



Kingham Primary School

Always learning to be our best

Bulletin

6 March 2026

Kingham Book Week



What an incredible Book Week we've had at Kingham Primary School! The highlight was undoubtedly yesterday's dressing-up day. The creativity and effort that went into the costumes were truly impressive and it was wonderful to see so many favourite book characters brought to life. Well done to everyone who took part!

There is still time to enter our Extreme Reading and Book Review Competitions; entries must be submitted by Monday lunchtime. Winners will be announced next week, so keep an eye out!

A huge thank you to Miss Ralf for organising such an inspirational week!



Interhouse Cross Country – Next Friday

It's our annual interhouse cross-country tournament on Friday next week for all our students in Years 1 to 6. Please remember to bring in a PE kit (including tracksuit bottoms and top) and a house coloured top if you have one. May the best house win!

Value of the Month: Forgiveness

Forgiveness:

is understanding that everyone makes mistakes brings peace of mind and frees me from anger

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	Amos	OWLS
Olivia	OWLS	Felix	STAGS
Grace	STAGS	Toby	OTTERS
Sadie	OWLS	Emme	STAGS
Rory	ROBINS	Imogen	STAGS

Sports News

It has been another exciting week of sport for Kingham Primary School, with fantastic effort and success from our pupils across a range of competitions.

Tag Rugby Success

On Monday, our U11 Tag Rugby team took part in the West Oxfordshire District Finals after qualifying by winning the local tournament. It was a glorious spring afternoon and, after a series of exciting matches, Kingham finished 3rd overall, earning a well-deserved bronze. Although this was not quite enough to secure a place in the county finals, the children played with great determination and skill, and we are incredibly proud of their efforts.



Cross Country Achievements

Last week also saw our pupils competing in the Cross-Country District Finals at Cokethorpe, following an impressive performance at the local tournament where three of our teams qualified. The results were fantastic with U9 Boys securing 1st place, and U9 Girls 2nd place. Both U9 teams have now qualified for the County Finals, which will take place on 18 March at Radley College. This marks the third year in a row that our teams have reached the county stage - a wonderful achievement. We wish them the very best of luck and will be cheering them on!



Diary Dates

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
Thurs 12 Mar	Nursery Mother's Day Stay and Play 10:15am
Fri 13 Mar	Interhouse Cross Country
Mon 16 Mar	Year 5 Bikeability Training all week
Mon 16 Mar	Science Week
Tues 17 Mar	Year 6 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
Tues 24 Mar	Chance to Shine Cricket Day (Rec,Y1,2,3)
Weds 25 Mar	Year 2/3 CNPS Multi-Skills Festival
Weds 25 Mar	Kingham's Got Talent Finals: 9:15am
Fri 27 Mar	Easter Egg Hunt
Fri 27 Mar	Last Day of Term - School closes at 2pm
Mon 13 Apr	First day back
Weds 22 Apr	CNPS Year 3 Tennis Festival 2:30pm
Thurs 23 Apr	World Cricket Day / Interhouse Cricket
Weds 29 Apr	CNPS Year 4 MFL Festival 3pm
Mon 4 May	Bank Holiday – School Closed
Tues 5 May	Year 3 at Cadbury World
Fri 8 May	Year 1 Class Assembly 2:45pm
Mon 11 May	Year 6 SATs Week
Weds 13 May	CNPS U10s Tag Rugby Tournament at 2pm
Fri 15 May	Year 2 Class Assembly 2:45pm
Mon 18 May	Year 6 Rock Climbing 1pm
Weds 20 May	CNPS U11s Athletics championships 2:30pm
Thurs 21 May	Last Day of Term
Fri 22 May	INSET Day
Mon 1 Jun	First Day Back

Head's Blog: Every Child Achieving and Thriving

The Schools White Paper, *Every Child Achieving and Thriving*, was published last week after months of speculation. The Education Secretary sets out a bold, long-term plan to raise standards in schools and make the system more inclusive, especially for disadvantaged pupils and those with SEND. It is being hailed as a 'generational overhaul' (*The Guardian*). There is certainly a lot to digest for those of us on the front line and for me, personally, the proposals are cautiously welcomed.

