



Ordsall Primary School

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FROM THE HEADTEACHER

As we come to the end of another busy and successful half term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our children, staff and families for their continued hard work and support. It has been another fantastic half term at Ordsall, with children continuing to demonstrate our RESPECT values both in and out of the classroom.

A particular highlight this half term has been the attitude and determination shown by our Year 6 children during their SATs week. We are incredibly proud of the resilience, maturity and effort they demonstrated throughout the tests. The children approached the week with positivity and should all feel extremely proud of themselves. To help prepare them for each day, the children enjoyed special breakfasts together before the tests began, which created a calm and supportive atmosphere each morning. At the end of the week, they also had the opportunity to celebrate their hard work and let off steam with a fantastic inflatable-filled afternoon of fun!

Across the school, children have continued to take part in a wide range of learning opportunities, enrichment activities, sporting events and experiences. It has been wonderful to see the enthusiasm, pride and engagement children are showing in all aspects of school life.

Finally, a reminder that school will be closed to children on Monday 1st June due to an INSET Day. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Tuesday 2nd June 2026.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION & BELONGING



This term in our assemblies, we have been learning about a range of important events and current affairs to help us better understand diversity, inclusion and the world around us. Through our learning, the children have explored the importance of protected characteristics and British values within our school and community.

We explored why some people become important through the positive impact they have on others and the world, linking our learning to the birthday of David Attenborough. We also considered whether it is ever too late to start something new through our learning about the London Marathon.

For World Art Day, we explored the work of Yayoi Kusama, celebrating individuality, resilience and how every person, like art, is unique and special in their own way. During Earth Day, the children learned about the shared responsibility we all have to care for our planet and the difference we can make.

This week, we will also be learning about how music can bring people together from different countries and cultures through the Eurovision Song Contest. We will also explore the International Day of Families, celebrating what makes all of our families special and unique.

HONOURING OUR FALLEN HEROES



Our Year 5 Belonging Ambassadors recently joined members of the Royal British Legion at All Hallows Churchyard to take part in a special act of remembrance. The children placed photographs on graves to honour and remember fallen servicemen and women from our local community.

It was a poignant and reflective experience, with the children showing great respect and maturity throughout. We were incredibly proud of how they represented the school and felt honoured to be invited to take part in such a meaningful event.



YEAR GROUP HIGHLIGHTS

NURSERY

In Nursery, we have been delighted to welcome lots of new friends, who have all settled in wonderfully and become fantastic members of our Nursery family.

Our learning this half term has focused on minibests. The children have explored different life cycles, tasted honey whilst learning all about bees and carefully looked after five little caterpillars in our classroom. The children have loved observing the changes each day and were very excited when all of the caterpillars transformed into cocoons.



RECEPTION

Reception were excited to welcome Lesley, the librarian from Retford Library, into school for a special visit. Lesley talked to the children all about the library, explained how it works and answered lots of thoughtful questions from the children. She also shared a new story with the class, which everyone thought was very funny!



The children thoroughly enjoyed the visit and loved hearing all about the wonderful books and opportunities available at the library.

YEAR 1

Year 1 have really enjoyed learning all about The Great Fire of London this half term.



We started our learning with an enrichment drama experience delivered by Partake Theatre company where we acted out the historical events. In History we then learnt about how London changed as a result of the fire and how the houses, streets and fire service were improved to ensure it never happened again.

YEAR 2

This half term, Year 2 have been learning about Knights and Castles. We have learnt about what a castle is, why they were built, how they were defended and who lived there. To deepen our learning, Steve from Classroom Adventures came into school where the children immersed themselves in their learning, taking part in sword skills (using foam swords), learning about what it meant to be a knight, trying on armour and collectively building a castle and using a trebuchet to knock it down. In PE, the children got the opportunity to become archers and competed to see who could shoot their arrow the furthest. In DT, the children learnt how to use a running stitch to join two pieces of material together to make a textile product. The children showed excellent perseverance and teamwork skills to support one another.



