NEWSLETTER | Summer 2 2026

Ordsall Primary School

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FROM THE HEADTEACHER

As we come to the end of another fantastic academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our children, staff and families for their continued support, kindness and commitment throughout the year. I am incredibly proud of everything our school community has achieved and of the way our children continue to demonstrate our RESPECT values each and every day.

A particular mention must go to our Year 6 children as they prepare to begin the next exciting chapter of their education. They have been wonderful ambassadors for Ordsall Primary School and should feel immensely proud of all they have achieved during their time with us. We wish every one of them the very best as they move on to secondary school and we know they will continue to work hard, embrace new opportunities and make us proud.

The final few weeks of term have been filled with memorable experiences. It has been wonderful to see the children enjoying their Sports Days, celebrating together at our end-of-year discos and approaching our transition activities with enthusiasm and confidence. Seeing so many smiling faces, children supporting one another and looking forward to the future has been a lovely way to bring another successful year to a close.

I hope you all have a safe, relaxing and enjoyable summer holiday and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on **Thursday 3rd September**, refreshed and ready for another exciting year of learning, achievement and success. Have a wonderful summer!

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION & BELONGING



This term, our assemblies began with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month, giving children the opportunity to learn about the cultures and contributions of these communities through stories.

We have also focused on how to support others in specific situations. The children learned what a seizure is, how to keep someone safe, when to seek help and why it is important to remain calm. In our assembly about stammering, we explored what a stammer may sound like and how we can help by listening patiently, not interrupting and giving people the time they need to speak.

We were delighted to recognise the children chosen by their peers for our Inclusion and Kindness Award. These pupils were celebrated for helping others feel welcome, valued and included. We are very proud of them and the positive difference they make to those around them.



STAFFING FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

As previously shared with parents, we would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Perry, Miss Miles and Mrs Harris as they leave Ordsall Primary School at the end of this term. Collectively, they have dedicated many years of service to our school and have made a significant contribution to the lives of countless children and families. Their commitment, care and professionalism have helped shape our school community and they have each played an important role in ensuring our children have been able to Play, Learn and Grow Together. We thank them for everything they have done for Ordsall Primary School and wish them every success, happiness and good health in the next chapter of their lives.

We are also delighted to welcome Miss McKinney, who joins our Year 3 teaching team in September. Over the past two weeks, children have thoroughly enjoyed their transition activities, spending time with their new teachers and becoming familiar with their new classrooms. These sessions have helped children feel excited and confident about the year ahead!

YEAR GROUP HIGHLIGHTS

NURSERY

Nursery have enjoyed a wonderful half term of learning and play. The children loved exploring Michael Rosen's *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* through a fun sensory adventure and learning about different types of families.



They have also made the most of the sunshine, enjoying lots of outdoor learning and play. We are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved this year and wish our N2 children every success as they begin Reception in September.

RECEPTION

Reception had a fantastic time taking part in their annual Sports Day. The children enthusiastically competed in four exciting races: a running race, an egg and spoon race, an obstacle race and a relay race. Throughout the morning, they demonstrated excellent sportsmanship by cheering on their friends, celebrating each other's successes and always trying their very best. It was wonderful to see so much determination, encouragement and teamwork, making the event a fun-filled morning with smiles, laughter and a real sense of achievement for everyone involved.



YEAR 1

Year 1 have enjoyed a busy and exciting half term across the curriculum. In Science, the children learned about wild and garden plants and trees, enjoying a tree hunt around the school where they identified different species by their leaves and used scientific vocabulary such as *deciduous* and *evergreen*. In Maths, they have been learning to tell the time to the hour and half past.



YEAR 2

Year 2 have had a fantastic end to the school year with lots of exciting learning across the curriculum. In English, the children explored the stories *Greta and the Giants* and *Grandad's Island*, developing their vocabulary and grammar to produce some wonderful writing. In Maths, they investigated shape, position and direction, using their knowledge to program Bee-Bots.



In Geography, they compared Retford with Kenya, exploring differences and similarities in climate, lifestyles and geographical features. The children also enjoyed creating natural artwork inspired by Andy Goldsworthy and James Brunt, producing some wonderfully creative outdoor masterpieces.

