

Exclusive

'Playdates with Cheryl and Bear are chaotic'

The Girls Aloud star talks to *Bella* about life as a mum



Cheryl and Kim have a whole lotta history



Kim with sons, Cole and Bobby



Family holiday to Disneyland



Kimberley with her mum Diane

Life has changed for Kimberley Walsh over the last few years. The 36 year old has swapped pop stardom with one of Britain's biggest girl bands, Girls Aloud, for a quieter, married life with ex-singer Justin Scott, 35, and their two boys – Bobby, three, and 15-month-old Cole.

When we chat, the singer – once voted one of the world's sexiest women – gushes over a "cute" Mother's Day card Bobby brought home from nursery.

Here, Kimberley talks life after Girls Aloud, and hanging out with friend Cheryl and her son Bear.

You and Cheryl are close. Do you meet her and Bear for playdates?
Yeah, I see them regularly – they

last came round mine a couple of weeks ago. It's nice because our boys are similar ages, so we can let them play together. Bear's probably more interested in watching my older son, because he's running around the place and is so loud. Cheryl's like, "He's fine, he's just got to get used to it."

Do the boys play well together?
They do. I'm really lucky because Cheryl's got Bear, my sister Sally has boys, and loads of my friends have got kids the same age. Whenever we all meet up, it's chaotic, but fun.

Do you give Cheryl mum tips?
We'll compare things about our kids because of their close ages, but I do that with all my friends

really. I think it's a natural mum thing.

How has Cheryl taken to motherhood?
I always knew Cheryl would make a brilliant mum. She's a natural and has loads of nieces and nephews, so she's certainly had a lot of practice!

Overall, what's the best thing about being a mum?
Getting to know their little characters and seeing what they come out with. It's the toughest job ever, but what you get back

is incredibly rewarding – this crazy, motherly love.

Every age has its challenges – what would you say are your current challenges with the boys?
I'm in a tough stage at the moment. Bobby's three and it's a case of the terrible threes, rather than the terrible twos. Up to now, he's been a really easy toddler, but, wow, I've got a three-nager! He's so headstrong and talks back to me like he's on my level. Cole's a happy-go-lucky little toddler. It's

hard because he's running around and doesn't realise he can't dive off the sofa. You can't leave him alone for a second. So, Bobby's challenging mentally, and Cole is physically challenging.

Are you feeling broody?
No, not just yet. I think another child would be too hard right now.

What's been the toughest stage so far?
The tantrums have been the hardest thing. I'm learning the art of distraction and getting him to snap out of the mood he's in.

Bobby's also going through a phase of wanting to be naked, so he takes his clothes off after I've literally just fully clothed him. Bobby's been such an easy child that all my friends are saying I deserve a bit of a challenge.

Are they Mummy's or Daddy's boys?
Cole's more of a Mummy's boy. He was clingier since birth and will always choose me over anybody else – it's quite cute. Bobby is so independent. But they both do love their dad as he's quite hands-on. Sometimes they'll play

us off against each other – it's started already.

Do you have any help with childcare?
Bobby does a few mornings at nursery. I don't have a nanny, but my mum and my friend are around to help out. Between the two of them and Justin, we make it work. I just want the boys to be around family and friends as much as I can really.

What's the best advice your mum has given you?
She's not the type of mum who would force her own opinions on to me about my children – she'll let me work it out myself. Overall, she's really relaxed and has a lot of respect for us.

Did you feel pressure to lose your post-baby weight?
I didn't, but I'm strong-minded. I don't bow to pressure that easily and don't get too obsessed about that. I know people do judge, but I'm the one getting up five times in a night, trying to deal with two kids all day, so if I'm not ready to lose weight and exercise – that's the way it is. I'll do it in my own time.

Do you have many date nights with Justin?
Not as much as we should. While the kids are young, it seems like an effort to get out of the house and go for dinner. Now Cole's bigger, we'll try and do a few more date nights.

How do you do spend the time together on those nights?
I just like to go for dinner. Nothing major, nothing too wild. Just a nice meal and a bit of well-deserved peace and quiet!

What's your perfect Mother's Day?
A lie-in and breakfast in bed, plus a bit of pampering throughout the day – that'll make me happy. I'm looking forward to Mother's Day – it's still a novelty because my kids are only young.

● Kimberley Walsh has joined forces with Tesco to help the nation get Mother's Day right this year.