



Ordsall Primary School

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FROM THE HEADTEACHER

It has been such an exciting and action-packed term here at Ordsall Primary School! One of the real highlights has been the fantastic attitude shown by our Year 6 pupils during their SATs. Their **resilience** and **effort** were outstanding, and I could not be prouder of each and every one of them.

To top it off, we had a special visit from BBC Radio Nottingham, who came to see how we were celebrating our wonderful Year 6s. The children thoroughly enjoyed their well-earned reward day – complete with giant inflatables and plenty of smiles!

We were also delighted to see Ordsall Primary featured on BBC East Midlands as part of their VE Day coverage. Our photo, taken during our school-wide VE Day celebrations, was a wonderful reflection of the pride and enthusiasm our children showed while learning about this important moment in history.

Looking ahead, there will be a short period of time after half term when I won't be in school, as I am due to have an operation on my knee. During my absence, Mrs Frost and Mrs Moss will be available to help with anything you would normally come to me about.

It's been a term full of hard work, celebration, and joy – and we're already looking forward to what's to come next!

I look forward to welcoming everyone back on **Monday 2nd June 2025**.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION & BELONGING

We are proud to announce the appointment of our new Belonging Ambassadors, who are already making a positive impact in our school community. Their first task has been to review and rewrite our Equality Objective 1, and they have begun identifying meaningful actions to help us work towards this important goal.



Through our assemblies, we have explored and celebrated a range of events that promote understanding and inclusion, including St George's Day, World Autism Month and the International Day of Families. As part of our continued reflection on the past and its impact on our present, we also marked the 80th anniversary of VE Day. Every child in school created a poppy, which has been proudly displayed outside of school to honour this significant moment in history.



READING AMBASSADOR READING RECOMMENDATION

Megan from Monet class has made the following recommendation:

I have chosen to review the book, *Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief* because I really think it is a great book and a great start to the Percy Jackson series. It is set in the real world but Greek gods and monsters are real and they are all focused on destroying Percy and demigods alike.



Since there was a lot of plot twists, the book always had you caught, making you want to read one more chapter which would easily turn into reading the whole book. I really like the humour in it, even in intense scenes there would always be a joke somewhere. At all times I would be laughing, crying or just engrossed in the story. Another thing I liked was how real the characters were and the description in each scene. There's not much I dislike about the book, just that it has to end. I recommend this book to most people my age (11 – 12) as most of the characters in *The Lightning Thief* are that age so they are relatable to read about.

I would give this book ★★★★★ because it is a very enjoyable read and a lovely start to a good book series.

YEAR GROUP HIGHLIGHTS

NURSERY

It's been an exciting term in Nursery! We explored animals from all over the world and even got to meet and hold some cute chicks. Our VE Day celebrations brought lots of smiles with our red, white and blue picnic, and the sunny weather meant we had plenty of opportunity to play in our outdoor area with our new friends.



RECEPTION

We had some very special visitors in Reception this term — the chicks have hatched and came to see us! The children were so excited to meet them. The chicks were tiny, fluffy and full of energy, chirping happily as they explored their new surroundings.



We learned all about how chicks grow and change, and some of us were even brave enough to gently hold one! It was a wonderful experience that helped us understand more about life cycles and how to care for living things. Before long, these little chicks will grow into hens — but we'll always remember how small and soft they once were!

YEAR 1

Year 1 have been learning all about toys, comparing toys from the past and toys from today. We have learnt about where teddies, Lego and computer games originated and the people who invented them. We are looking forward to the end of term when our parents will join us for an afternoon of toy making.



YEAR 2

Year 2 have had another exciting and jam-packed term exploring our big question: "Robin Hood – Friend or Foe?" We've been busy writing wanted posters, giving instructions for planting seeds, and even creating our own guides on how to train a dragon!



In art, we studied the work of Franz Bauer, drawing plants and flowers from observation and sculpting our own clay leaves. The highlight of the term was our incredible Robin Hood experience day with Partake Theatre. We used drama to retell the story, crafted Robin Hood hats, worked in teams to make bows and arrows, and even had a go at archery — a truly unforgettable day!

YEAR 3

This term, we have been busy developing our geographical skills by learning how to read OS map symbols, use compass points and locate places using four-figure grid references. We have also explored the human and physical features of Nottingham, Sheffield and our local area of Ordsall.



