



Kingham Primary School

Always learning to be our best

Bulletin

13 March 2026

Extreme Reading Competition



A huge well done to everyone who took part in our Book Week competitions. We received a staggering number of entries for our Extreme Reading with children finding some wonderfully imaginative and unusual places to read a book - we loved looking through all the fantastic photos! Everyone who took part in the Extreme Reading Challenge has received 20 house points. Congratulations to our runners-up: Alina, Toby, Annabelle, Finlay, Sophie S and Sophia. A special well done to our winners: Monty, who was photographed reading to armed police officers in London, and Bella, who was pictured sitting in Roald Dahl's chair while reading a Roald Dahl book.

Well done also to everyone who entered the Book Review Competition. We received some excellent entries, and all participants have received 20 house points. A special mention goes to Maisie C, Evie and Suzie Williams for their beautifully presented reviews. Congratulations to our runners-up, Mia S and Olivia, and a big well done to our winners, Annie and Jack.



Value of the Month: Forgiveness

Forgiveness:

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

Top Ten Tips for Reading at Home

1. *Start early* it's never too early to start reading to your child
2. *Read little and often* - just 10 minutes a day can make a huge difference over time.
3. *Make reading part of your routine*
4. *Don't correct every mistake when children join in reading.*
5. *Bring stories to life* - use different voices, change your tone, and show excitement when reading.
6. *Let children see **you** reading.*
7. *Keep books within reach* - having books around the house makes it much more likely that children will pick one up
8. *Buy books as presents at every opportunity.* Find second hand bargains on Amazon marketplace and charity shops.
9. *Continue reading aloud* even when children can read themselves.
10. *Keep it enjoyable!*

Science Week

Next week, Kingham Primary School will be celebrating British Science Week, a nationwide celebration of science and technology. Throughout the week, children will take part in exciting, hands-on activities designed to encourage scientific thinking. This year's theme is "Curiosity" through which students will explore thoughtful questions about the world around us and discover where their curiosity can lead them.

On Wednesday, we are delighted to welcome Science Oxford, who will be delivering exciting science shows for children from Reception through to Year 6.

We are also launching our *Future Scientist Poster Competition*. Children are invited to create a poster based on a science topic they are curious about, including labelled diagrams, clear explanations, and accurate scientific vocabulary.

Science Week is a wonderful opportunity to nurture a love of learning and discovery. Perhaps you could even keep scientific conversations going at home, whether by spotting signs of spring, trying a simple kitchen experiment, or discussing how everyday technology works. We look forward to a fantastic week of exploration and discovery!

Red Nose Day – Friday 20 March

Don't forget that we are supporting Comic Relief's Red Nose Day next Friday. Children are invited to bring in £1 (or more) for Comic Relief and can wear something red to school on the day - as much or as little as they like!

Our Student Council will be selling this year's noses before school next week priced at £2, while stocks last. The 2026 'Red' Nose is the first-ever "Design-Your-Nose", a customisable, plastic-free nose that children can decorate with pens, stickers, sparkles or anything creative they like. Thank you for helping us support this wonderful cause and raise money for people facing difficult times in the UK and around the world.



Viking Visitor

This week Irish the Viking visited Year 4 for a day of learning about life during the Viking era. Through hands-on activities, storytelling and demonstrations, our students discovered how Vikings lived, travelled and fought. Children also had the chance to handle replica artefacts and learn more about Viking weapons, clothing and daily life.





SUNDAY 15TH MARCH
All Saints, Churchill

MESSY MOTHERING SUNDAY
10.30am

ALL WELCOME

Head's Blog: 10 minutes a day can change a child's life!

There is something truly magical about reading with a child, and reading with our youngsters from a very young age also brings profound and far-reaching benefits that can shape their lives for years to come. Long before a child can read independently, the simple act of sharing a book together tells them learning can be fun and that stories matter. Storytime creates special shared moments, and when children begin to associate books with this cosy time, reading becomes much more than a task. Although you may not realise it at the time, these early emotional connections often mark the beginning of a lifelong relationship with books. Stories also help children make sense of the world around them. Through the characters, situations, and perspectives they encounter in stories, young readers discover new ideas, explore different emotions, and develop curiosity about the world. When books delight and inspire children in these early years, they are far more likely to seek out reading for themselves later on, thus opening the door to learning, discovery and endless possibilities.

