

THE DAY THE SCHOOL WENT WILD



The Day the School Went Wild

1. It was an ordinary Tuesday morning when the school clock decided it had worked quite enough for one lifetime and began to tick backwards, to the alarmed bewilderment of everyone except the caretaker, who was asleep in the staffroom cupboard.
2. The headteacher, Mrs Bumblethorpe, noticed the reversal of time only when her tea unpoured itself neatly back into the teapot and her biscuit reassembled from a satisfying crumble to a pristine custard cream.
3. In Class 6B, the children sat blinking at the whiteboard as yesterday's lessons wrote themselves in reverse, letters hopping backward like cheeky alphabet frogs.
4. Henry Pottle, known for his restless imagination and suspiciously flexible eyebrows, whispered that perhaps the school had caught a "chronological cold."
5. Nobody disagreed, for the classroom thermometer was sneezing chalk dust and the globe on the shelf spun so wildly that Australia was briefly in Scotland.
6. Meanwhile, the school hamster, Mr Nibbles, grew to the size of a small dog, perhaps because the science experiment involving "Growth Potion" had been left unattended near his cage.
7. When Mr Nibbles escaped, chaos bloomed like springtime in a greenhouse — pencils snapped, sandwiches vanished, and a Year 3 pupil claimed he saw the hamster doing long division.
8. Mrs Bumblethorpe announced over the intercom that "everything was under control," though the sound system chose that very moment to translate her message into whale song.
9. The cleaner, Mr Spritz, chased the giant hamster with a mop, shouting, "I'll polish your whiskers, you furry menace!" but slipped heroically on a rogue custard spill near the canteen.
10. The lunch ladies, never ones to waste good custard, began collecting it with ladles, muttering about inflation and pudding rations.
11. In the art room, the paintbrushes rebelled, splattering portraits with rainbow moustaches and a surprising number of monocles.
12. The students cheered, calling it "modern expressionism," though one boy swore his brush whispered stock market advice.
13. Down the corridor, the PE teacher was losing a wrestling match to a rogue skipping rope that had developed self-esteem issues.

14. In the computer lab, the machines collectively decided they were bored of arithmetic and started composing sea shanties in binary.
15. The deputy head attempted to restore order with a whistle, but the whistle produced only soap bubbles and a faint smell of bananas.
16. The school librarian barricaded herself behind encyclopaedias, declaring a state of emergency and refusing to lend out anything “flammable or philosophical.”
17. Out on the playground, the climbing frame sprouted leaves and politely asked everyone to call it Gerald.
18. The children, ever adaptable, began feeding it leftover sandwiches, and Gerald responded by humming the national anthem.
19. The school inspector arrived mid-mayhem, stepping from his car with the expression of someone expecting mild paperwork, not a symphony of chaos conducted by sentient stationery.
20. Mrs Bumblethorpe met him with the dignity of a monarch whose castle had caught fire but who refused to remove her pearls.
21. “Welcome,” she said grandly, while a nearby chair burst into interpretive dance.
22. “Is this part of the curriculum?” asked the inspector, dodging a flying lunch tray.
23. “Of course,” she replied, “we’re piloting experiential learning in physics and philosophy.”
24. The inspector nodded, pretending to take notes on a clipboard that was actually a slice of toast.
25. By now, the fire alarm had begun reciting poetry about existential dread and slightly burnt crumpets.
26. In the music room, instruments had formed a union and refused to play anything written after 1954.
27. The trumpet led negotiations, while the triangle held out for more solos.
28. Back in Class 6B, Henry Pottle decided that if time was broken, someone had to fix it, and it might as well be him.
29. He gathered volunteers: Sophie Jenkins, who could whistle two tunes at once, and Raj Patel, who owned a suspiciously powerful magnet.
30. The trio marched to the school clock tower, stepping over an art teacher arguing with a puddle about reflection.

