



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a pleasure to welcome back the whole school this half term. To hear the noise and laughter of children around the building has been lovely and we have all been so impressed with how the children have returned to school and how they have adapted to the changed routines that have been put in place to keep them safe.

We started this half term with the express aim of reconnecting the children to the school environment, each other and the curriculum. We have made sure from the outset that the children have received a broad and balanced curriculum whilst trying to skillfully find and plug any gaps in the children's learning.

I couldn't be more appreciative of the families surrounding our children at Tockwith. You have trusted us with your very special little people and you have adapted to any changes we have made. You truly have made the whole risk assessment and returning to school so much easier with your support for what we are doing. I know the quick drop offs and pick ups are not as easy as they once were but you have really helped with following the routines, wearing the coverings and respecting each others space. Also, when you have noticed things, you have been able to come forward and speak to us which has meant we can make changes. Your positivity at the gate with your children and each other has been lovely. Interestingly, I was singing yours and the children's praises to Mary Lumley (our former headteacher) when I bumped into her the other day on a walk with Neville.

Speaking of your children, you should be very proud of them, they have been awesome. I knew they were great before all of this, but in face of adversity they have shone even more brightly. All of the teachers have been talking about how great their classes are and how they are enjoying seeing the progress they are making in all areas. The children's learning behaviours have been brilliant as well. I think they actually missed school quite a bit during the lockdown.

I would also like to say a public thank you to the amazing staff of Tockwith CE Primary School. They have embraced the challenges of the new world and they have worked as a team and they have managed to find the positives out of this very tricky situation. I am ever so grateful to work with such an amazing team who have put the children at the heart of all they do and allowing the children to 'Live life in all its fullness'. At school, we run an online tool called 'An even better place to work' which looks at improving the quality of work life for everyone. In a diagnostic assessment, one of the statements coming out in the top 3 was 'I enjoy coming to work'. During these times, this speaks volumes about the school, the children and parents/carers.

I would also like to thank the governors for being a listening ear and for asking the right questions at the right time. They have been exceptionally supportive over the last half term.

I wish you all a relaxing and safe half term.

Justin Reeve

Closing the Gap

We have been very lucky this year to receive additional funding in school to help children to close the gaps created by the lockdown situation last year. This amounts to £80 per child and allows us to spend it according to the needs of the children at our school. We have already created plans of how to spend the money based on the EEF Guide to Supporting School Planning: A Tiered Approach to 2020-21. This focuses upon (1) high-quality teaching, (2) targeted academic support, and (3) wider strategies. I will be releasing further information but as you can probably imagine we have already started spending and seeing the fruits.

School Council

At the beginning of term, we appointed our new school councillors. The children who wanted to put themselves forward, wrote a few words as to why they believed they would make a good school councillor, they then presented their speech in front of their classes. After the speeches were done, each child voted for who they thought would represent the class the best. Due to Covid restrictions, we decided to have 3 main School Councillors per class and only open it up to KS2. All the voting was done in private so children were able to vote with confidence. We are really looking forward to getting started after half term with our first task being a fundraiser. Well done to everyone who put themselves forward, all the speeches were great and it was amazing to see so many of you willing to give it a go. You should all be very proud of yourselves.

On the first week back, our School Councillors are organising a dress down day for a charity called Compass Buzz. They chose this charity because they are a local charity who have helped many children and young people during lockdown. The children will create an assembly through slides to send to all the teachers. This will explain a bit about the charity itself, how we are getting involved and why we're doing it.



Dinners.

I would like to say thank you to Mrs Hobson and her team for working with us so well this half term. The balance between keeping everything safe and meeting the needs of our children and staff has evolved over the last 8 weeks. We are excited to be able to offer our full dinner service after half term. Reception and Year 1 will still be eating in the hall and the other classes will be picking up their meals from the hall and returning to their classrooms. I must admit that Wednesday 11th November's offering of Chicken Tikka, Naan and Rice followed by a chocolate sponge and custard is very enticing! The menu is on the website for your reference.

