



### Welcome Back

Welcome back! It's been a beautiful week of blue skies and sunshine and of course it has been wonderful to welcome our students back. We hope that you have all had a good break and some fun days out over the holidays.

The week started with an assembly on *fresh starts* with Mr Prockter encouraging our students to try hard as they write on the first pages of their new exercise books and do their best to maintain that standard over the course of the year. Since then, we have lost count of the number of house points given for the outstanding work already completed - well done!

As the year goes on, we know there will be a few issues and problems to solve - this is inevitable when working with over two hundred children! Remember, we are always here to help. All our teaching staff came into this profession to make a positive difference, so please be assured that everything we try to do is always done in the best interests of our children.



Our Parent Governor, Chris Davies, has been elected to take on the role of Chair of Governors. Chris has been an active member of the board since joining in September 2022. Chris has experience in driving business transformation and leading operations, ranging from international (military and humanitarian) to leading UK crisis operations for the British Red Cross. In the last year, Chris has gained an excellent understanding of how the school functions, and we look forward to working with him as we continue our aim to provide an exceptional quality of education in these challenging times!

We welcome several new children in classes across the school and hope that you are settling into your new surroundings. We look forward to getting to know you.



This week, we welcome our new School Business Manager into the Kingham team. Helen Davies started with us this week, having previously overseen Primary Schools' Finance for an academy trust in Oxfordshire. Helen brings a wealth of experience, dynamism and enthusiasm into this role and has already made a brilliant start.

We also welcome two Associate Teachers into our team for the next six months. Miss Ahmed and Miss Gilbert will be working with a range of classes as they complete their teaching qualification, but will be primarily based in Year 2 and Year 6 respectively.



We look forward to making magical experiences, friendships, and lifelong memories with all of you over the coming year!

### Meet the Teacher

Year 1 to Year 6 parents are invited to our brief and informal *Meet the Teacher* sessions next week so you can catch up with your child's new teacher, find out a little about the coming year and ask any questions that you may have.

We have arranged supervision (for children who attend Kingham) in the hall. If you wish to attend the meeting, please collect your child as normal, drop them in the hall (via the playground entrance) and return to the classroom where the meeting will start soon after 3:20pm.

We have tried to stagger the meetings a little but, if you find you have sessions running at the same time, you may have to catch the beginning of one and the end of another. Years 1, 2 and 3 classes meet on Monday and Years 4, 5 and 6 classes meet on Tuesday. We look forward to seeing you.

### Reading is the Priority

With national reading results going down this year from 73% of pupils reading 'at the expected level' (down from 75% last year), we were pleased to see our results in all phases increase at the end of last term, with 97% of Year 6 students leaving Kingham at the expected reading level.

We believe that reading is fundamental and achieve our results through a rigorous approach to teaching phonics and word recognition, providing reading opportunities across the entire curriculum, extending vocabulary and, perhaps most importantly, through our teachers passionately encouraging a love of reading!

But, the most essential factor is what parents do at home with their children. We know life can be busy, but children only get one chance, and we as parents must try and make time to read to and with our children. Parents are by far the most important educators in a child's life and it's never too young for a child to start, even if you're only reading with your child for a few minutes a day.

It's great to read to your child from their earliest months of them being a baby. Cuddle close and sing nursery rhymes, read a story with lots of sound effects, or play peek-a-boo along with a book. This shows your baby how important books are to you, that books come with a loving adult and that books are fun and exciting. And we recommend that this continues all the way through primary school years.

We value your support and know that once young children can read, a whole world opens up for them and learning across all other areas accelerates, so we thank you for finding time (hopefully) every evening to enjoy a book together.



## Parent Governor Vacancy

Nominations for our parent governor vacancy close on Tuesday at 12pm. If you have a keen interest in education and feel able to make a time commitment as a governor, you will be welcomed as a valued member of the team. For further details, please see the [information here](#), fill out a [nomination form](#) or come and talk to us.

