



Moor First School

School Lane
Biddulph Moor

Stoke on Trent. ST8 7HR

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Date: 29th April 2022

Amethyst Class

Dear Parents/Carers

We hope that you have had a fantastic Easter break.

Attendance for Amethyst last term was 95.9% which was below our Biddulph agreed target of 96.5%. Please help us to meet this target this term.

Our topic for this term is '**Full Steam Ahead: Local History of the Industrial revolution.**
(James Brindley and the first railways.)

We will be linking this topic with many areas of the curriculum including English, Maths, Science, Art, Music, History and Drama.

Your child will also participate in Physical Education (PE) 2 x weekly. They will receive weekly Computing, French, Religious Education (RE), Personal Social Health Education (PSHE) and Music. These can be delivered discreetly or in a cross-curricular way through topic sessions depending on the current topic.

As in the previous term, we will be splitting subjects between teachers and will continue with the previous terms timetable.

Mrs Edge will be commencing her post on 9th May and teaches from Monday through to Wednesday lunchtime. As well as concentrating on the key English texts, Mrs Edge delivers Art/DT and the Year 4 science and PSHE lessons. Mrs Atherton leads guided reading and guided writing, is continuing with multiplication and teaches topic sessions linked to geography and history as well as RE, Y4 French and computing. Mrs Kirby delivers music as well as handwriting and spellings/timetables tests. When in school, Wednesday and Friday PE sessions are delivered by Premier Sport this term.

English

Mrs Critchlow will be looking at some classic poetry by Eleanor Farjeon and we will also be looking at a Sonnet by Shakespeare, as well as watching *A Midsummer nights dream* and learning the fairy lullaby. We will be having a go at creating our own poems following these structures. We will begin our English with Mrs Edge by looking at Adventure stories, with the Hodgeheg as a focus. We will be looking at preposition phrases, adverbs and making our own writing exciting. Children will also be working to embed their individual targets, e.g. use of different punctuation, vocabulary and paragraphs.

Amethyst class will be building on previous skills and looking to increase writing stamina and independence. Our class reading text will be *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.

We will also be reading Roald Dahl stories, plays and a variety of poetry and be sharing non-fiction texts linked to Industrial Revolution Transport.

Throughout the term, we will cover a range of genres and will focus explicitly on teaching the relevant grammar and punctuation. We will be learning about varying our sentences and vocabulary for the greatest effect.

Children are encouraged and taught to check, proof read and edit their writing, using a dictionary to check spellings when required. We expect quality, joined handwriting and encourage the children to take a real pride in the presentation of any written work. Children also all have clear individual targets from the previous term to work on.

Our spelling test will continue to take place every Friday morning. You will find them on seesaw (try to cut down on paper.) We are aware that some of these spellings are challenging, but please support your child to learn these. The recommended process for learning spellings is to look, say, cover, write and check. It is more effective to do this little and often, rather than cramming! It also helps if you ask your child to write some of these words in a sentence that is well punctuated, it could also be written as a question or within speech, or locate it in a dictionary and write down the meaning. Your help at home and the time you spend reinforcing learning really does pay dividends and is greatly appreciated.

During our shared, guided and independent reading in class, we will continue to focus on teaching comprehension techniques, developing general language skills and helping children answer recall, application and analytical questions. On your child's report, you were given your child's reading target(s). If you need advice on the types of questions you can ask as an adult, then please send a message and we will always do our best to help.

Your child should always have a reading book, which should be brought in every day. There is a new reading challenge in your child's learning enrichment book. A reading race is also set up in class so children have been able to win prizes for the number of times they've read. Please continue to keep your running totals so when we are all in class we can have a big celebration! Epic also continues to be a fantastic resource to use and your child may be assigned reading texts.

Also refer to this term's apple writing challenge, which will help to speed up progress and attainment and help us to raise money for the school. There will also be additional tasks on Imagine Forest.

Maths

This term we will be covering the following areas: statistics, decimals and shape. This will give the opportunity for lots of active and investigative maths.

Mrs Atherton will continue to work on multiplication and telling the time. As our topic is linked to railways, we will learn how to read and understand train timetables. We will also be continuing to work on the four main operations and applying them to a variety of problems and situations.

In Mathematics, there is a great emphasis on problem solving and reasoning skills, we will ensure we create opportunities for activities that foster a deeper understanding, at each stage of learning and build on the required key knowledge and skills. Children are encouraged to evaluate their progress and with support, access an appropriate amount of challenge. Many children have a target linked to problem solving.

