



Swimming Champions



Congratulations to the Kingham U11s Swimming Team, who came first in the CNPS Swimming Gala. The swimmers showed great determination delivering excellent performances in the pool and making the final of every individual event. Attitudes and sporting values were exemplary throughout, and we are very proud of how they represented our school.

Building Resilience Parent Workshop – 25 February

Kingham Primary School invites you to a parent workshop, *Building Children's Resilience*, on Wednesday 25 February from 9:00am to 10:30am. Led by Headteacher Nicholas Prockter and Educational Psychologist Jo Barham, the workshop focuses on helping children build the emotional "muscles" needed to navigate challenges. It will include practical strategies to manage anxiety, the importance of fostering independence, and simple tools such as "physical resets" to help children manage stress. The aim is to support the development of long-term courage and capability.

This will be a valuable session for all parents, and even those with the most resilient youngsters will gain something from the morning. Coffee and cake will be provided — please put the date in your diary.

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	Felix	STAGS
Annabelle	STAGS	Olivia	OWLS
Evie	OWLS	Grace	STAGS
Kit	OTTERS	Bellamy	ROBINS
Sadie	OWLS	Imogen	STAGS

Value of the Month: Humility

Humility:

is recognising my own strengths and those of others
is not showing off
is accepting everyone

Head's Blog: How Schools are Doing More With Less

As a school we focus on what matters most: happy students, excellent behaviour, strong results, and a rich curriculum. Parents may wonder: "If the school is doing so well, why do we keep hearing about budget pressures?" This blog isn't a rant or a call for quick political fixes. It is simply an effort to help our families understand the reality of the education sector and how hard our staff work to ensure our children thrive.

School funding per pupil is at its lowest level for over a decade. From 2010 to 2020, funding was largely flat - unprecedented in post-war history. While there have been recent uplifts, they haven't matched the long freeze or the sharp rise in costs.

A common misconception is that national funding increases help to cover costs. They don't. When teacher salaries rise school budgets rarely increase by the same amount. If funding grows by 2% but costs rise by 5%, that represents a real-terms cut. While budgets have tightened, expectations on schools have increased significantly. Schools are held more accountable than ever for outcomes, attendance, safeguarding, SEND provision, mental health support - the list goes on. Alongside this, schools are facing sharply rising costs: energy and utilities, maintenance (especially in old buildings on large sites), insurance and transport, ICT costs, recruitment and agency cover. One long-term staff illness can generate a supply bill larger than our annual resources budget.

Rural schools like ours face other, unique pressures. We lack economies of scale, recruitment is more expensive, and we manage specific logistics such as the 10% of our pupils who require daily bus supervision and coordination.

Another pressure is that in a small primary, staff wear many hats. On any given day, a Headteacher acts as a strategic leader, teacher, site manager, safeguarding lead, attendance officer, curriculum manager, music co-ordinator, cleaner, bus monitor, administrator, HR manager, and even IT technician. In a larger school these responsibilities are delegated widely.

One of the greatest pressures is the sudden growth in pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Demand for EHC plans has increased by a staggering 140% since 2015, and the common belief that SEND is funded is wide of the mark. In fact, schools receive only a small amount per pupil, covering a fraction of real costs; EHCP funding often covers only 25% of the required support and because schools are legally required to provide support, money is often diverted from core teaching budgets to meet needs. As external services such as CAMHS face years-long waiting lists, schools have also become the front-line for mental health and social care roles once led by other agencies.

Schools have made drastic decisions. Teaching Assistants have been reduced in many settings; early intervention has been cut (despite its known long-term value); specialist SEND roles are split across staff rather than held by experienced leads; ICT investment has fallen; and 71% of primary headteachers expect a budget deficit by next financial year.

Even *our* school is now forecasting a shortfall of £50,000 per year just to break even. Difficult decisions will need to be made here, and we will do so, as always, in the best interests of our children. We have already dramatically reduced staffing. Despite this, our pupils continue to flourish. We have established an ambitious curriculum, a well-maintained learning environment, improved behaviour and results. I have never known pressures like these; I share this not to alarm, but to explain. Despite these hurdles, I have never been prouder of what our staff achieve, and I am immensely proud that our pupils' outcomes place us in the top 9 of the county this year. Thank you for trusting us with your children and for taking the time to understand the realities behind the scenes.

Read more Headteacher Blogs here: school-matters.org link

Diary Dates

Weds 28 Jan	CNPS U11s Hockey
Fri 30 Jan	Year 3 Class Assembly 2:45pm
Thurs 5 Feb	Year 3 Ancient Egypt Day
Thurs 5 Feb	Year 1 Chipping Norton Theatre
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
Mon 13 Apr	First day back

"Educational, empowering and entertaining – it's very much a winning formula." – The Family Stage

Evil FAIL Win!

Family Comic Theatre and Circus show

A 60 min comedy and circus show aimed at 4-11 year olds and their grown-ups. Plus a 20-min circus workshop after each show!

as seen on... **Blue Peter**

Sat 14th Feb 2026 | 3pm | £8 - £12

The Redesdale Hall
theredesdalehall.org.uk/events

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