



Year 4 Newsletter

Autumn  
Term

# Welcome Back!

I hope you have had a wonderful break and are ready to get back to some new and exciting challenges in Year 4! As you know, I'll be teaching you in Year 4 alongside Miss Bowmer and Miss Appleby.

This year, our first history topic is **Anglo-Saxons and Vikings!** This is a perfect topic for Year 4 to start with as you covered the history topic, **Stone Age to Romans** last year. This is because this period of history happened just after. Our RE topic of **Northern Saints** also matches up well as we look at Saints who were around at the same time as the Anglo-Saxons. Additionally, if you have any items or knowledge relevant to this topic, please let me know. These would make perfect 'show and tell' moments!

## Our first trip!

On **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September**, we will be going on our first school trip in Year 4. We will be visiting **Jarrow Hall**. It's a fantastic place for the children to immerse themselves (literally!) in the Anglo-Saxon and Viking time period! Please ensure you have read the ParentMail carefully as the children will need to come to school in **uniform** however, the museum is outside therefore, they should wear **sensible shoes and a warm coat**. Don't forget to return the permission form via Parent Mail as soon as possible.

## Swimming!

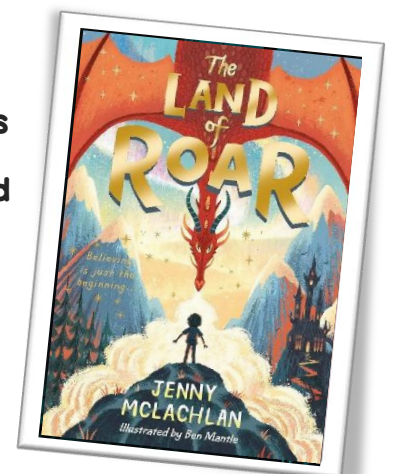
On Friday mornings, commencing **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September** and running until the end of Autumn Term, Year 4 will be taking **swimming lessons at Spennymoor Leisure Centre**. This is a National Curriculum requirement and is part of the PE curriculum. Each Friday, children will need to bring in a **swimming kit including a swimming hat**. Hats can be purchased from school for a small fee. Please ensure your child has the appropriate kit on this day as we don't want to waste this opportunity!

## LAND OF ROAR

Our New Novel - A new term brings with it a brand new novel! The Land of Roar, by Jenny McLachlan, is about the 'imaginary' adventures a set of twins used to have. Quickly, they begin to realise it may not have just been all in their heads. To save their Grandad, they must return to the 'imaginary' world and go on a final adventure.

While they're facing challenges in Roar, they are also facing challenges in the real world. The twins are about to begin secondary school and already, they are starting to worry! This is one of Mrs Gulliver's favourites! You are going to love it!

Our second novel in the term will be The Highland Falcon Thief. More on that one later!



## Foundation Subjects and Topics in Autumn

- **Science** – Sound and States of Matter
- **History** – Anglo-Saxons and Vikings
- **Geography** – Counties
- **RE** – Northern Saints
- **PSHCE** – Skills, strengths and interests and treating each other with respect
- **Computing** – Hardware and Software, Logos and Animation
- **PE** – Please come to school in PE Kit on **Mondays**. A coach will be teaching you dance and then football after half term. Swimming is also part of our PE this term.
- **Spanish** – Revision of greetings, the numbers 0-31 and the days of the week.
- **Art and Design** – We will explore still life drawing and painting using light and dark.
- **Design and Technology** – The brief is to design, make and evaluate a greetings card that uses levers and linkages.
- **Music** - The first topic is Create and Notate and will be completed as part of a music day. After half term, Ms Casewell will be coming in to help us with the second topic which is, Singing and Traditions.

## Times Tables Check

At the end of the year, Year 4 complete a Times Tables Check. This test is on a computer or tablet and the children are asked a series of times tables from 0x0 to 12x12. They are required to answer them in 6 seconds. We will be practicing times tables in school and we encourage you to continue practicing them at home in your own ways. Over the year, I will provide you with more information about this process. Equally, if you would like to know more now, please visit the website

[Multiplication tables check - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/multiplication-tables-check)

## Warm Weather Warning! Maybe...

During the start of Autumn term, it is especially important for the children to have a water bottle in the classroom as it can still be hot. In addition to water bottles, please feel free to send children with sun hats and sun cream. The sun cream can stay in their bags and children will be encouraged to put it on during very warm playtimes, lunchtimes and during any outdoor learning.

## Homework and Rewards

If spelling homework is completed in the homework book to a high standard, you can earn two minutes on a bouncy castle per week. Completing your reading and times tables homework earns you tokens for an ice cream!

We have our Independence Championship continuing but this year, you get special recognition in class as well as a trophy for the week and a certificate to keep!

### EXTRA KEY DATES

- **Bike Ability** – Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September
- **Learning Together** – Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October
- **Care Home Visit** – Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November
- **Various Author Workshops in lesson time!**
- **SHAKESPEARE PERFORMANCE** – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Contact can be made with both myself and Miss Gray via the class email. The address is [DTCYear4@tudhoecolliery.co.uk](mailto:DTCYear4@tudhoecolliery.co.uk)

We also use Seesaw to show you our achievements throughout the week. If you're having any issues with this platform, please let us know via the class email.