



Moor First School

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Dear parents/ guardians,

We hope you have had a fantastic Easter break and are feeling refreshed and ready for the new term. Last term our class attendance was 95.15%, this is a little lower than our target. Let's try and attend school every day this term. We have lots of exciting learning in store for the children, which we hope they will really enjoy.

Our main topic for this term will be 'The Great Fire of London', which we are sure the children will really enjoy. We will be finding out about the sequence of events that occurred in this eventful week, investigating the causes of the fire and its consequences. The children will be finding out about how real historians work, using different sources to find out about the fire. One source we will use will be Samuel Pepys diary entries, which will lead to us having a go at our own diary writing. We will also be focusing on doing a recount of the events, which will then lead us to writing our own newspaper report.

In Art, we will be looking at artists who have created images of The Great Fire of London, thinking about what we can learn from their work and trying to recreate some of their effects. We will also be doing some sketches of buildings and exploring how artists use different types of pencils to create different effects. For our D&T work we will be exploring vehicles and how wheels move, before making our own moving fire engine. We will also be baking bread. In Geography we will be finding out about London, including some of its most important features, why it is important to the rest of the country and how it has changed since 1666. We will also be looking at the position of London, and then of England, in relation to the wider world.

In our English lessons, we will continue to have a major focus on our spelling and grammar skills whilst also looking at and writing our own piece of poetry. For year one, this means being able to check that our sentences make sense, have the correct punctuation (including capital letters for names) and that words are spelt using our increasing phonic knowledge. Year one children will also be focusing on putting their ideas into order to ensure that it makes sense when writing a larger piece of writing. Year two children will continue to work on these skills and will also continue to use an increased range of punctuation, using commas in lists and apostrophes for contractions (don't, didn't, couldn't etc.) Children are also being encouraged to think about the use of tense in their writing and to make sure that they are applying the correct spelling rules when writing past tense verbs (jumped, played). Alongside the emphasis on grammar, my main marking focus for writing will relate to your child's Spring Term targets that were given to you at parents evening. Our topics will give your child the opportunity to apply these skills in different types of writing.

Children will also be encouraged to consider the alternative spellings of sounds we are learning and use them with more accuracy this term. In phonics children will continue to build up their knowledge of different ways of spelling each sound. These alternative spellings are reflected in our weekly Friday spelling tests. When spelling at home, encourage your child to segment the sounds they can hear in the word, count the number of sounds and then write them down. It can be useful to discuss the alternative spellings of a sound while your child is learning them to help reinforce their wider knowledge.

As well as in daily phonics lessons, phonic skills will be practised in English and other lessons and guided reading sessions. Another main focus of these sessions is to develop children's comprehension skills to ensure that they understand what they are reading and can discuss it with others. When reading at home, many of our school reading books have comprehension questions in them which you can use with your child. There should also be a set of suggested questions stuck inside your child's reading diary; please let me know if you would like another copy of this. Your support with reading (and all of the other work you do at home) is greatly appreciated and has a great impact on the children's progress.

In Maths, we will continue to build on our previous learning. We will begin the term by looking at time, money, shape and measurements and will then be recapping on number, place value and the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) and looking at different strategies for problem solving. It would be really beneficial if you could help your children to recognise and use maths outside of the classroom, for example choosing coins to pay for things, telling the time, weighing ingredients when baking etc. as these experiences make activities we do in the classroom much more relatable for children.

In Science, both year groups will be finding out about 'Materials'. Year one will be finding out what is meant by the term 'materials' and exploring the properties of different materials. They will be exploring how these properties make materials suitable for different purposes and will have the opportunity to plan and carry out enquiries into which materials are best suited to certain jobs. Year two will be recapping on the properties of materials and finding out about where some materials come from, before learning about how materials change when forces are exerted on them or when their temperature changes. Year two will then move onto plants topic as we observe how plants change over time.

In P.E., children will be undertaking striking and fielding activities and then athletics, practising their skills ready for sports day. P.E. lessons will continue to be on a Monday and Thursday. Please ensure that children have their P.E. kit in school on these days.

In R.E. we will be learning about finding answers, they will be learning about friends of Jesus through bible stories and finding the morals (answers) within them. After half term, we will be learning about Nature and God. They will learn about how nature can be important across religions and encourage them to make links between religions. They will learn the Christian Creation story, about the importance of harvest to some Christians and Jews by learning about harvest festivals and Sukkot. They then go on to hear stories from Buddhism and Islam which highlight the importance of looking after nature. They then go on to think about how the messages in these stories can help them in their everyday lives.

In PSHE, the Year 1 children will be learning about 'Aiming High'. This will look at learning to set goals and reaching for the stars. In Summer 2, they will move onto 'It's my body'. Year 2's will be learning about 'Safety First' this half term. They shall be learning about safety in a wide range of settings including; the home, outdoors and on the internet. In Summer 2 they will move onto 'Growing up'.

We will continue to use ICT to support our learning across the curriculum. We will be recapping on e-safety and will be using the internet to explore our Great Fire of London topic. We will learning how to move a Robot and looking at how to create a simple animation. In Music, we will be using BBC music, we shall be learning about Vaughan Williams who was a 20th Century composer. In Summer 2 we will be learning about being in a band and the instruments that are used. We will also be learning the Great Fire of London to inspire singing and making music inspired by fire.

Once again it looks like this term will be a very busy one, with lots of exciting events and opportunities. Please feel free to come and speak to us after school if you have any questions or concerns about your child or require any more information about anything taking place. Have an enjoyable term.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Crowcroft and Miss Glover

Staffordshire County Council

