



Ordsall Primary School

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FROM THE HEADTEACHER

It has been a wonderful end to the term here at Ordsall Primary School, and it has been fantastic to see so much support from families for our Christmas performances. From Year 4's Advent performance to the beautiful Nativity productions by Nursery, Reception and Year 2, the children were brilliant and made us all incredibly proud. Thank you to parents and carers for your continued encouragement and for joining us to celebrate these special moments.

This term has also been packed with ENRICHMENT, with a wide range of visitors, visits and experiences taking place across the school. These opportunities play a vital role in bringing learning to life and helping our children to play, learn and grow together. You can find out more about the many activities and experiences that have taken place by reading through this newsletter.

As we come to the end of another busy and successful term, I would like to thank our children for their enthusiasm and effort, our staff for their dedication and our families for their ongoing support. I wish you all a restful break and look forward to welcoming everyone back on **Monday 5th January 2025**.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION & BELONGING

This term in our assemblies we have been learning about a range of meaningful events that help us understand both ourselves and the world around us. We explored Advent and the ways people prepare for this special season and we celebrated Maths Week by discovering how maths can help us in our everyday lives.

During Parliament Week, we learned what Parliament is, how it works and why having a voice is important. We also marked Remembrance Day with respect and thoughtfulness and recognised World Adoption Day by celebrating the many different ways families can be formed. Through Picture News, we have explored current topics such as COP30, togetherness and the different ways we can express ourselves.



ATTENDANCE AWARDS ANNOUNCED

Our School Councillors played an important role in shaping this year's attendance awards by creating a shortlist of prize ideas, which were then put to a vote in every class across the school. The children enjoyed having their say, and the most popular choices were selected as our attendance rewards for the year.

This year, the prizes will be the same in each Phase, with an iPad awarded to the end-of-year attendance raffle winners in Phase 1/2 and Phase 3, celebrating and rewarding excellent attendance. Remember, each week your child attends school every day, they will receive a raffle for the draw. We will also be awarding £10 Wonderland Bookshop vouchers to 5 lucky winners from Phase 1/2 and Phase 3 at the end of the autumn and spring terms!



A polite reminder to ensure you contact school by 9am if your child is going to be absent from school.



YEAR GROUP HIGHLIGHTS

NURSERY

This half term in Nursery has been very busy, yet full of learning. The children were excited to meet the local firefighters, exploring their equipment and thinking about how we can be safe around fireworks. We also enjoyed discovering the magic of Christmas through festive activities, stories and crafts. The highlight of the term was our Christmas show, where the children shone brightly and made us all incredibly proud!



RECEPTION

Reception had an exciting visit from the Fire Service, where the firefighters showed the children the fire engine and explained the different pieces of equipment they use. The children were thrilled to sit inside the fire engine cab and ask questions about the firefighters' job. During the visit, the firefighters also gave a class talk about fire safety, including how to stay safe on Bonfire Night.



YEAR 1

Year 1 have been undertaking a brand new DT project to design and make their own smoothies. The children were excited to taste a range of existing products and used this research to work out which flavours they did and did not like but also which worked well together and which didn't. The following week, the children got to develop their chopping and peeling skills in order to prepare and blend the fruit into their own products which they then all tried as a class and evaluated. Almost all the smoothies were a big hit with the children with some even saying 'they are the best thing I have ever tasted'. Maybe we have some future Innocent Smoothie product developers in our midst!



YEAR 2

We have had a jam-packed term in Year 2, culminating in our fabulous performances of 'The Bethlehem Bake-off'. We are so proud of all the hard work and effort the children have put in to learn their lines and the songs – we hope you enjoyed it! We've also found time to investigate human and physical features of Retford and how these have changed through recent times in Geography. In English, we have discovered some amazing adjectives to write expanded noun phrases, describing the chocolate room from 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. Finally, some of us have been lucky enough to join Minecraft club as our enrichment activity this term, building on our work investigating coding in Computing



YEAR 3

This half term in Year 3, the children have been learning about the Bronze Age and Iron Age, focusing on how life in Britain changed from one time period to another. They explored how new materials led to improved tools, producing detailed sketches to compare their design and purpose, and learned about prehistoric homes, including roundhouses and hillforts. A highlight has been learning about the Amesbury Archer, believed to be the richest Bronze Age burial in Britain, and discovering what his grave goods tell us about wealth, status and life at the time. To support their learning, the children also attended a visit to Retford Library.



