



Kingham Primary School

Always learning to be our best

Bulletin

13 February 2026

Year 6 Ashmolean Museum trip

This week Year 6 went on an exciting trip to the Ashmolean Museum. We touched actual artefacts (so cool!) from Ancient Greece, and we also *attempted* to sketch some statues of the Greek Gods. Completing a trail around the museum, we were lucky enough to see some real Greek coins and pots that looked similar to the ones we had made in art this week! On the way back to school, half of us feel asleep on the bus - what an adventure!

By Grace, Olive and Willow, Year 6



Kingham Book Week – Monday 2 - Friday 6 March

Kingham Book Week is just a few weeks away! Throughout our Book Week, we will be celebrating the joy of reading through storytelling sessions, reading challenges and fun book-themed activities across the school.

Pick 'n' Mix Book Swap: Please send your child in with one (or more) age-appropriate book(s) they no longer read for our popular *Book Swap* on Monday 2nd. At the end of the week, children will choose a 'new' book (with eyes closed!) to take home. Books can be brought in earlier if preferred.

The Big Read Assembly: Children are asked to bring a favourite book from home to share in class and read during our Big Read assembly on the Monday.

Dress Up Day, Thurs 5 Mar: The highlight of the week! Children are invited to dress as their favourite book character. Costumes can be simple and homemade, there is no need to buy anything special.

Competitions

Book Review Competition: children can create a review in any imaginative format. Entries should be brought into school by Monday 9 March.

Extreme Reading Challenge! Send in a photo of your child reading in a creative or unusual (but safe!) place. Photos should be emailed to events@kingham.oxon.sch.uk by Monday 9 March. Selected entries will be displayed and prizes awarded for the most imaginative ideas.

We can't wait to celebrate a fantastic week of books, creativity and reading across our school community!

Interhouse Kurling

Well done to all our athletes who competed in this week's Interhouse Kurling Tournament, and congratulations to our gold medal winners, ROBINS! The scores were as follows:

1 st	ROBINS	600 points
2 nd	OTTERS	400 points
3 rd	OWLS	300 points



Building Children's Resilience Workshop Reminder

Kingham Primary School is hosting a parent workshop, *Building Children's Resilience*, on Wednesday 25 February from 9:00am to 10:30am. The session will focus on practical ways to help children develop the emotional skills they need to manage challenges, build independence, and regulate stress with simple, effective tools. Coffee and cake will be provided.

To help with planning, please indicate whether you are likely to attend by clicking [YES/NO on this link](#).

We hope you can join us for what promises to be an informative and supportive morning.

Pow! Bam! Year 4 Meet Famous Comic Artist!



This week, Year 4 were delighted to welcome illustrator and graphic novelist Andy Wildman to school. Andy spoke to the class about his impressive career in the world of graphic novels and comics, sharing insights from his work on well-known titles such as X-Men and Spider-Man, as well as his own creative projects.

The children were fascinated to learn about the artistic process behind graphic novels and how the industry has evolved over time. They particularly enjoyed seeing examples of different styles of illustration, including some of Andy's original artwork.

Year 4 are now excited to apply what they have learned as they begin creating their own graphic novels, with a special focus on positioning speech bubbles clearly so the story flows smoothly!

Road Closures After Half Term Break

Immediately on our return from the half term break there are four weeks of roadworks planned in and around Churchill Village. We suggest that those coming from Chipping Norton avoid this route completely and come via Cornwell and Kingham Hill.

Routes can be checked by using the website one.network and [Waze.com](https://waze.com) which we are informed both provide live updates.

**ROAD
CLOSED**

Year 2 Cotswold Wildlife Park trip

Year 2 had a fantastic time at Cotswold Wildlife Park on Wednesday. The visit linked perfectly with their current topic, as students were able to see many African animals up close, including giraffes, lions, and lemurs.

Throughout the day, pupils learned about different habitats and discovered how animals have amazing adaptations that help them survive in their environments.

It was a memorable and enriching trip that brought classroom learning to life.



Head's Blog: Keeping Curiosity Alive

Humans have long had a cultural suspicion of curiosity. We warn children that 'Curiosity killed the cat!' We tell stories like those of Adam and Eve or Pandora's Box, where curiosity leads to disaster. But, if there is one quality I wish every child could retain through childhood - and beyond, it is curiosity.

