



Kingham Primary School

Always learning to be our best

Bulletin

12 September 2025

Exceptional SATs Results

We are proud to share our results at the end of July 2025. The outcomes were truly outstanding with the number of pupils reaching the 'expected' standard in Reading, Writing *and* Maths almost 30% higher than the national average! This is thanks to an amazing group of dedicated teachers and students, from Nursery through to Year 6. Well done, everyone – a fantastic achievement!

Percentage of Kingham Year 6 students meeting the nationally 'expected' standard		
	School 2025	National 2025
Reading, Writing, Maths Combined	90%	62%
Reading	97%	75%
Writing	90%	72%
Maths	100%	74%
SPAG (spelling, punctuation, grammar)	97%	73%

Junior Interhouse Football

On Thursday 18 September, students in Years 3 to 6 will be taking part in our annual interhouse football competition. We ask that students bring in their PE kit with trainers (*not boots*) and shin pads. Children can choose to either wear their gold PE top, or a sports top in their house colour.

Friday DJs

Big shoutout to MCs Rory and Casper, who bagged the Friday lunchtime DJ Prize in the summer KPSA auction! Next Friday they'll be taking over the playground, dropping beats and mixing it up. Got a track you wanna hear? Hit them up with your requests now!



Top Ten Times Tables Rockstars (TTRS)

Congratulations to the following students for their hard work on TTRS over the last 7 days – 50 house points each.

Amos	OWLS	Rufus	STAGS
Hamish	OTTERS	Felix	STAGS
Evie	OWLS	Lucy	STAGS
Islay	OTTERS	Willow	ROBINS
Kit	OTTERS	Maisie	OTTERS

Beginning and End of Day

We kindly remind families that pupils should not use any play equipment before or after school, and that the forest area is also not accessible during these times. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in keeping our school environment safe for everyone.

Parent Phonics Workshop

Parents of children in Reception are invited to a phonics meeting on Wednesday 24 September at 9am in the School Hall. The meeting is to tell you more about our phonics scheme and discuss how you can help your child with their reading at home. Parents with older children who missed this session in previous years are also welcome to attend.

Diary Dates

Mon 15 Sep	Year 6 at Junior Citizens Afternoon in Oxford
Thurs 18 Sep	Junior House Football Tournament
Fri 19 Sep	Prefect Training (pm)
Weds 24 Sep	Reception Phonics Workshop (9am)
Weds 24 Sep	Year 2 at British Motor Museum
Weds 24 Sep	Year 5 Swimming Lessons commence
Weds 24 Sep	Year 6 Sports Leaders Training
Tues 30 Sep	Year 6 at Mary Arden's Farm
Weds 1 Oct	CNPS U11s Football Tournament
Thurs 2 Oct	Individual/sibling photographs (am)
Mon 6 Oct	Year 4 trip to Lunt Fort
Fri 10 Oct	Year 4 Class Assembly (2:45pm)
Weds 15 Oct	CNPS U11s Boccia Tournament
Thurs 16 Oct	Gardening Club at Kingham Lunch Club
Fri 17 Oct	Year 1 Class Assembly (2:45pm)
Mon 20 Oct	Year 4 and Year 5 Open Door
Tues 21 Oct	Year 6 and Year 2 Open Door
Weds 22 Oct	CNPS U9s / U11s Cross Country
Weds 22 Oct	Reception and Year 3 Open Door
Weds 22 Oct	Junior Hallowe'en Disco (4:15pm)
Thurs 23 Oct	Nursery and Year 1 Open Door
Fri 24 Oct	Reception Class Assembly (2:45pm)
Fri 24 Oct	Last day of half term
Mon 3 Nov	INSET Day
Tues 4 Nov	First day back
Weds 5 Nov	Parents Evening (3:30 - 7pm)
Thurs 6 Nov	Parents Evening (3:30 - 6pm)
Fri 7 Nov	Remembrance at the Peace Stone (10:40am)
Mon 10 Nov	Anti-Bullying Week
Thurs 13 Nov	Reception Story Workshop (am)
Fri 14 Nov	Children in Need
Fri 14 Nov	Year 6 Street dance Workshop (am)
Weds 19 Nov	CNPS U11s Netball
Thurs 20 Nov	Year 3 Stone Age Trip to Hill End
Fri 21 Nov	Year 5 Class Assembly (2:45pm)
Weds 26 Nov	CNPS U11s Sports Hall Athletics
Tues 2 Dec	KPSA Movie Night
Weds 3 Dec	CNPS U9s Ball Festival
Fri 5 Dec	Year 6 Class Assembly (2:45pm)
Tues 9 Dec	CNPS U11s Literary Quiz
Thurs 11 Dec	Choir at Kingham Lunch Club
Fri 12 Dec	Interhouse Orienteering
Fri 19 Dec	Last day of Autumn Term (finish at 2pm)
Mon 5 Jan	INSET Day
Tues 6 Jan	First day of Spring Term

Value of the Month: Unity

Unity:
is togetherness
is collective strength and harmony
is sticking together even when things are tough

Secondary School Admissions in September 2026

The application process (for secondary school places starting next September) is now open, and all applications must be submitted by 31 October 2025. If you live in Oxfordshire, you must apply online using the Oxfordshire portal; if you live in Gloucestershire or a different county, you need to use *their* portal. It does not matter which county the schools are in - you must apply using the online application form for whichever county *you* reside in. Parents seeking places for their child at an independent school must apply directly to the relevant school(s). When you apply using the county application portal, you can list up to four different schools in order of preference. We would advise you to use all four choices and to ensure that, even if it is not a first preference, you enter your catchment (local) school as one of your preferences. This does not make it less likely that your child will be offered the school you most want (your first preference) but it does make it less likely that a place will be offered at a school you do not want.

We recommend that you read the school online prospectuses and try to visit all the schools you are interested in to be sure that the school feels right for your child.

Many schools are holding Open Days right now for parents of pupils in Years 5 and 6. If you need any help or advice with the process, please do speak to Mr Prockter.

DfE Attendance Guidance

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*— parents used to send children to school with mild coughs/colds; now some are more likely to keep them home.
- *More parents working from home* – some reports suggest that, with new working patterns, there is a 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).

DfE Guidance

Our school now follows the Department for Education statutory guidance aimed at reducing term-time holidays and unauthorised absences.

Support First

We advocate a 'Support First' ethos, where we try to work together with families, and sometimes other agencies, to understand why a child is not attending school and put in place effective solutions to address this. If you feel support is required to help your child to attend school, please do speak to Mr Prockter or your class teacher, 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 routinely report any absences to the Local Authority. This will involve more regular checks and communications regarding your child's attendance record.

Stricter Penalties for Unauthorised Absences

There are now strict 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. We are advised 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. Even if you feel that your child 'deserves' a holiday abroad, it is expected that this is taken during the allocated 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.](#)