As part of our geography work, we investigated different types of settlements and identified what is typically found in each. Alongside this, we celebrated VE Day, reflecting on its historical importance and what peace means to us. We have also used our local area as inspiration to write our own exciting warning stories.

YEAR 4

This term, Year 4 have been investigating the question: "What have the Victorians done for us?" We've explored the lives of key historical figures such as Charles Dickens, Dr Barnardo and Queen Victoria, and compared the daily lives of Victorian children to our own. In science, we've looked at Victorian inventions and experimented with electrical circuits. A definite highlight was baking and tasting our very own Victoria sponges — they were delicious!



YEAR 5

This term, Year 5 took part in an exciting Amazon Rainforest Experience Day. The children spent time with a visiting rainforest biologist, learning about a range of fascinating animals that inhabit rainforests around the world. The highlight of the day was undoubtedly the chance to get up close to real rainforest creatures—including frogs, lizards, snakes and even spiders! As part of the experience, the children also produced vibrant artwork using chalks and oil pastels, creating detailed images of rainforest animals of their choice.



YEAR 6

This term, one of the real highlights across school has been the incredible attitude shown by our Year 6 pupils during SATs week. Their resilience and effort were truly outstanding — we are so proud of each and every one of them. To celebrate their hard work, the children enjoyed a fantastic reward day filled with giant inflatables, music and laughter. BBC Radio Nottingham even visited to share in the celebrations and speak to some of our pupils. It was a brilliant way to mark the end of a big milestone — well done, Year 6!





A MAGICAL DAY WITH CRESSIDA COWELL

This half term, we had the incredible honour of welcoming Cressida Cowell, the bestselling author of the *How to Train Your Dragon* series, to Ordsall Primary School. Her visit was nothing short of magical, igniting imaginations and reminding us all of the power of stories.

Cressida began the day by speaking to children across the school, sharing where her ideas come from and how she brings her characters and worlds to life. Her storytelling was captivating, filled with energy, humour and inspiration. Pupils were eager to ask questions and discover more about the writing process — from planning and drafting, to the importance of persistence and creativity.

Throughout the day, children took part in writing workshops and book-themed activities, using Cressida's advice to spark their own stories and invent mythical creatures and adventures. Events like these are a wonderful reminder of how reading and writing can unlock imagination, build confidence, and bring our whole school community together. At Ordsall, we truly do play, learn and grow together — one story at a time.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

At Ordsall Primary School, we know that good attendance makes a real difference. Every day in school means more opportunities to **play, learn and grow together!** As we head into the final weeks of term, we want to remind families how important it is to keep up great attendance right to the end.

To celebrate and reward those brilliant efforts, we're looking forward to our exciting end of year attendance draw! Pupils in Phases 1 and 2 will have the chance to win a brand-new bike, while those in Phase 3 could be the lucky winner of an Xbox!

Remember: every full week your child is in school earns them one raffle ticket — so the more they're here, the more chances they have to win!

Let's finish the year strong — every day really does count!

STAY SAFE AROUND WATER

As we approach the end of term and the warmer weather is with us, we want to ensure all our pupils enjoy a fun and safe half term. Sadly, drowning incidents rise during the summer, with young people most at risk.

To help children make safe choices, we want to share the following key messages with you all:

- Always swim in areas supervised by lifeguards.
- Never swim alone — stay with friends or family.
- Avoid swimming in rivers, lakes or reservoirs unless part of an organised activity.
- If someone falls in, call 999 and throw something that floats.
- If you fall in, try to stay calm and float on your back.



We hope everyone has a brilliant summer — stay safe and enjoy the half term!

SPORTING SUCCESS

In sporting news, our netball team continues to go from strength to strength, securing a 7–3 win against Sandringham Primary School. Their teamwork and determination on the court were clear to see — brilliant effort from everyone involved.



Some of our Phase 3 children recently took part in an exciting Boccia competition at Retford Oaks. It was a fantastic opportunity to try a new sport and represent Ordsall Primary in a friendly, inclusive environment. The children showed great **teamwork**, focus and sportsmanship throughout the event — and most importantly, they had a brilliant time! We're incredibly proud of how they supported one another and gave it their all.

