

**New Parent Information**

**Our Mission Statement and Aims**

**“Learning Together”**

**Mission Statement**

**For all Members of the School Community to work**

**together to enable all pupils to develop as enthusiastic,**

**confident and skilful learners.**

**School Aims**

We aim for us all as learners to:

* Enjoy and develop positive attitudes to school and learning.
* Learn with and from others; co-operating and supporting each other.
* Develop a positive sense of self-esteem and grow in confidence.
* Have high expectations and always to do our best, work hard, improve and persevere with our learning.
* Understand and respect diversity.
* Enjoy and learn from a broad and balanced curriculum where there are high standards of teaching and learning.
* Enjoy being part of a caring school where success is celebrated and there is equal opportunity for all.

**School Values**

A Value is a principle that guides our thinking and our behaviour.

At Great Moor Juniors, every individual is valued for who they are and what they contribute to the school. Values are intended to support the personal, social and spiritual development of every pupil throughout the school. We have high expectations of all our children, encouraging them always to do their best regardless of their gender, ethnicity, additional needs or beliefs.

The whole staff team, parents and pupils are involved in promoting our values and recognising where others are ‘living the values’. The values have been selected after consultation with our school community and are ones we deem to be important throughout life. These are as follows:

**RESPECT**

**KINDNESS**

**TOLERANCE**

**RESPONSIBILITY**

**CO-OPERATION**

**Secrets of Success**

At Great Moor Junior School, we have implemented Chris Quigley’s approach to learning. We believe that there are many different elements needed for children to become successful and independent learners, not simply academics.

Success isn’t just about money. It is about happiness, choices and feeling good about yourself. Successful people feel good about:

* How hard they have tried
* Who they are
* What they spend their time doing
* The choices they have made in their lives

Here are the eight areas that we believe will help create a fulfilled, curious and independent learner:

**"Let your child know success is a choice, not luck."**

**School Site**

We share a site with Great Moor Infant School. In brief, the main school consists of nine classrooms on corridors located around an enclosed, attractive quadrangle and three 'mobile' classrooms located by the field. The classrooms are well furnished and equipped. We have an ICT Suite and an attractive, well-equipped library. Our school office is located at the front of the school and all visitors are requested to use the main entrance only and to sign in.

Our playground is at the top end of the building adjacent to Claremont Road. At the bottom end of the site, we have an all-weather field, which is used for games, after school activities, breaks and at lunchtimes all year round. Next to the field, we have our canteen building, which we share with Great Moor Fun Club (before and after school provision).

**Organisation of Classes**

The school has four year groups, each organised into three classes. Classes within the year group are located together. We have a nominal school role of 315 and a very strong teaching and non-teaching staff. Each class has its own class teacher and a senior teacher in each year group undertakes the role of Year Group Leader. The children are taught in mixed ability classes for all lessons. Children do not stay in the same class group all the way through school; they are mixed up each year.

**The School Day**

The day starts with pupils making their own way into school, storing bags and coats in cloakrooms and going directly into class.

**Children should be in school for 8.40.**

 8.40 Doors open – MAD time, registration and lessons begin.

 (Register taken at 8.45)

* 1. Morning break

11.00 Lessons resume

12.30 Lunch

1.15 Registration and afternoon lessons

2.10 Afternoon break

2.20 Lessons resume

3.15 End of school

Each class has its own weekly timetable.

**It is important that pupils know their procedures for going home/being collected at the end of the school day. If a parent is delayed in collecting their child, the child should go straight to the school office.**

**Behaviour and Discipline**

We are proud of the excellent behaviour of the majority of our pupils, which has been identified as a strength in our school inspections.

We encourage children to develop a good sense of self-discipline and to take responsibility for their own actions.

We have clear expectations of how our pupils should behave in school and these are communicated to the children.

We reward good behaviour in a range of ways, including badges and certificates as well as lots of praise and recognition.

We use a set system of sanctions for dealing with any misbehaviour, which includes warnings, time in and lunchtime reflection time.