YEAR 3

This half term, Year 3 have enjoyed reading *Lights on Cotton Rock* and have been developing their writing skills to create their own stories inspired by the text. They have worked hard to use descriptive language in their writing. As artists, the children have enjoyed learning about Georgia O'Keeffe and her style of painting. They have practised different painting techniques and used these skills to create their own wonderful flower paintings based on their observations. In Geography, the children have enjoyed exploring the Tundra biome. They have loved discovering more about this unique environment and the animals and plants that live there.



YEAR 4

Year 4 have been learning about states of matter in science, including investigating the melting point of different types of chocolate. In English, the children have been learning about the work of Thomas John Barnardo in preparation for writing biographies about his life and achievements. In history, we have been studying the Victorians, including a visit to Perlethorpe Environmental Education Centre to experience what school life was like for rich Victorian children. The children also had the opportunity to observe the historical architecture of the local church and Thoresby Hall – a fantastic day out!



YEAR 5

Year 5 have been focusing their learning around the Amazon Rainforest and the importance of protecting this crucial part of our world. The children have explored the different layers of the rainforest and discovered the animals and plants found within each one. They have also been learning about important environmental issues, including deforestation and climate change, and the impact these have on the rainforest and the wider world. It has been fantastic to see the children engaging so thoughtfully with these global issues.



YEAR 6

Year 6 enjoyed a fantastic afternoon of inflatable fun to celebrate the end of their SATs week! The children showed great resilience, determination and effort during each of the tests, making everyone incredibly proud of the mature and positive way they approached the week. They certainly enjoyed letting off some steam on the Friday afternoon and had a brilliant time taking part in the activities together. Well done, Year 6 – you were amazing!





GOING GREEN FOR THE NSPCC

A huge thank you to everyone who wore green and donated to support the NSPCC. Throughout the day, children took part in the NSPCC's online *Speak Out and Stay Safe* assembly, helping them to understand the importance of speaking to a trusted adult if they are worried or need support.

Children also completed a range of activities and discussions within their classrooms linked to staying safe and wellbeing.

Thanks to the generosity of our school community, we raised a fantastic £104.99 for the NSPCC. Well done everyone!



FOOD FORUM FUN



Some of our children recently had the opportunity to take part in a Food Forum, where they explored and tasted a variety of different fruits. The session encouraged children to try new foods and share their thoughts and opinions.

This was followed by menu sampling and the chance to speak with members of the School Kitchens Development Team about school meals and food choices.

Thank you to everyone who came along and sampled the delicious food!

GREAT EFFORT FROM OUR NETBALL TEAM

Our girls' netball team recently played their first match of the season against Sparken Hill Academy.

Although the team narrowly lost the game 3–2, the girls showed fantastic resilience, passion and teamwork throughout the match. They represented the school brilliantly and should be very proud of their efforts.

Great work girls!



LUNCH WITH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE

We were delighted to welcome officers from Nottinghamshire Police into school to join the children for lunch. This provided a fantastic opportunity for the children and officers to chat, build positive relationships and get to know one another in an informal setting.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience and asked lots of thoughtful questions throughout lunchtime.

If you see the officers out and about in the community, make sure you say hello!



ENRICHMENT AT ORDSALL

This half term's after-school enrichment programme has seen a fantastic range of exciting clubs led by some of our own talented staff.

Miss Smart has been getting hearts pumping in Years 5 and 6 with her high-energy Cardio Disco Dance Club, making great use of our newly purchased disco batons, whilst Miss Crummack has been keeping our Year 2 children active in her Street Dance Club. Mrs Crossland has also been sharing her passion for athletics through the Year 4 Athletics Club, where javelin throwing proved especially popular during last week's session! Our community enrichment links continue to grow from strength to strength, with an after-school cricket club being delivered by coach Gareth Jones from Bridon Cricket Club and local artist Cath Ray supporting children in Year 5 Art Club with competition entries for the Retford Rotary Club Annual Art Competition.



A MAGICAL VISIT FROM ROSS WELFORD

This week, we were thrilled to welcome author Ross Welford to school. Ross delivered a wonderful and inspiring talk to our Phase 3 children, combining his passion for writing with an entertaining touch of magic.

The children thoroughly enjoyed hearing about Ross' books, his journey as an author and the inspiration behind his stories. There was lots of excitement throughout the session and many children left feeling inspired to read and write more themselves.

Children also had the opportunity to purchase a copy of Ross' new book and have it personally signed by him.