31. At the top, they found the clock hands tangled like spaghetti and glowing faintly purple.
32. “Looks easy enough,” said Henry, just before the hands began to spin so fast they created a small tornado of dust and Latin homework.
33. Sophie threw her hairband at the mechanism, Raj applied his magnet, and Henry shouted, “By the power of punctuality!”
34. The clock hiccupped once, coughed twice, and then resumed ticking normally — though slightly smugly.
35. At that exact moment, everything in the school paused, sighed, and gently returned to sanity, except for Gerald the climbing frame, who refused to be ordinary again.
36. Mrs Bumblethorpe straightened her hat, dismissed the inspector, and wrote a firm letter to the Department of Education demanding a raise and a tranquiliser dart.
37. Mr Nibbles returned to normal size, though he occasionally winked knowingly at the students.
38. The computers deleted their sea shanties but left mysterious files labelled “Future Hits.”
39. The PE teacher retired his skipping rope, declaring he would stick to non-aggressive sports like chess.
40. The art teacher sold the rainbow moustache paintings for charity, raising enough to buy new brushes — which, thankfully, behaved.
41. The next morning, the school appeared perfectly ordinary, save for Gerald quietly reading poetry to the pigeons.
42. Henry Pottle was hailed as a hero, though Mrs Bumblethorpe confiscated his magnet “for safety reasons.”
43. When asked what he’d learned, Henry replied, “That sometimes the world just needs a good reset — and a biscuit.”
44. The inspector’s report simply read: “Unorthodox, unpredictable, unforgettable.”
45. And though no one ever spoke of it publicly, the teachers all carried small clocks in their pockets after that, just in case time got ideas again.
46. Henry, Sophie, and Raj became something of a legend, whispered about by younger pupils who added dragons and treasure to the story.

47. The lunch ladies, newly famous for their “heroic custard rescue,” began selling jars of it at the school fair.
48. Gerald joined the school council, representing playground equipment with eloquence and leafy charm.
49. Mr Spritz insisted he had once spoken directly to a bucket that predicted rain, though nobody could verify it.
50. In the art room, one last paintbrush still occasionally trembled at night, remembering its brief taste of power.
51. The headteacher installed a “clock health policy” requiring daily compliments to all timepieces.
52. Every Friday, the students clapped politely for the clock to show appreciation and to keep it cooperative.
53. The science lab now had a bold sign reading: “No Potions Near Rodents.”
54. Mr Nibbles received a tiny gold medal for bravery and a lifetime supply of sunflower seeds.
55. The school motto was quietly updated from “Knowledge and Kindness” to “Knowledge, Kindness, and Controlled Chaos.”
56. Henry’s magnet ended up in a museum display titled “Heroes of Temporal Repair.”
57. Sophie’s hairband, found later on the clock gears, became a lucky charm in the lost-property box.
58. Raj’s notebook filled with doodles of gears, stars, and hamsters wearing crowns.
59. The inspector returned a year later to check on “progress” and found Gerald conducting morning assembly.
60. “Carry on,” said the inspector faintly, and he retired the next day.
61. A rumour spread that the school clock sometimes hummed softly at night, keeping perfect time to an invisible rhythm.
62. Mrs Bumblethorpe pretended not to notice, sipping her tea and smiling knowingly.
63. The children of 6B wrote essays about “The Day the School Went Wild,” all wildly inaccurate but wonderfully creative.
64. Henry’s version included heroism; Sophie’s included snacks; Raj’s included equations no one understood.

65. When the headteacher read them aloud, the walls seemed to echo with laughter, and even the chairs wobbled with amusement.
66. The caretaker finally woke up a week later, muttering that he'd had "the strangest dream about musical staplers."
67. The staplers, incidentally, had started humming in harmony by then.
68. The parents' evening that term was described as "lively but enlightening."
69. One parent suggested marketing the event as a theme park attraction.
70. The school governors quietly decided never to visit again.
71. Despite everything, attendance improved — chaos, it seemed, was more engaging than worksheets.
72. The local newspaper ran the headline: "Small School, Big Trouble, Massive Hamster."
73. The article was so popular it became a children's book.
74. The author? None other than Mrs Bumblethorpe herself, writing under the name "Anonymous Hero."
75. The royalties funded new library books and an emergency mop fund.
76. Mr Spritz framed the article and told everyone he had a film deal pending.
77. Gerald, meanwhile, grew another branch and used it as a bookmark.
78. The pupils often sat beneath him during lunch, listening to his stories about "The Day of the Great Rewind."
79. Every retelling was slightly different — some included pirates, some included tea that sang.
80. Nobody minded; the truth was already unbelievable.
81. The old clock tower, freshly polished, now gleamed like a guardian above the playground.
82. It ticked proudly, each second carrying a whisper of its former mischief.
83. On windy days, the sound resembled giggling.
84. Henry, Sophie, and Raj sometimes waved at it before going home.
85. "Keep good time," Henry would say, and the clock's hands seemed to twitch in reply.

