

## **Life under Lockdown – a record**

A word that is so often used about the odd times we find ourselves living in is ‘unprecedented’ – never known or experienced before in our life time. So much is different to our day-to-day lives compared to a few months ago. When we return to normal (or a new normal) will we remember our lockdown lives with clarity? With fondness? With horror? And for that reason, we would like to make a record of the ‘lockdown lives’ of our High Storrs community.

So, what will a ‘Life Under Lockdown’ record look like? Mrs Gott and I have written about our lockdown lives below and we would love to read about yours too. We plan to make a display showcasing some of the very best ‘Life under Lockdown’ records. You can send us a written account or you can make a poster, cartoon strip or something even more creative. The criteria are listed here,

- A clear title – Life under Lockdown
- Your name on the back of your work
- Details of your new routine, the new things you have done, the positives and the challenges
- A4
- It could be a written account (like ours below or done as a diary, story or whatever works for you)
- It could be drawings (e.g. cartoon strip)  
It could be a mixture of words and pictures (e.g. a poster)
- You can include photos (but of things not people e.g. things you have cooked, your empty street, things you have grown or made)

Y7 and Y8 students to email theirs to to Mrs Gott (or posted to the school in an envelope addressed to Mrs Gott), Y9-11 to Mr Bedford and Y12-13 to Miss Mason.

Deadline of 1<sup>st</sup> June

We can’t wait to read them/see them!

### **My life under lockdown by Mrs Tasker**

I am writing this whilst wearing my pyjamas. I really like pyjamas and more time in comfy clothing is definitely a good thing about my new life under lockdown. There are other positives too. I am spending a lot more time with my girls. We are trying new things together like a ‘30 days of yoga’ programme – every day it gets harder and we get wobblier. We have also baked together. They are both delighted because I never bake but I felt even I could give Mr Vickers’ scone recipe a go. The finished products have been variable. I won’t include photos!

I am finding some things odd. The novelty of meetings on ‘Zoom’ and ‘Teams’ very quickly wore off. And interviewing applicants who want to work at High Storrs in this ‘virtual’ way is so odd. So far, we have made some great appointments but our work in schools is all about relationships and not being able to see an applicant react and relate to staff and students makes things harder.

Of course, there are also challenges. I think I am lucky because I go into school quite a bit to support the staff who are looking after the small group of students. This means I still see quite a few different people. It is strange standing so far apart and doing odd ‘dances’ around each other as we move through doors or down corridors but it gives my days more variety than most. But the school building is largely empty and closed up which feels wrong. It reminds me how much I miss being on duty (most of the time), moving round the building, teaching my classes (my P5 Friday Y8 class made me laugh a lot and was always the perfect end to

the working week). I really miss my Dad too. He lives a long way from Sheffield and I worry about him. Working hard and being busy with my family stops me from thinking too hard about the scariest parts of the lockdown and the pandemic. I was so proud to help the DT team put together PPE. I felt as though I was making a contribution to the national effort. I know the staff looking after the students in school enjoy that feeling too. And I am so proud of those students.

I read everything I can about when/how lockdown might ease but there are no firm decisions as I write this. I wonder what parts of my new life I will keep (yoga? scones?) and which parts I will quickly jettison. Maybe Mr Lacey could update the Dress Code to include pyjamas?

### **My life under lockdown by Mrs Gott**

On Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March when Boris Johnson, our Prime Minister, announced the UK lockdown I remember the ice chilling fear that swept through my body. 'Oh no', I thought, what about my family, my friends, my students, how will they cope, how will they manage, how will they get through this, how will I get through this.



Technology! Of course, there are many aspects of our lives that cannot be moved online. Frontline worker can't do their amazing work online and key workers can't deliver food to supermarkets from behind a screen; hotels and airlines can't fill empty beds and seats with digital subscriptions. For me, many of the technologies that I used to take for granted are now proving themselves to be an essential part of my everyday life.



I have two daughters and three grandchildren aged 3, 10 and 11, who I now chat to everyday on face time, something that I used to avoid doing before the lockdown as I didn't like seeing myself on the screen. This helps me enormously and we have lots of virtual hugs. I do worry about my brother and his family who live in New York and the challenges they have had to stay safe, so I also chat to him on the phone every day.



Now this young lady, at 11 years of age, is my best friend and my tower of strength, she has been my absolute rock through this unprecedented time. Her name is Cocoa. Can you guess why? Cocoa loves playing fetch with a ball, stick or anything else she can find and I often wonder how she knows to do that. It is very heart-warming when I arrive home after my days on the rota in school when she brings me my slippers, one at a time, before having massive amounts of cuddles.



