

FABULOUS FEMALES

a TV drama and, right now, the launch of her children's clothing range, she's kept herself in gainful employment by becoming something of an all-rounder.

"I feel like I'm a bit of a Del Boy of the entertainment business," she jokes. "Like, is there anything I've not done yet?"

"But it's good to be able to turn your hand to a few different things, especially the way the industry's gone now - there's less work because the reality stuff takes over everything. So you really do have to have a few different channels or you might struggle to earn a living."

Given that Kimberley is said to be worth £7million, she surely doesn't need to worry too much about that...

"I just don't want to get that feeling where I've got to sacrifice anything. I know we'd be just as happy in a house half the size, and the kids don't care - they don't actually give a crap where they live or what they have, but I want it for them. We don't live a lavish lifestyle because I'm not that person, but I don't want to have to take anything away from them."

Those niggling doubts are the main reason Kimberley took relatively short maternity leaves - she returned to work filming Disney Channel's *The Lodge* when Cole was just a few months old.

Even after the best part of 20 years in the business, it seems *The Fear* is still real.

"I feel like you can't go away for a year and expect anybody to remember who you are," she says. "But I'd never have pushed myself to do something that would make me uncomfortable or take away the enjoyment of having a baby because I think those first six months are so precious."

"I do think I've got a good balance. I do enough to keep my head sane, to keep things ticking over and also to be around for the boys."

Kimberley would be the last person to be affected by fame and fortune - she's the most down to earth and good-humoured of celebrities, doesn't take herself too seriously and has a realistic, healthy outlook on life, including when it comes to body image.

"Sometimes I wish I could put more pressure on myself, but clearly I just don't have it in me to care enough about my appearance!" she laughs.

"I try not to eat to excess the majority of the time, but sometimes when I look at other people on Instagram who seem to be so much more focused and driven, I'm just like: 'Why can't I be bothered to do that?'"

"But when I'm tired from running around with the boys, I'm certainly not going to see a trainer at 7pm when they go to sleep."

Amen to that!

FEELING SOCIABLE

Favourite platform?

Instagram. I like seeing pictures.

Funniest person on Twitter?

I do like [mummy blogger] Hurrah For Gin. Everything she tweets, I think: 'That's me, that's my life.'

Do you have a private Facebook account?

No, I've never had a Facebook account. I know what it's about, but I never engaged in it, and it's a bit too late now!

Last DM?

One of the fans. They DM me all the time but I can't always reply to them.

Perfect selfie?

I take it from up high so I can give myself a jawline, and then I turn my face to my good side - my left - and hope for the best.

"And I'm not doing it when Cole's napping because that's the only time I've got to get other stuff done."

Getting "other stuff done" lately has meant designing and developing her children's clothing range Kimba Kids, which will launch on Next.co.uk this week. It's been a two-year labour of love with her brother Adam, 33, who is (handily) the managing director of a fashion design and manufacturing company.

"I know people see a lot of celebrities doing endorsements for kids' clothing, which is absolutely fine, but that is not what this is," says Kimberley.

"I've created this range from scratch with my brother, and I had no idea what I was getting myself into when I started. I just thought you went somewhere and picked fabrics that you like the look of. Er, no."

"We've designed every print ourselves, which in one respect was amazing because the world was our oyster, but on the other hand has been so time-consuming. Even going through fabrics choosing from 100 different thicknesses, it's every single detail."

"We've put our heart and soul into it, and it's been a real family thing."

For a lot of people, working with a sibling could be fraught, but Kimberley says she and Adam have made a good team.

"We're the two middle children and both very chilled, so that kind of works."

She's also found time to dip her toe back into acting, with a role on Channel 4's school-based drama *Ackley Bridge*, and now she's gearing up for a week-long solo stint in London's West End, where she'll be performing songs from musicals and some Girls Aloud classics at the intimate Brasserie Zédel.

"I was getting itchy performing feet and thought about what could be quite enjoyable and fun but not crazy high pressure," she says. "It's quite an intense venue, though. And it's different not doing it with the girls - I'll have to rework the Girls Aloud songs slightly. Unless one of them fancy coming down to help me!"

Cheryl and Nicola (and Nadine and Sarah), over to you...

Ask her if she misses anything about her old life, and she says she can barely remember it.

"I feel like I don't even know what that is. Honestly, the way Bobby reacts to videos of Girls Aloud is exactly how I feel about them - like, what the hell is that and what are you doing?"

"It was 15 years of my life, but it's very far removed from now. When you've had two actual humans and got married, it feels such a long time ago."

Would a GA reunion ever be a possibility?

"It would be fun to just do one show and see how that felt again," she says.

"I would probably be terrified, but back then it was just like walking to the park. You could be walking along a platform going right across the stadium and it felt like such a normal thing to do."

"I'm pretty sure it wouldn't feel so normal now!" **T**

● Kimba Kids will be on sale from Thursday at Next.co.uk

'My Girls Aloud life is very far removed from now'



WATCH IT!
See our exclusive Kimberley Walsh video at Fabulousmag.co.uk now.



L-R: Girls Aloud in 2013; Kimberley with Cheryl and Nicola; with Justin and sons Cole and Bobby