



**FIVE FAB CELEBRITY  
JUDGES SEARCH FOR  
HELLO!'S  
STAR MUM  
ON A DAY FILLED  
WITH LAUGHTER,  
TEARS AND TRUE  
INSPIRATION**

It's a bitterly cold day in London, but the atmosphere in the studio where **HELLO!'s** exclusive photoshoot is taking place could not be warmer, as five well-known women come together to celebrate a bond they all share: motherhood.

With nine children between them, ranging in age from six months to six years, and busy professional lives, singer and stage star Kimberley Walsh, broadcaster Kate Silverton, author and classical musician Izzy Judd, TV personality Binky

Felstead and writer Anna Whitehouse – founder of the parenting blog *Mother Pukka* – are making the most of a spot of pampering, courtesy of our glam squad and some fabulous Next clothes, as they swap tales of sleepless nights, toddler tantrums and juggling family life.

"Believe me, I'm in no rush," chuckles Izzy, mum to two-year-old Lola and son Kit, who was born in

August, when we try to hurry things along. "Harry can hold the fort," she adds of her McFly drummer husband, winner of *Strictly Come Dancing* in 2011, who's back at home on "dad duties". "This is bliss for me."

"I feel like I'm on a month-long holiday in the Bahamas," agrees Anna, mum to Mae, four, and Eve, seven months, her daughters with her husband, fellow writer Matt Farquharson – aka Papa Pukka. "I can't tell you how excited I was to be here today."

**'I've laughed  
and cried with  
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motherhood is'**  
**Kate**



Our celebrity panel of judges gathers for the tough job of deciding the shortlist for our Star Mums competition, before you vote for a winner (from left): Anna Whitehouse, Kate Silverton, Binky Felstead, Kimberley Walsh and Izzy Judd

But as much as they are enjoying themselves, all five of our dynamic celebrity mums are only too happy to ensure the main focus falls on the real stars of this show: the strong, selfless and inspiring unsung heroes who have made it onto the shortlist of **HELLO!**'s 2018 Search for a Star Mum.

Back for a second year, and this time in association with retail giant Next, the competition pays tribute to incredible mothers who aren't in the spotlight and gives them a well-deserved chance to shine.

Once again, we were overwhelmed by the hundreds of entries we received after launching our search last December. Today, our celebrity judges are selecting their final five, from which our fantastic **HELLO!** readers, will decide the winner, via our website.

Our ultimate Star Mum will be honoured at a special prize-giving lunch at London's exclusive hotel The Dorchester on 8 March – just ahead of Mother's Day weekend – hosted by **HELLO!** editor

in chief Rosie Nixon and BBC news anchor Kate.

In addition, she will win an overnight stay for two at the hotel the previous evening, a glamorous makeover before the lunch, courtesy of blowLtd, the UK's leader in beauty services on demand, plus our winner can choose an outfit from Next's new season range to ensure she feels a million dollars for her big moment.

On top of that, she will take home a limited



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edition bottle of Champagne Lanson Rose Label Brut Rosé, to continue the celebrations, plus a luxury goodie bag containing, among other treats, an exquisite Mame Huku evening bag.

Former *Girls Aloud* star Kimberley – mum to Bobby, aged three, and Cole, one – was on the celebrity judging panel for last year's competition and tells **HELLO!**: "It is such a lovely thing to be part of and I'm so thrilled to have been asked back.

"It's hard because so many of the women we're reading about are incredible and deserve to win, but you can't give everyone a place. But you get some that jump out at you instantly – a feeling you get – and hopefully our instincts will prove right."

This time last year, Kimberley was getting to grips with new motherhood again, having welcomed her second son with property developer husband Justin Scott, formerly of the boyband Triple 8, three months earlier.

"Cole's walking and making himself understood now and I do find it easier, although every stage brings its challenges," she says.

"I was a bit concerned that Bobby would rule the roost because he's a big character, but Cole gives as good as he gets and, for the most part, they're becoming good mates, which is lovely to see."

