



Ordsall Primary School

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END OF YEAR MESSAGE

We are incredibly proud of our children and all they have achieved this academic year. Thank you to all our parents and carers who have supported them to be the best they can be. Also, thank you to the staff for their commitment and support in providing a positive and nurturing learning environment for our children.

We have had some changes within the staff team this year. Firstly, we would like to say congratulations to Mrs Edwards, formerly Miss Ward who has recently got married. We would also like to welcome Mrs Crossland back into school following her maternity leave.

It is also a time to bid farewell to those who are leaving us this year. To our children moving on to secondary school and special schools, we wish you all the best in your future endeavours. It has been amazing to watch you play, learn and grow together during your journey here at Ordsall. To the staff members who are moving on to new adventures, we thank you for your invaluable contributions and wish you all the best in the future. Thank you to Mrs Hartley, who will be retiring at the end of this year after 20 years of dedication and support for the children at Ordsall. Thank you to Mrs Cooper, our school cook who is also retiring after 33 years of serving our children delicious meals.

Also, thank you to Miss Moss who is moving to teach in a new school after 2 years of teaching and nurturing our children in early years.

Finally, we want to express our deepest thanks to each and every member of our school community for all of your support and care throughout this year. It has been very much appreciated.

We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer break.

Mrs Frost and Mrs Moss

FAREWELL TO YEAR 6

As the end of term approaches, we say a fond farewell to our wonderful Year 6 pupils. This has been a truly memorable year, full of hard work, achievement and celebration. We're incredibly proud of the way they tackled their SATs, showing real determination and effort throughout. Their hard work was rewarded with a fun-filled day on the inflatables—full of laughter, energy and well-deserved enjoyment!

A special highlight for many was the residential trip to Crowden, where children challenged themselves through hill walking, weaselling, and canoeing. It was fantastic to see their confidence, teamwork and resilience shine.

Throughout the year, we've seen a huge growth in their maturity and independence. From helping younger pupils, to leading in assemblies and representing the school, they've shown they are more than ready for the next step in their educational journey.



We're immensely proud of all they've achieved during their time at our school—from those early days in Reception to the well-rounded, capable young people they are now. They leave with warm memories, strong friendships and all the skills they need to succeed in secondary school and beyond.

We wish them every happiness and success in the future. They'll always be part of our school family.



YEAR GROUP HIGHLIGHTS

NURSERY

This term in nursery, we've had a wonderful time exploring and learning together. We took a trip around Retford on the school minibus, spotting familiar places and talking about our community. We also went on an exciting journey around the world, learning about different countries and their traditions. As the year ends, we've been reflecting on all we've achieved and enjoyed, and we're especially excited about our fantastic new outdoor area. The nursery team are incredibly proud of all the children and how much they have grown this year!



RECEPTION

This term, our Reception class has excelled in model making, with children using their imaginations and creativity to construct imaginative models.



In our Reception class, we love reading and sharing books together—it is a happy part of our day.

YEAR ONE

Year 1 have been very creative this half term. First we all enjoyed a great session with Shaun learning how to sculpt with clay. We made seaside tiles, using moulds to create sea creatures such as sea horses and starfish which we stuck to our tiles using slip. We then made coral using a garlic press and also added texture and details using clay tools. We are looking forward to being able to take them home once they have been glazed and fired. We also engaged in a Think like an engineer project where we combined our knowledge in Science, DT, Maths and Art to design and make our own seaside windmill. We carried out experiments to help us decide which were the best materials to use to meet the design criteria and the best shape for our windmills to be before designing and making our own.



YEAR TWO

What a fantastic and busy end to the school year we have had in Year 2! We've really enjoyed our topic 'What was invented first... planes, trains or cars?' We have learnt and written fact files about Henry Ford, George Stephenson and the Wright brothers. We really enjoyed creating our own rhyming poems based on different vehicles. We've worked in teams to design, build and improve model vehicles as part of our Design and Technology project. In Maths, we've conducted a traffic survey and developed our understanding of position and direction, along with programming Bluebots to travel to a certain point.



YEAR THREE

Year 3 had a fantastic afternoon exploring their topic question, "What's on the menu?" through a range of hands-on activities. The children thoroughly enjoyed tasting different foods, designing their own colourful and healthy salads, and practising essential food preparation skills such as peeling, grating, and chopping.



They also took part in a brilliant Music Maker workshop with their parents, where they used cardboard and recycled materials to create their own musical instruments. It was a fun-filled afternoon that combined creativity, teamwork, and new learning in a memorable way!

YEAR FOUR

This term, Year 4 have been learning all about rivers, including identifying some of the major rivers in the UK. As creative writers, we wrote imaginative stories about the water cycle, inspired by The Rhythm of the Rain. In art, we explored wax resist techniques to create beautiful watercolour paintings of fish. Our class read has been The Whale Watchers by Dougie Poynter, which we have really enjoyed. As the term comes to an end, we've also been busy preparing ourselves for the exciting transition to Year 5.



