

Lockdown 2020

Well, my life has definitely changed these past few months since the UK lockdown was announced due to Coronavirus, no longer rushing in the morning to get ready for school, walking to the bus stop with my older brother and sister then having a chat with my friends before registration, sitting at a desk in a busy classroom, meeting friends to catch up at break and lunch or the bus ride home having a laugh with my friends then going out in our village with my group of friends, having fun in the evenings. Thinking about it I didn't see much of my family during a normal day apart from at breakfast, dinner and before bed and I was often rushing around, how that has changed!

Since lockdown began my day consists of spending every moment with my family! Now don't get me wrong, I love my family but all day, every day spent only seeing them has sometimes become frustrating!

I now get to wake up an hour later than I did previously, my mum works from home at the moment so she has a structured day planned for my siblings and I, pretty much the same as being at school, I do admit some days I haven't got dressed until lunch time but I don't think my teachers would mind whether I wore my pyjamas or day clothes so long as I am working hard and completing my work and there is no chance of that not happening with the constant "are you working" or "that better be schoolwork on your pc, let me check" comments every hour, I think my mum is enjoying this more than I am. I have twin siblings who are only 9 so I have enjoyed helping out with some of their tasks when my mum has been busy and I have asked my older brother and sister who are in fourth and fifth year, to help me with anything I am unsure of before having to bother my teacher, this cannot be easy for them either so don't want to increase their workload unless really necessary.

I really miss seeing my friends and having them to chat to and hear how their day is going throughout the day, something I took for granted before. I do feel I am working harder at home as I am pushing myself to complete all tasks without assistance from teachers and researching subjects I am unsure of, this is the benefit of having constant access to the internet.

When our school day is over at 3.30pm, I like to message my friends to see how they are. We have had a few video calls too which has been nice, text messages are not the same as seeing each other.

Most evenings we now go out a walk as a family with our dog, he is a Springer Spaniel and although he is 12 he still loves his walks, we are thankful for this time and being allowed to exercise outdoors once a day during lockdown as we live near a beach so can walk down there and collect stones to paint, the twins also love looking in the rock pools for crabs etc. In the evenings we don't see any other people so it is the best time to go out as when we had previously gone in the afternoon we met lots of other people so wore face masks to hopefully avoid catching the virus as you never know who is carrying it. My mum seems to enjoy these daily outings and uses them for taking photos of us children all together for her social media and her memories file, that must be the worst part of having mobile phones with cameras for children, your parents taking photos of you all the time!

Easter was very different for us this year, usually our family all get together at our grandparents house and have breakfast together, then we do a big outdoor Easter egg hunt but this year our grandparents delivered our Easter eggs to our doorstep & we had to say hello from the door. We have also had five family birthdays so far in lockdown and they have been very quiet days, doorstep present drops by family that live very close to us and just our parents and siblings for a birthday tea at home, homemade birthday cake and no extended family visiting, my sister was sad she couldn't see her boyfriend on her birthday but maybe by his birthday in October they will be able to see each other.

I am finding I appreciate my family so much more than I did before and I argue with my siblings much less, we have no-one else to have fun with so it's better that we do our best to work together, I have enjoyed this and I am sure my parents have too. I have also started helping out more around the house, I was always too busy for that before, rushing off to meet my friends.

One thing I do like is my family all being together at dinner time, before lockdown my mum was always rushing to take my younger sister to dance or gymnastic class or to pick my dad up from work at dinner time so we would all eat at different times but now we have no rushing around, although there are seven of us in our home, it is quieter and much calmer. We have also had time to watch movies together and I have spent a lot of time drawing and learning new creative skills such as origami.

The funniest part of lockdown for me was definitely the day my mum and older brother decided to try out hairdressing! As all hairdressers and pet groomers are closed my mum decided to cut my sister and I's hair, this was fine and went well but then she decided to try to shave my dad's hair and also attempted to cut my younger brother's hair, my older brother took over shaving my dad's hair which was probably a good idea but my younger sister hated his new look and wouldn't look at my dad! My mum messed up my younger brother's fringe, he is a bit restless & I guess it's not easy to cut a child's hair that is bouncing around but oh dear, I think he will be glad he has no school to go to as his hair is not looking good and now he won't let her do any more! As for our dog, well he looks younger now and I guess she did okay trimming him so it wasn't a total disaster but gave us all a lot of laughs.

