

Dear children,

I hope you are all well and happy. I hope you enjoyed the video that the staff made for you – we had such fun making it! We all really miss seeing you and we are sure you miss us too – and we know you miss your friends. The school is very, very quiet without you (although it is tidier!)

This is a really tough time for all of us. None of us, even your parents and grandparents, have experienced this situation before. What makes it more difficult, is that none of us can give you the answers to your questions yet. We don't know when you can see your friends again in real life, and we don't know when we will all be going to school again. What we do know, is that there are brilliant doctors and clever scientists who are working very hard to make things better for us. Soon, the government will tell us more about when we can come back to school, but they have to take time to make the right decisions, so it might not be soon. We have to be patient and wait.

There are five really important values for us all at Bourn. The reason we have these is to help guide us in life. Right now, the most important ones are hope and friendship. Even when things are difficult, we can cope with them better if we have hope and optimism. We know our lives won't always be like they are now. We need to look forward to when we can do things that we used to take for granted – like playing with friends and coming to school.

I think this is a very important time to think about what really matters. Is it playing on the computer or playing in the park? Is it wearing the best clothes or trainers or is it just being with our friends, whatever we are wearing? Is it having new toys or making up silly games with our friends? I think you would all choose to be with your friends, because actually, friendships are what really matters – not computers or toys or clothes. I know lots of you are chatting to each other on line or on the phone. It's really important to keep in touch with each other, but remember that your friends are still your friends, even if you can't see them.

I hope you are learning how to entertain yourselves with your imagination. I hope you aren't pestering your parents to do things for you if you can do them yourself! I hope you are being helpful at home and helping out as much as you can. I hope you have learned new skills, like riding your bike, or cooking a cake or loading the dishwasher. You have to remember that everyone in your family is finding this situation difficult. We all need to support each other and one way you can do this is by doing what your parents ask you to do – when they ask you to do it (not in half an hour!)

I really hope you are doing school work – especially reading. Please practise your reading as much as you can. I'd love to know how many books (real or online) you have managed to read so far. You do need to keep your brain working and you need to do learning during the day so your brains don't turn to boiled cabbage! Please do the work your parents are asking you to do – without arguing and complaining. Remember to use the Purple Mash class blogs to share what you have been doing. I also want to remind you about the Latest News tab on the website which has competitions and photographs on. Keep sending photos in – we love seeing them.

We are really looking forward to seeing you again as soon as we can. Your teacher will ring you every week to hear how you are getting on and to hear your voices!

Here are some interesting and fun videos – the first one shows what happens when animals don't have to stay in their houses! Animals reclaiming the world
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EdjSxjybSds>

Virtual Field Trip to the Amazon Rainforest <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JEsV5rqbVnQ>

Take care and look after yourselves and each other.

From Mrs Latham

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