



Kingham Primary School

Always learning to be our best

Bulletin

9 January 2026

Head's Blog: Why Australia's Social Media Ban Matters

Last month, Australia took the bold step of banning children's social media access. It is a decision that has sparked fierce debate, but one that I strongly support. Not because I am against tech, far from it, but because I am pro childhood.

For too long, the burden of managing children's exposure to social media has fallen almost entirely on parents. Governments around the world have repeatedly asked technology companies to introduce meaningful safeguarding measures, and for years those requests have been ignored. The Australian ban recognises that asking families to compete with deliberately addictive algorithms is not realistic, or fair.

Some argue that this ban removes young people's freedom. But good societies have always limited children's freedoms when the risks are great. We do this with alcohol, tobacco and driving because we understand that children are not yet ready to manage these risks. In his groundbreaking book, *The Anxious Generation*, Jonathan Haidt reminds us that, "Childhood is a period of vulnerability, not a rehearsal for adult freedoms." Social media is no different. Even many of the world's leading tech experts do not allow their own children access to social media - a detail that deserves serious attention.

Occasionally, our staff deal with the negative consequences of children's online activity, from exposure to inappropriate videos to incidents of cyberbullying. Many parents are unaware of how much of this spills into school life. Removing social media at this age will reduce distraction, improve focus, and allow children to engage with learning and *real-world* relationships. It also reduces exposure to cyberbullying, harmful content, and negative body image messages.

There is an argument that social media improves children's digital literacy. But this misunderstands what digital literacy is. Scrolling TikTok or Instagram does not make a child digitally literate. True digital literacy must be taught explicitly, and any ban must be paired with education about technology, critical thinking, and online safety. It is also important to acknowledge that social media does not exist in isolation. For most children, it is accessed primarily through smartphones, devices that are designed to capture attention and encourage dependency.

Many of us recognise that smartphones are fuelling a growing mental health crisis. A global study of almost 28,000 young adults (Sapiens Labs, 2023) showed that the younger a child receives their first smartphone, the poorer their mental health outcomes later in life. Since widespread smartphone access, outdoor accidents have fallen by 70%, while incidents of self-harm have increased by 93% (NHS). Parents know this instinctively. Surveys show that 94% of primary school parents believe smartphones are harmful, and 70% say they negatively affect family life. Yet resisting peer pressure becomes almost impossible once children's social lives move online.

The Australian ban is not a complete solution. Some youngsters will bypass restrictions, but most will not, and even a partial reduction in exposure is a powerful step forward. Here in the UK, we do not have the luxury of waiting years for regulation to catch up. Childhood is fleeting, and our children's wellbeing is at stake now. Movements like [Smartphone Free Childhood](#) recognise the impossible position parents are in. By working together and delaying smartphone access, parents can dissolve peer pressure overnight. Their Parent Pact, encouraging families to delay smartphones until at least the end of Year 9, is growing rapidly and making a difference.

Smartphones are the gateway to social media and the 'Wild West' of the internet. But, if children do not have access in their pockets, everything changes. That is why I support Australia's decision and why I believe a UK ban will ultimately improve children's lives, both now and in the future.

Welcome New Staff

Welcome back! We hope you have had a lovely break, and we wish everyone a happy and successful start to the new year. This week, we have been delighted to welcome Mrs Putt to our Kingham team and the Year 4 class while Mrs Pearce takes maternity leave.

Mrs Putt has extensive experience in teaching, leadership and inclusion, and we feel very fortunate to have found such a capable and enthusiastic professional to join our team. She has hit the ground running, bringing a vibrant energy to the school. Most importantly, she has already built a fantastic rapport with our students.

We are also delighted to welcome back Mrs Smith following her maternity leave. Mrs Smith returns to us in the vital roles of Acting Assistant Headteacher and SENCo. She has made a seamless transition back into school life, and it is wonderful to have her leadership and support back within our staff team.



Kingham in Top Ten!

We are thrilled to announce that Kingham Primary School has been ranked as the 9th highest-performing school in Oxfordshire and the highest in this part of West Oxfordshire! Our pupils achieved well above national and local averages in reading, writing, and mathematics, with a significant number of children working at the highest levels.

