



Moor First School

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Amethyst Class

Dear Parents/Carers

Happy New Year and welcome back to the new Spring term. We hope that you have had a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas.

Last term our class attendance was 96.31% Our target is 96.5.

Our topic for this term is '**Australia**' 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 teaches from Monday through to Wednesday lunchtime. As well as concentrating on the key English texts, Mrs Edge delivers Art/DT, music, science and PSHE lessons. From Wednesday afternoon through to Friday, Mrs Atherton leads guided reading and guided writing, is continuing with spelling/timetables tests, teaches topic sessions linked to geography and history as well as French and ICT. Mrs Kirby delivers circle time, R.E and handwriting. PE sessions are delivered on Wednesday and Friday by Premier Sport.

English

We will begin our English by looking at the author Roald Dahl and his autobiographical book "Boy - Tails of Childhood". Then, we will use Michael Morporgo's version of 'Beowolf'. We will be thinking about monsters and stories passed through history. Amethyst class will be building on previous skills and developing fronted adverbials, as well as organising writing in to paragraphs. Our own monster will be created and used in an exciting battle with Beowolf.

Our class reader will be Myths and Legends from around the World.

We will also be reading and discussing a wide range of fiction such as Little Mouse's Book of Fears and be taking part in some exciting Shakespeare lessons, improving our performance through scripts and poetry.

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 recounts, non-chronological reports about animals, list poems and kennings.

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. These are on your child's report.

Our spelling test will continue to take place every Friday morning. The spelling lists will be posted on Seesaw. 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. Reading skills are also developed by weekly paired reading sessions and regular opportunities to read to an adult in school. The class have weekly library visits so they can choose books to borrow. Your child should always have a reading book, which should be brought in to school every day. On Seesaw, new reading challenges are posted. 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 send a message and we will always do our best to help.

Maths

This term we will be covering the following areas: Multiplication and Division part 2, Fractions, Decimals, Length and Perimeter.

We will also be continuing addition and subtraction, formal multiplication and division by the bus shelter method.

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 Australia. They may compare timeline dates, calculate journey times, draw graphs, calculate the area of continents and distances between locations.

Please continue to practice times tables by completing the tasks set on Seesaw. Weekly MTC scores will be sent home. As always work from home is encouraged to be posted on to the Seesaw platform.

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 your child will continue to expand their understanding of ecology by linking science to the topic of Australia. They will be reviewing the living things and their habitats unit with a focus on the Great Barrier Reef and the Rainforest.

In addition, a unit of work on "sound" will be studied in order to explore the physics behind how sound is produced and how it travels to the ear. Patterns of pitch and volume will also be investigated.

Geography

As part of our *Geography*, we will learn about Australia. We will identify the human and physical features, with a comparison within the country and to those of the UK. We will consider why people live in the city or the outback!

ICT

Within the computing curriculum, children will be taught to edit audio and photos. NCCE4. They will understand how images and audio can be edited for effect. During topic work, children may create a powerpoint all about Australia to show off their skills. They will also continue to use the internet for research, and access online learning platforms to further their learning and to communicate.

Music

Music is taught as discrete units of work through the scheme from 'Charanga.' We will be listening to Mamma-Mia by ABBA and learning to perform the song via sign language.

We will be forming our opinions about the music and will perform melodies with a variety of instruments. We will also be looking at the didgeridoo and the uses of music for communication.

Design technology/ART

In art, children will be studying Pop Art and the work of Andy Warhol. We will look into popular culture and learn to create collages and when in school, batik prints (Wax resistant printing technique).

Using a variety of examples we will look at Piet Mondrian designs. We will be investigating patterns linked to flags and nature before creating our own piece.

To link with our topic we will also create images of animals in the same style as aboriginal art.

In design technology, children will design and make Easter chocolate packaging and their own chocolate bar.

R.E

This term we will be learning about Pilgrimages and learning further information about Easter and Good Friday. As part of "Faith in Focus" week, all year 4 will have the opportunity to visit the Hindu temple Russholme along with other schools from the Biddulph Trust.

French

Our topic this term will be- Les fetes- Shapes and colours. We will continue to refresh our knowledge of the French language through speaking common phrases and will be progressing to describe Matisse pictures. *Ou vas-tu?* Parts of the body will be described with a link to science. Children will be designing and describing monsters.

PSHE

Children will continue to access weekly picture news and discuss current issues, with mindfulness being a large focus. They will look at varying relationships and discuss the idea of VIP's. They will also identify themselves as global citizens, living in the wider world and the importance of acknowledging one world.

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 gaining their pen licence!

PE

P.E lessons will take place on Wednesday and Friday afternoon with Premier Sport.

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.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Edge and Mrs V Atherton
Class teacher Co-Headteacher



Staffordshire County Council

