



Year 4 Newsletter

Spring Term

Happy New Year!

Welcome back! I hope you have all had a lovely Christmas and New Year and have had the chance to eat your body weight in chocolate like me!

We have a very exciting term planned that begins with the history topic of **Ancient Greece**. After the half term break, we will move on to a geography-based topic called **Natural Disasters**. It sounds scary but I promise it's super interesting and a very important topic to learn about! It includes climate change and how we can help protect our planet!

Reminders

- **Reading and Times Tables Homework** – At least four times per week
- **Spelling Homework** – Complete weekly and hand in on Monday
- **TTRockStars** and **SpellingShed** can be used in homework BUT I still require a signature.

School Shakespeare Foundation

As you already know, when in Year 4, you take part in a Shakespeare performance. This year, our play is *The Tempest*!

This is for parents and guardians to come and watch! The performance is at the **Gala Theatre** in **Durham** on **Thursday 5th March at 7pm**. Please, if you can, come along to support. Tickets can be purchased for this amazing opportunity via the Gala Theatre box office. I have been informed these go on sale **Wednesday 14th January**. We would love to see you there!

In previous years, the day has worked like so: Children come to school as normal in the morning and we have a normal lunch. We then go to the theatre early afternoon and practice on the stage. We then remain in Durham with a packed tea. If you are coming to watch, you will meet us at the Gala and pick up after the performance. If you are unable to attend, pick up arrangements do need to be made from the Gala but in past cases, we have put parents in contact with another parent who may be able to offer a lift.

As part of the process, we will also be taking part in a Cast Workshop. This will be held at **school** on **Thursday 29th January**. This ends at **4:00pm** therefore there will be a late pick up arrangement. Further details, information and parental permission will be on ParentMail closer to the time.



Our New Novel

A new term brings with it a brand new novel! The Highland Falcon Thief by M. G. Leonard and Sam Sedgman is an adventure favourite! Here's the blurb to capture interest:

'Harrison Beck and his Uncle Nat are enjoying the final journey of the Highland Falcon, Britain's most famous steam train. But when a precious jewel goes missing, Harrison and his new friend Lenny find themselves at the centre of the investigation. Can they solve the mystery and catch the culprit before they reach the end of the line?'

Malamander by Thomas Taylor will be on second novel and we will begin reading this after February half term.

Foundation Subjects and Topics in Spring

- Science** – States of Matter continued and Animals including Humans
- History** – Ancient Greece
- Geography** – Natural Disasters
- RE** – Islam
- PSHCE** – Treating each other with respect, managing our feelings and how to help in an accident or emergency
- Computing** – Sound Stories and Effective Searching
- PE** – Please come to school in PE Kit on **Thursdays**. Gymnastics
- Spanish** – My family, my pets and my hobbies
- Art and Design** – Nature Sculptures and the Artist Andy Goldsworthy
- Design and Technology** –
The brief is to design, make and evaluate a container to protect using Computer Aided Design (CAD)
- Music** – Compose with your friends and feelings through music

EXTRA KEY DATES

- Wednesday 11th First Aid Day (PSHCE Topic)**
- Wednesday 18th March – Learning Together – Writing**
- Thursday 26th March – Care Home Visit**
- Various Author Workshops in lesson time!**

Contact can be made with both myself and Miss Freeman via the class email. The address is 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.