While league tables focus on data, this achievement is really a reflection of the ambitious curriculum and learning culture at Kingham. It is a testament to the hard work of our pupils, the dedication of our talented staff, and the invaluable support from our parents. Well done all - we are so proud! ([OxfordMail](#))

Congratulations Mrs Pearce

We are delighted to share the news that Mrs Pearce, our Year 4 teacher, has safely welcomed another beautiful baby boy into the world. Baby Nico arrived during the holidays, and we are pleased to report that both mum and baby are doing very well.

We know our children, especially those in Year 4, will be thrilled to hear this news and send our huge congratulations and best wishes to Mrs Pearce and family on their new arrival!



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.

Annabelle	STAGS	Olivia	OWLS
Felix	STAGS	Kit	OTTERS
Evie	OWLS	Amos	OWLS
Ernie	OTTERS	Angus	STAGS
Grace	STAGS	Oscar	ROBINS

Save the Date!

Building Children's Resilience Workshop - *Strategies to reduce anxiety in your child*. Not to be missed with guest speaker. Get it in your diary now:

Wednesday 25 February at 9am with coffee and cakes.

Diary Dates

Weds 14 Jan	CNPS U11s Swimming
Weds 28 Jan	CNPS U11s Hockey
Fri 30 Jan	Year 3 Class Assembly 2:45pm
Thurs 5 Feb	Year 3 Ancient Egypt Day
Fri 6 Feb	West Oxon Cross County Finals
Fri 6 Feb	Year 2 Class Assembly 2:45pm
Tues 10 Feb	Year 6 visit to Ashmolean Museum
Tues 10 Feb	Infants Interhouse Kurling
Wed 11 Feb	Year 2 trip to Cotswold Wildlife Park
Weds 11 Feb	Lower Juniors Interhouse Kurling
Thurs 12 Feb	Year 5 and 6 trip to Gloucester
Thurs 12 Feb	Upper Juniors Interhouse Kurling
Fri 13 Feb	Last Day of Half Term
Mon 23 Feb	First day back
Tues 24 Feb	Oxford Opera working in Nursery Class
Weds 25 Feb	Build Children's Resilience Meeting 9am
Mon 2 Mar	Kingham Book Week
Wed 4 Mar	CNPS Year 1 Dance Festival
Tues 10 Mar	Year 4 Viking Workshop
Tues 10 Mar	Oxford Opera working in Nursery Class
Tues 10 Mar	KPSA Movie Night
Thurs 12 Mar	Reception trip to Science Oxford
Mon 16 Mar	Year 5 Bikeability Training all week
Tues 17 Mar	Y6 Sports Tournament at Kingham Hill pm
Tues 17 Mar	Oxford Opera working in Nursery Class
Weds 18 Mar	Parents Evening 3:30pm – 7pm
Thurs 19 Mar	Parents Evening 3:30pm – 6pm
Fri 20 Mar	Reception Class Assembly 2:45pm
Weds 25 Mar	Year 2/3 CNPS Multi-Skills Festival
Fri 27 Mar	Last Day of Term School closes at 2pm

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Ofsted

School Term and Holiday Dates 2025-2027

2025-26 Academic Year

Spring Term 2026

Tuesday 6th January – Friday 13th February
Half term holiday 16th February – 20th February
 Monday 23rd February – Friday 27th March

Easter Holiday 30th March – 10th April 2026

Summer Term 2026

Monday 13th April – Thursday 21st May
Half term holiday – 22nd May – 29th June
 Monday 1st June – Monday 20th July

Summer holiday 21st July – 2nd September

Inset Days 2025-26

Monday 5th January 2026
 Friday 22nd May 2026 (recently added)

Bank Holiday (school closed)

Monday 4th May 2026

2026-27 Academic Year

Autumn Term 2026

Thursday 3rd September – Friday 23rd October
Half term holiday 26th October – 30th October
 Tuesday 3rd November – Friday 18th December

Christmas Holiday 21st December 2026 – 4th January 2027

Spring Term 2027

Tuesday 5th January – Friday 12th February
Half term holiday 15th February – 19th February
 Monday 22nd February – Thursday 25th March

Easter Holiday 26th March – 9th April 2027

Summer Term 2027

Monday 12th April – Friday 28th May
Half term holiday – 31st May – 4th June
 Tuesday 8th June – Wednesday 21st July
Summer holiday 22nd July – 7th September 2027

Inset Days 2026-27

Tuesday 1st September 2026
 Wednesday 2nd September 2026
 Monday 2nd November 2026
 Monday 4th January 2027
 Monday 7th June 2027

Bank Holiday (school closed)

Monday 3rd May 2027