



Kingham Primary School

Always learning to be our best

Bulletin

18 October 2024

Open Doors

We are opening classroom doors next week at 3:20pm for parents to come in and look at some of the work your children have been doing this term at Kingham. The times for each class are in the Diary Dates (right). We hope you can pop along with your children and see what we've been up to.

Competition Deadlines

BBC 500 Words Fri 8 November [Click link for details](#)

Black History Poster Tues 5 November [Click link for details](#)

Halloween Disco

The Junior Halloween Disco is next Thursday at 4:30pm. There are still some tickets available from this link: www.pta-events.co.uk/kpsa.

Tickets are only £5 (including a snack and a drink) with prizes for the best costume.

Dress to scare!



Times Tables Rockstars (TTRS)

Congratulations to the following students for their hard work on TTRS over the last 7 days.

Most minutes:

Gold	150pts	Gabriel	OWLS
Silver	100pt	Louis	OWLS
Bronze	50pts	Lucy	STAGS



Highest minutes by class: Year 5

Highest scores by class: Year 3

Value of the Month: Unity

Unity:

is togetherness

is collective strength and harmony

is sticking together when things are tough

Diary Dates

Mon 21 Oct	Year 3 and Year 4 Open Door
Tues 22 Oct	Reception and Year 5 Open Door
Weds 23 Oct	CNPS U9s / U1 1s Cross Country
Weds 23 Oct	Year 1 and Year 2 Open Door
Thurs 24 Oct	Nursery and Year 6 Open Door
Thurs 24 Oct	Junior Halloween Disco 4:30pm
Fri 25 Oct	Last day of half term
Mon 4 Nov	INSET Day
Tues 5 Nov	First day back
Tues 5 Nov	Black history Month Competition Deadline
Weds 6 Nov	Year 1 visit Chipping Norton Fire Station
Weds 6 Nov	Parents Evening (3:30 - 7pm)
Thurs 7 Nov	Year 3 Stone Age Trip to Hill End
Thurs 7 Nov	Year 4 trip to Lunt Roman Fort
Thurs 7 Nov	Parents Evening (3:30 - 6pm)
Fri 8 Nov	BBC 500 Words Deadline
Mon 11 Nov	Anti-Bullying Week
Mon 11 Nov	Remembrance at the Peace Stone (10:40am)
Fri 15 Nov	Children in Need
Weds 20 Nov	CNPS U11s Netball
Fri 22 Nov	Year 6 Street Dance Workshop
Fri 22 Nov	Reception Class Assembly (2:45pm)
Tues 26 Nov	Year 5 Space VR Workshop
Weds 27 Nov	CNPS U11s Sports Hall Athletics
Weds 4 Dec	Reception trip to Oxford Story Museum
Weds 4 Dec	CNPS U9s Ball Festival
Thurs 5 Dec	CNPS U11s Literary Quiz
Fri 6 Dec	Year 6 Class Assembly (2:45pm)
Fri 20 Dec	Last day of Autumn Term
Mon 6 Jan	INSET Day
Tues 7 Jan	First day back

New Statutory Attendance Guidance from September '24

Parents will probably be aware that there has been growing national concern regarding declining school attendance rates across the UK. Attendance is not just important for children's learning, but also their social and personal development. Absence creates gaps in their education, putting children significantly behind their peer group and creating anxiety and pressure for children.

News reports in recent months highlight the following reasons for the national increase in school absence including:

- *A significant rise in anxiety and mental health issues* affecting children (compounded by cuts to support in this area)
- *Illness* – prior to the pandemic parents used to send children into school with mild coughs and colds; now some are now more likely to keep them at home.
- *More parents working from home* – some reports suggest that, with new working patterns, there seems to be a slightly more relaxed attitude about school attendance among parents. There has been a recent increase nationally of pupil absence on Fridays perhaps when many parents are working from home. Parents who regularly keep children off school without compelling reason to (e.g. 'a bit tired') embed the perception that commitment, hard work and resilience are not important in life.
- *Resilience* – Some argue that we have a tendency to 'over-protect' our children from harm these days which is resulting in a concerning lack of resilience in our youngsters. We would recommend Jonathan Haidt's latest book '[The Anxious Generation](#)', to all our parents, which is a powerful and provocative book arguing that we have become too overprotective in the *offline* world. Haidt asserts that we no longer allow children the opportunity to play unsupervised or run errands alone, but conversely do too little to protect children from online dangers where we allow our youngsters too much freedom to roam the internet (where they are at risk of being bullied or encountering harmful content).

OCTOBER HALF TERM
FOOTBALL
CAMP AGES 7-12

▶ **£20 PER DAY OR £90 FOR THE WEEK**

DATE
28TH OCTOBER-1ST NOVEMBER 2024

TIME
9.30AM-3.00PM

LOCATION: CHIPPING NORTON LEISURE CENTRE

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE VISIT
WWW.CPDSPORTS.CO.UK

For more info contact
Dean 07507999613 or
Alfie 07393318744

New DFE Guidance

To help address their concerns, the Department for Education (DfE) has introduced new statutory guidance aimed at reducing term-time holidays and unauthorised absences.

Support First

The new guidance emphasises a 'Support First' ethos, encouraging the school, parents and other agencies to work together to understand why a child is not attending school and put in place effective solutions to address them. If you feel support is required to help your child to attend school, please do speak to Mr Prockter or Mrs Balloch, so that we can better understand the issues, and offer assistance to prevent further absences.

Increased Monitoring and Reporting

Schools are now required to monitor attendance more closely and report any absences to the Local Authority more frequently. This will involve more regular checks and communications regarding your child's attendance record.

Stricter Penalties for Unauthorised Absences

There will now be stricter penalties from the Local Authority for unauthorised absences. Parents may face fines or other legal actions if their children have a significant number of unauthorised absences. From September 2024, schools will need to consider a Penalty Notice if a pupil misses 10 sessions (5 days) of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks (half of a school day is considered as a 'session'). The threshold of 10 sessions can be met with any combination of unauthorised absence, for example, four days of unauthorised holiday in term time and one day for other unauthorised reasons. The ten-school week period may span different terms or school years, for example: 2 sessions of unauthorised absence in the Summer Term and a further 8 in the Autumn term.

Penalty Notices

Penalty Notices (fines) charged to parents have now risen to £160 per parent, per child (£80 if paid within 21 days) Where a penalty notice is unpaid within 28 days, legal action would be pursued. Under the new framework, only two penalty notices can be issued to the same parent for the same child within a three-year rolling period. Where a second Penalty Notice is issued to the same parent for the same child, the charge will be £160.

If a third offence is committed within a three-year rolling period, legal action/prosecution would be considered.

Requests for Leave of Absence

Parents must request permission in advance from school for leave of absence for any reason, including holidays. Head Teachers cannot grant leave during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances and cannot grant permission retrospectively. Term time holidays can never be authorised under any circumstances, as there are 14 weeks of allocated school holiday. If you take your child out of school without permission this may lead to enforcement action (penalty notice or prosecution).

The full guidance from the DfE can be found online: [Working together to improve school attendance - GOV.UK.](#)