



Kaspian's Story: The Otter of Opportunity

Children at Priory School are very special indeed! They have the most amazing power to plant seeds and make flowers grow with every positive choice that they make. They demonstrate how kind, determined and courageous they are every day. And, for this reason, their school now resembles the most beautiful garden you have ever seen!

The garden contains an outstanding orchard filled with the ripest apples, plums pears, cherries and berries. They thrive in the best conditions for each of them. There is also a wonderful woodland with trees that have strong roots and grow as tall as skyscrapers.

Bernie the dog takes care of the children inside of the school. And flying above the garden is Myra the owl who is eager to join the children in their learning and play.

But, what you might not have realised, is that there are other creatures living in the garden too. Animals that are born from the Priory Values and demonstrate them every day. Animals like Kaspian the Otter and this is his story...

Kaspian lives near a babbling brook somewhere in the Priory garden. Don't worry if you've never seen it! That's exactly how Kaspian likes it. You see, Kaspian is a very shy kind of otter. Every day, he followed the same routine: wake up, swim, fish, swim some more and sleep. He never tried new food. He never tried a new hobby. And he never wandered far from his babbling brook.

Kaspian had friends. He had wonderful friends that loved adventure! And they always asked Kaspian to join them...even though they knew his answer would always be the same. Kaspian would say:

*"That's very kind, but I must say no,
There's just no way that I can go,
Here is safe so here I'll stay,
Ask again another day!"*

And off his friends would go to explore and adventure.

One day, Dara arrived at Kaspian's brook panting and sweating (if, of course, squirrels can sweat). Dara loved trying new food and he had just heard that the Year 4 children had a very exciting lesson planned. "You have to come and see this, Kaspian!" Dara encouraged, "The Year 4 children are making pizza!"

"What's pizza?" Kaspian asked. The only food he'd tried was fish.

"It's...it's...well, I don't know! But doesn't it sound delicious? Let's go and try!"

But Kaspian replied,

*"That's very kind, but I must say no,
There's just no way that I can go,
Here is safe so here I'll stay,
Ask again another day!"*

So, off Dara went to find out exactly what pizza was and that it truly was delicious! And Kaspian stayed: swimming and fishing and swimming some more.

On another day, Inaya the hedgehog approached Kaspian's brook. She was positively bouncing with excitement. "You'll never guess what the Year 2 children are doing!" She cried, "For weeks, they've been learning about The Great Fire of London and they've been making model houses and now they're going to burn them! Doesn't that sound incredible?"

"Incredibly dangerous more like!" Kaspian replied.

"Don't be silly, Kaspian. It's perfectly safe. The teachers would never let the children come to any harm!" Inaya exclaimed. But Kaspian replied,

*"That's very kind, but I must say no,
There's just no way that I can go,
Here is safe so here I'll stay,
Ask again another day!"*

So, off Inaya went to watch the Year 2 children set their model houses ablaze. It truly was exciting...and very safe! And Kaspian stayed: swimming...and fishing...and swimming some more.

Kaspian knew that he liked doing what was familiar but, he had to admit, listening to his friends talk about all the new opportunities they'd taken and the new foods they'd tried and the new knowledge they learned did make him a little bit curious. Maybe there was more to life than swimming and fishing...

At that very moment, Nadine the butterfly arrived. She could see that something was troubling Kaspian so she landed on a branch on a nearby tree.

"Are you ok, Kaspian?" She asked, "I was just on my way to watch Year 6 celebrate Hogwarts day but I could see that you were looking rather glum."

"I was just wondering whether there might be more to life than swimming and fishing. The new opportunities that you all take look so exciting...but I'm scared to try something new. What if it's terrible?" Kaspian answered.

"But, what if it's not?" Replied the ever-hopeful butterfly. "I guess you'll never know until you try. It's always a bit scary to try something new but that's how we learn. Why not join me and see what the children are doing?"

Kaspian felt a funny feeling inside his tummy. He thought for a moment, took a deep breath and nodded. He followed Nadine further than he'd ever been from his babbling brook and watched in wonder as the children learned and played. A huge smile grew across his face and the worry disappeared from his tummy. If this was what it was like to try new things, then he was going to seize every opportunity he was offered. And from that day on, if his friends asked him to join them, Kaspian would reply,

*"That's very kind and I say...yes!
New adventures are just the best!
Trying something new, every day
That is now the Kaspian way!"*

And that is the story of how, with a determined attitude and a little bit of courage as well as the kindness of his friends, Kaspian became our mascot for opportunity.