**Zones of Regulation**

The Zones of Regulation aims to teach children strategies to help them to identify their emotions and cope with these feelings so they can get back to feeling calm and ready to learn. These coping strategies are called ‘self- regulation’ At Great Moor Junior School, we want to teach all of our children good coping and regulation strategies so they can help themselves when they experience anxiety and stress. You can find a lot more information about this on our website, under School Information/Behaviour.

**School Council**

The school council is made up of and run by two pupil representatives from each class.

The council meet regularly to discuss a range of school issues with councillors, bringing up matters raised by their classmates and reporting to their classes. One of the main tasks of the school council is to co-ordinate the school's fund-raising efforts for charity.

Charities are adopted by the school and money is raised through events run by the pupils including, for example raffles, cake sales etc.

**Learning Ambassadors**

Our school Learning Ambassadors are two children from each class who come together as a group to form our Learning Council. The aim of the Learning Council is to represent the school community in the development of teaching and learning. The council also focuses on the rights and responsibilities of children, working to ensure that these are respected.

**School Assemblies**

We hold regular assemblies. Our assemblies vary in terms of content and presentation. Sometimes classes will present an assembly for the school and parents are invited to come and watch. On a Friday we hold a special 'celebration' assembly for the whole school when we recognise and reward good work and behaviour, present certificates and share each other’s' achievements.

**Special Events**

We work hard to develop our school as a community in which everyone is involved and hold a number of special events (curricular and non-curricular) to help achieve this. These include World Book Day, Sports Day, mini-marathons, concerts and productions, parties, discos, movie nights, as well as lots of special lessons and assemblies to make learning fun.

**The School Curriculum**

We follow the National Curriculum for Key Stage 2 (Years 3 to 6). The National Curriculum is a framework provided by the government so that all children are taught in a way that is balanced and manageable. We use the National Curriculum to provide a broad and balanced curriculum for all our pupils, helping them to achieve all relevant skills and knowledge and develop positive attitudes towards learning.

We teach the Curriculum in four ways:

1. On-going units of study - English

Mathematics

2. Weekly class lessons - Computing

 Religious Education

 Physical Education

 French

3. Modular Subjects - A half-termly block of work focusing on a specific

 topic in

 detail - Science, Technology, Geography, History.

4. Blocked units of work - (Several short blocks of work throughout the year)

 Music, PSHE and Citizenship, Art

**Accelerated Reader Programme**

We use the Accelerated Reader Programme. All of the children have a ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development) level in their Reading Record and they can choose from a range of books within that level to find one that they will enjoy. Children can also search for suitable books on the [AR Bookfind website](https://www.arbookfind.co.uk/UserType.aspx?RedirectURL=%2fdefault.aspx) or read one of the 6000 online texts in [myON.co.uk](http://myON.co.uk) so there is plenty of choice! The children gain points and improve their ZPD level by correctly answering the online quizzes (that test comprehension) for their books so they can see their progress which is very motivating. They also love taking the quizzes!

You can find out more about the programme at: <https://www.renaissance.com/2016/09/09/parents-guide-renaissance-accelerated-reader-360/>

**Homework**

The school operates a homework system for all our pupils.

Homework is set to:

* Consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding of what is taught in class (particularly in English and Maths).
* Enable parents to take an active role in their child's learning.
* Enable pupils to develop independent study skills.

There are various types of homework including:

* Reading
* Learning number bonds, multiplication tables, etc.
* English written exercises/comprehension.
* Maths reinforcement work.
* Story writing.
* Independent research.
* Project writing.
* Preparing presentations.
* Designing Technology projects.
* Maths problem solving.
* Factual writing.
* Conducting interviews.
* Talking about specified topics.

Pupils are expected to complete homework neatly and carefully using pencil. (Children who use pen in school may also use pen for homework).

Pupils should approximately about half an hour three times a week on homework. Homework is usually on Mondays (English), Wednesdays (Maths) and Fridays (Module) with 2 days allocated for completion.

