



# Knights Templar Community Church School and Nursery

*Work at it with all your heart*

Head Teacher: Mrs Laura Weaver, BA Hons QTS

September 2025

Dear Mandela Class Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the new academic year. It has been delightful to get to know the children in Mandela Class this week; I know the children have also enjoyed exploring new friendships. The children have settled really well into their new routines and have shown how creative, helpful and kind they are, which is very fantastic!

## PE

Mandela Class have PE on **Monday afternoons**. Please send a **named PE kit into school**, which will remain in school until the end of half term.

## Explorers

Mandela Class will have Explorers on Wednesday afternoons. They will not change their whole uniform but will need a pair of outdoor shoes (walking boots or wellies) and a waterproof coat on this day – both named please.

## Swimming

Swimming will take place on Tuesday afternoons but not until **after half term**.

## Homework

Homework will be set every Friday on the Mandela Class Google Classroom and due the following Friday. Most of the tasks are to be completed online, alongside reading, and will include:

- 10 minutes on TTRS;
- A spelling sheet, which will be sent home on Fridays inside the children's home link journals. One column should be completed each day of the school week. Please return it to class on Fridays. There will be an optional online spelling activity using Spelling Frame;
- There will also be an optional activity from the National Trust's **50 Things to do before you're 11 ¾**. These are outdoor activities that you could complete as a family. Your child could bring in a photo of the activity or this can be emailed to the office so this can be shared when it is your child's Show and Tell slot.

If children are not completing their homework at home, we will ask them to complete it during TaP time on Friday afternoons. TaP time is an additional play time for Key Stage 2 on Friday afternoons.

## Reading

The children in Mandela Class have enjoyed exploring the books in our reading area. Please continue to take part in daily home reading to support their learning. The children will bring a **reading book and home link journal home every day**, which they will need to bring in the following day. We will also 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. Continuing to read to your child is equally valuable. However, when 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, which will be drawn on a Friday afternoon.

### **Times Tables**

We will be doing daily timetables practice during school time. TT Rockstars will still be used as it is a fun way for the children to learn their times tables. Year 4 children will be taking a statutory assessment test in their recall of the times table facts up to 12 x 12 later in the academic year. They have a very short time to answer so pace at recalling the facts is paramount. We will also be testing all 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 Mandela Class to do a Show and Tell presentation once a half term. In Mandela 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 discuss an event or activity they have enjoyed – it would be great to see photos of this, whether this is a printed photo or sent virtually to the office. We are asking that children don't bring in toys from home for their show and tell. The talk will only need to be 1-2 minutes long and then we will invite the class to ask 3 questions about the presentation.

### **Discovery Zone**

Most afternoons, Mandela Class will be learning their topics using a child-led approach. This is a new initiative we are starting this year meaning that the children will take ownership of their learning within the topics studied at school. To enable this to be possible, we need to collect your clean, recyclable materials from home: kitchen roll tubes, small cardboard boxes, yoghurt pots etc., but **please no milk containers**. Please bring these items in as often as you collect them. Thank you in advance for your support with this.

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** via the office or on the door at drop off / pick up. The children of Mandela 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.

Emma Hake

Mandela Class Teacher/ Science Lead/ Eco-Warriors Lead  
Knights Templar Community Church School