



# Ordsall Primary School

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## FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Welcome to the first newsletter of the 2024/25 academic year, and what a busy half-term it has been!

Over the past 7 weeks, we have had two residential (including the Year 6 residential currently taking place), several school trips, sporting fixtures, visitors to school, and some exciting activities taking place across the school.



It has been wonderful being able to provide so many different opportunities to our children and we are looking forward to the many more we have planned during the year.

### Parent Consultations

Please remember to book a parent consultation meeting with your child's class teacher using the School Cloud booking system. Please refer to the letter sent out about this for further information.

## RESPECT VALUES



Over the summer holidays, we ran a competition inviting the children to design a new school mascot which represents our new RESPECT values.

After many amazing entries, we have managed to narrow these down to an eventual winner. We had a range of ideas, which reiterated exactly why we wanted our children to design it – their ideas were far better than anything I could have come up with!

A huge congratulations to **Charlie Johnson** for his 'Ordsall otters', which have been chosen as the school's values mascot. His design has been digitally converted and will be used going forward. They have already been incorporated into a brand-new sign in the school hall and I am sure you will agree that they look fantastic!



## SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

This year, we will be focusing on three main priorities in our strive for continuous school improvement.

- 1) To further develop the school's curriculum.
- 2) To continue to develop the Early Years Foundation Stage.
- 3) To continue to develop the standard of reading and phonics.

Some of the key actions included within these priorities are as follows:

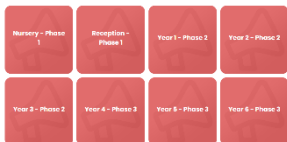
- Creating a whole school approach to revisiting previously taught content.
- Developing an evidence-based approach to how lessons are structured and delivered.
- Building a specialist sensory room to meet the sensory needs of children.
- Developing the school's EYFS curriculum.
- Coaching staff to deliver highly effective phonics sessions.

## SCHOOL WEBSITE

You may have already spotted it, but the school's website is now sporting a new look! We are currently working hard to update it, ensuring it contains all the information you need. Remember to periodically check your child's year group page for updates on what they have been up to in school! Our website can be found at [www.ordsallprimary.com](http://www.ordsallprimary.com).

Click the picture to be taken to the page.

### All About Our Classes



## YEAR GROUP HIGHLIGHTS

### NURSERY

We have loved settling in to Nursery so far! We have made new friends, explored our classroom, and had lots of fun. This week, we harvested vegetables, washed and chopped them, and made them into a nice, warm vegetable soup. It was delicious!



### RECEPTION

This half term, our Reception children have settled into full-time school brilliantly, and we are extremely proud of them! We have started to take part in Children's Kitchen sessions and have been learning about and tasting lots of different fruits and vegetables.



### YEAR 1

This half term, we have been learning about our big question, 'Who am I?' In Science, our learning has been based around our bodies and 5 senses, and the children have been immersed in hands-on learning. The children's favourite activities have definitely been our experiments of 'guess the smell' and 'guess the taste'.



### YEAR 2

Year 2 have had a busy but exciting start to the year exploring our big question, 'How do I grow and stay healthy?'. We've examined the importance of a balanced diet, good hydration, getting enough sleep and exercise, as well as recapping good personal hygiene practices. In Art, we've been working on our self-portrait skills and had a go at replicating the work of Giuseppe Arcimboldo, using fruit as facial features.



### YEAR 3

In Year 3, we have been learning all about the Stone Age, which was brought to life with a trip to Creswell Crags where we practiced 'hunting' bison with spears, explored caves and built dens. We have also been exploring different tools used during the Stone Age and have learnt about different rocks and soils in Science.



### YEAR 4

We had an exciting visit to Austerfield Study Centre where we had the opportunity to handle some animals and explored habitats of woodland creatures. We also had a visit from Laura from Bassetlaw Museum, who shared her knowledge of the history of the local area and the journey and life of the Mayflower Pilgrims.



### YEAR 5

We've had a fantastic start to life in Year 5, which has been topped by our residential to Whitby, where the children have had a great experience exploring famous landmarks such as Whitby Abbey and Scarborough Castle. Furthermore, all the Year 5 children were reunited on our crossover day in York, where they all got to experience an archaeological dig and a trip to the Jorvik Viking Centre.



### YEAR 6

This half term the children have had the opportunity to dissect a pig's heart as part of our topic about the circulatory system. The children pushed themselves out of their comfort zone with the hands-on learning as we learn through first hand experiences. This experience also allowed us to make strong links with our class text, *Pig Heart Boy*.



## HARVEST FOOD COLLECTION

Thank you for your generous donations to our harvest food collection in support of Bassetlaw Food Bank. Our school council have been busy sorting the donations ready for them to be delivered this week.



## STAYING SAFE OLNINE



In your child's planner, you will find a few pages linked to online safety, use of the internet, devices in and out of school, and the age ratings for some popular apps. As with any type of technology, it moves so fast; as quickly as we print guidance and tips, there are new ones.

Therefore, we will be posting fliers each Wednesday on our Ordsall 'X' account and on our school Facebook page. These are called 'Wake up Wednesday' posters and give hints and tips on everything and anything linked to online safety in primary schools. Previous ones have included online safety for under 5s, what you need to know about YouTube kids and creating family rules for using devices.

There are also copies of these in the main entrance to school and Nursery/Reception and these will be available as hard copies at parent consultations on the 5th and 7th November.

'Wake up Wednesday' guidance is also now available as a podcast which is a short round up of the information on the poster. Plus, you can scan a QR code to sign up to these. Please do approach staff if you require further information or support.

Mrs Greatwood – Computing Lead



## WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

Thank you for your generous support for World Mental Health Day. Through wearing yellow, the school raised £263 which will go towards supporting children and young adults in feeling less alone with their mental health.

## ENRICHMENT AT ORDSALL

We have had a couple of exciting new additions to our after-school enrichment club starting this year, including the following:

### Year 4 Yorkshire Wildlife STEM Club:

the children have been participating in some practical challenges related to birds and building nests, have listened to different bat calls and have been involved in some practical measuring of wingspans.



### Year 3 Minecraft Club:

each week, the children are set a design task to create their own Minecraft creation.



Each week's designs are viewed and the children vote for the best design to be put forward to a national leader board of schools where parents/carers can vote for their favourite.

### Year 4 Ukulele Club:

delivered by Inspire Music, the children have a fun time learning some basic chords to enable them to play along to some popular songs and rhymes.



## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

At Ordsall, we want everyone to 'be the best that we can be', which is why we place high importance on excellent attendance. With thanks to our school councilors, prizes for our attendance raffle draws have been chosen:

	End of autumn	End of spring	End of year
Phase 2	5 x £10 Wonderland Bookshop vouchers	5 x £10 Wonderland Bookshop vouchers	Bike
Phase 3	5 x £10 Love2shop vouchers	5 x £10 Love2shop vouchers	Xbox Series S

Please remember to contact school if your child is not going to be in school to avoid it becoming an unauthorised absence.