



Kettlethulme St James CE (VA) Primary School

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Friday 5th September 2025

Dear Kettlethulme Family,

Welcome back to a brand-new school year! I'm sure most of you know by now, but for those who may not, my name is Miss Axon and I am the teacher in Forest Class. It is so wonderful to see familiar faces returning and to have the chance to welcome new children and families to Forest Class. I feel very lucky to continue teaching many of the children I already know, and I am excited to get to know our Reception children as they join our class.

I remain committed to fostering a warm and welcoming environment for every student. I believe education should be an exciting adventure, and I strive to provide strategies that cater to each child's individual learning needs. Whether through hands-on activities, group projects, or engaging discussions, my goal is to encourage all students to try their best and embrace the joys of learning.

As we embark on this new school year, I would like to encourage parents to foster a positive learning environment at home as well. Simple strategies such as reading together, discussing their day, or even exploring topics of interest can significantly enhance their educational experience. Your support is invaluable in inspiring their curiosity and love for learning.

Here are a few important things that you might like to make a note of:

Staff

Our team is here to support the children every step of the way. I work full-time in Forest Class, supported by our fantastic Teaching Assistant, Mrs Connick, every morning, and in the afternoons by the wonderful Miss Scarlett and Miss 'T' Tomkinson. During my PPA time, Mrs Price teach will be teaching the children this half term followed by Mrs Sandres who will be returning from her maternity leave.

Uniform

Just a reminder that our school uniform requires black socks and plain black shoes. Please can girls also wear cycling shorts underneath skirts and dresses.

Nuts

We are a nut-free school. To help keep everyone safe, please make sure that any food brought into school does not contain nuts. This is especially important as we have several members of our school family with severe allergies

Snacks

School snacks (bagels or brioches) are available to purchase through School Spider. If you prefer to send your child with a snack from home, we kindly ask that it be something healthy and nutritious (fruit, vegetable sticks, breadsticks etc.).

PE

We will have our weekly PE lesson every Monday afternoon followed by a short Yoga session. Please can children come to school wearing their PE kit. This consists of their usual green t-shirt and jumper, along with plain black joggers or shorts and trainers. Please send your child(ren) to school every day with a water bottle. We also complete our weekly run, daily fitness challenges and active brain breaks. Usual school uniform is worn for these activities.

Forest School

We will now be delivering our Forest School sessions in blocks. Our first block will be on each Thursday afternoon in Autumn Term 2 (after October half term) and our second block will be each Thursday afternoon in Spring Term 2 (after February half term). Sam is our new Forest School leader and we are really excited to work with him. More information about Forest School will be sent out closer to the time.

Reading

The importance of reading for children cannot be underestimated. Reading for pleasure opens up new worlds, giving children the chance to use their imagination, explore new ideas, visit exciting places, and meet unforgettable characters. Books also help children to understand themselves better, while offering a window into the experiences and perspectives of others.

At Kettleshulme St James, we believe reading is vital, which is why we have our reading record system. The purpose of the records is to ensure that all our pupils enjoy regular, high-quality reading experiences. Children should record the name of the book they are reading, how much they have read, and the date into their reading records daily. The reading records will then be scanned daily by the class teacher, and children will be regularly encouraged to change their book if they need to. However, on a Monday, if a child has a record of 5 or more reads from the previous week, they will be awarded a raffle ticket from their class teacher. This raffle ticket will then be put inside a special box in the classroom, and at the end of each half term, if children have secured enough tickets they will receive an extra 30 minutes of outdoor play or iPad time! We hope you can support us with this and encourage your child(ren) to keep reading.

Following the success of our Key Stage 2 Reading Challenge, we now have a Key Stage 1 Reading Challenge. You can find out more about this on our school website (Learning tab, Reading).

Homework

You will find a copy of our Homework Schedule on our Class Page (on the website). Homework is set weekly and is given out on a Monday and should be completed and handed in by the children on the following Monday. This means they get a whole week to complete it, including a weekend.

Reception:

Homework consists of revising Read Write Inc sounds from their current phase, and 10 minutes of reading every day.

Year 1:

Homework consists of revising Read Write Inc sounds/words from their current phase, and 10 minutes of reading every day.

Year 2:

Homework consists of a grammar worksheet, 10 minutes of reading every day, and a suggested 20 minutes of times table practice every week. Weekly spellings will be sent home every Monday. Please support your child to learn them in preparation for their weekly test, which also takes place each Monday. Remember you can also access Spelling Shed for spelling games and challenges.

We also encourage all our pupils to contribute to the community whenever they can. This will look different for each family. We would love to see any optional enrichment activities that your child completes.

Punctuality and Attendance

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the importance of good punctuality and attendance, as our learning starts at 8.50am every day. Our learning is a progressive activity; each day's lessons build upon the previous day(s). It is crucial that your child participates in daily learning activities, and joins in our group activities. However, missed learning cannot be helped if your child is poorly, and I will ensure that I spend time with them making up for lost learning time. Please let Mrs Blood know, via School Spider or email, as soon as possible if your child is unwell and unable to come into school.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. It is so important to keep communication open between us, and I would love to talk to you whenever you feel the need. You will find me on the playground at the end of most days or alternatively you can book an appointment to see me by emailing Mrs Blood in the school office.

I am looking forward to a great year together!

Miss Axon and the Forest Class Team