Parents are encouraged to help and support pupils with their homework. For the homework to be effective and productive we ask parents to:

* Provide a quiet place to work - away from the distractions of TV/radio.
* Discuss the homework with their child and provide help as necessary.
* Ensure their child has time in the afternoon, early evening or weekend to do their homework.
* Provide their child with encouragement.
* Ensure that their child does his/her homework and brings it into school.
* Send in a note if for some reason your child has been unable to complete homework.

We recognise the vital role parents play in their child's education and aim to work together with the parents of our pupils as co-educators.

**E-Safety**

E-safety is an on-going priority for us and something we try to ensure our children understand. Our ICT system at school is well protected by filtering software.

Key recommendations for parents are:-

* Frequently check your computer’s Internet history/phone history to see the sites your children have visited, and monitor their email and instant messaging accounts to see who they communicate with. Let your child know that you are doing this to ensure that trust is not broken.
* Set rules about online communication, illegal downloading and cyber bullying.
* Discuss risks and concerns about posting and sharing private information, videos, and photographs.
* Watch for signs of obsessive or addictive online behaviours.
* Foster open communication and encourage your children to tell you if anything online makes them feel uncomfortable

**Parents – Social Media**

* Parents must not contact their children by phone or text during the school day. If there is a need to make contact, parents must contact the School Office and a message will be passed on.
* The vast majority of people who use social networking show respect in their communication with others and this is something that we must encourage in order to show our pupils that we are positive ‘digital role models’.
* We hold all our dedicated staff in high regard, as professionals who make every effort to deliver an enjoyable and enriched learning experience and it is disheartening if negative comments are made on social media. Personal comments on social media sites do not afford the school an opportunity to respond professionally and appropriately.
* We offer a number of ways that parents/carers can contact the school if they have any concerns or issues they wish to discuss. We advise parents/carers to make an appointment to discuss any concerns with the appropriate staff rather than expressing their feelings through social networking sites. The school does not use social media to resolve school matters, preferring to direct parents/carers to the correct channels within school which promote face to face discussion. We ask all families to respect this.
* Online comment may be regarded as defamatory if it is directly about, or refers to, an individual who may easily be identified. Should the a situation arise whereby any such comment is made in relation to the school or one of its employees, legal advice will be sought with a view to appropriate action being taken. We hope all families will support the spirit of this agreement by ensuring such a situation does not arise.

**Parents' Evenings**

We hold a drop in evening for parents in early October when parents who have any concerns about how their child has settled in to their new classes can make an appointment with their child’s classteacher. We then hold a further parents’ evening in January. In July we hold an Open Evening when everyone is invited to look around the school and meet the staff. Parents receive their child's annual report in July.

**Meeting with Teachers**

We encourage parents to contact teachers if they wish to discuss something about their child. Parents can call the office or email the teacher to make an appointment. In the interests of security we request that parents do not come into the school buildings without an appointment.

**Attendance**

Great Moor Junior School enjoys good rates of punctuality and attendance and appreciates the efforts parents make to ensure their children attend school and are on time.

For any absence due to illness to be authorised, we ask parents to notify us of the reason for the absence by phone, email or text **each and every day your child is absent.**

If your child needs to be taken out of school for a particular reason such as an urgent dental appointment, he/she needs to be collected by an appropriate adult and signed out at the school office. We ask that routine dentist and medical appointments are made after school or in the holidays.

**Term Time Absence Requests**

Schools are only allowed to authorise leave of absence from school if they are satisfied there are exceptional circumstances (holidays are not considered to be exceptional circumstances). It is therefore unlikely that permission for leave of absence in term time will be granted. Schools may also require evidence to be provided before agreeing to authorise any exceptional leave of absence.

Parents should be aware that if holidays or other leaves of absence are taken during term time without permission they may be issued with Education Penalty Notices by the Local Authority. (These are fixed fines of £60 per parent per child by Stockport Council)

Parents are strongly requested to take holidays during the school holidays and we ask that you do not request leave of absence for holidays in term time as will almost certainly be unable to grant your request.

If you wish to request Leave of Absence for any reason, we would ask you to do so in writing by **completing the Leave of Absence Request Form**, which you can download from the website **at least four weeks before** the start of the proposed leave.

