



Maxwellton Primary School

September Newsletter



Head Teacher Welcome!

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a busy start to the first few weeks of term! We really missed everyone and it was emotional seeing everyone return in the first few weeks. I am not sure that the return to school of August 2020 is one that any of us will ever forget! A huge Maxwellton welcome to our brand new Primary 1 children. You were all absolute superstars on the first day and it was been lovely watching you settle into school life as if you have always been here!



I want to reassure you that the safety and well-being of all our pupils is of the utmost importance to us. The school and nursery are very settled and I would like to thank all the children for returning and following all our new procedures. They have been stars! My staff have worked tirelessly, as I am sure you can imagine settling a whole school and nursery back after the lockdown was not a small task. Thank you to all the parents and grandparents that have stopped at the school gate to make positive comments. This has been greatly appreciated by all the staff at this time. Thank you!

Thank you for your support and patience at this time as we work **together** to make sure that the whole Maxwellton family stays safe.

Staffing

I was delighted to welcome back all my staff to school safe and well. Please see below a reminder of our staffing for this year.

We are delighted to welcome **Miss Doris** to Maxwellton Primary and we wish her a very happy year here with **Primary 5**.

Miss MacDonald has returned a married woman and is now known as **Mrs Meek**. Congratulations Mrs Meek on surviving the emotional rollercoaster of a lockdown wedding!

We are also delighted to announce that **Mrs McKenna** became a Grandma and welcomed a beautiful baby grandson into the world! He has been bringing smiles to all our faces at this time!

I would like to take this opportunity to say a **huge thank you** to our **janitorial and cleaning staff** who are working constantly to ensure our school is clean and following the latest hygiene procedures. Thank you for all your efforts in keeping us safe.

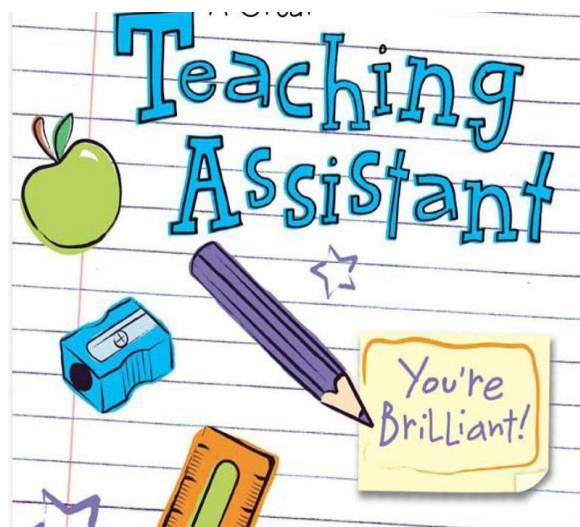


Every teacher is entitled to 30 minutes a day non class contact time for teaching preparation. This is given to teachers in weekly blocks of 2 ½ hours. The teacher that covers the class is called the **Non Class Contact Teacher**. Please find below your child's class teacher and non-class contact teacher for this year.

| Class | Class Teacher | NCC Teacher |
|-----------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Primary 1 | Mrs McKenna | Mrs Carlton Thursday PM |
| Primary 2 | Mrs Meek | Miss Begg Thursday PM |
| Primary 3 | Ms Short | Miss Begg Friday AM |
| Primary 4 | Mrs Goodwin | Miss Begg Thursday AM |
| Primary 5 | Miss Doris Mrs Brown (Thurs) | Miss Begg Wednesday PM |
| Primary 6 | Mrs Lipp | Miss Begg Wednesday AM |
| Primary 7 | Mrs Marno Ms Greer (Friday) | Mrs Findlay Tuesday PM |

Support Staff

- Mrs Thomson
- Mrs Magill
- Mrs Cunningham
- Mrs Graham
- Mrs Bullough (Mon only)
- Mrs McKendrick
- Mrs Methven
- Mrs Howie
- Ms Bridges
- Ms Turner
- Mrs McKirdy



PE Days

Scottish Government guidance just now is that all PE lessons **must take place outdoors**. Pupils are asked to come to school already dressed in PE kit on their PE Days. Joggers/leggings and a polo shirt are suitable with pupils already wearing their trainers. This is to minimise the amount of changing needing to take place within school. Please ensure that your child has a waterproof jacket with them at school every day also as PE lessons will be

taking place outdoor. If the weather is inclement or torrential then the pupils will not be going out.