Things from the office

Just a quick reminder that photos are due in when we come back after the half term.

Also, please can you send any information relating to isolation and testing results.

And finally, a massive thank you for all your support.

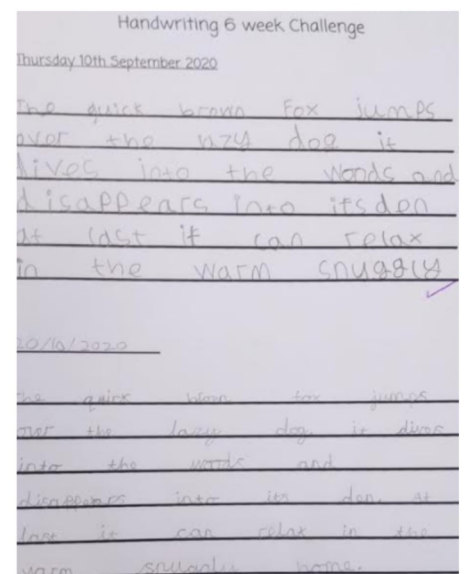
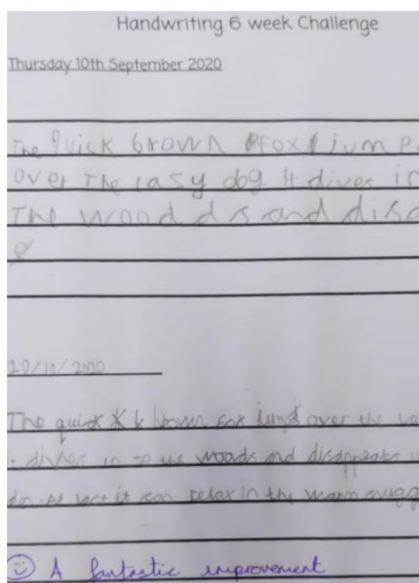
Collective Worship

I think it would be fair to say that we are all missing the opportunity for us to come together as a school. This term we have been delivering our collective worships in a number of different ways, including involving Rev Martin. The biggest success has been the Friday Awards Assembly where we have been able to come together as a school via the powers of zoom and celebrate individual's successes.



Handwriting

We have just completed our handwriting 6 week challenge with the children and it has been delightful to see the progress the children have made across the board. Mrs Hackforth, one of our governors, came into school to judge the top 2 children in each class in terms of progress. Each child won a Dairy Milk and Mrs Hackforth chose a most improved class who will be receiving an amazon voucher for £25! Next Half term, we will be conducting a Maths Basics challenge, which will focus on improving accuracy and speed of mental calculations. If you can help in anyway please do.



Pastoral Care At Tockwith

Just wanted to say Hi and give a quick update so far on Pastoral Care in our school. We want all the children at Tockwith to be able to develop an understanding of themselves so they are able to express how they feel which will help them to achieve their best.

Key Stage 1 - We have been using the inside out characters and also the Colour Monster stories to help develop language and understanding of emotions - how they make us feel and behave and what to do to help ourselves and others.

Key Stage 2 - The children have completed a Wellbeing Questionnaire. The school has a weekly programme of PSHE (personal, social, health and economic education) which helps the children gain skills in life to stay well, safe and healthy for now and in the future.

Pastoral Care is at the core of what we do at Tockwith and we are currently working on a document to show what this looks like at our school.

We realise with current restrictions it may be more difficult to share any concerns that you may have. Please be assured if you have any questions regarding your child's wellbeing we are always here to support. I can be contacted directly on pastoral@tockwithprimary.co.uk

Thanks,
Sarah Slack
Pastoral Lead



Year 1

The children have settled into Year One really well in every aspect. However I have been incredibly impressed with their phonics, they have worked really hard with their segmenting and blending of words. Not only have they been doing this in class but they have been continuing their learning from home! Very proud of you all.

Have a lovely half term, Miss Kilvington.



Phonics and Reading in Year 1

In Year 1, I have been really impressed with how engaged the children have been since the start of term with their reading. Together with our daily phonics sessions in class time we are seeing real progress, their confidence building and the love of sharing and discussing their books building.