Curiosity is the desire to know; to tolerate uncertainty; and a drive to explore ideas rather than settle for easy answers. It is the engine that powers learning, creativity and perhaps a meaningful life.

My early memories of learning are not from classrooms but from days out to museums, galleries, nature walks and conversations around the table. Children learn curiosity not from what they are told, but from what they see. As parents, one of the most powerful things we can do is wonder aloud with our children: "I wonder why Big Ben is called Big Ben?" And explore the answer together. Children need to be around adults who are visibly interested in the world and homes where books are read, talked about and valued.

How we talk to children can also stimulate curiosity. Instead of always asking for the 'right' answer, we can use questions that invite thinking such as "What might happen if...?" "Can you think of any other possibilities?" These kinds of conversations teach children that learning is an exploration.

Many psychologists and educators now agree that learning is driven more by curiosity than by intelligence or motivation alone. Research consistently shows that we remember information better when we are curious about it; curiosity helps us focus and stay engaged; and curious people are better at making connections between ideas. In other words, curiosity is not a nice extra: it is central to how the brain learns. Influential writer, David Didau, argues that knowledge fuels curiosity rather than killing it. Many people assume that as children grow older or know more, they become less curious. In fact, the opposite is true. The more we know, the more we become aware of what we don't know and this in turn sparks deeper questions. Didau asserts, "It is impossible to think about something you don't know. Try it." He also describes knowledge as intellectual 'Velcro' - new ideas stick more easily when there is something for them to attach to.

Knowledge is like a giant web in the brain, formed by networks of neurons. When a child learns more, this web of mental structures (schemas) grows richer and more connected. Curiosity then allows the brain to travel across this web, exploring new ideas, revisiting old ones, and making creative links between existing and new schemas.

There is also growing evidence that curiosity is linked to good mental health. Psychologist Todd Kashdan, in his recent book *Curious?*, suggests that curiosity is a powerful ally to anxiety. When children face uncertainty - for example, a new school or a social challenge - their instinct may be to avoid or negotiate their way out of it. Instead of trying to eliminate anxiety, Kashdan suggests we help children to 'turn up' their curiosity: by naming children's feelings (without fixing them): "It makes sense you're nervous, but what are you curious about here?" Curiosity helps children tolerate not-knowing, and neuroscience suggests that when we follow curiosity instead of anxiety, the brain releases dopamine, making learning feel rewarding rather than threatening.

Employers increasingly say they want employees who can question, think, and adapt, not just follow procedures. As artificial intelligence grows more powerful, I wonder if curiosity will become one of the most valuable human qualities left. As Malcolm Gladwell has said, "Curiosity is the most underrated quality in successful people." Ian Leslie boldly claims in the subtitle of his book *Curious* that "Your future depends on it." And if we think of figures like Leonardo da Vinci, Charles Darwin, Galileo, or Steve Jobs, what united them was not just brilliance, but relentless curiosity. Education is not just about cramming knowledge into children's heads (although that is important); it is about awakening curiosity and keeping it alive. It is about treating learning as exploration. As parents, we don't need to have all the answers. We just need to show our own wonder, ask good questions, value knowledge, and show that learning is fun. Because when children remain curious, they don't just succeed academically, they grow into creative, resilient and fulfilled adults.

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

Curiosity – A Checklist

Here are some habits that might help curiosity grow:

- Ask better questions, not just quick ones.
- Read widely: try books and topics you don't normally choose.
- Find at least one subject you love and go deep.
- Be okay with not knowing - it's where learning starts.
- Talk to people who think differently from you.
- Don't always try to be right - try to be interested instead.

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

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	Felix	STAGS
Lexi	OWLS	Toby	OTTERS
Mia	STAGS	Mylo	STAGS
Bellamy	ROBINS	Grace	STAGS
Sam	ROBINS	Sadie	OWLS

Diary Dates

Mon 23 Feb	First day back
Tues 24 Feb	Oxford Opera working in Nursery Class
Tues 24 Feb	Year 5 Village Walk
Weds 25 Feb	<u>Build Children's Resilience Meeting 9am</u>
Mon 2 Mar	Kingham Book Week
Mon 2 Mar	Favourite Book for 'Big Read' Assembly
Mon 2 Mar	Good Used Books for Reading Pick 'n' Mix
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
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	Red Nose Day
Fri 20 Mar	Reception Class Assembly 2:45pm
Mon 23 Mar	Rock Bands Concert 9:30am
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