Please see below for a reminder of your child's PE Days. The Scottish Government Guidance is due to be updated regarding PE in October and we will keep you posted regarding this.

| | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Primary 1 | Monday & Thursday |
| Primary 2 | Wednesday & Thursday |
| Primary 3 | Monday & Friday |
| Primary 4 | Thursday & Friday |
| Primary 5 | Wednesday & Thursday |
| Primary 6 | Tuesday & Wednesday |
| Primary 7 | Tuesday & Thursday |



Reminder Regarding Important Routines

Just a reminder on some important information

- No child should enter our school playground before **8.50am** in the morning as the playground is not supervised until then
- Only P1 parents should enter the playground in the morning
- **P1-P3** children should go **directly to their class** on arrival at school **in the morning**.
- **P4-P7** children should **wait in their 'zone'** on arrival at school **in the morning**
- If the weather is **extremely wet all children will go straight to their classes in the morning**
- **P1** children will **finish at 2.55pm**. Parents should wait at the picnic benches.
- **P1-P3 parents** are welcome to **come into the playground at 3pm** to collect their children.
- **P4-P7** should **leave the playground independently**
- **Parents** should remember to **socially distance** when waiting in the playground
- The wearing of face coverings is not mandatory in Primary schools unless using school transport, however children **may wear a face covering if they choose**.



Health & Safety Executive

Both Maxwellton and Greenburn received a spot check visit from the **Health and Safety Executive** on Thursday 10th September as well as some other schools in East Kilbride and SLC. This visit involved the Health and Safety Inspectors looking at all our practice in returning to school and in being Covid compliant. We were delighted to receive positive

feedback from our inspector who commented that the school and staff were doing everything we could to keep everyone safe and were happy with all of our procedures and policies put into place. An inspection is always a daunting thought but on the other side of it, it is reassuring and gives us confidence to know that all of our practices have been looked at. A huge thank you to all our janitorial and catering staff that had our school looking spotless for our visit also! Well done everyone! Keeping everyone safe is of the utmost importance to us all just now.



Rescheduled Inset Day

A letter went out to all parents to inform them of the rescheduled In-service Day. Normally there are 2 in-service days in August but as there was only one this year the 2nd in-service day has been rescheduled for **Tuesday 29th September**. This is directly after the September weekend. The remaining in-service days are as follows ...

- **Tuesday 29th September**
- Monday 16 November 2020
- Wednesday 10 February 2021
- Thursday 6 May 2021



Inset Day – Tuesday 29th September

As you will see from above our next in-service day is Tuesday 29th September. **The focus of our staff training on this date will be looking at ‘Contingency Planning’**. Teachers will be developing their skills in Google Classroom and will be preparing materials just in case another lockdown does occur or a blended learning approach is needed to be used.

Meet the Teacher

Normally within the first 2 weeks back at school we usually hold our ‘Meet the Teacher’ event where parents are invited into the school to meet their child’s new teacher and to see their child’s classroom.

Unfortunately, we are not allowed any parents within our school this year. This year instead, class teachers are busy preparing a PowerPoint presentation for all parents which will include important class information and photographs of the classroom and children’s learning. It’s not the same as meeting in person but we hope it helps in some way! These will be emailed out to all parents when completed and put on Google Classroom also for your child to discuss with their parent.



Parent Pay

Thank you to all our parents that have already signed up to parent pay and activated their account. So far within our school **84%** of parents have activated their account. We ask that you please do this as this will be how all monies and activities are planned and communicated to parents. If you have any issues setting this up or need support in any way, our office staff are happy to talk parents through it or help in any way that they can. Please note that your child's school milk needs to be booked on parent pay also. Children are no longer allowed to bring in 20p for milk. This must all be paid for and booked in advance on parent pay. Children in receipt of Free School Meals do not pay for milk.

Data Checks

Now more than ever it is crucial that as a school and nursery we have your most up to date contact details and details of those for emergency contacts. Can we ask that everyone ensures a swift return of the data check forms that have been sent to parents. Can we also ask that throughout the year if there are any change of telephone numbers, addresses or details that parents contact our school office as soon as possible. It is also crucial that the school has your most up to date email address, as this is our main way of communication with parents. Thank you for your support with this.