She describes Bobby as a typical "threenager". "He is constantly testing the water and trying to get a reaction out of me," says Kimberley, raising her eyebrows. "He and Cole love music and the other day, a *Girls Aloud* song came on. I said to him, 'Do you like this one, Bobby? This was Mummy's band, *Girls Aloud*.' He went, 'No, I hate Gelz. It's rubbish!'"

Is it too soon to be thinking about adding to their family? "Definitely!" laughs Kimberley. "I do love babies," she says, glancing over at Binky, who has brought along India, her enchanting eight-month-old girl by fellow former *Made in Chelsea* star Josh "JP" Patterson. "But at the moment, we've got our hands full and I feel the balance is good."

#### HOME TRUTHS

For Binky, the judging process proved incredibly moving. "Reading the entries made me so emotional," says the mum-of-one. "Even some adverts set me off since I had India, especially if they involve children.

"But the stories of these amazing women makes you feel so fortunate to have a healthy baby and your

## **'Once you have a child, this little person comes first. These mums take it to another level' Binky**

own health. It's wonderful to feel even a small part of giving something back because you can't give these mums enough credit."

Binky adds that becoming a mum has taught her a lot about herself. "It's so easy to get wrapped up in yourself and trivial things, but once you have a child, no matter how tired you are, how awful you feel, this little person comes first and there's something in-built that forces you to get on with it. The mums we've read about today take it to another level."

Excited to be approaching her first Mother's Day as a mum, Binky says becoming a parent has also made her appreciate her own mum Jane more. "I've always trusted her guidance, but she's such a fantastic support to me since I had India. You get so much conflicting advice it's easy to feel overwhelmed, but she tells me, 'Don't be too hard on yourself. She's fine.' Although she laughs when India's playing up as she remembers what I was like – she says it's payback time."

"Becoming a mother has definitely made me appreciate my own mum more," agrees Izzy, author of *Dare to Dream*, documenting her and Harry's struggle to start a family, ahead of conceiving their daughter Lola via IVF.

One of four herself – and the only girl – Izzy was 12 when, 21 years ago, one of her brothers, Rupert, then 18, was involved in a near-fatal car accident that left him permanently brain damaged.

"In an instant, family life as we knew it changed," says Izzy. "When Lola caught her first cold after she was born, I was so anxious and it really hit home to me just how strong and amazing my mum Gill had been all those years earlier. The fear must have been indescribable, yet she held it all together all the time Rupert was fighting for his life, for the family."

Of the stories of courage and selflessness displayed by our shortlisted mums, Izzy says: "When you read about the challenges other mums are facing, it helps to put into perspective your own worries. It teaches you to embrace the love and support you have around you; it's so easy to become so caught up in the daily mum routine, you lose sight of that and it's important not to."

"Everything these mums are





Izzy and (right) Anna were delighted to join this year's judging panel for a day filled with emotion and admiration (above right)



doing is for their families and I've been overwhelmed by their selflessness," agrees Anna. "Recognising them is the equivalent of a stranger on the bus giving you a smile when you're struggling with a planking toddler and a screaming baby and you want the world to swallow you up. You get that smile and suddenly you're not alone. On a bigger scale, that's what these awards are for – that big, bosomy hug that says, 'You're doing good.'"

Delighted to be back on our judging panel for a second year, broadcaster Kate, mum to Clemency, six, and Wilbur, three, with security expert husband Mike Heron, says it will be "an honour" to co-host our prize-giving lunch, which will pay tribute to both famous and non-famous mums.

Of our Star Mum nominees, Kate tells us:

"There were so many entries, sent in by husbands, friends, sisters, mothers, daughters – all of them heartfelt, all deserving of an award."

"I've laughed and cried with equal measure as we're reminded how magical motherhood is yet how tough it can be when life deals some difficult cards."

"Every mum I've read about today is brave and selfless beyond measure. I am only sorry not to make every one a winner."

