whole class read of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and have written our own setting descriptions of the Chocolate Room.



YEAR 3

In Year 3 we have been learning about the Bronze and Iron Age, making clay beaker pots using pinch and coil techniques and using slip to join. We have also enjoyed a DT project week where we learnt skills such as cutting accurately and folding to make a 3D net



from a shape.

YEAR 4

In Year 4 we have been exploring our big question, *Why Should we Remember?* We have been learning about what life was like for the soldiers during World War 1 and why it is important for us to remember their sacrifice today. We have also spent time at Bassetlaw Museum to learn about our local history. We studied the Pilgrims from this area and their journey on The Mayflower to the New World and why Americans celebrates Thanksgiving.



YEAR 5

Year 5 recently took part in their Viking Day. Throughout the day, the children got to experience what daily life for Vikings would have been like, including making braids, sagas, and writing, as well as enjoying a game of tug of war! To top the day off, we all enjoyed a Viking feast – yum!



YEAR 6

In Year 6 we have been enjoying our topic about the Ancient Greeks. We have loved learning about the different, fascinating myths and the adventures of Odysseus! We also completed our DAaRT course and all the children graduated on one very frosting morning. It has taught the children so much about how to stay safe and make sensible decisions as they get older, more independent and encounter different situations.



FUN WITH FOOD AT CHILDREN'S KITCHEN

Children in Reception have been having lots of food fun in our weekly Children's Kitchen sessions that take place in the school bungalow. The children have the opportunity to explore different fresh fruit and vegetables sourced from our Friday Food Hub.

The aim of the sessions is food exploration and discovery. The children are introduced to a new fruit or vegetable each week and equipped with their own chopping board and safety knife as they learn techniques to cut, chop and dice foods safely.



Having fun exploring and dissecting a variety of different fruit and vegetables provides an opportunity for children to become more secure at trying them when they might otherwise choose not to. Recently, the children have had some festive fruits to explore with cranberries and pomegranates!

It would be brilliant for you to continue to encourage your child to explore (and try) different fruit and vegetables at home.

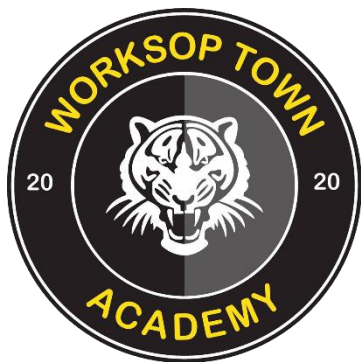


PROUD TO BE A PART OF ORDSALL

During this term we have talked a lot about being proud to be a part of our wonderful school, the importance of being a part of a team, and the things we can do as individuals to contribute.

A big part of this has been a focus on ensuring everyone is wearing the correct school uniform, as **looking** part of a team is a major contributing factor to **feeling** part of a team.

As part of this, the school has purchased brand new sports kit (see picture above) for each year group through school so whenever Ordsall children are taking part in tournaments of competitions, we look and feel part of a team. This also includes new kits for our football teams.



WORKSOP TOWN FOOTBALL ACADEMY

Many of our children in years 2 – 6 have been attending the Worksop Town Academy football coaching sessions over the past term, as part of our enrichment provision offer.

This offer provides our children with the opportunity to work with professional coaches from within our local community to help extend their learning and skills.

We are now looking forward to the children putting their new skills and abilities to good use in our future football clubs and tournaments.