



Ordsall Primary School

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FROM THE HEADTEACHER

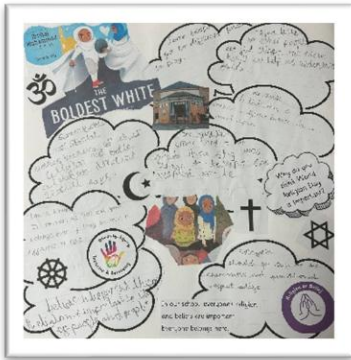
As we come to the end of another busy and rewarding half term at Ordsall Primary School, it has been wonderful to see the enthusiasm and commitment shown by our children across all areas of school life. From learning in the classroom to performances, enrichment activities and sporting events, the children have continued to impress us with their effort and positive attitudes.

This half term has also been filled with a wide range of enrichment opportunities, visits and experiences that help bring learning to life and broaden our pupils' horizons. These experiences play an important role in supporting our vision for children to play, learn and grow together, and you can read more about them throughout this newsletter.

As we break for half term, I would like to thank our children for their hard work, our staff for their continued dedication, and our families for the support you provide each day. Please remember that Monday 23rd February is an INSET Day, and we look forward to welcoming all pupils back to school on **Tuesday 24th February**. I wish you all a restful and enjoyable break.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION & BELONGING

This term in our assemblies, we have been learning about a range of important events that help us better understand diversity, inclusion and the world around us. We marked Braille Day by learning about the importance of accessible communication and how people experience the world in different ways. We also reflected on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, exploring his message of equality, fairness and standing up for what is right. Through the story *Red*, we discussed identity, belonging and the importance of being yourself. On World Religion Day, we explored the story *The Boldest White*, considering how the main character's journey helps us think about identity and understanding others. We have marked Children's Mental Health Week with the theme, *'This Is My Place'*, encouraging children to feel a strong sense of belonging, while also exploring how women have contributed to science and achieved great things.



CHILDREN WOW AT YOUNG VOICES



What an amazing night at the Young Voices concert at the Utilita Arena, Sheffield. Together with over 5,100 other children, the choir were so excited to finally perform the songs and dance moves they had been practising since September. They were totally awesome, and everyone at Ordsall Primary School are very proud of them!

NUT ALLERGY REMINDER

We would like to remind families that we have children in school with severe nut allergies, and even small traces of nuts can cause a serious allergic reaction. To help keep everyone safe, please do not send any foods containing nuts into school for packed lunches or snacks. This includes nuts of any kind, nut-based spreads (such as peanut butter or Nutella) and foods that contain nuts as an ingredient. Thank you for your understanding and for working with us to keep our school community safe.





YEAR GROUP HIGHLIGHTS

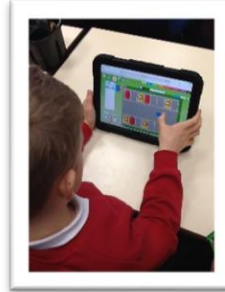
NURSERY

Nursery have had a busy and exciting half term! We were delighted to welcome some new friends and enjoyed exploring the playground together in the snow. The children learned about people in the community who help us, with special visits from the police, a sign language interpreter, guide dogs and their trainers, and Mr Hopkinson. We also said a sad goodbye to Mrs Jones who will be missed, and would like to warmly welcome Mrs Edwards to the nursery team – we're sure she will feel at home in no time, and we are excited to show her how much fun learning we do in Nursery!



YEAR 2

This term in Year 2, our learning has focused on different forms of transport and how inventions such as the car, steam locomotive and aeroplane have changed the way we live. We researched Henry Ford, George Stephenson and the Wright brothers, and wrote fact files about their achievements. In English, we enjoyed writing character and setting descriptions for the film Cars and rewriting the Big Race. We also designed and built model vehicles in Design and Technology, and used our coding skills in Computing to move vehicles to a specific space.



In RSHE and Maths, we learned about money, including addition and subtraction with coins and notes. In Science, we researched habitats around the world and explored why different animals and plants are suited to their environments.

