



Kingham Hockey Players Shine at Festival



This week, thirteen enthusiastic hockey players from Years 5 and 6 took part in the CNPS hockey festival. Although it was a non-competitive event, all our players gave their best, played well as a team and made all of us at Kingham very proud. Well done to everyone involved!

Family Learning Workshops – Years 4, 5 and 6

The deadline for booking family learning workshops at Chipping Norton School is Monday at 8am. Sessions are for pupils in Years 4, 5 and 6 covering Music, Astronomy and Spanish. All take place on the week commencing 9 February. Full details and booking [link can be found here](#).

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.

Rory	ROBINS	Annabelle	STAGS
Olivia	OWLS	Suzie	OWLS
Felix	STAGS	Ezra	OTTERS
Toby	OTTERS	Grace	STAGS
Evie	OWLS	Bellamy	OTTERS

Value of the Month: Curiosity

Curiosity:

is asking questions about what I see, hear and read
is being keen to learn and find out about the world
is listening to all points of view and developing my own views and solutions

10 Things Your Child Can do on their Own *

1. Getting dressed and undressed
2. Brushing their teeth
3. Brushing their hair
4. Bathing or showering
5. Using the toilet
6. Carrying their bag
7. Making their bed
8. Tidying up
9. Putting away laundry
10. Pouring their cereal and drinks

* Things children can do on their own (but not necessarily well)!



Head's Blog: Independence- Why Stepping Back Matters

When my children were younger, I always hoped they would grow up to be independent, happy, and successful adults. Like most parents, I wanted to support them, protect them, and make their lives easier. But, over time, I've realised that stepping back is a really important part of parenting.

Over many years, I've noticed significant changes in how children are growing up. Mostly, I see loving relationships and children being given much more time and respect than perhaps I enjoyed as a child. But sometimes I wonder if this causes us to do more for our children than we should. For example, a couple of decades ago, children seemed to be able to carry their bags - and themselves - through the gates. Children were rarely carried unless injured. Nowadays I see parents hauling in pupils, older in age as the years go by. It makes me wonder if, in another 20 years' time, I'll see dads lugging their 30-year-olds across the yard, while they sip their espressos and ask someone to carry their bag. Another observation is how much less responsible children are with belongings. I can't fathom why, but every year the number of coats disregarded on the floor in school increases.

I've had *some* success fostering independence in my own children. As my eldest prepares to leave home for university, I know he'll be fine. But I can't claim to be a perfect parent in this respect. This is something I realised recently when my 16-year-old asked me how to use the toaster! It was a gentle reminder that every time we do something for our children, we stop them from learning to do it for themselves.

The simplest responsibilities can teach children useful life skills such as planning, self-organisation, and even accountability. When children lack these skills, a sense of dependency can gradually lead to feelings of anxiety, as they feel unequipped to handle the world on their own. We don't need to give children big responsibilities - modest, everyday tasks are enough such as: packing their bag, choosing their own clothes and doing small chores. We can still provide guidance and, when they get it wrong, we understand that mistakes are part of learning. Independence grows through trial and error, and children are more motivated when they have a sense of choice. In *The Self-Driven Child*, William Stixrud and Ned Johnson suggest offering choices 'within non-negotiables'. Many of us already do this without realising it. For example:

- "Will you do your homework *before* or *after* your snack?"
- "Do you want to tidy your room *before* or *after* dinner?"

This approach builds autonomy while maintaining the boundaries children need and thrive on. Independence relies on and embeds skills like planning and self-control. If you're trying to develop independence around routines like getting ready in the morning, you might try to break routines into small steps or use a checklist on the fridge. Encouragement matters too. Instead of saying, "You *always* forget your PE kit!" which can become a self-fulfilling prophecy, try something like, "What could help us to remember your PE kit tomorrow?"

If we want our children to become independent problem solvers then, when problems arise, we need to involve our children in finding solutions. And when our children take steps towards independence, catch it and praise it. "Well done, you remembered your PE kit today, you were really organised." This took years with my sons, but we got there in the end.

By giving children purposeful responsibilities and meaningful choices, we help them develop independence and, with it, self-belief. Every small task a young person learns to do for themselves is a step towards becoming a confident, capable adult. And even if your teenager still needs help with the toaster, it's never too late to start.

Read more Headteacher Blogs here: [school-matters.org link](https://school-matters.org)

Diary Dates

Thurs 5 Feb	Year 3 Ancient Egypt Day
Thurs 5 Feb	Year 1 Chipping Norton Theatre
Thurs 5 Feb	Year 6 at KHS Hockey Session
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	Upper Juniors Interhouse Kurling
Thurs 12 Feb	Year 5 and 6 trip to Gloucester
Thurs 12 Feb	Lower 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
Thurs 5 Mar	Book Day (dress up as book character)
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
Fri 13 March	Year 4 Class Assembly
Mon 16 Mar	Year 5 Bikeability Training all week
Tues 17 Mar	U11s 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




PARENT WORKSHOP

BUILDING CHILDREN'S RESILIENCE



With Educational Psychologist Dr Jo Barham
and Headteacher Nicholas Prockter

Weds 25th February 2026

9 am to 10:30 am

Join us, over coffee and cake, to find out practical strategies to manage anxiety, foster independence and build long term courage and capability in our children



The workshop will focus on helping children to build the emotional 'muscles' needed to navigate daily challenges. With over 50 years' experience between the presenters, this is a workshop not to be missed





Half term Storytime

Saturday 21st February at 11am

Come and join in with our fun half term storytime!
Age 4-7 years, must be accompanied by an adult.

Booking recommended. Please ask at the desk, phone 01865 815134,
or email us at chippingnorton.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries






OXFORDSHIRE WE ARE WITH YOU FORUM

JOIN OUR SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY!

We Walking with You on your Parent/Carer journey
A warm, parent-led group for anyone caring for a child or young adult (up to age 25) facing mental health challenges.

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- Parent Peer Support Workers
- Social Prescribers
- CAMHS Mental Health Professionals

Explore topics around mental health and neurodiversity in a safe, welcoming space.

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TO REGISTER FOLLOW THE LINK OR QR :




www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/camhs/involvement/oxon/wwyt/