YEAR GROUP HIGHLIGHTS

YEAR FIVE

On Friday 4th July, Year 5 took part in Mayan day to experience what life was like for the Mayans. During the day, the children played their famous ball games of Pok-a-tok, learnt all about their confusing number system, and had the opportunity to taste lots of their food and drink such as tortilla chips, salsa, guacamole, sour cream and hot chocolate with chilli and cinnamon.

YEAR SIX

Year 6 have recently taken part in a range of transition events to help prepare them for their move to secondary school. They had a brilliant time, meeting new children, getting to know some of the staff, and taking part in fun, confidence-building activities. We hope these experiences help ease any worries they may have over the summer about the big change ahead. It was lovely to hear them share their stories and excitement when they returned! Back at school, we're also enjoying the build-up to our leavers' events — showing our best dance moves at the disco to rehearsing for the leavers' assembly, there's a real sense of celebration in the air as we count down their final days here at Ordsall!



END OF YEAR WINNERS

A big well done to all our end of year winners – across school the children have enjoyed a film afternoon, magic show, sports afternoon or a trip to the beach!

Some photos of these events are on the last page of the newsletter.

PHASE 2

- 1st place Bridlington Trip - Saturn
- 2nd place Sports Afternoon - Neptune
- 3rd place Magic Show - Jupiter
- 4th place Film Afternoon - Mercury

PHASE 3

- 1st place Bridlington Trip - Saturn
- 2nd place Sports Afternoon - Jupiter
- 3rd place Magic Show - Neptune
- 4th place Film Afternoon - Mercury



Well done to all the individual team point winners who have enjoyed an afternoon at the Splash Party which left no-one dry, and to those who earned enough certificates to win a book voucher. A special well done to those who achieved the top prize and enjoyed a meal out in Retford!

Finally, well done to Maja & Johan Braddock who were winners in the Retford Book Festival!

A big well done to all the children for all they've achieved this year, it was lovely to see their excitement during their rewards!

NETBALL SUCCESS

This term we hosted a Netball tournament here at Ordsall in which all 20 players took part in and Ordsall were victorious and claimed the 1st place position! The netball team's year 6 pupils recently played a very competitive match against Sparken Hill Academy. The girls fought hard and dug deep, after being 6 – 2 down at half time, they went on to win the match 9 – 7. The netball team have had great success and we are all very proud of what the Ordsall Otters Netball Team have achieved this year. Well done team!

In June, the children also enjoyed a fabulous day out to the Motorpoint Arena in Nottingham to watch Forest netball – they met the players, had photos taken and were even shown on the big screen, getting a shout out for the school!

What a great time!



ORDSALL CHARITY TREKKING!

The annual fundraiser for our charity of the year 'Young Lives Vs Cancer' was held last month. The School Council decided to complete a Trek as Mrs Rouse had also completed a Trek through Africa earlier this year for the same charity. Collaboratively we trekked a total of 1040 miles, this is the equivalent of travelling to Rome in a straight line from Retford and is longer than Land's End to John O'Groats! Alongside our charity, we have also fundraised for our school too. The School Councillors met with Mr Hopkinson to discuss their ideas, we will keep you posted about these plans! We are excited to announce that our fundraising total for the year is £4,334.84. Thank you so much for your continued support, the non-uniform days, buying raffle tickets and sponsorship really is appreciated by both the school and the charity. Your support really does make a difference



DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION & BELONGING

This half term, our Belonging Ambassadors have created a powerful video to help children and families understand the Protected Characteristics and why they matter. You can watch their video on the DEIB (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging) page of our school website.

Following the video launch, every child reflected on what makes them special. Each pupil then wrote a personal message on a heart, which is now displayed on our Tree of Belonging in the art room.

As we prepare for transition into new classes, the whole school is continuing to explore the theme of belonging to help the children feel confident and settled in their new classes.

We are also proud to share that some of our Phase 3 children took part in a public speaking competition called 'One Minute, One Message', where they created passionate speeches linked to British Values, the Equality Act or the Protected Characteristics. Eight amazing speeches were shortlisted and recorded.

These shortlisted entries were judged by our Belonging Ambassadors, who were incredibly impressed. Each finalist attended a special celebration event - congratulations to Sam Spencer, who was voted our overall winner!

Throughout assemblies this half term, children have also learned about a range of important topics including Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, the experiences of refugees during Refugee Week, the achievements of women on International Day for Women in Engineering and we have all celebrated the inspiring success of our Women's Football Team in the news!



SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

It's been a busy half term for the School Council. Some of the Councillors attended The Mayor Making Event at Retford Town Hall. We also held our School Elections ahead of the new academic year. Huge congratulations to all those who were successful.



OTHER EVENTS AND PHOTOS

In addition to all the moments mentioned in this newsletter, there have been many other great events and trips.

On the 9th June, Retford Book Festival was declared open by Retford Town Crier, Paul Cookson, who held a fantastic assembly with illustrator Liz Million that had the children in stitches and inspired in equal measures!

Not long after, Frank Cottrell-Boyce, multi-award-winning author, visited Y3-6 for another great assembly!

There have also been musical highlights, including the String Performance assembly in Phase 3 and who could forget the afternoon of brilliant singing and performing that was Ordifest!