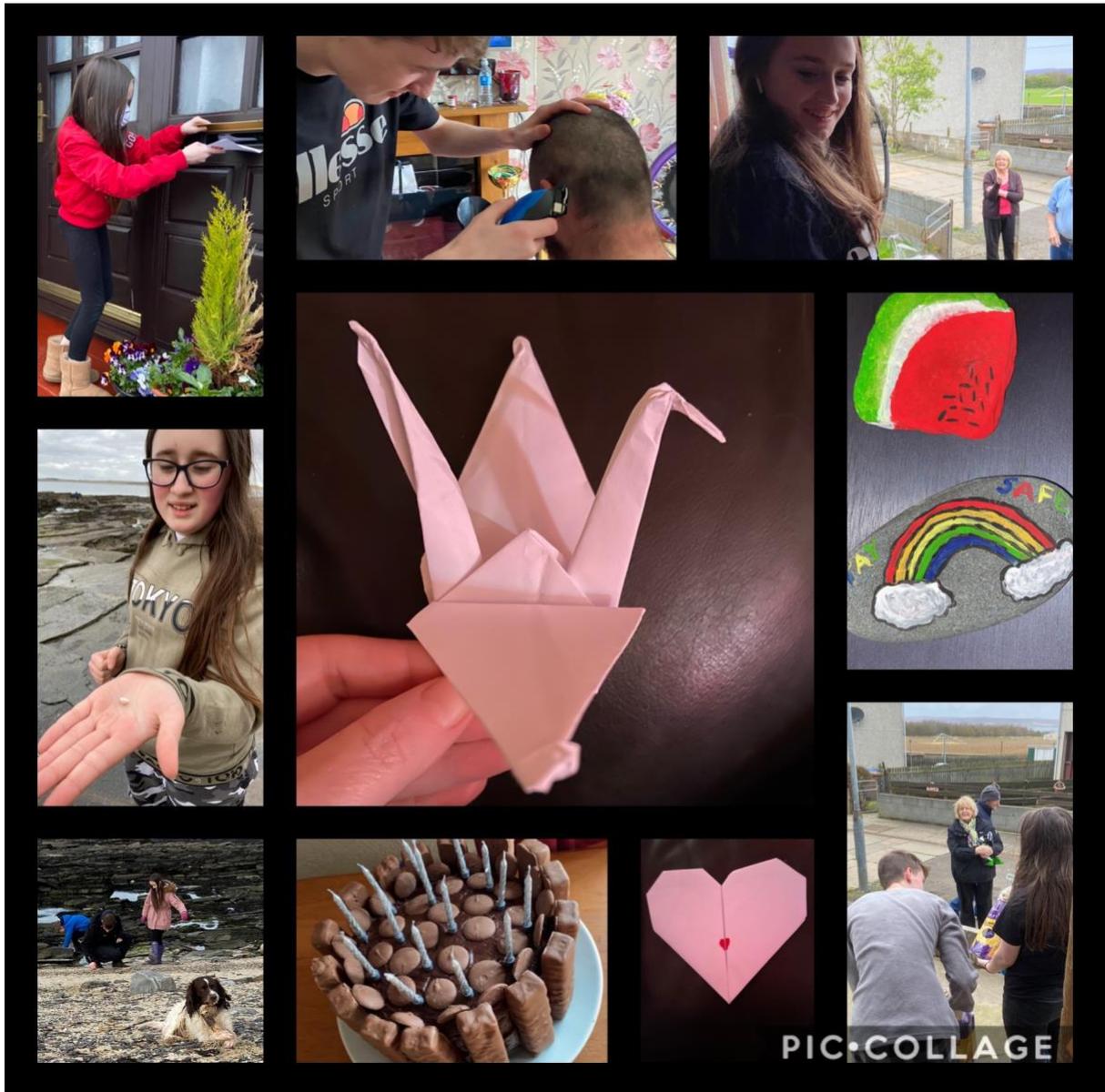
The worst part of lockdown for me personally is that my 18 year old cousin from Canada had planned to come visit us for the summer this year to celebrate our grandparents 50th wedding anniversary together, he has been working so hard to save up enough to make his first visit home to Scotland on his own and we haven't seen him in three years but his trip had to be cancelled, I was very disappointed that we can't see him now but hopefully he can rearrange for next year. We also lost an aunt and cousin during Coronavirus and my parents and grandparents couldn't travel to go to the funerals, this must have been very hard for them.

The most positive part of lockdown is that it has made my family and I appreciate what we have and who we have around us, yes I miss spending time with my friends, grandparents, going to town and going on holiday but we are making the best of a very different situation and when lockdown is lifted we will all hopefully still be well and our time together will be even more special.

When lockdown is lifted I hope people will still take care to wash their hands and be considerate and thoughtful to others. One of the things my siblings & I did to hopefully brighten up a lonely person in our community's day was to write a card to them to let them know someone is thinking of them and they are not alone, it would be nice if that could continue but including visits and not just go back to normal and forget about these older people who live alone. I would also hope that people would slow down and continue to spend time with their families.

Some pictures of my family & I's time in Lockdown:





Katie Pearson