



Moor First School

School Lane
Biddulph Moor

Stoke on Trent. ST8 7HR
Co- Headteachers: Mrs. S. J. Mayes & Mrs V Atherton
Tel. No. 01782 512350



e-mail: headteacher@moor.staffs.sch.uk

9th September 2022

Amethyst Class

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the new Autumn term! We hope that you have had a good summer break and are looking forward to the new academic year ahead as the last year has definitely been a very challenging one for us all.

Please help us to trial the new timetable by dropping your child at 8.45 so that they receive 15 minutes of morning work before assembly times each day.

Class learning target:

Our class target is to increase writing attainment/progress, geography attainment and music attainment as these areas are lower than all of our others.

Our topic for this term is 'The Stone Age to Iron Age.' We will be linking this topic with many areas of the curriculum including English, Maths, Science, Art, Music, History and Drama. We will also be learning about the Geography of Spain.

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.

We will be splitting subjects between teachers and have attached the class timetable to help your child with consistency and structure of the week.

Mrs Edge will be teaching from Monday through to Wednesday lunchtime. As well as concentrating on the key English texts, she will be delivering art/design Technology, music, PSHE, Year 4 Phonics and the Year 4 science lessons. Mrs Atherton will be concentrating on guided reading and guided writing, multiplication/division units and writing for pleasure. Mrs Atherton will also be teaching topic sessions linked to geography and history as well as french and computing. Mrs Kirby will be teaching phonics/spellings to those in year 4 who need to recap year 3 skills. She will teach religious education and handwriting lessons. Both PE sessions will be delivered by Premier Sport this term.

English

To kick-start our English, Amethyst class will be learning about Aesop's Fables. We will read, act-out, interpret and then create our own fables with the use of speech marks and conjunctions.

Our class reader is Stig of the Dump by Clive King.

We will also be reading and discussing a wide range of fiction and non-fiction which link to our topic. See your child's seesaw activity link for images of all the books we plan to use.

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 image poetry, syllabic poetry, instruction and information texts. We will also learn about stories set in familiar settings.

Writing consists of spelling, handwriting, vocabulary, grammar, punctuation, articulating ideas and being able to structure them in speech and writing. Children will be encouraged and taught to check, proof read and edit their writing. They will also be reminded to use a dictionary to check their own spellings. We expect quality, joined handwriting and encourage the children to take a real pride in the presentation of any written work. In addition to marking the children's work against the learning objective for the lesson, we will also focus on marking towards your child's individual skills alongside the correct use of grammar, punctuation and spelling.

Our spelling test will still take place every Friday morning within your child's phonics group (according to attainment.) We have enclosed a copy of your child's spellings for this term, so please keep them safe. We are aware that some of these are challenging, but please support your child to learn these. On the spellings list, please try to ensure that your child knows some of their year groups spellings alongside some topic related spelling. 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. If you need advice on the types of questions you can ask as an adult, then please come to see us and we will always do our best to help.

Your child should always have a reading book, which should be brought into school every day. I have included a new reading challenge on Seesaw.

All children will have access to the school library on a weekly basis and we like children to also choose books for pleasure as well as reading scheme texts.

Maths

Our initial focus will be to ensure children gain fluency in mental methods and have good recall of number facts. This term we will be covering the following areas: place value, addition, subtraction and multiplication and division.

In Mathematics, there is a great emphasis on problem solving and reasoning skills, we will ensure we choose activities that foster a deeper understanding, at each stage of learning and build on the required key knowledge and skills.

The 'units of work' are flexible and will be taught according to the ability of each child. The time spent and content will also be adjusted to reflect each child's needs and next steps. The children's work will be marked against the learning objective for the lesson and progression along their specific 'band' of skills. We will also provide children with a range of maths lessons that relate to the Stone Age, Bronze Age or Iron Age. They may classify artefacts into Venn diagrams and compare timeline dates etc.

Please continue to practice times tables by completing the homework on Seesaw. Upload your weekly scores on any practice games/MTC tests.

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 learn about States of Matter and Living things and their habitats. They will be required to work more scientifically by:

- making systematic and careful observations and, where appropriate, taking accurate measurements.
- using standard units, with a range of equipment, including data loggers.

Geography

As part of our Geography, we will learn about Spain. We will consider how settlements differ in Spain compared to UK and how land is used differently. We will explore weather, tourism and spend a lot of time learning about the region of Catalonia. We will compare Madrid to London.

We will learn about countries that make up the European Union and name and locate capital cities of European countries. We will learn about the difference between the British Isles, GB and UK. We will name and locate Islands that surround the UK.

Children will learn about Stone Henge, Doggerland and repeat learning about volcanoes and earthquakes.

Computing:

Within the computing curriculum, children will be taught to use technology safely, respectfully and responsibly; recognise acceptable/unacceptable behaviour and identify a range of ways to report concerns about content and contact. During topic work, children will also gain valuable skills needed to search the internet and select relevant information. They will use a range of search engines and check the validity of research. Children will repeat some previous learning linked to pivot animation/Beebots in relation to Stone Age to Bronze Age tasks. They will use VR visualisers, comic life app, epic reading app and they will also explore branching databases linked with science topics.