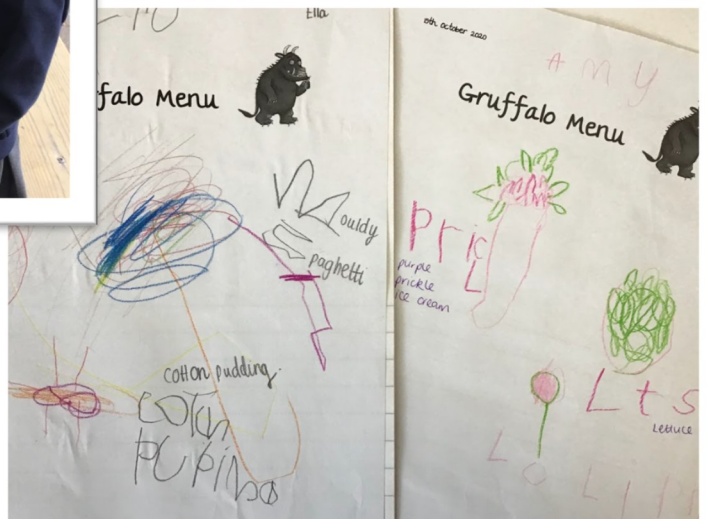
Spending a little time regularly reading with your child really does make a huge difference to their progress. Books, comics, magazines, cereal boxes and even road signs whilst in the car, playing rhyming games or ask them to make links between their own experiences and content in the book.

Thank you for all the feedback over the last few weeks which is coming through in the children's reading record's. A great tool to use for two way communication and to highlight problems, questions and of course lots of praise!

Many thanks Mrs Newsome

Reception

Reception have settled into school life brilliantly and are having lots of fun exploring and learning this term. We are so impressed with them! We have been reading the Gruffalo this week and enjoying lots of Gruffalo activities inside and outside the classroom. We have built dens for the Gruffalo in Forest School, we have made Gruffalo pie in the mud kitchen, we have written a Gruffalo menu and even made our own Gruffalo biscuits. They were delicious!



PE with our new Equipment

Reception have been enjoying setting up and making obstacle courses with our new PE equipment. The children have enjoyed setting the hurdles at different levels and have been great at moving around the obstacle course like different animals (mostly like those from *The Gruffalo*).



Remote Reading in Year 2 and 3

One of the many challenges caused by the Virus has been loss of our volunteer adults who would normally listen to readers. Thanks to the wonders of modern technology, children in Years 2 and 3 have still benefited from other adults listening to them with the help of an iPad and an online reading catalogue. Both Mrs Algar and Mrs Poole have been reading to children over the last 7 weeks and are having a real impact. Amazing!

Year 3/4 Science and Design and Technology

This term in years 3&4 our science project has been to understand forces and how they can change the way things move. We put this knowledge to the test by researching, designing, building and evaluating our very own pneumatic toys. We dedicated a whole day to getting creative and upcycled an old shoe box into our very original pneumatic toy.



Year 5/6

Earlier in the term, as part of our science work on the properties of materials, Years 5 and 6 went foraging around the school grounds looking for their own natural dyes. They used what they found on the trees and bushes to explore dying a piece of fabric in solutions of



PE Update

In PE we have updated a lot of our old equipment including brand new netball posts and two tri golf sets. It was great to see these being used during our PE lessons and seeing the children so engaged. Due to Covid, the competitions we usually attend are now all virtual. Andy, who is our cluster coordinator came and help the Year 5 take part in orienteering and Year 3 participate in golf. Fun was had by all and we all look forward to hearing the results soon.



MrG
@PrimaryMrG

Tough conditions for the
Tockwith Masters. Quite wet
under foot and some thick
rough for some holes
[#TockwithhPE](#)



MrG
@PrimaryMrG

Year 5 had a great morning with
our cluster orienteering
competition. Tried their hardest
and great to hear their times
were constantly improving
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