



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 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 **Monday afternoons**. Please send a **named PE kit into school**. This will remain in school until half term.

Explorers

Gates Class will have Explorers on **Tuesday 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.

Swimming

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

Homework

Homework will be set every Friday on the Gates Class Google Classroom. The tasks are to be completed online by the following Friday and will include:

- 10 minutes on TTRS;
- A spelling sheet will be sent home on Fridays. 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 talk about it during their 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

It is noticeable that the children of Gates Class love to read and are very excited to share what they have been reading at home. Please continue to take part in daily home reading. The children will bring a **reading book and home link journal home every 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. Equally valuable is

to continue to read to your children. 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. TT Rockstars will still be used and 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. 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

Most 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.

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
Knights Templar Community Church School