



Moor First School

School Lane
Biddulph Moor

Stoke on Trent. ST8 7HR

Co-Headteachers : Mrs. V. Atherton and Mrs S. J. Mayes

Tel. No. 01782 512350



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

21st April 2023

Amethyst Class

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the Summer term! We hope that you have had a good Easter break and are looking forward to the final academic term which will be the last at Moor First for the class. Mrs Edge will teach her last day with the class on Wednesday 26th April. She has a new teaching post. We wish her all the best and thank her for being an inspirational and hardworking teacher. She will be deeply missed and has made a huge impact since being with us. Mrs Critchlow has been back in school completing her keeping in touch days after her maternity leave and will return to her class teacher post on Tuesday 2nd May. We welcome her back to our fantastic school and aim to make the transition as smooth as possible for the children in Amethyst class.

Our attendance for last term was 97.41%. Well done.

Our topic for this term is '**Crime and Punishment.**' We will be linking this History led topic with many areas of the curriculum including English, Maths, Science, Art, Music, Geography and Drama. We will be studying the types of crime that took place through the ages, how crime detection has changed, punishment has changed and crime prevention methods.

As in the previous terms, we will be splitting subjects between teachers and will continue with the previous terms timetable. Mrs Critchlow will teach from Monday through to Wednesday lunchtime. As well as concentrating on the key English texts, Mrs Critchlow delivers Art/DT, Music and Science lessons. Mrs Atherton leads guided reading and guided writing, is continuing with a focus on shape and statistics in Maths and teaches topic sessions linked to Geography and History as well as Computing and French. Mrs Kirby delivers PSHE, Handwriting, Religious Education and spellings/timetables tests. Mr Whittingham teaches both physical education lessons.

Amethyst class will also be taking part in a variety of activities and sessions to aid their transition to the middle school. These will be led by staff within school as well as those in their new settings.

English

To start off the new term, Amethyst class will be discussing David Walliams books and his use of humour. We will read a variety of sections from his books and be looking closely at the characters he creates. We will continue to look at the use of pronouns, the possession apostrophe and varied sentence types as we write our own humorous story.

In guided reading, the class will study 'Granny' by Anthony Horowitz and will also complete comprehensions linked to Dick Turpin.

Throughout the term, we will cover a range of genres and will focus explicitly on teaching the relevant grammar and punctuation. We will be working to fully embed the use of speech marks, the correct tense, a wider range of conjunctions and joined handwriting. Fronted adverbials will also be a focus, as well as the children's individual targets.

In the Summer term, we will also be writing a persuasive letter around the question of zoos, be writing and performing different poems, including nonsense poetry and reading stories from other cultures.

Writing consists of spelling, handwriting, vocabulary, grammar, punctuation, articulating ideas and being able to structure them in speech and writing. Children will continue to 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. The spellings can be found on Seesaw. We are aware that some of these are challenging, but please support your child to learn these. At the end of the year we will focus on any spellings from the Year 3/4 spelling list that are not yet being spelt correctly. 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 create a mnemonic (e.g. said= silly ants in dresses), ask your child to write the words in a well punctuated sentence 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 send a message via Seesaw 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 and writing challenge on Seesaw.

Maths

Our initial focus will be to recap the written methods for the four operations within a problem solving context. These include column addition and subtraction, formal multiplication and division by the bus shelter method.

In Mathematics, we choose activities that foster a deeper understanding, at each stage of learning and build on the required key knowledge and skills. For some children the content and next steps will vary, as they follow the work at their own pace and we try to ensure any gaps in learning are filled. The 'units of work' are flexible and will be taught according to the ability of each child.

This term we will be covering the following areas: money, decimals, time, measurement of mass and capacity geometry- properties of shape. Mrs Atherton will continue to work on statistics and then shape. Interpreting and creating different graphs will be completed with links to the topic 'Crime and Punishment'.

Please continue to practice times tables on the TT Rockstars website as this term, all year 4 complete their National multiplication test.

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 the class will continue to learn about the process of digestion, food chains and then electricity. They will be required to work more scientifically by:

- making systematic and careful observations and recording results in a variety of ways.
- using standard units, with a range of equipment.

