Monday 19th October 2026 Autumn 1 Edition

THE TOCKWITH TIMES

We've got off to a cracking start with our new, academic year at Tockwith and really settled into our new routines and topics. We've interviewed children from across our school and asked them to tell us a bit about what they've been up to in class.

Reception

What have you enjoyed so far since starting in your new class?

Lots of children told us that they have really enjoyed playing with their friends at lunch times. Poppy and Oliver said they have enjoyed drawing and Alfie and Ben both said how much they liked digging and getting muddy! Rory said, "I like playing in the small world area," whereas Seven told us he liked the "big construction."

Have you found something hard but then managed to do it?

Erin said, "it was difficult to know where things were when I started at school" and Ryker told us that he was finding phonics tricky but was getting better every day.



Fun in the sun!

What is your favourite thing to learn about?

Elodie, Roshni, Marlo and Mia all said that they are really enjoying phonics. Sophie said she enjoys learning how to be kind to other people. Samuel said, "I like the letters and numbers area" and Thea and Adelina told us that the creation station was their favourite place to be.

Did you enjoy the buddy service?

Lots of children said that they liked the buddy service at church, with Emilia particularly enjoying the songs and lots of children having fun sitting with their Year 6 buddies.

Do you like coming to this school?

Sophie said, "I think it is the best school in the world!" and Eddie said, "Tockwith is a good school!" In fact, everyone we spoke to thinks that starting school has been brilliant and they can't wait to see what new learning is happening after October half term.



Dress to impress!

Key Stage One

What have you enjoyed so far since moving up into your new class?

Children in this class told us that they have liked learning how to use cursive handwriting, building in the construction area at lunch times and using Chromebooks more in lessons. Sienna told us that she was enjoying, "doing harder work and having more challenges." Poppy said she liked her new teacher and William told us that he was enjoying playing on the red spinner and the adventure trail. Ben said, "I like the areas of provision and the drawing table is the best bit!" whereas Alistair told us that he was enjoying using technology for research.

Have you found something difficult but you've kept trying and managed to do it?

A few children told us that they had found writing and maths quite challenging but had kept trying. Toby stated that, "maths can be tricky but we have been doing work to remember the basic facts and then building on them." Joey has been trying really hard with his joined up handwriting and Isabelle said, "I have been trying hard to become more independent at school and also at home. I can do my own plaits now."

What clubs would you be interested in the school offering?

Lots of pupils in Key Stage One would like there to be more PE clubs, including dodgeball, golf, cricket, tennis, basketball and dance. Toby suggested that we could have a construction club, where we build dens and tall towers.

What can we do to help the environment?

One child said, "we could make posters and put them up around Tockwith." Another suggested getting solar panels for the school building.

Tell us an example of friendship that you have been part of or seen in school.

A pupil told us that the Year 5s were helping someone who was hurt and someone else spotted Lucy helping Luna when she fell over. Another student told us that the Year 4s had been playing frisbee with the Year 2s and that it was, "fair and fun."

What clubs would you be interested in the school offering?

Immie suggested a history club and Winter would like there to be an arts and crafts club. A geography club was also suggested by a student in Year 4 as well as a Spanish club, a running club and a gardening club.



Perfect poise in PE!

What can we do to help the environment?

Charlotte suggested using sprinklers to help keep the grass alive during the hot weather and Skye said, "we should have more litter pickers to tidy up the mess outside after lunch." Another pupil said that we could have more watering cans so that we can water the plants more often.

Tell us an example of friendship that you have been part of or seen in school.

Esme informed us that somebody was helping her in class and Wilbur said, "in construction, everyone's been working together to help make a good den." A few children stated that it was really nice to see the new reception children playing together, with their buddies and with all of the other children in school.



Celebrating Diversity Week

Upper Key Stage Two

What have you enjoyed so far since moving up into your new class?

A Year 6, who wished to remain anonymous, said, "don't tell my mum but the food at Humphrey Head was better than hers!" and another child stated that they just didn't want to go home while they were away on residential. Ella told us that she has enjoyed meeting and looking after her new buddy and Mrs Darley said that she has enjoyed helping other people.

