ORDSALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Autumn 1 2026 Newsletter

A Fantastic Start!



Welcome back! It has been wonderful to see the children return to school and settle so positively into the new academic year. It has already been a very busy half-term, with our Year 5 residential and Year 3 trip to Creswell Crags amongst the many exciting opportunities taking place. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We are incredibly proud of how well the children have started the year and look forward to everything the rest of the autumn term will bring.

Mr Hopkinson



Macmillan Coffee Morning



A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Macmillan Coffee Morning! Thanks to the generosity of our families, staff and wider school community, we raised a fantastic £209 for Macmillan Cancer Support. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who donated cakes, made a contribution or joined us for a drink and a treat.

Growing Minds, Caring Hearts

This half term, our assemblies have encouraged children to show compassion, celebrate diversity and understand their feelings.

Our theme, 'Be the best that you can be', focused on perseverance and recognising strengths. We also explored allergy awareness and keeping everyone safe.
European Day of Languages celebrated the languages spoken in our school, while National Poetry Day encouraged creativity and expression.
Through Hello Yellow and the Zones of Regulation, children explored mental health, emotions and kindness.

For Black History Month, we are celebrating 'Honouring Our Communities', reflecting on fairness, respect, belonging and the contributions of Black people to our society.



Year Group Highlights

Nursery

What a wonderful first half term we have had in Nursery! We have loved welcoming back our returning children and getting to know all our new starters. The children have been busy making friends, exploring their emotions and learning all about our Nursery routines. We are so proud of how they have settled in, grown in confidence and begun their Nursery journey together.





Reception

Our Reception children have made a fantastic start to their school journey and have settled beautifully into their new environment! They have enjoyed exploring their classrooms, discovering the different areas of provision and becoming familiar with their new routines. It has been lovely to see the children growing in confidence, making new friendships and becoming increasingly independent as they settle into school life. We are incredibly proud of how well they have adapted and look forward to seeing them continue to play, learn and grow together throughout the year!

Year 1

Year 1 have had a fantastic first half term and have been so busy in our learning. All the children have really impressed Mrs Joyce and Mrs Tomlinson with their amazing letter formation and handwriting as well as their maths skills - they are subitising masters! In history we have been learning all about toys from the past and comparing them to toys we have today and in Science we explored objects and the materials that they are made from. We have really enjoyed exploring our new continuous provision offering as well allowing us to practice and consolidate all that we have learnt in lessons.





Year 2

Year 2 have had a busy and exciting start to the year. In English, we've immersed ourselves in the stories of 'Grandad's Island', 'Wild' and 'The Tin Forest' and explored exciting new vocabulary to improve our written work. In Maths, we have built on our place value knowledge while in Science, we've investigated everyday materials and tested their properties for different uses. In Art, we have explored the work of Frida Kahlo and started to use line and shape to create self-portraits. We've even been out on a walk around Ordsall to bring our Geography learning to life, looking for human and physical features.

Year Group Highlights

Year 3

The highlight of our first half term in Year 3 had to be our visit to Creswell Crags! We took part in a Stone Age Animal Safari, explored a cave and learnt about different tools from the Stone Age. Throughout the day, we developed our survival skills by learning about how fire was made, working as teams to build dens for shelter using animal skins and trying out our aim as hunters to spear a bison! The children all behaved excellently and we had a wonderful day.





Year 4

Year 4 have enjoyed a busy and exciting half term filled with fantastic learning! In science, we welcomed Jungle Jo and her amazing animals, helping us explore animal classification and the characteristics of living things. We also became nature detectives, investigating our school environment and identifying different leaves. In maths, we have been developing our understanding of place value and practising our times tables using Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS). In English, we have been writing non-chronological reports about spiders and exploring play scripts through some exciting drama activities. It has been a wonderful half-term full of curiosity, creativity and learning!

Year 5

Year 5 have enjoyed an exciting half term, with some fantastic opportunities to bring their learning to life! During our residential visit to Whitby, the children explored part of the beautiful Yorkshire coastline, developing their geographical knowledge through first-hand experiences. We also travelled to York, where we stepped back in time to discover what life was like in Viking Britain. Visits to the JORVIK Viking Centre and DIG gave the children a fascinating insight into Viking settlements and how people lived in the past. It was a wonderful experience for everyone, filled with learning, adventure and memories to treasure!





Year 6

Our Year 6 children got hands-on in Science as they dissected a pig's heart to support their learning about the circulatory system! They explored the different chambers, valves and blood vessels, discovering how the heart works to pump blood around the body. It was a fantastic opportunity to bring their learning to life, ask questions and get stuck into some real-life science!

Amazing Author Visit



This half term, we were extremely honoured and excited to have a visit to school from author and illustrator Rob Biddulph. The children in Years 3 to 6 were captivated by Rob's visit, hearing about his life and journey to becoming an author and illustrator and, of course, 'Draw with Rob'. All the children took part in a draw-along, creating their own unique owl. What a magical moment to witness! Thank you to Wonderland Bookshop for organising the visit and also to Rob for his truly amazing storytelling.



New Books for Our Classrooms

Our Reading Ambassadors have been busy helping to organise our exciting new collection of Wonderland books! The children have been sorting through the books and preparing them to be delivered to classrooms across school. We hope these fantastic new additions will inspire even more children to develop a love of reading and discover new stories to enjoy. A big thank you to our Reading Ambassadors for their enthusiasm and hard work!



World Mental Health Day

Thank you to everyone who donated and supported us as we wore yellow for World Mental Health Day. There was a wonderful spectrum of yellow across the school that was lovely to see. Children also took part in activities and discussions about mental health, our worries and the importance of talking to trusted adults.

Read More **www.ordsallprimary.com**

Enrichment at Ordsall



Our after-school enrichment programme has got off to a fantastic start this year, with plenty of exciting opportunities for pupils to develop their interests, learn new skills and have fun!

Footballing Success

We have launched three after-school football clubs, led by Dean Anderson, Head Coach at Retford FC. The clubs are already proving popular, with both our boys' and girls' teams representing the school in away fixtures against other schools.

We are incredibly proud of the children for their enthusiasm, teamwork and the fantastic sporting spirit they have shown while representing Ordsall.



Creative Adventures in Year 3

Meanwhile, our Year 3 pupils have been getting creative at Art Club, working alongside local artist Cath Ray to produce some fantastic Stone Age cave paintings!
Inspired by prehistoric art, the children explored how early humans created artwork using natural materials. They even made their own paints by grinding soil, chalk and berries, before experimenting with paintbrushes made from sticks and twigs.

This hands-on experience was a wonderful opportunity to bring their history learning to life while developing their artistic skills and creativity.

We look forward to another exciting year of enrichment, with plenty more opportunities for our pupils to discover new interests, develop their talents and enjoy learning beyond the classroom!



Reminders

A polite reminder to all parents and carers that parking on school grounds is not permitted unless specific permission has been given. When parking on roads around the school, please ensure you follow all road signs and markings, and park safely and considerately to help keep our children and families safe.

We would also like to remind families that children should not ride bikes or scooters on school grounds. Please ensure children dismount and walk with their bikes or scooters once they enter the school site.

Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us keep our school community safe.