## Times Table Rock Stars (TTRS)

Times Tables Rock Stars is an award-winning maths learning platform that helps pupils practise and recall their times tables. All students in Year 1 upwards have logins and we encourage all pupils in Year 2 onwards to practise a few times each week. It takes 100s of hours to begin to develop automaticity in tables and the only way to do this is to practise regularly.



Having a secure recall of times tables at an early age really helps children to be better able to tackle arithmetic and problem solving as they move up the school.

We can see many pupils are yet to login this term and so we will be watching the scoreboard closely over the next week and announcing our first class and individual winners next week.

## School Uniform

Our uniform policy is unchanged, with children in Reception upwards all expected to be wearing Kingham uniform:

- White or navy polo shirt or white formal school shirt
- Navy sweatshirt or cardigan (preferably with school logo)
- Navy or dark grey skirt
- Dark grey trousers, or shorts (for summer)
- Navy gingham dress (for summer)
- Navy or black shoes
- Navy or dark grey tights
- White, black or navy socks
- Bookbag, PE Bag and PE kit

If children require an additional bag (e.g. for Forest School clothes or other equipment) we prefer them to also use a blue Kingham backpack. However, if you already have a different bag, then that is fine. Further details about uniform and jewellery are on our website. Alternative, non-branded uniform in the same style and colour is also acceptable.

## Value of the Month: Curiosity

We teach our students that *values* are key principles that guide our behaviour. They are like guidelines that help a person choose between right and wrong or good from bad. Each month, at Kingham, we teach and promote one of 11 agreed human values in school. As well as teaching a little about the value, we weave the value into our lessons whenever it makes sense and endeavour to praise students that we see displaying the value. This month our value is Curiosity.

Curiosity:

is asking questions about what I see, hear and read,  
is being keen to learn and find out about the world,  
is listening to all points of view and developing my own views and solutions

## Healthy Snacks

As a school we work with our pupils to promote and develop healthy lifestyles, which encompasses helping them to understand and enjoy balanced snacks and meals. Could we please encourage all families to try to send in snacks which align with this philosophy, such as fruits, vegetables, cheese or perhaps even a cereal bar. Where possible we would also encourage the same approach to lunchboxes, ensuring that treats are kept to a sensible level.



## Diary Dates

Mon 11 Sep	Meet the Teacher Y1, Y2, Y3 (3:20pm)
Tues 12 Sep	Meet the Teacher Y4, Y5, Y6 (3:20pm)
Thurs 14 Sep	KPSA AGM – 3:15pm
Weds 20 Sep	Year 4 at Chedworth Roman Villa
Tues 26 Sep	Year 6 at Mary Arden's Farm
Weds 27 Sep	CNPS U11s Football Tournament
Thurs 29 Sep	Y5 Gloucester Steam WW2 Trip
Mon 2 Oct	Black History Week
Thurs 5 Oct	Individual/sibling photographs (am)
Fri 6 Oct	Year 5 Class Assembly (2:45pm)
Fri 13 Oct	Reception Class Assembly (2:45pm)
Fri 13 Oct	Halloween Disco
Tues 17 Oct	Parent Online Safety Workshop (2:45pm)
Weds 18 Oct	CNPS U9s / U11s Cross Country
Fri 20 Oct	Last day of half term
Mon 30 Oct	INSET Day
Tues 31 Oct	First day back
Tues 31 Oct	Flu Vaccinations
Weds 1 Nov	Parents Evening (3:30 - 7pm)
Thurs 2 Nov	Parents Evening (3:30 - 6pm)
Mon 13 Nov	Anti-Bullying Week
Fri 17 Nov	Children in Need
Fri 17 Nov	Year 2 Class Assembly (2:45pm)
Weds 22 Nov	CNPS U11s Netball
Weds 29 Nov	CNPS U11s Sports Hall Athletics
Thurs 30 Nov	CNPS U11s Literary Quiz
Fri 1 Dec	Year 6 Class Assembly (2:45pm)
Weds 6 Dec	CNPS U9s Ball Festival
Weds 20 Dec	Last day of Autumn Term
Mon 8 Jan	INSET Day
Tues 9 Jan	First day back