BBC 500 words competition

Looking for something to do on a rainy day in half term? Why not enter the BBC's 500 words competition? The competition celebrates creativity and imagination, encouraging children from across the UK to create an original story in 500 words or fewer, with two age categories: 5-7 and 8-11 year-olds. You can find more details at https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words/articles/zctk7v4

Make every word count!

School updates

We have some brilliant new resources for Opal. There's a witch's broom stick to use when we're dressing up, a pogo stick for the playground area, loads of plastic balls to make a ball pool with, metal detectors and some wool to crochet with. On our open morning a few weeks ago, lots of the parents came and saw all the exciting things we do at break and lunch times. In our Diversity Week, we found out about influential people who overcame obstacles to achieve amazing things. For example, when she was younger, Doctor Maggie was told that she couldn't be a space scientist because she was black. Despite this, she showed perseverance and followed her dreams to become one.

Conversation Starters

Want to know a bit about what your child has been learning recently in school? Try asking them about these, year-group specific things…

Reception: What can you tell us about your Year 6 buddy?

Year 1: How many interesting facts can you tell me about dinosaurs?

Year 2: What have you learnt in your yoga sessions?

Year 3: Tell us about your geography fieldwork day.

Year 4: What new skills have you learnt in gymnastics and netball?

Year 5: What new skills have you learnt in your bikeability sessions?

Year 6: What were your top 3 highlights from the residential?



Fantastic fieldwork skills!





Dangerous Dinosaurs!

Lower Key Stage Two

What have you enjoyed so far since moving up into your new class?

Some of the Year 3 boys said that they were enjoying playing football because of the bigger pitch and that they also liked learning how to play basketball. Aurelia told us that, "Mr Finan's sometimes forgetful but he's really fun" and Odin said that he was enjoying the challenge of harder maths. A Year 4 student said that they liked having new learning partners, finding out about how to read maps on the fieldwork day and learning how to be sensible and respectful.

Have you noticed any changes around school that you like?

Isabella told us that she thinks, "the new classroom is nice" and Eliza stated that, "there's apples in the tree that you can pick and they taste really nice." Alfred commented that he had made new friends and that it was nice for the whole of Year 3 to be together again.

Have you found something difficult but you have kept trying and managed to do it?

In maths lessons, Alfie told us that he usually gets onto the hardest questions but that he, "really has to try hard on them." In Year 4, a few pupils told us that it was tricky learning all of their times tables but that they were going to keep practising. Another child said they found it difficult to know what to write on their application to be part of the GS crew and a few pupils said it was a real challenge to try and do the splits in gymnastics.



Our outside creation station!

Tell us about your favourite subject and why you like it so much.

Myla told us that, "I like maths because I get to the questions that I don't know but I try to get the right answer." Alfred told us that he enjoys finding things out in science and Eliza stated that lunchtime was the best part of the day because she enjoys eating food!

What clubs would you be interested in the school offering?

A Year 5 pupil would like to join a club to learn Russian. In Year 6, suggestions included a pool/ snooker club, a DT club and forest school club. Margot told us that she would like there to be a crafting club and Matilda would like to take part in a computing club.

Tell us an example of friendship that you have been part of or seen in school.

One of the children in Upper Key Stage Two told us that, "I saw a reception child say sorry for accidentally making their friend sad. They both hugged each other and were happy again." Other children have been spotted inviting a boy who felt a bit lonely to play a game with them.

What can we do to help the environment?

Ella thinks that the best way to help the environment is to inform people about what we can do to protect it. Henry said, "I think we should turn off the taps when we're not using them to save the water." Charlie suggested that we have more litter pickers to help clean up the school field.

Have you found something difficult but you have kept trying and managed to do it?

Amy said that she found kayaking at Humphrey head hard because the turning wasn't easy but that she kept persevering.



Heroes of Humphrey Head!

Happy Half Term!

Thank you for taking the time to read our new edition of Tockwith Times. Look out for the next edition, just before Christmas!

*********NEWSFLASH*********

Don't forget that we'll need your 1ps, 2ps and 5ps for our Children in Need fundraising event on Friday 20th November. As well as this, the school councillors have decided to hold a colourful clothes and crazy hair day for the suggested donation of £1.

For Christmas this year, our school is planning a reverse Advent calendar. Instead of opening a calendar door and finding a tasty treat, we're asking children to bring in one, small item on a day in December that might be useful to donate to a homeless charity - more details to follow after the October half term holiday.



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