Music

Music is taught as discrete units of work through the scheme from 'Charanga.' The children also have recorder lessons on Thursdays, so please remind your child to make sure they have it in school on the correct day! We will be listening to Steve Reich - Music for 18 Musicians, forming our opinions about the music and will learn how to create our own repeating melodies. We will also listen to Saint-Saëns Symphony - the *Carnival of the Animals* to think about how sound can create an image for the listener, and we will of course also have Christmas play songs to learn. They will learn how to record musical notations. Children will compose their own lullaby linked to the Cave Baby english text.

Design technology/Art

In art, children will learn to create Stone Age cave art, use different line and colour techniques to draw a mammoth, sculpt and mould clay to create a pot and paint images of Stone Henge. They will look at a variety of sources to support their ideas. We will also be looking at the sculptor - Antony Gormley who created the 'Angle of the North' in an area he described as looking like it came from the Iron Age! Can sculpture be used to improve our environment?

In design technology, children will design and make Stone Age weapons and develop their sewing skills to create a useful container/ purse. In the run up to Christmas they will also look at creating an edible treat!

R.E

This term we will be learning more about Hinduism, religion in the home and how religious groups have many landmarks in their life.

French

Our topic this term will be - 'Encore' We will be refreshing our knowledge of the French language through speaking common phrases and will be learning the numbers 1-31, months and dates. We will learn some basics of Spanish linked to our geography topic.

PSHE

Children will be thinking about new beginnings and as a class form rules by working as a democracy. They will also learn to recognise different behaviours within friendships and how to solve problems by thinking positively. They will learn about respecting rights.

Handwriting

Children will have thirty minutes of dedicated handwriting practice each week with Mrs Kirby using a new whole school scheme. These sessions will help to improve fine motor control and hopefully help to improve our class writing attainment.

PE

P.E lessons will take place on Wednesday afternoon with Premier Sport and Friday morning. The children will take part in Fun-trition and health and fitness/Sustained running and outdoor adventurous activities. Please send your child with the correct PE kit -well labelled.

Forest School

Our class will receive some forest school lessons delivered by Mrs Wood over the year.

Intervention

At some point of the year, your child may be receiving additional intervention during assembly times with relation to writing and math in order to help them to close gaps and to increase speed of progress/attainment. Some stretch and challenge sessions will also take place to extend learning further. A timetable has been drawn up for additional adults in school to also help to listen to children reading each work. All children will be heard reading once a week with these adults, however some children may be reading two or three times. Please note that daily reading takes places also within the classroom and peer to peer reading also takes place.

Amethyst Homework/Learning Enrichment Checklist for Autumn 2022

Your child will come home with an exercise book for homework. Inside will be a weekly checklist for parents to tick off tasks and a login for your child's Seesaw account.

All homework tasks are in your child's activity folder on their class seesaw account. Please note that parents should be using the family seesaw app to 'like' or comment on work.

All homework, if you want it to be marked, **must be sent via photographs on Seesaw** or must be within their homework book which can be handed in on Friday mornings. Homework dojos are added on every Friday and the weekly dojo winner wins prizes.

Must be completed:

- 1) **Reading:** Ideally read 3 times a week - record within reading diary, upload a picture of the text to Seesaw, record your child's voice reading, comment what pages have been read. Videos can only be 5 minutes ...If you need more then upload part one before making a part 2.
- 2) **Spellings and handwriting: ready for Friday's test**
Use your homework book to learn spellings and show letter joins if possible.
On a Friday, we will send you a picture of your child's spelling test and their score via seesaw. You can then see which ones you may still need to work on.
- 3) **Times tables: ready for Friday's test**
Please refer to the activity on Seesaw which states the weekly task.

Additional tasks:

See your homework checklist to find other ways of scoring dojos. Chilli pepper tasks and writing/reading challenges often score big points and class awards.

Please note that if homework is not completed, children will be asked to complete this during Golden Time as this is not a required part of our school timetable. Golden time is a great time for children to socialise and learn life skills, so it is good if homework can be done at home.

Top Tips for Parents to support your child this autumn term

- 1) Help your child to get quicker at using a dictionary and thesaurus - Children need to know the alphabet order
- 2) Ensure that your child can tie shoe laces - this will also help with handwriting/fine motor skills.
- 3) Counting forward and backwards in 25's
- 4) Ordering 4 digit numbers in terms of size
- 5) Spell and order the months of the year and know how many days in each month
- 6) Telling the time - at least o'clock, half past, quarter to and quarter past. By summer children need to tell the time to the nearest minute and convert analogue/digital clocks.

As ever, please don't hesitate to message via Seesaw or office email if you have any questions, concerns or positive news to share. If you wish to send messages to teachers regarding learning, please do so between 8.00a.m and 5.30 p.m. General items about school lunch etc. can be sent in an email to the office. We're always happy to speak to parents at convenient times.

We look forward to seeing you at our class welcome meeting on Monday 19th September 3.30-4.30. We will operate a creche if needed.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Edge	Mrs V Atherton	Mrs Kirby
Class teacher	Co-Headteacher	Teaching Assistant

Staffordshire County Council

