



Moor First School

School Lane

Biddulph Moor

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Friday, 21st April 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

We hope you have had a lovely Easter holiday and have found some time to relax ready for the new term. The children have certainly come back to school with lots of exciting stories to tell us about what they have been up to.

We have begun the term looking at Giles Andreae's poetry book 'Commotion in the Ocean'. We will use the book to explore the features of poetry, learn some poems by heart and write our own.

This will launch into our termly topic 'Oh we do like to be beside the seaside'. During the topic, we will look at both the physical and human geography of coastal areas, thinking about their location, key features and the role of people living in these areas. We will also explore seaside holidays and how they have changed over the years. We will look at different sources to find out about the past, make comparisons, ask and answer questions and extend the vocabulary we use when describing how things used to be.

In our English lessons, we will continue to have a major focus on our spelling and grammar skills. For year one, this means being able to check that sentences make sense, have the correct punctuation (including capital letters for names) and that words are spelt using our increasing phonic knowledge. Year two children will continue to work on these skills, as well as using commas in lists and apostrophes for contractions and possession. The children will also be encouraged to think about the use of tense in their writing and to join their sentences with different conjunctions. Children will develop an awareness of sentences, which are statements, commands, questions and exclamations, and to become more familiar with different word types. Our main marking focus for writing will relate to your child's Spring Term targets that were sent home at the end of last term. Our topics will give your child the opportunity to apply these skills in different types of writing, both fiction and non-fiction.

In phonics, we will continue to look at alternative ways that sounds can be written and will also be recapping sounds covered earlier in the year to ensure that the children are secure with these. We will continue to recap these sounds in our Friday morning spelling tests; please see the separate spelling sheet for this term's words. They can also be found on Seesaw. 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. Thank you for all of your support with this.

These phonic skills will also be reinforced in our 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. We will also be reminding the children to take their time when reading and to check that what they have read makes sense.

It would be of real benefit to children if comprehension skills could be reinforced when they are reading at home. By asking questions relating to the events of the book, the characters, what they expect to happen next and why, the features of the book etc. children will learn to read for meaning, rather than rushing to get to the end of the book. Your support with this (and all of the other work you do at home) is greatly appreciated and has a real impact on the children's progress.

In maths, with Mrs Crowcroft, Year 1 children will be completing numbers and place value to 50 and then they will be moving onto multiplication and division. After half term, they will move onto fractions and number and place value to 100. Year 2 children will be moving onto fractions and then we will be recapping addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. With Mrs Rotherham, the children will be learning about position and direction and then moving on to time. Year 1 children will learn to tell the time to the hour and half past, whilst year 2 children will also learn about quarter past and quarter to. Children will then spend time securing their knowledge of areas they have been less confident with earlier in the year.

In D&T, we will be designing and making flags using different textiles and will also explore moving pictures and the different types of mechanisms that they use. We will look at how moving pictures are used in children's books and will be writing our own children's story complete with moving parts. In art, we will explore sculpture and use different modelling materials to create seaside themed 3D art. We will also develop our sketching skills and learn to use pencils in different ways to complete our own portraits. Alongside this, we will think about different techniques we can use to create coastal landscapes.

In Music, we will be listening to and learning songs about the seaside. We will focus on traditional and modern music. We will also be completing a topic about 'Imagination'. The children will be learning to play instruments and they will be evaluating music. During the second half term, we shall be learning about Jean Sibelius, the famous Finnish composer.

In Science, both year groups will be completing their materials topic and then finding out about 'Plants'. Year one will explore the outdoor area of school, looking at the plants that are growing and map out the school garden area complete with sketches, facts and labels. They will talk about what different plants are and what they will look like when they are fully-grown, plant seeds, examine a flower, and create pieces of art linked to their topic.

Year 2 will explore the world of seeds; they will learn why plants disperse their seeds and the various clever ways in which they do this. They will plant cress seeds and grow a bean using hydroponics and watch and record what happens to them. They will use various art and design techniques to make and model their own seeds and finally enjoy the fruits of their labours!

Year 1 will also keep dipping back into our 'seasonal changes' topic as we observe the seasons and focus on the changes from spring to summer.

In P.E., children will be doing athletics and then striking and fielding on Monday with Mrs Crowcroft. P.E. lessons will continue to be on a Monday and Thursday. Please ensure that children have a weather appropriate P.E. kit in school on these days, as lessons will be outside regardless of the weather.

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.

In R.E, our topic will be 'Answers', in which we will be talking about the meaning of religious stories. After half term, our topic will be 'Worship', when we will be thinking about the different ways and reasons to worship.

We will be using ICT to support our learning across the curriculum. We will be using the internet to find out more about our topic, will be continuing to develop our programming skills and will be refreshing on e-safety. We will then move onto learning about quizzes and how to create them using ICT.

In PSHE, Year 1 will be learning about 'Aiming High' and Year 2 will be learning about 'Safety First'. In the second half term Year 1 children will be learning about 'My body' and Year 2 will be learning about 'Growing up'.

Last term Garnet class met our school attendance target of 96% - well done everyone and keep it up! We hope that you enjoy all that this term has to bring and please remember we can be contacted through Seesaw if you have any questions or concerns. You may also catch us on the gate at the start or end of the day. If you have any concerns over your child's emotional wellbeing please let us know so that we can offer support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Crowcroft and Mrs Rotherham
Class Teachers



Staffordshire County Council

