



Moor First School

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Garnet Class

Dear Parents / Carers,

We hope you have had a lovely summer holiday and have found time to relax and enjoy the lovely weather. It certainly sounds like the children have been having fun from all they have been telling us! The whole school is starting the Autumn term by focussing on the book 'Tuesday' written by David Wiesner. We have lots of fun activities planned as a class and hope that the children really enjoy immersing themselves into this beautiful picture book. The first few weeks of term will also play an important role in the transition process, giving children the opportunity to settle back into school routines and to become familiar with the expectations of their new year group.

Our main topic for this term will be 'Medicine' and will cover a variety of areas. In history, we will be finding out about significant people from the past, including Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole and finding out about the period when these figures lived. The children will be considering what makes a person significant, exploring and comparing their lives and work and thinking about how these individuals have influenced the medical world today. The topic will also link very closely to our science topic 'animals, including humans', in which the children will be finding out about how to keep themselves healthy, as well as looking at different animal groups. In our science lessons we will also be finding out about plants and seasonal changes (this will be a running topic throughout the year as the children observe different stages in a plants life cycle).

We are very lucky to have a trip organised for the 26th September to Brampton Museum in Newcastle Under Lyme. During this trip the children will experience two workshops. They will meet Florence Nightingale and learn about her experiences as a nurse in the Crimean War. The children will learn about the differences in hygiene now and then and will get to bandage some soldiers.

Our 'Medicine' topic will give children plenty of opportunities to use and become more familiar with non-fiction writing, both in books and online. They will be taught to recognise the main differences between fiction and non-fiction, as well as having a go at doing their own non-fiction writing. We will also be exploring stories and the characters within them, thinking about how characters are described and how speech and actions can be used to make inferences about a character. The children will also think more carefully about the elements that make up a story and will develop their own ideas for storytelling. Some time will also be spent looking at poetry and the children will work on their rhyming skills and will have a go at learning some poems by heart.

Our main focus in children's writing will be sentence formation, making sure that the children are confident to think of and write their own sentences, check that they make sense and understand how to punctuate them correctly. Year two children will be increasingly encouraged to proof read their work, independently reading it back to check for errors in spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Guided writing sessions will be used to help children to develop their writing skills and will be closely related to children's current targets. In our phonics lessons, children will expand on their knowledge of sounds and ways of spelling these as well as continuing to practise segmenting and blending sounds within words. Children will be encouraged to apply their phonic knowledge when writing across the curriculum; phonetic spelling will also be an important marking focus. It would be a real help if you could support your child in learning their spellings at home. The children will be assessed and then given

spellings to learn. These will be linked to what the children have been learning in Phonics and they will be tested each Friday. The children will be awarded 5 dojos for scoring full marks in their spellings.

Reading in school is taught through a combination of whole class and group work in English lessons, individual reading and through guided reading sessions. In these sessions children will share a book or shorter piece of writing as part of a small group and will be encouraged to discuss it with others, which is great for developing their speaking and listening skills and also for broadening their knowledge and opinions. Guided reading sessions are used to support both children's reading and comprehension skills which are equally important in the teaching of and enjoyment of reading. Please note that the books children have read in guided reading sessions may later be sent as a home reading book; this helps to build children's confidence and familiarity with a text. Children will bring home reading books from school, however if your child wants to read books they have at home or books from the library this should also be encouraged. Please can you write in your child's reading diary when they have finished their book so that their books can be changed frequently. We are encouraging the children to read a minimum of 3 times a week and have this signed in their diary, if they are successful then each week they will earn 5 extra dojos. We are looking for some parent volunteers to read with the children in the afternoons if possible. If you would like to find out how you could help us, please get in touch with the office.

In maths, the children will continue to develop the skills that they learnt last year. At the start of the week the focus will be on number, ensuring children can read and write numbers correctly and are developing their knowledge of numbers to 100, counting forwards and backwards and in 2s, 5s and 10s. We will also be working on our knowledge of place value, learning to recognise the 'tens' and 'ones' in a number and how our knowledge of this can help us to order numbers, place them on a number line and, for year two children, add and subtract numbers. We will look at different strategies for adding and subtracting numbers and will be finding number bonds (numbers that add) to 10 and 20. To enhance children's understanding of mathematical concepts, there will be many opportunities for practical activities and problem solving which will help children to understand how maths is used in everyday life. Later on in the week the children will focus on shape, space and measure. This term we will focus on shapes, 2D and 3D and then move onto mass and capacity. Alongside areas relating to each topic, a main marking focus will be on children's ability to write numbers that are correctly formed and orientated. Your child will begin to get a little homework in maths in the next coming weeks, they will either have number cards to learn to recognise, number bonds to learn or times tables. This will be explained in more detail when the items come home. If your child is successful with their task and shows that they have practised this will earn them 3 dojos.

Children will have their P.E. on a Monday and a Thursday. Please make sure that your child has their P.E. kit in school ready for these sessions, please see our pe uniform expectations on our uniform document for P.E. kit guidelines. Earrings are not allowed be worn in school due to health and safety reasons. Children will begin the term with dance, health and fitness and then multi-skills after half term.

In Religious Education the children will be learning about 'Values', this will focus on friendships and rules and routines. In Autumn 2, the topic will be 'Gifts and giving', this will be a focus on Christmas and other winter celebrations. In Music, the children will be listening to music from Florence Nightingales time as well as learning songs and exploring instruments to compliment the topic. In Autumn 1, they will also be following a topic using Charanga called 'Zootime' and then in Autumn 2 the children will be learning songs for their Christmas production.

In Geography, we will be developing our fieldwork skills. We will be thinking about ways to find the distance between places, learning to use a map and key, using compass directions and having a go at producing our own plans and maps. We will be looking closely at where we live, discussing what we like and dislike about our area and comparing it to other places.

Computing will happen on a daily basis. Garnet children are lucky to have access to Ipads daily, they will use them to access Seesaw our learning platform, take photos and upload them to their journal. On Monday we will have a focussed computer session our first topic will be 'Internet safety' We will continue to reinforce e-safety and suggest ways that the children can stay safe when using technology at

school and at home. Our topic in Autumn 2 will be 'Technology around us' the children will learn about all different types of technology that we use on a daily basis.

In the next coming weeks, the children will be set tasks on seesaw for you to complete at home to help enrich their learning. Every Friday, Year 1's will be set a handwriting activity to help with pencil grip and letter formation. Year 2's will be asked to complete the learning enrichment tasks with one to be completed each week. Every child will also be set spellings to practise each week and will be tested on a Friday morning, these spellings will be in line with the children's phonics groups. We do also ask that the children read at home as often as possible, if 3 reads have been completed at home, your child will be rewarded with 5 dojo points!

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.

Finally, the children will be invited to bring home one of our cuddly teddies to join in with your weekend fun. We hope to keep a diary of the teddy's adventures on seesaw and we would ask you to support your child as they type one or two sentences about the weekend. You may include photographs or videos and anything else that our cuddly teddy friends may enjoy!

On Wednesday the 21st September we are having a Garnet welcome meeting straight after school. We can't wait to meet you all and share all the exciting things that we shall be doing over the year with your wonderful children.

We really hope that you and your child enjoy all of the fun and interesting things we have planned for this term. Please remember that our door is always open if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Crowcroft and Miss Glover
Class Teachers

Staffordshire County Council