Geography

This term, we will learn to name a number of countries in the northern hemisphere. We will improve our use of using an atlas; especially by using the index. We will recap the difference between the British Isles, Great Britain and the UK as this confused some children. Children will collect and accurately measure information - rainfall, temperature etc. They will name and locate some of the main islands that surround The United Kingdom and use grid references on a map.

ICT

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. Children will explore word processing on laptops in more detail and other desktop publishing programmes. During topic work, children will also gain valuable skills needed to search the internet and select relevant information. Children will also develop their skills using desktop publishing programmes that combine and edit text and images and excel to present information.

Music

This term, Music is taught as units of work through the scheme from 'Charanga.' We will be looking at composing pieces, recording notation and then performing our work. We will use untuned percussion and xylophones to create city sounds inspired by Gheraswini's Rhapsody in Blue. We will also be looking at the song 'Blackbird' by the Beatles. Sign language and body percussion will be used alongside singing sessions, to build confidence in performance. Music will continue to be used to support other areas of our curriculum, including science, maths and PSHE. Recorders will be continuing.

Design technology/ART

In art, the children will look at a range of artists and their work, including Miro, Fuseli and Salvador Dali. Through our drawings, we will focus on creating facial expressions and the human form in movement. We will also make choices on what equipment and media to use for our desired effect.

In design technology, children will evaluate existing torches and then design and make their own torch for a given purpose. This will link in to year 4 scientific knowledge of circuits.

R.E

This term, we will be learning more about religious rules such as commandments and we will learn the features and patterns of worship for a range of religions. Children will learn how to use the Bible and how to find chapters etc.

French

French is led by Mrs Atherton. Children will learn about a variety of foods, siblings and pets and families. We want children to be able to signal a problem in French and say what they like/don't like. We will learn the story of the Giant Turnip in French and decode.

PSHE/RSE

Children will be thinking about changes and as a class discussing rules in school and sport by working as a democracy. British values of law and democracy will be a focus in PSHE and topic lessons. They will also learn to safety. Mindfulness continue to be a priority in light of Covid-19.

Relationships and Sex Education will commence after the June half term. The class will learn about 'growing up'. SRE details of lesson content will be sent out to you nearer the time.

Handwriting

Children will have thirty minutes of dedicated handwriting practice each week with Mrs Kirby. These sessions will help to improve fine motor control and embed consistent, cursive handwriting.

PE

P.E lessons will take place on Wednesday afternoon with Premier Sport and Friday morning. The children will take part in athletics, striking and fielding and invasion games.

Please ensure your child has a full P.E kit in school on these days. Send warm layers if needed and make sure your child has a water bottle in school (daily.)

Forest school sessions have also been embedded into the timetable.

P.E Kit

- A royal blue PE T-shirt
- Traditional Navy P.E shorts
- Pumps/trainers (sometimes pupils may take part in bare feet)
- White PE socks.
- Hair fastenings if needed.

Homework:

The checklist sheets and a chilli pepper sheet are currently in your child's purple book. Please upload work to seesaw and hand the purple book in every Friday morning. Then we can score the checklist for dojo's.

Expectations

- Reading - ideally 3 times a week. This can be independent and with an adult. Try to complete some of your reading challenges.
- Spellings - Learn them and write them in joined writing. Upload onto Seesaw.
- Times tables - go onto the times table games suggested and try to improve your scores/times. Send a screenshot on Seesaw or learn the tables in your book and send a picture/video learning them. If you complete MTC, we can already login as teachers and see scores/daily time on here. Please use your heatmap given at parents evening to rehearse the tables you do not know.

Additional

- Chilli pepper task for additional dojo's
- Writing challenges - worth 5 dojo's

As ever, please don't hesitate to come and ask if you have any questions, concerns or positive news to share. We're always happy to hear from parents! Please come and support our Summer Fayre on 13th May.

Yours sincerely

Mrs V Atherton
Class teacher Co-Headteacher

Together we unlock potential and learn for life



Staffordshire County Council