86. One afternoon, a tiny gust of glitter fell from the tower, landing softly in the sandpit.
87. The children built a castle there and named it “Chronotown.”
88. Mr Nibbles moved in, claiming it as his second residence.
89. The story made the school newsletter under “Notable Achievements.”
90. Parents rolled their eyes fondly — nothing surprised them anymore.
91. By the end of term, order had returned, though the meaning of “order” was forever flexible.
92. The teachers learned that imagination, once unleashed, was far more powerful than any timetable.
93. The students learned that biscuits taste best after saving the universe.
94. The hamster learned that fame comes with great nibbling responsibility.
95. Gerald learned to rhyme “photosynthesis” with “bliss.”
96. Mrs Bumblethorpe learned that even chaos has charm — in moderation.
97. The clock learned humility — most days.
98. And the school itself, creaky and wise, learned that wildness and wonder are often the same thing.
99. So if you ever visit Bumblethorpe Primary, listen closely: the walls might still giggle when the wind blows.
100. And somewhere deep inside the clock tower, time smiles — just once, then gets back to work.
-

Comprehension Questions

(20 total)

1. What strange event began the chaos?
 - A) The school clock started ticking backwards
 - B) The hamster escaped
 - C) The fire alarm rang
 - D) The inspector arrived
2. Who was the headteacher?
 - A) Mr Spritz
 - B) Mrs Bumblethorpe
 - C) Miss Jenkins
 - D) Mr Nibbles
3. What happened to the tea?
 - A) It boiled over
 - B) It unpoured itself
 - C) It turned into coffee
 - D) It disappeared
4. What grew enormous?
 - A) The clock
 - B) The hamster
 - C) The teacher
 - D) The custard
5. What did the intercom do to Mrs Bumblethorpe's message?
 - A) Translated it into whale song
 - B) Amplified it too loudly
 - C) Reversed it
 - D) Ignored it
6. Who chased Mr Nibbles with a mop?
 - A) The headteacher
 - B) Mr Spritz
 - C) Raj
 - D) The inspector
7. What name did the climbing frame choose?
 - A) George
 - B) Gerald
 - C) Gregory
 - D) Graham

8. What did the paintbrushes do?
 - A) Painted moustaches
 - B) Broke in half
 - C) Cleaned themselves
 - D) Drew on the floor
9. How did the inspector take notes?
 - A) On a toast slice
 - B) On a tablet
 - C) On a napkin
 - D) On a book
10. What sound did the whistle make?
 - A) Whales
 - B) Soap bubbles
 - C) Bananas
 - D) Silence
11. Who fixed the clock?
 - A) Henry, Sophie, and Raj
 - B) Mrs Bumblethorpe
 - C) Mr Spritz
 - D) The inspector
12. What was Gerald's job after the chaos?
 - A) Lunch monitor
 - B) School council member
 - C) Librarian
 - D) PE coach
13. What was the new school motto?
 - A) Knowledge and Custard
 - B) Knowledge, Kindness, and Controlled Chaos
 - C) Work Hard and Be Tidy
 - D) Respect the Hamster
14. What did Mr Nibbles receive?
 - A) A medal
 - B) A cage
 - C) A new name
 - D) A cheese trophy

15. What headline did the newspaper print?
- A) "School Goes Bonkers"
 - B) "Small School, Big Trouble, Massive Hamster"
 - C) "Time Trouble at Primary"
 - D) "Custard Disaster Ends"
16. What did the clock sometimes do at night?
- A) Glow
 - B) Hum
 - C) Talk
 - D) Stop
17. Who wrote the book about the event?
- A) Henry
 - B) Mrs Bumblethorpe
 - C) Gerald
 - D) The inspector
18. What did the children build from glitter?
- A) A time machine
 - B) A castle called Chronotown
 - C) A sand hamster
 - D) A clock replica
19. What did the teachers secretly carry afterwards?
- A) Mini clocks
 - B) Whistles
 - C) Biscuits
 - D) Maps
20. What did the school finally learn?
- A) That chaos can be beautiful
 - B) That clocks are dangerous
 - C) That hamsters can count
 - D) That tea solves everything

Answer Key with Explanations

1. **A** — The backwards clock began the entire chain of chaos.
2. **B** — Mrs Bumblethorpe was the headteacher.
3. **B** — The tea unpoured itself back into the pot.
4. **B** — The hamster, Mr Nibbles, became enormous.
5. **A** — The intercom turned her message into whale song.
6. **B** — Mr Spritz, the cleaner, chased the hamster.
7. **B** — The climbing frame called itself Gerald.
8. **A** — The brushes painted moustaches.
9. **A** — The inspector took notes on toast.
10. **B** — The whistle made soap bubbles.
11. **A** — Henry, Sophie, and Raj repaired the clock.
12. **B** — Gerald joined the school council.
13. **B** — The new motto included “Controlled Chaos.”
14. **A** — Mr Nibbles received a tiny gold medal.
15. **B** — The newspaper headline was “Small School, Big Trouble, Massive Hamster.”
16. **B** — The clock hummed softly at night.
17. **B** — Mrs Bumblethorpe wrote the book under a pseudonym.
18. **B** — The children built a sandcastle called Chronotown.
19. **A** — Teachers carried small clocks as a precaution.
20. **A** — The school learned that chaos can be beautiful.