



Thank you!

The eagle-eyed among you may have noticed that the KPSA fundraising thermometer in the playground has made a healthy jump towards its target this week! We would like to extend a sincere and heartfelt *thank you* to all our parents and members of the wider Kingham community for your incredible generosity and ongoing support in recent months. Regular Giving donations are currently at an all-time high, which makes a significant difference to what we are able to provide for our children. In addition to this, we have also received several exceptionally generous personal donations, including a substantial contribution from Lady Bamford, as well as generous support from two Kingham families (Greaves and Cowley) which are still working their way through finance and aren't reflected on the totaliser yet. We are truly grateful for this kindness and for the belief you continue to show in our school and our work. Planning permission for the new all-weather sports pitch has gone in, and we aim for our students to be using this facility in September 2026.

Infant Nativity



This week our Infant students entertained us all with their heart-warming Nativity performance, *Everyone Loves a Baby*. The pupils shone with confidence as they sang, danced and acted their way through the story, filling the hall with Christmas cheer. Thank you to all the performers and to the staff that worked hard to make it so perfect.

Next Week

School closes at 2pm on Friday next week.

Our annual Junior Carol Concert at All Saints Church in Churchill is on Tuesday 16 December at 6pm. All Junior students, choir members and parents are invited to attend this concert, which is always a memorable, festive occasion in a beautiful setting.

Our Headteacher will be absent on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday next week for a minor operation timed to ensure as little disruption as possible for our school. Mrs Balloch will lead the school in his absence.

Top Ten Behaviours Adults should try to Role Model

- Keeping promises
- Doing housework without complaining
- Admitting mistakes - "I got that wrong - I'm sorry"
- Not using phones at the table or during conversations
- Apologising
- Being present and available
- Reading for enjoyment
- Enjoying learning new things
- Handling discipline with calm authority
- Trying to control own emotions (even when difficult)

Head's Blog – Being a Role Model

In school, we talk a lot about "role models". Teachers know pupils are watching, so we work hard to be positive examples. We are rarely perfect, and that's part of our role-modelling. Parents are our children's most important teachers. Children learn far more from what we *do* than from what we say. Home is where they first see what love looks like, what respect feels like, and how adults behave when life is difficult. At Kingham, our monthly Values are designed to support this. If we want kind, responsible children, we must model those qualities ourselves. If we want our children to be calm, we must show calmness. If we want politeness, we should avoid rudeness. If we want them to build strong relationships, we must show what that looks like.

Leonard Sax, in *The Collapse of Parenting*, argues that many youngsters now look more to peers than adults for guidance. He describes this as a "culture of disrespect" where parental authority has quietly eroded. His point is clear: if we don't actively lead our children, someone else will; whether that's a YouTuber or a group of teenagers in the park. Children are always learning from someone; it's up to us to make sure that someone is mostly us. I try to keep Sax's words in mind with my own children: "To become a better parent, you must become a better person." It's challenging, because it shifts the focus from "fixing the child" to working on ourselves.

Behaviour guru Paul Dix, in *When the Parents Change, Everything Changes*, makes a similar point. He argues that, especially in difficult moments, the adult's behaviour determines whether we have chaos or calm, and that *our* behaviour "sets the climate for the entire home". Our reactions teach powerful lessons: Do we shout or pause? Do we slam doors or walk away to calm down? Do we negotiate, or keep boundaries steady and predictable? When parents lose control, shout, or argue every instruction, children learn that emotions rule behaviour. When we maintain calm boundaries, children learn self-control and respect. They discover they can feel angry and still behave well, a vital life skill.

Over the summer, after a couple of café visits, I noticed a sad pattern: mums and dads glued to phones while children sat in silence. Maybe I should have been pleased that these young people were not allowed to be on screens themselves, but actually it was heartbreaking to see them wanting connection and getting none. Technology isn't the enemy, but our habits matter. Children notice whether adults can switch off, put phones down at meals, and choose to talk, play or read. If we demand strict limits for children while scrolling endlessly ourselves, the message is lost.

All of us have days when we are tired or moody. Being a good role model isn't about never making mistakes; it's about what we do afterwards. Children don't need flawless adults, just consistent and reliable ones, grown-ups who keep them safe and are willing to put things right. Children watch closely how we handle stress, disappointment, success and relationships. If adults explode over small frustrations, bottle everything up, or use sarcasm and insults, children absorb those patterns. Instead, we could model emotional resilience through simple strategies: "I'm going to take a minute to calm down," or "I'm finding this hard... could you give me a moment?"

Language is another powerful part of our modelling. When we use labels: "You're a nightmare," "You're always naughty" children begin to believe them. This doesn't mean ignoring poor behaviour; it means correcting it without damaging sense of worth and showing children how to speak respectfully. Children rarely become what we *tell* them to be. They become what we *show* them. Role modelling isn't about perfection but about trying to be the kind of person we hope they will become.

KPSA Christmas Raffle

Tickets for the KPSA Christmas Raffle can be purchased online until **5pm tonight**. Prizes include hampers from Daylesford, Burford and Soho House, a Sand & Stone Escapes voucher, wildlife park admission, and other festive treats. You have just 2 hours to get your tickets online: [Christmas Raffle Link](#)

Choir Spreads Christmas Cheer

Yesterday, our School Choir visited the Kingham Lunch Club to perform a selection of Christmas carols. Our children sang beautifully and were warmly received by everyone there. It was a lovely opportunity for the choir to share some festive spirit within our local community.



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.

Ernie	OTTERS	Evie	OWLS
August	ROBINS	Felix	STAGS
Sky	OWLS	Toby	OTTERS
Annabelle	STAGS	Sam	ROBINS
Sadie	OWLS	Emme	STAGS

Diary Dates

Mon 15 Dec	Rock Bands Concert (9:30am)
Tues 16 Dec	Junior Carol Concert (Churchill Church 6pm)
Wed 17 Dec	Pantomime in the School Hall (am)
Thurs 18 Dec	Infant Christmas Parties (am)
Thurs 18 Dec	KPSA Junior Disco (1:15pm)
Fri 19 Dec	Rec-Y6 at Kingham Church Service (am)
Fri 19 Dec	Last day of Autumn Term (finish at 2pm)
Mon 5 Jan	INSET Day
Tues 6 Jan	First day back

Value of the Month: Responsibility

Responsibility:

is being fair
is doing my share of the work
is taking care of myself, others and the planet

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SAT 13TH & 20TH DEC

STARTS 11AM

IT'S FREE. BOOKING RECOMMENDED