REPORT: BELINDA ROBEY  
PHOTOS: DAVID VENNI

STYLING: GAYLE RINKOFF AT FRANK AGENCY  
HAIR & MAKE-UP: CINTA MILLER

To see behind-the-scenes interviews with our celebrity judges and to vote for your Star Mum of 2018, visit [hellomagazine.com/starmum](http://hellomagazine.com/starmum).

ALL CLOTHES: NEXT

## READ THE MOVING STORIES OF OUR SHORTLISTED MUMS - AND VOTE FOR



CHLOE STONES

Having struggled to start a family, Chloe is mum to son Seb and elder daughter Elsie, who's almost four and has Down's syndrome. As Elsie told us when she nominated her mum (with help from her daddy Adam): "Mummy helps me a lot when I find things difficult and finds ways of making me understand. She takes me to hospital to see all the people who make sure I'm okay." In addition to working for Ronald McDonald House Charities, which provides "home from home" accommodation to families while their children are in hospital, Chloe volunteers for the charity PSDS, which offers support to children with Down's syndrome and their families. "Mummy likes doing it as a way of saying thank you to them," says Elsie.



JOANNE HARDWICK

Nominated by her friend Emily Styles, Joanne was delighted when she fell pregnant shortly after marrying her husband Tom. But her excitement turned to fear when she was diagnosed with breast cancer. Told initially that she would lose her baby, Joanne underwent a mastectomy and reconstruction, but carrying her precious baby meant she had to forego a lot of treatments. In June 2017 she welcomed a beautiful healthy boy, Henry, who she breastfed for six months before beginning a course of cancer drug treatment. "She is such a determined mummy and this showed in the ultimate act of love," Emily says of Joanne, who recently raised £6,000 for her local hospital's breast cancer appeal.



PAULINE BOUNDY

Just before Christmas 2016, Pauline's only daughter Emma was diagnosed with soft tissue cancer. Putting her own grief aside, Pauline helped her daughter come to terms with her illness and say goodbye to her two young daughters, four and seven, encouraging her to make memory boxes for them. When Emma died last summer, Pauline became like a mum to the two girls, bringing some normality to their young lives. "Pauline goes to all the school events a mother would. She tucks the girls in at night if their father is away on business," says friend Christine Fowler, who has nominated her. Last Christmas, Emma's eldest daughter said it all with simple words in her card: "To granny, who does everything for us."



JODIE WILLIAMS

Nominated by friend Pippa Scott-Heale, Jodie is mum and main carer to 15-month-old Lola, who was born at 31 weeks with VACTERL symptoms. Each letter stands for a birth abnormality, including vertebral and cardiac defects, and Lola has all seven. Doctors told Jodie her daughter would never sit unaided, crawl or stand. But with Mum's constant encouragement, the happy little girl has learned to do all these things. "I have never met a more positive person," says Pippa of Jodie, who also puts her energies into increasing awareness of VACTERL and fundraising for Alder Hey Children's Hospital, where Lola was first treated. "She wouldn't change anything and says Lola is strong because of everything she has to endure – though I believe it is from the power of Jodie's love."

**'This award is a big, bosomy hug that says, "You're doing good"' Anna**



## YOUR WINNER



**LISA WELLS**

Five weeks after giving birth to her second daughter Saffia in October 2017, Lisa, who is also mum to five-year-old Ava-Lily, received the devastating news that she had terminal liver and bowel cancer. Married to her childhood sweetheart Dan, Lisa is determined to leave a lasting legacy for her precious girls and has amassed an army of friends to do a 12-mile walk on Mother's Day, raising money for her daughters' futures and for a charity, Dorothy House hospice. She hopes her friends will support her girls through the milestones she will miss: helping to pick out wedding dresses and buying their first homes. "Lisa is the most inspirational young mum," says friend April Booth, nominating her for her resolve to create a legacy of joy and love, not sadness.



Kate, who co-hosts a lunch next month at The Dorchester to honour our Star Mum winner with HELLO! editor in chief Rosie Nixon, reads the entrants' moving stories