



Happy New Year

Welcome back! We hope you had a wonderful Christmas break and wish you a very successful 2023. As ever, we have some exciting topics being studied across the school and some fun events to join in with. For more information on our curriculum topics please see: [Kingham Curriculum Information](#).

Lunchtime Book Club – Years 4, 5 and 6

Are you often found with your nose in a book? Do you love to get lost in stories? If so, you'll be interested in joining Kingham's Book Club!

The Book Club is open to students in Years 4, 5 and 6 and will be run by Miss Welby and Miss Brooker on Monday lunchtimes.

At the book club, you will get a chance to read novels from the shortlist in the Oxfordshire Book Awards and then have an opportunity to vote for your favourite. If you are a keen reader, and interested in joining, then please let your class teacher know. Places are limited, so be quick!

Value of the Month: Resilience

Resilience:

is recovering quickly from setbacks
is remaining confident and optimistic
is helping others move forward when things go wrong.

5 reasons why teaching critical thinking is important

- ◇ Because higher education and jobs require it
- ◇ Because it is needed to process the news
- ◇ Because it supports students to make better decisions about their lives
- ◇ Because it improves confidence and communication
- ◇ Because it improves comprehension

Diary Dates

Mon 16 Jan	Critical Thinking Week
Weds 18 Jan	CNPS U11 Swimming Gala (pm)
Weds 25 Jan	Egyptologist visit to Year 3
Weds 25 Jan	CNPS U9 & U11 Cross Country Tournament
Thurs 26 Jan	Choir at <i>Young Voices</i>
Fri 27 Jan	Year 5 Class Assembly
Fri 3 Feb	Year 2 Class Assembly
Mon 6 Feb	Children's Mental Health Week
Tues 7 Feb	Safer Internet Day
Weds 8 Feb	KPSA Meeting (3pm)
Fri 10 Feb	Last day of half term
Mon 20 Feb	First day of next half term
Thurs 23 Feb	Year 1 at Fairytale Farm
Mon 27 Feb	Book Week
Thurs 2 Mar	World Book Dress-Up Day

Critical Thinking Week 16th January

Next week it is *Critical Thinking Week* at Kingham Primary. This is a new, themed week where we will challenge our youngsters to solve some of the world's problems!

It is estimated that in a lifetime, a human being learns, ponders and applies 15 billion items of information! How do we know what's important? How do we know what's true?

There has never been a more important time to ensure our young people can think critically. In a world where prejudice, populism and polarisation are on the rise, the ability to stand back, evaluate evidence and come to a reasoned conclusion is increasingly necessary. Learning the techniques of critical thinking gives children the ability to think clearly and rationally about decisions they make, and who or what, to believe.

The World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs Report 2020 identifies critical thinking and problem-solving as two of the top skills that employers will require in forthcoming years. Many other credible sources highlight the need for young people to possess an additional set of skills to those traditionally taught in schools.

Critical thinking is the ability to read carefully, analyse, ask questions, evaluate opinions and information in order to form an opinion, solve problems or understand if something is correct. It is what Sherlock Holmes does! Developing this skill helps young people to perform well in most subjects, university and future life.

Next week, we will still teach many of our regular lessons, but we also plan to make time for some additional thinking challenges. For instance, in Year 6 students will be trying to amass evidence and question data to form an opinion on whether climate change is real. In other classes, some will try to decide what has been the most important invention in the last century, and Year 5 plan to investigate whether we should spend £5 billion on a human mission to Mars.

Even our Early Years students will be encouraged to do some deep thinking about whether we should be putting rubbish in the bin and other important questions.

Parents may like to join in with this at home. You could maybe have some conversations over breakfast or the drive to school. All you need to do is ask **why**? E.g. why do you think...

- we wear seatbelts?
- bread goes mouldy if left in the bread bin, but not the freezer?
- babies cry?
- leaves fall when autumn comes?
- we have countries?

Think of the things that interest your child, at whatever age, and try and find something that will get them deducing, coming up with answers, and finding evidence to support those answers.