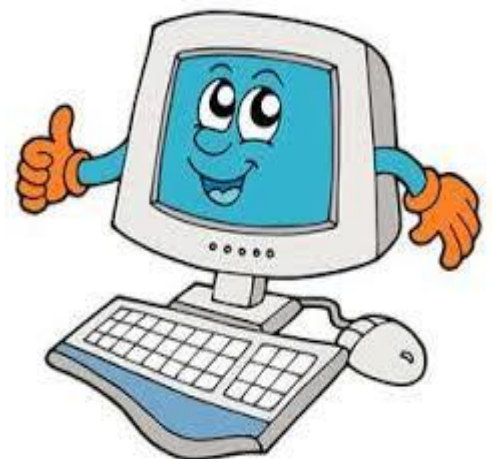
School Uniform

I would like to say a huge thank you to all our Maxwellton families as the children look wonderful in their school uniform! Uniform is very important to us at Maxwellton and we are proud to be Maxwellton so it is wonderful to see our pupils looking so smart in their school uniforms. Thank you so much to all parent and carers for your support in this. It sets a great example and impression of our school to see our pupils so smart and proud of their school. Thank you!



Digital Inclusion

As part of our 'Contingency Planning' and preparations, we want to make sure that every child within Maxwellton is able to access Google Classroom in some way. As a school we ask you to make contact with us and to let us know if your family has **no way** of accessing Google Classroom. This may be because you may not have Wifi or a device to access it. Please note that google Classroom can be accessed Via X-boxes also. We are able to seek support from SLC for devices for children that cannot access Google Classroom however, this is prioritised on a needs basis with vulnerable and Free School Meals pupils being the priority. If your child is not accessing Google Classroom because they don't have a device, please make us aware so that as a school we can do everything possible to support.



Parking & Road Safety

Thank you to all our parents for not using the main car park at the front of the school during this time. This car park should only be used by parents that are blue badge holders or in case of emergencies. Just a reminder that a **Park and Stride facility** has been made available at the **John Wright** car park.

Please can all parents be extra vigilant and considerate when dropping off and picking up at the school. Please drive slowly and be extremely mindful that children are about and crossing roads at this time.



We ask that all parents speak to their children regarding road safety around school entrances and exits and we will reinforce this in school through our safety lessons. The children are currently taking part in the SLC Road Safety Competition as part of their learning.

School Travel Plan

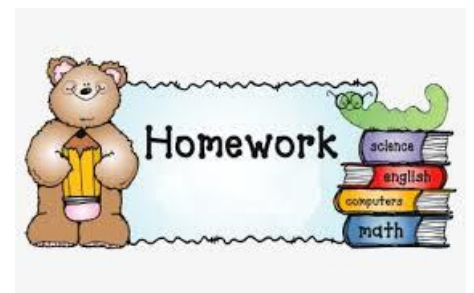
At Maxwellton Primary School & Nursery we are working together with SLC to make sure that our school has a **School Travel Plan**. We are currently looking at updating our School Travel Plan and would like your views on how you and your child travel to school. To help us with this please can you take a moment to complete the survey below. Pupils and staff will also be asked their views on how they travel to school and we will look at how we can get more people walking, cycling or scooting to school. We would appreciate if you would take a few moments to complete it for us. Thank you in advance

Parents: <https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=153362743001>

Pupils: <https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=153362744363>

Homework

Homework will begin again on **Monday 14th September**. Homework will follow the pattern of being issued on a Monday and collected in on a Friday. There will always be a literacy and numeracy task for homework. A Google Classroom question will be set every week also so that children are familiar with accessing this platform so they are well prepared to use this if lock down occurs again. **(Primary 1 will continue to have homework every day and will not follow the pattern of the rest of the school)**



Homework is issued as part of parental partnership and we would appreciate all our parents' efforts in ensuring that it is completed. Please take this time to discuss your child's learning with them also.

We never want homework to be a cause of stress at home and if there are ever any issues please do get in contact with us so that we can support.

Please note that there will be no homework on the short week when pupils return from their September Weekend break.

After School Clubs/Breakfast Club

As you will be aware SLC Breakfast clubs are not running at present. We will keep all our families up to date on any updated news regarding this as soon as we get it.

Due to Covid-19 guidance also we are unable to offer any after school extra curricular clubs also. We will continue to review this if the guidance changes.

Our School Recovery Plan



Every session we evaluate our current position and plan our improvement strategies for the year ahead. However, in this challenging time we have had to focus on a new set of priorities for the session ahead. Every school in Scotland has been asked to write a **School Recovery Document**. This document will be our **School Improvement Plan for this year**.

