



Kingham Book Week

This week at Kingham Primary School it was Book Week – a week of activities to help improve our reading and make reading fun! Lots of events took place starting with a 'Book Character Hunt'. Each class picked and drew a traditional character, for example – Paddington Bear. The characters were then hidden around the school hall and classes challenged to find the most characters. The winning student from each class received a certificate and House Points.



Next on our list of events is the 'Extreme Read' competition. Students were challenged to find extreme and adventurous spots to read in and send in a photograph. This encouraged children to read more and shows that they can read anywhere! Congratulations to the winners - Islay in Reception and Max S in Year 4. Islay was pictured reading on a Narnia-like ice throne and Max riding a horse, and jumping! (See pictures on the next page).

Thursday was World Book Day, remembered especially for people dressing up as their favourite book characters. This year we had a range of excellent costumes varying from 'The Cat in the Hat', to Sherlock Holmes and Stickman with the best ones from each class winning a prize!

We especially enjoyed wearing costumes and the character hunt, and in Year 6, we also enjoyed reading with Reception children. It was a really, fun week - thank you to Mrs Smith for organising such an amazing event!

Report by Inigo Mathias and Felix Blount – Year 6

Value of the Month: Forgiveness

Forgiveness:

is understanding that everyone makes mistakes brings peace of mind and frees me from anger

Attendance at School

We have been understanding and lenient with student absence since Covid-19 started nearly 2 years ago. Now that things are getting back to normal, we are rightly being encouraged by the government and the County to closely monitor school attendance.

Good school attendance habits are best started early. Children learn from those around them and you as parents set the standards and expectations for your child. Showing your child the importance of attending school every day not only helps your child to settle quickly when starting school but helps them to keep and maintain friendships and enjoy the school environment.

Government guidelines state that attendance of 90% or less is classed as 'persistent absence' and that, in order to reach a child's full potential, they must attend school for a minimum of 95% of the year.

- Attending School 4½ days per week = 90% attendance
- Attending School 4 days a week = 80% attendance (ie more than half a term missed per year or two full years over the course of their school career).

If children do not attend school regularly they may:

- Struggle to keep up with school work;
- Struggle to make and keep friendships.

As a parent, ensuring your child's regular attendance at school is your legal responsibility and permitting absence from school without good reason will be detrimental to your child's one chance at education and can result in referral to the County Attendance Service, the issue of Penalty Notices and fines and possibly prosecution.

Our school will be resuming the sending of regular letters to parents of all students whose attendance falls below the expected level (Covid-19 absence is currently not being included). Where attendance does not improve, we will meet with parents to see what needs to be done to help.

The Department for Education advises that Leave of Absence should not be permitted during term time unless there are 'exceptional circumstances'. As there are thirteen weeks of school holiday in which family holidays can be taken, holidays cannot be considered as 'exceptional circumstances'. We understand that this can be hard on families from other countries who want to be able to visit their relatives abroad during term time, but arrangements will have to be made to make visits either without your children or during the school holidays.

Certificates for students achieving 100% attendance, will also resume this term.

New Flooring in Junior Building

We believe that the quality of the environment children learn in is important! So, with some of the flooring in the Junior block estimated to be over 20 years old, it was about time this part of the school had a makeover! With this in mind, a new wood-effect flooring was laid over the half term break in all Junior classrooms and the corridor. The floors now look clean and smart and the classrooms look bigger and brighter.

Despite the school facing serious financial challenges, we have managed to spruce up our school facilities this year with the following improvements:

- Refurbishment of the Early Years outdoor area with a new playground surface and play equipment.
- A new all-weather jogging track
- New full-fibre broadband
- New furniture in Years 3 and 5
- A new set of iPads (from KPSA fundraising) and
- New flooring in the Junior block



Diary Dates

Wed 9 Mar	Parent/Teacher Meetings
Thurs 10 Mar	Parent/Teacher Meetings
Weds 9 Mar	Y1 at FarmEd
w/b 14 Mar	Science Week
Weds 16 Mar	Reception Class at the Story Museum
Weds 16 Mar	Year 1 Dance Festival
Fri 18 Mar	Red Nose Day
Weds 23 Mar	Y6 at Kingham Hill Art rooms
Mon 28 Mar	Kingham Lodge Art Day
Thurs 31 Mar	KPSA Easter Bingo 5pm
Fri 1 Apr	Deadline for Kingham Art Competition
Fri 1 Apr	Infant House Benchball
w/b 4 Apr	Year 6 Residential to Kilvrough Manor
Mon 4 Apr	Year 2 trip to Midland Air Museum
Fri 8 Apr	Easter Egg Hunt
Fri 8 Apr	Last day of Spring Term
Mon 25 Apr	First day of Summer Term
Thurs 19 May	KPSA 'Bags to School'

Art Competition

We are currently running an art competition (sponsored by Kingham Lodge) which is open to *any* children at Kingham Primary and is for art that is completed at home. Students who enter can submit one piece of artwork using any medium they like (pencils, crayons, inks, paints, collage, clay... the list is endless). The piece can be on any theme of your choice. Prizes will be awarded to winners in each year group, and you have a few weeks to practise and think about your piece. Please submit your piece to Ms Hughes by 9am on 1st April.

Red Nose Day – Friday 18 March

Red Nose Day will be with us in two weeks' time. We will be selling noses in the playground (£1.50 each) every morning before school from next Friday until we sell out.

On Red Nose Day, we plan to fundraise by holding 'Nose and Spoon Races' throughout the day. We suggest that children bring in a donation of £1 for Comic Relief to help support poor and disadvantaged people.



Extreme Reading