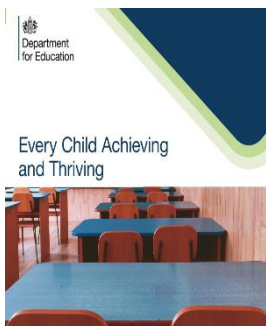
One of the principal proposals in the White Paper is the lofty ambition to halve the 'disadvantage gap' including the aspiration to recover 20 million 'lost' attendance days each year. However sensitive we might feel about the term 'disadvantaged', national data consistently shows that pupils who are eligible for free school meals achieve less well than their peers, and that the gap tends to widen with age. And, in spite of schools' best efforts, the academic performance gap between the most and least advantaged students stubbornly refuses to close. By the end of primary school there is a 22-percentage point gap in SATs performance, placing disadvantaged pupils around 11 months behind their peers. By GCSE, this widens to a 27-percentage point gap, roughly 19 months of learning. Pupils from poorer backgrounds are also 3.5 times more likely to miss more than 50% of a school year due to low attendance. The Education Secretary firmly believes that good attendance is the cornerstone of achievement and aims to introduce clearer expectations on schools to identify and improve absence and work more intensively with families on this issue.

It is the proposals for stronger inclusion and SEND support in mainstream schools that have hit the headlines in the last week. Rather than relying solely on formal Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), the White Paper introduces a layered, graduated approach to support, where pupils access adaptive teaching and early interventions within their everyday classrooms. Schools will be expected to make necessary adjustments for children with additional needs or potentially face legal challenge.

Many parents of children with additional needs will feel anxious about what this means for their child's future. Parents often speak of the 'fight' to secure an EHCP for their child. My hope is that the bill forces a culture change, from fighting for diagnoses and paperwork, to schools and families working together swiftly to provide meaningful support. If realised well, this could be a very successful and long-overdue piece of legislation to address a broken system and culture.

The idea that an EHCP is the 'golden chalice' for all but the most complex cases is misguided, as there is no link between EHCPs and success. In fact, research shows that pupils who receive the most teaching assistant support often make less progress than comparable peers. This is because support can unintentionally increase a child's dependence and reduce challenge. Of course, the aim of education is not to smooth every path, but to *reduce* dependency, yet many studies also suggest that EHCPs can limit a child's access to the teacher and prioritise task completion over genuine learning and the development of independence.

Under the proposals, schools will now be expected to embed inclusive practice at the first sign of need. Initiatives such as the Inclusive Mainstream Fund and the 'Experts at Hand' programme aim to ensure specialists - therapists, educational psychologists and others - are more accessible to mainstream settings like ours. A core reform will introduce a legal requirement for schools to create Individual Support Plans for



all children with SEND, clearly setting out needs and day-to-day provision, although EHCPs would remain for the most complex cases, where a child cannot manage without consistent additional adult support. Under the plans, mainstream schools will also be given commissioning budgets to spend directly on therapists and additional support, rather than relying on highly-indebted local authorities.

The current SEND system is in upheaval, so I am relieved that something is being done. But this will be a huge ask for mainstream schools. There are also several additional measures covering curriculum, enrichment, complaints and suspensions. While I strongly welcome the proposals, it is undeniably a huge number of reforms and new requirements that will fall upon schools over the next few years, while copious expectations introduced over the past two decades have not been reduced or removed. School leaders are understandably worried about workload and the mental health impact on an already fragile workforce.

Measures will be phased in over the next three years which, in reality, is a very short period. Schools will need to expand provision, train staff, and ensure they have the capacity to release staff from class in order to enact the SEND reforms properly. Significant funding has been promised, but rough calculations suggest that the proportion a school like ours might receive could be negligible and unlikely to meet the true cost. We keenly await more detail over the coming months.

There are already hundreds, if not thousands, of statutory duties and expectations that overload schools and staff, so I guess what I need to know as a headteacher is will there be enough funding and capacity to deliver what the government is setting out to suddenly meet all these new expectations for our children?

At this stage, it is still a White Paper, and the government must take it through Parliament successfully before it becomes legislation. But the ambition for our young people is clear and welcomed, and could be life changing for many families - as long as schools are given the time, funding and capacity to make that ambition a reality.

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

THE KPSA PRESENTS

FILM NIGHT

Showing Hop

A vibrant movie night poster. It features a large, overflowing bucket of yellow and white popcorn on the left. To the right is a blue film reel with pink and blue segments. A pink film strip winds around the bottom of the poster. The background is black with white starburst effects.

£6 INC
POPCORN
& DRINK

TUES 10 MARCH, 3.15 - 4.50PM
IN THE SCHOOL HALL

BUY TICKETS AT PTA-EVENTS.CO.UK/KPSA