



Knights Templar Community Church School and Nursery

Work at it with all your heart

Head Teacher: Mrs Laura Weaver, BA Hons QTS

September 2026

Dear Gates Class Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the new school year. It has been a pleasure to get to know the children of Gates Class this week. They have been fabulous at settling into their new class routines. They are a very enthusiastic, kind and energetic class and I am really looking forward to teaching them this year.

PE

Gates Class have PE on **Tuesday mornings**. Please send your child to school **wearing their PE kit**. They need to wear their normal school jumper or cardigan and they can wear navy / black shorts, leggings or joggers with their PE t-shirt.

Explorers

Gates Class will have Explorers on **Tuesday afternoons**. This is a session in our wonderful wildlife area at the top of the field. In KS2, they do not change their whole uniform but will need a pair of outdoor shoes (walking boots or wellies) and a waterproof coat on this day. If you have waterproof overalls, they can wear these over their clothes – but please don't feel you need to purchase this. We have a small supply of spare wellies and overalls but not a full class set.

Swimming

Swimming will take place on Thursday afternoons **after half term**.

Reading and Homework

Homework is optional – although Reading will be monitored and strongly encouraged.

Children are invited to access:

- Times Table Rockstars;
- Spelling Frame.

Log-ins to access these platforms will be attached to the back cover of their Reading Folder.

It is essential that children in Key Stage 2, continue to read at home regularly. The children will bring a reading book and folder home every day and this must return to school every day. We will listen to the children read regularly at school. Reading together can take a range of forms. Your child can read to you or you can share the reading of a book. Equally valuable is to continue to read to your children at bedtime (or any other time!). However, you read with your child, please record it in their Reading Record so we can see how much reading your child does at home. Also, every time they read, they will earn a Reading Raffle ticket!

Times Tables

We will be doing daily timetables practice during school time. Times Tables Rockstars will still be used and it is a fun way for the children to learn their times tables and will really increase their speed at recalling the facts. Year 4 children will be taking a statutory assessment test in their recall of the times table facts up to 12 x 12. They have a very short time to answer so pace at recalling the facts is paramount. We will also be testing the children on their recall of times tables, every other week.

Show and Tell

To help develop the speaking and listening skills of our Key Stage 2 children at Knights Templar, I will invite the children from Gates Class to do a Show and Tell presentation once a half term. In Gates Class, these will take place on **Friday afternoons**. Your child will be allocated a Friday during this half term when they will need to be ready to do their presentation – please see the attached timetable. They could bring in a special object from home to talk about or they could talk about an event or activity they have enjoyed – bringing in a photo or attaching it to the Google Classroom. The talk will only need to be 2-4 minutes long and then we will invite the class to ask 3 questions about the presentation. We are asking that children **don't bring in toys** from home for their show and tell.

Discovery Zone

In some afternoons, Gates Class will be learning their topics using a child-led approach. This means that they will take ownership of their learning within the topics studied at school. To enable this to be possible, we need to collect your recyclable materials from home: kitchen roll tubes, small cardboard boxes, yoghurt pots etc. Please bring these items in as often as you collect them. Thank you in advance for your support with this. I'll send messages home when we have enough supplies or if we need a restock!

Snacks and Drinks

As snacks are not provided in KS2, children are asked to bring their own snack to school each day. Suitable snacks could include a piece of fruit, a fruit-based snack or vegetable stick, breadsticks or crackers.

Please also ensure that any food brought from home complies with our nut-free policy, helping us to keep all children safe.

We recommend that children bring a water bottle to school each day so that they can stay hydrated throughout the day. Water is preferable to juice or squash, as these drinks can contain high levels of sugar, which can be harmful to children's teeth. Water bottles are also less likely to cause problems if they are accidentally spilt or leak.

Toys from home

We ask that children leave toys at home. While we understand that children may be excited to share their favourite toys with friends, toys can easily become lost or damaged and can sometimes be a distraction during the school day.

Thank you for your support in helping us to make the classroom a calm, safe and focused environment for everyone.

Finally, please see the attached curriculum map for an overview of the Autumn's topics. If you have any skills or knowledge related to our Topic Web and you would be willing to come in to school to share this, we would warmly welcome you.

Also, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at school. The children of Gates Class will benefit greatly from a consistent dialogue between home and school.

I am really looking forward to the school year ahead and I hope that your child is too.

Katherine Larkins

Gates Class Teacher / KS2 Lead / English Lead

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