YEAR 3

Year 3 have enjoyed a creative and musical half term. Inspired by their ukulele lessons and their OrdFest song, *Make Your Own Kind of Music*, the children invited their grown-ups into school for a special music workshop. Together, they used recycled materials to design and create their own musical instruments before enjoying the opportunity to play them together. It was wonderful to see so many families join us, and everyone had great fun making music and creating lasting memories.



YEAR 4

Year 4 have enjoyed another busy half term across the curriculum. In Art, the children explored the colourful patterns and bold designs of Orla Kiely, creating their own nature-inspired prints. In Geography, they have been learning about rivers, discovering their key features and how they shape the landscape from source to mouth. In English, the children used the story *The Rhythm of the Rain* to inspire imaginative descriptive writing using rich vocabulary and figurative language. They also completed the Multiplication Tables Check (MTC), and we are incredibly proud of the determination and effort they have shown throughout the year.



YEAR 5

Year 5 have enjoyed learning about the Ancient Maya this half term, exploring how they lived and comparing many aspects of their civilisation with life today. During our Maya experience day, the children played the traditional ball game Pok-a-Tok, discovered the Maya number system and sampled their version of hot chocolate. They also enjoyed tasting a range of traditional foods, including tortillas with guacamole and salsa, bringing their history learning to life through a memorable hands-on experience.



YEAR 6

In Design and Technology, the children have been using their knowledge of electrical circuits to design and create their own steady hand games. They explored existing products before identifying the components needed to build a working game. Using a range of materials, including card and wire, the children developed their cutting, shaping and construction skills to produce some fantastic finished products.



DREAM BIG CAREERS EVENT

Our first Dream Big Careers Event was a fantastic success and a wonderful opportunity to inspire our children to think about their futures. The week began with children coming to school dressed to represent a wide range of occupations and it was fantastic to see so many creative costumes on display.

We then welcomed representatives from ten different companies who shared their career journeys, experiences and advice with the children. Their enthusiasm and willingness to give their time helped broaden our children's aspirations and encouraged them to dream big about the opportunities that lie ahead. A huge thank you to everyone who supported the event and made it such a memorable experience for our pupils.



MAKING MEMORIES BEYOND THE CLASSROOM



Despite the summer heat causing some disruption to our outdoor enrichment programme this half term, there has still been plenty to celebrate. We were delighted to welcome the mobile swimming pool back to Ordsall, providing fantastic after-school swimming sessions for children in Years 1 to 4, alongside exciting water polo sessions for our Year 5 and 6 children.



This year, we were also pleased to extend our enrichment offer to Year 1, with children enjoying an after-school art club led by local artist Cath Ray. They have created some beautiful summer blooms while developing their creativity and artistic skills.

Our love of art has continued through the Rotary Club Young Artist Competition, where this year's theme, The Joy of Friendship, inspired some fantastic entries. We are incredibly proud that four of our children received recognition for their artwork. Congratulations to everyone who took part and represented our school so brilliantly!

ORDFEST BRINGS OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER

Our annual OrdFest was once again a fantastic celebration of our school community. Despite a last-minute change to the event time, it was wonderful to see so many families joining us to support the children and enjoy the afternoon together.

A huge thank you goes to Johnny Flinton, a former Ordsall Primary pupil, who did a brilliant job hosting and compering the event, helping to create a fun and lively atmosphere throughout. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make this year's OrdFest another memorable success!



REWARDING HARD WORK

What a fantastic couple of weeks we had celebrating our children's achievements! Throughout the year, every child has worked hard to earn team points, demonstrating our RESPECT values and contributing positively to their team. These points were exchanged for a range of exciting rewards, including a trip to Bridlington, a Nerf experience, Mad Science workshops and a film afternoon. It was wonderful to see the children enjoying the rewards for their hard work, teamwork and positive attitudes



RETFORD BOOK FESTIVAL

As Retford Book Festival drew to a close, we celebrated our love of reading with a fantastic visit from poet Paul Cookson and illustrator Liz Million. Through poetry, storytelling and live illustration, they entertained and inspired children across the school, sharing their enthusiasm for books and creativity. Their energy and passion for reading were truly infectious, making it a memorable afternoon and leaving our children eager to continue exploring the wonderful world of books.