Our Improvement priorities are:

- **Improvement Priority 1 - Promote the Positive Health and Wellbeing of children, parents/carers and staff**
- **Improvement Priority 2 - Planning for Equity**
- **Improvement Priority 3 - Continuity of Learning**

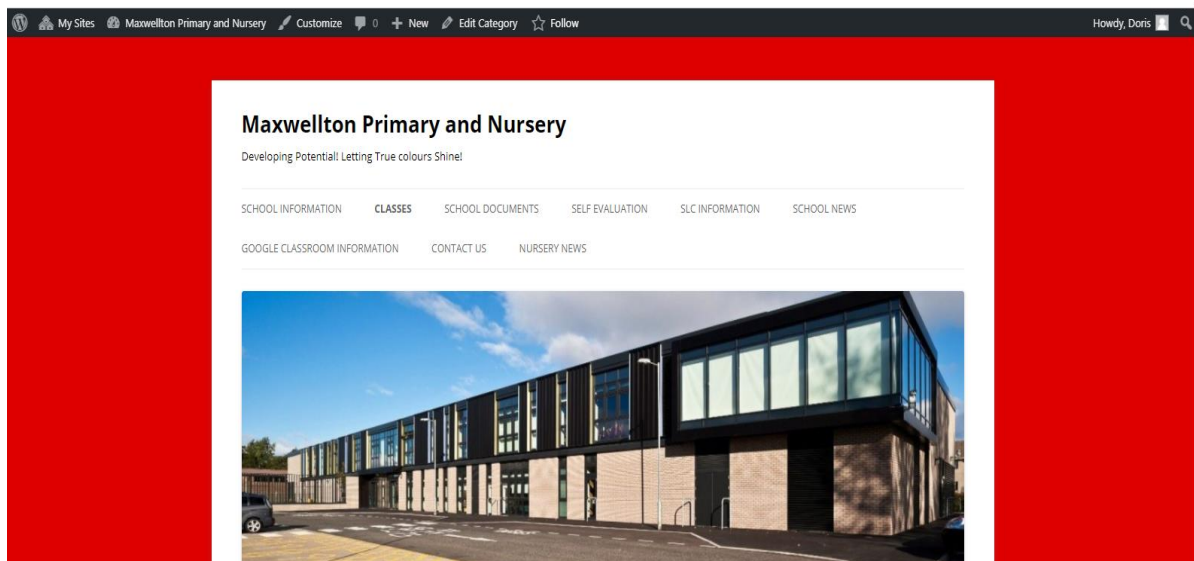
More detailed information regarding our School Recovery Plan, please see our school blog. . Copies of our 'Recovery Plan 2020-21' have been added to our new school blog. We will keep you updated regarding the progress of these.

School Blog

We have a new school blog where which we have launched and are continuing to build at the same time. We hope this will be a place and source for information for our parents. All our letters are posted here so you can always find them. As well as this every class has their own class blog page that can be accessed here too. We aim to build this blog up so it is a helpful, wealth of information for all our parents and visitors to Maxwellton Primary School.

The blog can be accessed by following the following link

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/maxwellton/>



Sumdog

We are delighted that all of our pupils have access this year to **Sumdog**. This is an engaging digital platform that provides fun Numeracy, Spelling and Grammar activities to children and we would encourage lots of participation in this. This subscription has been purchased by our **Parent Council** and we would like to take this opportunity to say a **huge thank you** to them for this! Sumdog uses games to encourage students and automatically adapts to the pupils needs. **A letter regarding Sumdog and your child's log on details were issued this week to all pupils within the school.**



The purpose in purchasing the Sumdog subscription was not only because the children love it and find it an engaging way to learn but it was also purchased in case we find ourselves in another lockdown situation. Sumdog is something that children can work on daily and can complete independently also. We have only ever had the numeracy aspect of Sumdog before in Maxwellton however we have purchased the whole package this year with thanks to our Parent Council. This will allow pupils to complete numeracy, spelling and grammar activities from home if another lockdown occurs. This is a great resource to have and we are very thankful for it. We would encourage all parents to check that their child can log on successfully. Pupils can then use and complete whenever they want at home.

