



Ordsall Primary School

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FROM THE HEADTEACHER

What a fantastic half term it has been, with our school value of *Enrichment* in full swing! Children across the school have embraced a range of exciting opportunities, from our Year 5 pupils developing their cycling skills in Bikeability to the school choir's wonderful participation in Young Voices.



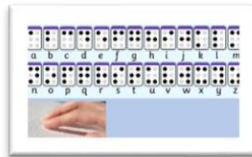
I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mrs Luckhurst who, as many of you are aware, is expecting a baby and will be going on maternity from the 3rd March. While we will miss her greatly, we are absolutely thrilled for her and this exciting new chapter in her life.

We have been working hard to secure a teacher to take over from Mrs Luckhurst and I am pleased to share that Mrs Harris will be joining our team after half term. Mrs Harris is an experienced and highly skilled teacher and is looking forward to being the Seurat class teacher.

I hope you all have a restful break, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back on **Monday 24th February 2025**.

CELEBRATING DIFFERENCE

This term, our DEIB-themed assemblies have provided valuable opportunities for children to explore important cultural events and key learning around inclusion and respect. We have marked National Braille Day and have deepened our understanding of the importance of supporting those with visual impairments. We also reflected on the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr., linking his message of equality to British Values such as mutual respect and individual liberty.



CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK



To mark Children's Mental Health Week, the children in school took part in various activities based on this year's theme, *Know Yourself, Grow Yourself*. After their last

meeting, the school council decided on a non-uniform day to end the week with a recommended donation of £1. In total, the school raised an amazing £374.55! The school council will be holding discussions with their classes for ideas on how best to use the money to support mental health and wellbeing in school.

YOUNG VOICES

Wow, what a night! On Monday 27th January, 38 members of Ordsall Primary School's Young Voices choir travelled to the Utilita Arena in Sheffield to perform in an amazing concert with 4,500 other children. They performed a variety of songs by different artists from Bob Marley to Jacob Collier, as well as music written especially for the Young Voices choir.

We were joined by special guests Tommy Blaize, MC Grammar, Souparnika Nair and the amazing Urban Strides street crew, who even managed to get the audience up on their feet and dancing to classic house tracks from the 1990's.



The choir gave such a fantastic performance - as always - and did both themselves and our school proud. We can't wait for next year!

YEAR GROUP HIGHLIGHTS

NURSERY

The Nursery children have loved learning about dinosaurs this half term. A mysterious egg appeared in our classroom, and cracked throughout the week. Then one day, we came to school and there was a baby dinosaur in our classroom! We have also been learning about endangered and extinct animals, and what we can do to look after animals on our planet.



RECEPTION

In Reception we have been reading Emma Jane's *Aeroplane* and exploring different types of transport that allows us to see the world. We have been very creative and designed our own aeroplanes, testing how far they go and what we can change to improve our design. We have also been exploring different landmarks from around the world.



YEAR 1

Year 1 have been learning all about what it is like at the poles. In Geography we have located the poles and thought about what clothes we might need to take if we visited there. In Science we have been identifying and classifying the polar animals in different ways. In art we have really enjoyed learning to use chalks and charcoal. We have used drawing and smudging techniques to create some super polar bears.



YEAR 2

Year 2 have had a jam-packed term investigating our big Topic question, *Are you a survivor?* We have compared the lives and experiences of Bear Grylls and Sir Edmund Hillary, looked at human and physical geographical features, explored the properties of different materials to help us design a coat for an explorer and even created group dances in PE to mirror penguins in the Antarctic! We've also really enjoyed writing a retell of 'Grandad's Island' in our English work and considered how the things we need to survive change in different environments. We're all certain we're ready to survive the wilderness!



YEAR 3

We have had so much fun in Year 3 this half term! We have been exploring everything Egyptian, including making canopic jars and painting our own Pharaoh death masks. We have also continued to practice our ukulele skills through weekly lessons and have been designing some spring pictures to send to the local hospital.



YEAR 4

This half term Year 4 have been learning all about the Roman. We found out that the Romans introduced the language of Latin, which influenced the English we use today, as well as the building of straight roads, underfloor heating and even the idea of public bath houses, like the leisure centres and spas we have today. On our Roman day, we were visited by a real Roman soldier, Titus Flavius and learned about what life was like for a Roman soldier.



YEAR 5

This term Year 5 took part in their space experience day. During the day, the children learned about famous composer Gustav Holst, and listened to many of his compositions in the 'Planet Suite'. The children also created a solar system piece in art using chalks and oil pastels. Finally, the children got to experience time in the Wonderdome, learning all about the planets in our solar system.



YEAR 6

As part of our quest as a school for every child to develop a love of reading, Year 6 were the first year group to visit Retford Library. We enjoyed a gentle stroll into Retford, before spending time perusing the books. Some children brought their library cards and were able to check out a book... or eight – interesting journey back to school!





SAFER INTERNET DAY

Tuesday 11th February was Safer Internet Day (SID) 2025. As part of this, the children explored this year's theme, *Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online.*

Please see our Wake Up Wednesday poster on Facebook and X which provides hints and tips on scams and fake news.



NEXT LEVEL SPORTS MULTI SPORTS CAMP

Once again, NLS will be holding their multi sports camp at Ordsall Primary School over the half term. See all the information you need in the attached pos



ENRICHMENT AT ORDSALL

The autumn term ended with too much fun at our after school snow globe themed Wow Day! The session highlight was a huge inflatable snow globe for the children to enter into a winter wonderland scene to jump, bounce and play snowball.



Children enjoyed snow globe arts and crafts and decorated snow globe biscuits.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

As a school, we continue to be above the national average for attendance, which is a significant improvement from the past couple of years. I would like to pass on my appreciation and thanks to you all for this as good attendance is such an influencing factor in how well your child does at school!

Please remember to continue to contact school by 9.30am if your child is not going to be in school to avoid it becoming an unauthorised absence. This can be done via a telephone call, voice message, email or a message through Arbor.

ASDA CASHPOT

Before Christmas, we asked our school community to support us in raising funds for school through Asda's Cashpot for Schools initiative.

I am very pleased to share that in total we raised a whopping £1,679.24 which will be going towards buying some new football goals for our younger children and sports equipment for everyone to enjoy. Thank you, as always, for your amazing support and generosity!