YEAR 4

It has been a busy half term in Year 4. Our main learning has been based around World War I, where we gained an insight into the life of a soldier in the trenches. This linked with our Remembrance visits to the town and the church, where we observed a silence and paid our respects. We ended this term with our Christingle performance, where we welcomed Advent and talked about the importance of caring, showing love and kindness, and being present at Christmas.



YEAR 5

Year 5 have been very busy this term learning all about the Anglo Saxons, particularly where they came from and why they came to Britain, as well as well-known Anglo Saxon kings such as Alfred and Offa. We also learnt about important events such as the Battle of Stamford Bridge and the Battle of Hastings, and we will continue our learning on these when we focus on the Vikings in Spring 1. In order to further aid our learning, Laura from Bassetlaw Museum delivered a workshop showing us several artefacts from different periods in History, showing us how we understand the things archaeologists discover.



YEAR 6

This last week, we have completed our DAaRT course (and all graduated!), learning to stay safe and healthy in a range of situations. We finished off by sharing our learning together as a year group. A few weeks before, we also had a great visit from Wheelchair Basketball Paralympian Maddie Thompson; she led us through some great basketball sessions and then a fascinating assembly where she shared her story and helped us think about our goals and mindset!





ENRICHMENT AT ORDSALL

The start of the autumn term has seen the introduction of a new and rather unique after-school enrichment opportunity – The Junior Herbalist Club. Led by Thalia Clay McSherry, a registered Medical Herbalist, Botanical Practitioner and Children’s Educator, the club has given children the chance to learn about the medicinal qualities of herbs such as lavender, chamomile, sage, liquorice and cloves. Across the sessions, children have enjoyed creating a range of herbal items, including lavender bags, throat sprays, bath bombs, lozenges and festive pomanders, as well as tasting herbal teas linked to the herbs they are studying. It has been a fantastic and hands-on club that the children have thoroughly enjoyed.

We are also very lucky at Ordsall Primary School to work with a range of high-quality enrichment providers.

This half term, children have taken part in a Wildlife STEM Club delivered by education officers from Yorkshire Wildlife Park. Through practical, problem-solving activities linked to themes such as Busy Beavers, Amazing Adaptations, Building Bridges, Buzzing Bees and Whose Poo?, children have developed their scientific thinking and teamwork skills – including great fun building and testing a beaver dam!



SCHOOL COUNCIL

The School Council have been busy representing Ordsall Primary in the local community this term. They visited Grove Methodist Centre to experience their Star and Nativity Festival, as well as attending Remembrance Sunday, showing respect and reflection on behalf of the school. More recently, they visited St Swithun’s Church to see their Christmas Tree Festival.



STAY SAFE AROUND WATER

We would like to say a huge thank you to our families and wider community for their generosity and support this term. Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Christmas donations and toy collection, helping to support others during the festive period. We are also grateful for your support of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, which allowed our children to show respect and remembrance. In addition, our Children in Need fundraising raised an impressive £378.96, and our recent Book Fair was a great success, raising £903.65 to support reading resources across the school. Your continued support truly makes a difference.



PLAYING, LEARNING AND GROWING THROUGH SPORT

It has been an exciting autumn term for sport at Ordsall Primary School. The children were inspired by a visit from Paralympian Basketball player, Maddie Thompson, who spoke about resilience determination and the importance of believing in yourself. Some of our children also took part in an Orienteering competition at Worksop College, where they showed excellent teamwork and navigation skills and finished second overall. In addition, children enjoyed competing in a Tag Rugby Festival at Hill House in Doncaster, demonstrating great sportsmanship, enthusiasm and teamwork throughout the event.