The 'units of work' are flexible and will be taught according to the ability of each child. We regularly revisit previous skills and encourage children to practice their knowledge of number facts, so they are recalled quickly. This term we will also provide children with a range of maths lessons that relate to our new topic. They may compare timeline dates, journey times, calculate areas and distance.

Please continue to practice times tables by completing the Maths Frame MTC and uploading on Seesaw. Try to develop speed. This term will be the real National Assessment for Year 4. They will have 25 tables sums from 1 x to 12 x tables and have 6 seconds to answer each one. This requires a lot of practice.

Science

Your child will receive 1.5 hours of science per week and this will be taught as a discrete unit on a Tuesday afternoon. Within these lessons, your child will be encouraged to raise questions, set up fair tests, make careful observations and take readings. Your child will then decide how to best present their data clearly, report on their findings and draw conclusions based on their initial question.

This term, Year 4 will complete the Animals including Humans unit. They will be learning about the digestive system and will even be creating their own poo! Teeth and the importance of oral health will also be explored. There will also be time to continue exploring our school environment and our natural surroundings.

Year 3 children will be taught by Mrs Wood and be learning about plants during summer 1 and then forces and magnets during summer 2.

These units will be as hands on as possible, so may need to include your support at home with their learning.

Geography

This term we will be explaining the difference between the British Isles, Great Britain and The United Kingdom. We will also locate local canals.

History

Children will place a number of events, objects, themes and people from topics they have studied on a timeline. We want them to begin to use dates and/or period labels and terms related to all taught topics and understand the passing of time. They will learn all about how transport has changed before, during and after the Industrial Revolution. They will research about James Brindley and hopefully will attend a trip to explore this further.

ICT

This term we will learn how to handle information and how to use electronic communication.

Music

Music is taught as discrete units of work through the scheme from 'Charanga.' and BBC Ten Pieces. We will look at a unit called Glockenspiel Stage 2 - Charanga, where we will expand on our instrument knowledge and use of notation. Then we will focus on Johannes Brahms - Hungarian Dance No. 5 in G minor - from the BBC Ten Pieces scheme.

Recorders continues every Thursday lunchtime and we will be preparing to perform songs in assembly.

Design technology/ART

In art, children will be studying LS Lowry industrial art, which links in with our history Industrial Revolution topic. We will also look at canal art by Sid Kirkham. William Morris - wallpaper prints and techniques will also be explored, with repeating patterns and colour a focus.

In design technology children will also have the opportunity to complete a unit of work inspired by Van Gogh chairs-called take a seat.

With links to our Schools eco focus they will also design a greenhouse and support the local community with a well dressing board design.

R.E

This term we will be learning more about God and finding out more about all people of faith. We will also share the ending of Ramadan with all our pupils.

French

Year 4 are being taught by Mrs Atherton and the topic this term will be the circus, siblings and pets and describing family.

Year 3 are being taught by Mrs Wood and the topic this term will be 'La Famille', 'Bon Anniversaire', The Hungry Caterpillar and ordering food in a cafe.

PSHE

Children will continue to access weekly picture news and discuss current issues, with mindfulness being a large focus. They will look at the importance of water.

Year 4 will also complete work around safety and growing up.

Year 3 will be taught by Mrs Wood and the topics are money matters and it's my body.

Assemblies will continue with key issues discussed weekly through our Picture News.

During the second half term we will be delivering our SRE programme. Further information will be sent to year 4 parents regarding any lesson content you wish to withdraw your child from.

Handwriting

Children will have dedicated handwriting practice each week with Mrs Kirby. These sessions will help to improve fine motor control and will take them closer to be confident pen writers! At home they have purple handwriting books and support materials on Seesaw so they can continue this practise and write spellings.

PE.

When in school P.E lessons will take place with Premier Sport on Wednesday and Friday afternoons. Topics are: athletics, striking and fielding and outdoor adventurous activities.

As ever, please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions, concerns or positive news to share. We're always happy to see updates via Seesaw, but please be considerate with the content/timing of messages and be patient when awaiting responses from teachers. Mrs Edge will not be contactable via Seesaw until she can be added to the system following the 9th May.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Critchlow/Mrs Edge and Mrs V Atherton
Class teachers Co-Headteacher