YEAR 3

This half term in Year 3, the children have been learning about the Ancient Egyptians, focusing on how they built their civilisation, what daily life was like and how important the River Nile was for their survival and growth. A highlight was definitely our Egyptian Experience Day when the Partake Theatre Company visited and allowed us to dress up and take part in an Egyptian burial ceremony. We also made clay canopic jars with a local potter and learnt about hieroglyphics. We have also enjoyed investigating in Science using torches to explore light and shadows.



YEAR 4

This half term, Year 4 have been learning about volcanoes in geography which has led to some fabulous writing as children have produced newspaper reports based on the eruption of Mount Fuego. In maths, we have been testing our times table knowledge and applying this to our learning about fractions. In science, we were "all ears" as we investigated sound and how we hear noise. Children carried out a number of investigations to look for patterns in sound and to understand how vibrations are linked to the sounds we hear!



YEAR 5

Year 5 have enjoyed exploring two exciting areas of learning this term. In science, they learned about the Solar System, including day and night and the phases of the Moon, and took part in a Wonderdome Planetarium experience. In history, pupils studied the Viking period in Britain, building on their Anglo-Saxon learning and finishing the term with an immersive Viking experience day.



YEAR 6

This half term, Year 6 have been working on textiles in DT, designing and making a phone pouch. They learned a range of stitching techniques, including running stitch, back stitch and cross stitch, before designing their own pouch to meet a set of criteria. The children have enjoyed making their designs, using buttons and, in some cases, sewing images onto the front, and will be evaluating their finished products against their design criteria.



RECEPTION

This half term, our Reception classes have been working hard to improve their drawing skills, focusing on adding more detail to the people they draw. The children have been learning to include features and bodies, carefully thinking about what makes each person unique. They have shown great pride in their artwork and a real enjoyment of being creative – we truly have some budding artists in Reception!



YEAR 1

Year 1 have been learning all about Retford in the past. We have used photographs as sources of historical information to look at changes to transport, jobs and important buildings. We are looking forward to our walk to All Hallows church in Ordsall to look at the importance of the building throughout History and its associated memorials.





ENRICHMENT AT ORDSALL

Wonderland Book Club

We are delighted to have launched our new Wonderland Book Club this spring term for children in Years 5 and 6. The club is led by Helen Tamblyn-Saville, owner of The Wonderland Bookshop in Retford, whose passion for children's literature has been a real inspiration. Helen has introduced pupils to the novel *Birdie* by J.P. Rose, which the children are thoroughly enjoying. Through shared reading, pupils are taking part in thoughtful discussions around themes such as friendship and courage, family and belonging, racism and identity, and the historical use of pit ponies in British mines. The children are also preparing questions for the author and are looking forward to a planned visit to the bookshop, where they will explore books by some of their favourite authors.

Musical Theatre Club

We have also launched a new Musical Theatre After-School Club, delivered by The Curious Academy of Talent. Each week, children build confidence through improvisation and drama games, alongside singing, dancing and performing excerpts from the musical *Annie*. The club provides a fun and supportive environment where pupils can develop performance skills, teamwork and self-expression.



SPORTS HALL ATHLETICS SUCCESS

A selection of Year 6 pupils represented Ordsall Primary School at the Retford Oaks Sports Hall Athletics Qualifier and they were fantastic. The children competed with real determination, giving their all in every event and showing outstanding passion, resilience, effort and teamwork throughout the competition. They supported one another brilliantly and were a credit to the school. Well done to everyone involved!



ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCE

Our orchestra pupils gave a fantastic short performance during assembly this week. The children who are learning to play an instrument performed with confidence, concentration and pride, clearly showing how much progress they have made. It was a lovely moment for the whole school to enjoy their music and celebrate the commitment and effort behind it.



KIDS ONLINE SAFETY – SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

We would like to share a useful online safety resource with families: Kids Online Safety. This website has been developed to help children stay safe, confident and responsible when using the internet. It offers clear, age-appropriate guidance and activities for children and parents on topics such as social media, online content, gaming, privacy and digital wellbeing. It is a helpful way to continue important conversations about online safety at home.

You can visit the website here: [Online content](#) or by searching for 'Kids Online Safety Gov'.

