Report for Kirtlington Parish Council – May 2026.

Kirtlington Primary School – Annual Progress Report

1. Overview

Kirtlington Primary School has had a productive and positive year, marked by strong academic progress, enriched curriculum experiences, and continued development of the school's ethos and community culture. The school is thriving, well-led, and committed to providing a broad and engaging education for its pupils.

2. Curriculum and Learning Progress

Across all year groups, the school has maintained a clear focus on high-quality teaching and learning. Focus is on consistent curriculum coverage in core subjects, with pupils making steady progress in reading, writing, and mathematics; employing motivating topics that encourage curiosity and cross-curricular links, particularly in history, geography, and science; and ensuring a wide spectrum of opportunities across the curriculum e.g. in PE, art, music and design technology.

The newly refurbished Design Technology room, funded through school and community fundraising, is awaiting it's final resources, and will be officially opened in July.

3. Enrichment and Whole-School Events

The school has delivered a rich programme of enrichment activities, including:

- **Art Week and gallery (January 2026)**
  A major whole-school initiative that involved creative workshops, collaborative projects, and a stone-painting activity enjoyed by all year groups. The culmination was a well-attended and lauded gallery event for parents and the community. This event showcased the school's commitment to the arts and hands-on learning.
- **Seasonal celebrations and community performances**
  End-of-term events, concerts, festive activities (such as singing for the Good Neighbour's lunch, Reaching out coffee morning and Youth Club Fayre), and assemblies have provided opportunities for pupils to perform, present their learning, build confidence and engage with the local community.
- **Outdoor and experiential learning**
  Classes have made regular use of outdoor spaces for science, nature study, and physical activity, as well as Forest School, supporting the school's emphasis on wellbeing and active learning.
- **Trips and visitors**

The school has welcomed a wide range of visitors to enrich the pupils learning, as well as engaging in regular trips including sports competitions and class topic trips e.g. the Science Museum, Didcot Railway Centre and Cogges Manor Farm.

These activities contribute significantly to pupils' personal development and sense of belonging.

5. Inspection and Governance

A key milestone this year was the publication of the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report (April 2026). The outcome, shared with families, governors and clergy, affirmed the school's strong Christian ethos, leadership, and commitment to spiritual development. This result reflects the dedication of staff and governors.

The governing body is fully constituted, highly effective, and consistently demonstrates strong support for the school.

6. Communication and Parent Engagement

The school continues to communicate effectively with families through regular newsletters, reminders and notices, celebrations of class and whole school activities, clear information about upcoming events.

This consistent communication supports transparency, strengthens home–school links, and ensures parents remain well informed about school life.

7. Challenges and Ongoing Priorities

- Managing the financial challenges of the current education system.
- Maintaining full intake following dropping birth rates.
- Managing pressures on staffing and resources typical of small rural schools.

The school leadership continues to address these priorities through careful planning and targeted support.

8. Conclusion

Kirtlington Primary School has demonstrated strong progress over the past year, with clear evidence of high-quality teaching, a rich curriculum, and a positive, values-driven culture. The school continues to be a central and vibrant part of village life, and its achievements reflect the dedication of staff, pupils, and families.