**Medicines in School**

Most doctors will prescribe medicines that can be taken out of school hours. If it is absolutely necessary for a child to take medicine or tablets during school we will support parents through enabling the child to take his/her medicine whilst observing the following points:

* Pupils should not keep medicines in school.
* Any medicine must be brought into/collected from school by a parent and delivered to the school office.
* Medicine should be clearly marked with the contents, child's name and dosage to be given.
* A request form must be signed by the child's parent.

We ask that parents put sunscreen on their child before they come to school on sunny days, as we will not administer it.

**School Lunches**

School lunches are available to purchase, please pay on Parentpay. We ask that parents try to stick to the same pattern of dinners for half a term, rather than chopping and changing every day as this is very difficult for our cook to ensure she has the right amount of food ordered.

**Snacks**

We only allow healthy snacks at break times. Crisps, sweets and chocolate are not allowed.

**Water Bottles**

It is very important that children do not become dehydrated during the day, and we actively encourage them to drink plenty of water. Pupils are welcome to bring in a clear sports bottle, with water in which they can sip from as necessary during the course of the day. Only water is allowed. Water bottles can be purchased from the school office priced at £1.50 each.

**Dress Code**

Our school uniform consists of:

* White shirt, polo shirt or blouse.
* Grey or black trousers or shorts.
* Grey or black skirt or pinafore dress.
* Bottle green sweatshirt, pullover, cardigan or fleece top.
* Sensible black shoes or **all black** trainers

*Summer variations:*

* *Green and white striped or checked dress.*

We appreciate all clothing being clearly marked with the child's name.

School uniform embroidered with the school logo can be bought from our school office.

**Children are not allowed to wear jewellery for school. The only exceptions are watches and stud earrings (which must be removed for PE). Children are not allowed to bring mobile phones, iPods, toys or sweets into school. Nail varnish and make up are not allowed.**

**PE Kit**

Each class has three PE lessons per week. All lessons last about 30 minutes and children are expected to change and wear the correct clothing.

Indoors Gymnastics and Dance - shorts, t-shirt and bare feet.

Outdoors Games and Athletics - shorts, t-shirt, socks trainers

 (Tracksuit/sweatshirt in cold weather)

Swimming - swimming trunks/costume (no baggy shorts)

 towel, swimming cap for children with long

 hair.

Watches and stud earrings are to be removed for PE lessons. All children are expected to fully participate in PE. Any requests to miss PE due to medical reasons should be made in the form of a note to the class teacher.

**Mobile Phones**

Children are not allowed to have mobile phones in school. If children are found using a mobile phone on school premises, the phone will be confiscated and parents will need to collect it from the office.

**Lunchtime Arrangements**

Pupils may have a school lunch, bring in a packed lunch from home or go home for their lunch. School lunches are reasonably priced (currently £2.75 a day).

Applications for free school meals should be made to the Free School Meals Section at the Town Hall.

Children have the opportunity to socialise and play with friends on the school field, playground and tyre park during the lunchtime break.

**Extra-Curricular Activities**

We provide a wide range of opportunities for children to participate in an extra-curricular activities after school. Clubs sessions are held once a week on a set day. Parents sign up for a half term at a time on Parentpay. There is a charge for these clubs to cover costs. Some of the clubs we currently run are Football, Tag-Rugby, Basketball, Art, ICT, Drama, Board Games, Karate, Dance and Tennis.

**Residential Trips**

Children can gain a lot from being away with school both socially and educationally and we include some residential weekend visits for pupils in Years 4 and 6 during the school year.

**Great Moor Fun Club**

The Fun Club operates in the school's canteen building. It is a facility for parents to leave their children in an organised and supervised environment before and after school.

The Fun Club has its own manager and staff who provide excellent care and a wide range of activities and snacks. Costs are kept low. Parents can easily register their children with the Club and book and pay using ParentPay. Further information is available from the school office.

The opening times are 7.30 am - 8.55 am and 3.10 - 6.00 pm.