YMI – Primary 5

Every year Primary 5 take part in the **Youth Music Initiative**. This is a fabulous project where Primary 5 receive music tuition from a qualified music instructor. This year this is being delivered remotely through Google Meet and takes place every Wednesday afternoon until January. The children are already enjoying their lessons and photographs of their lessons can be seen on the P5 class blog page. A super experience for our P5 children!



European Languages Day

This week sees European Language Day take place. We will be celebrating this in Maxwellton by having a French afternoon on Thursday 24th September. The children will learn about France and practise speaking French also. Please ask us all about what we were learning on this day.

Garden Crew

This year we have a dedicated team of Primary 7's and Mrs Graham who have been working hard in our garden every playtime and lunchtime. Can I take this opportunity to say **thank you** to **Mrs Graham** for being willing to take on this role! They have done a remarkable job to clear our garden and are slowly loving it back to life! We would like to say a huge thank you to our parents and school community that have given resources to this. A **huge thank you** to **Mr and Mrs Kay** who donated 10 huge bags of bark for our garden. We are so thankful for these. Thank you! Thank you also to the **Buchan family** who have donated strawberry plants! We have planted these and will take very good care of them. Thank you also to the **grandparents of the McManus family and the Gilchrist family** who have also donated bulbs and plants. The donations had a huge effect in motivating the gardening team and we love that this project is involving our wider community. **Thank you to all these families for thinking of us.** We really could not do it without you. We are still looking for soil and will welcome any other donations also. We hope to post a before and after picture of our school garden before the October holidays to update everyone on our work. Well done P7 and all in the Garden Crew. Leaving behind a loved and tamed school garden is a great legacy and project to leave before they move on to high school and we are delighted P7 thought of this idea. Great job!



Visitors

Unfortunately due to Government guidance we are not allowed to invite parents into our school just now or any of our wonderful grandparent helpers. We will miss you all but will keep you up to date if the guidance changes. If you wish to contact us at any point to discuss any aspect of your child's learning then please do not hesitate to email or telephone us. As a leadership team we always make our self available to parents. Myself and Mrs Brown are also on the school gates every day and if ever there are any issues you can speak to us there also.

House Captains

I am delighted to announce our School Captains and Vice Captains for this year. A huge well done to these children and we look forward to watching them shine in their leadership responsibilities in their P7 year! We are very proud of you all and know that you will do a great job. Well done everyone!

Red House

Captain – Cole

Vice Captain – Jake

Blue House

Captain – Oliver

Vice Captain – Max

Green House

Captain – Annabelle

Vice Captain – Katie

Yellow House

Captain – Ewan

Vice Captain – Chloe



Guidance on the Common Cold

Please see below a letter from Jason Leitch National Clinical Director Scottish Government to all parents and carers regarding guidance on common colds and COVID symptoms..

Dear Parent/Carers,

I understand these last few months have often been challenging, particularly for parents and carers. Now that schools and nurseries have returned I am writing to provide some advice where a child or young person in your care presents with symptoms of the common cold or similar bugs during this pandemic.

Following the return of schools after a prolonged break, it is common for colds and similar viral infections to circulate. In many cases, children will be well enough to attend school and

continue their learning with little or no interruption to their education. In other cases, for instance where they have quite a heavy cold, they may need to take a day or two off to recover. This is not the case for children and young people with potential COVID-19 symptoms, they are required to self-isolate and seek a test through nhsinform.scot or by calling 0800 028 2816. In order to ensure your children do not miss out on their education, it is important to be clear about how COVID-19 symptoms differ from those of other infections that we normally see circulating at this time of year.

COVID-19 Symptoms

It is important that all of us – including those who make up the community around a school - are vigilant for the symptoms of COVID-19 and understand what actions we should take if someone develops them, either at school or at home.

The main symptoms to be aware of are:

- new continuous cough
- fever/high temperature
- loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste

If a young person or a child in your care develops any of the above symptoms, they should self-isolate and you should book them a test as soon as possible at [NHSinform.scot/test-andprotect](https://nhsinform.scot/test-andprotect), or by calling 0800 028 2816. We recommend testing only for those with a continuous cough, fever, or loss of or change in the sense of taste or smell. The UK senior clinicians continue to keep the symptoms for case definition under review and will continue to use evidence to adjust these if it becomes necessary.

It is essential that people who have COVID-19 symptoms, or who share a household with someone who has symptoms, do not attend school, nursery or other childcare settings, and must self-isolate along with all members of their household. If the test is negative, self-isolation can end for everyone.