Believe it or not, there is a lot of science behind early reading experiences, and these moments are now thought to play a vital role in how children's brains develop. The majority of brain development occurs within the first three years of a child's life, forming millions of connections that shape how they learn, think and communicate. While babies may not yet understand the words, they are absorbing the rhythm, tone and flow of speech. When we read with our children, we are helping them build these neural connections, which become stronger and even more efficient as they begin to practise reading themselves. As a result, children who are read to regularly at home often enter school with stronger communication skills and a richer understanding of language. This lays the foundation for success across all subjects because, once a child can read confidently, the whole curriculum begins to open up.

A recent study found that children who begin reading for pleasure at a young age tend to perform better later in life in areas such as memory, learning, and academic achievement (University of Cambridge, 2023). The study also found links to improved mental well-being, with fewer behavioural difficulties and lower levels of stress. Essentially, developing a love of reading early in childhood supports both learning *and* well-being. It also helps children understand and use a richer vocabulary and the more words children encounter, the easier it becomes for them to understand new ideas later on. While play is a fundamental part of childhood, don't be misled by people who tell you that early learning is *just* about play. Knowledge builds knowledge, and the more background knowledge a child develops early on - for example through books and stories - the easier it becomes to attach new learning in the future.

Anyone who has read with a young child will know how often they ask for the same story repeatedly. While this may feel repetitive for adults, this actually helps children tune in to language and gradually build understanding. The rhythm and rhyme found in many children's books also make language easier for developing brains to process. When adults read aloud with expression, children hear the pace, tone, and emotion that bring a story to life.

Despite these benefits, fewer children are experiencing regular shared reading at home. According to the National Literacy Trust, less than half of children aged 0-2 are read to every day. Alarmingly though, screen use by this age has increased significantly, with a recent study finding that 98% of two-year-olds viewed screens on a typical day for an average of 129 minutes even though it's known that extensive screen use is linked to poor language development and increased emotional difficulties.

Finding the time to read together is therefore more important than ever and the good news is that small daily habits can make a big difference. Just ten minutes of reading a day can expose children to thousands of new words each year.

Reading aloud to our children remains just as important when children start to read independently, all the way through to secondary school (and beyond if possible). A child's listening comprehension often develops faster than their reading ability which means children can understand richer language and more complex stories when they hear them read aloud than when they read on their own.

The most important thing to remember when reading at home is that it should remain enjoyable rather than pressured; we need to avoid turning reading into a lesson or test and instead focus on positive experiences.

I often talk about the importance of role-modelling because, as parents, we know that in the long term children rarely do what we tell them but they very often do what they see. So when adults read themselves, talk about books, and show enthusiasm for stories, children begin to see reading as something meaningful and worthwhile.

At our school, we believe that helping children become confident young readers as early as possible is one of the most important things we can do, but it cannot be left to schools alone. The author Cressida Cowell claims that "Reading for pleasure is the single most important indicator of a child's future success." So, however busy family life can be, making time for shared reading is an investment parents just have to make. Our children get one chance at this, and the years will pass in the blink of an eye. And once a child can read, everything else begins to make sense.

I have very fond memories of story time with my own children, and I hope they do too. Reading to my own boys was never really about learning; it was about shared moments, imagination and laughter, along with creating the kind of memories that stay with us long after the book is closed.

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

Diary Dates

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	Science Oxford Workshops in hall
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	Earth Day
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
Weds 6 May	CNPS Year 3 Tennis Festival 2:30pm
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
Thurs 14 May	Year 5 Windmill Farm Residential (2 days)
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 20 May	Class Photos
Thurs 21 May	Last Day of Term
Fri 22 May	INSET Day
Mon 1 Jun	First Day Back
Thurs 4 Jun	Year 1 and 2 visit Oxford Synagogue
Tues 9 Jun	Infant Summer Disco 3:15 – 4:15
Tues 9 Jun	Junior Summer Disco 4:30 - 5:30
Mon 15 Jun	Year 4 trip to The Living Rainforest
Weds 17 Jun	Year 2 CNPS Cricket Festival (am)
Weds 17 Jun	U11s CNPS Cricket Tournament (pm)
Fri 19 Jun	Year 3 Class Assembly 2:45pm

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	Sky	OWLS
Olivia	OWLS	Ernie	OTTERS
Evie	OWLS	Toby	OTTERS
Sadie	OWLS	Grace	STAGS
Fran	OTTERS	Mylo	STAGS