If the test is positive, Test and Protect will give you further advice. Cold-like symptoms If, however, your child does not have symptoms of COVID-19 but has other cold-like symptoms, such as a runny nose, they do not need to be tested and they and you do not need to self-isolate. Your child can go to school if fit to do so. The Scottish Government appreciates the huge effort being made by parents, carers and school staff to ensure the risk of COVID-19 is minimised and to support children's education.

For further advice please visit the Parent Club website at: www.parentclub.scot or www.nhsinform.scot Professor Jason Leitch National Clinical Director Scottish Government

Pupil Voice

How did you feel about lockdown?

P1 – P3

- I had fun playing with my toys
 - I like and I didn't like it
 - I was happy because I was with my family
 - Good because we could go to the front step
 - I was sad
 - Good because I was playing with my Barbie
 - No I didn't like it at all because I couldn't see my friends
 - I was happy because I played with my brother
 - I like it because I could see my Gran and Grandpa
 - It was a little boring and a little happy
- Happy and sad
 - Sad because I didn't get to see all my friends
 - A wee bit happy and sad
 - Happy and frightened because I didn't know what was going to happen
 - Really sad because I missed my friends
 - Sad because I couldn't go outside
 - Sad but also worried because I didn't know what to do
 - Sad, happy and worried because my Dad wasn't well so we had to stay away from him for a while
 - Sad because I couldn't go outside
 - Quite happy and quite sad because I couldn't see my friends and I thought school was going to shut down completely
 - Happy
 - Happy because I had more fun with my mum
 - Really happy because I got to see my family more
- Good because you could play Minecraft Dungeon and it was super hard.
 - I was kind of mad because I really do not like the corona virus and it kepted on happening. I was really mad because I didn't have anything to do.
 - Well I loved it because I got to go to the parks and draw pictures. I loved it.
 - I liked it because I did loads of baking. I actually tried the actual baking. I baked a Victoria sponge.
 - Kind of good because I missed my friends but I got to play on the Xbox with my brother and sister.
 - Well I felt bored but my brother loved it because it was his dream come true. I got used to it a lot but I wanted to go back to school.
 - Fun because I got to play with all my toys.



- I was upset because it felt like I was trapped inside the house. It felt a bit like you were in jail because you couldn't go out and you couldn't see anybody. I tried going to my room but it didn't help.
- It was good because there was no school.
- I didn't like it because it was boring inside and I couldn't see my friends.
- Kind of bad because I missed my friends and the teacher and kind of good because I got lots of things for my birthday.
- It was boring because I wasn't at school and I like doing the thing we are doing right now. (sums)
- Fun because I got to play with my little brother on his birthday and on mine.
- Good because it was fun because I got to do fun things like colouring in
- I really liked it because I had more time to spend with my little brother
- I was a bit happy but also a bit sad because it was sort of a holiday but your missing your friends.
- I thought it was fun but also sometimes I was a bit bored because I missed my friends.
- Bad because I didn't like staying inside the house because I am used to fresh air and I was a wee bit sad about not going somewhere for my birthday
- Weird because of the virus because we couldn't go to shops and we had to wear a mask
- Sad because I wasn't at school.
- Bored but I liked going walks.

P4-P7

- 'didn't feel good as didn't feel well over lockdown so had to stay in bed'
 - I had hayfever, didn't like it, felt anxious because couldn't go to clubs/see friends etc
 - had one fun day, went to aunties, had water fight, also sometimes felt sad at home, came back wee bit moody as was enjoying bed
 - I was a bit bored, unfair as other children mixing together and I wasn't allowed to
 - I was sad as couldn't see friends and family
 - I felt happy but sad, felt happy because didn't have to go to school, felt sad because couldn't see friends
 - I was happy as I got to play all the time, now morning and nights are hectic as getting told what to do
 - I was nervous and scared, very odd as had to wear mask, sweating in mask, couldn't go out and play with friends, couldn't go to restaurants/soft play
-
- "I felt sad because I wouldn't see my friends for ages"
 - "I felt lonely without my friends and family"
 - "I felt half happy and half upset because I like being at home sometimes and School sometimes "
 - "I was confused about what was going on"

- “I felt mentally upset and sad because I was scared”
- “I felt anxious because I had a lot of time to think about things”
- “I was worried because my Mum is a Nurse and she might get ill and give Covid it to older people like my Grandad”
- “My Mum works for the NHS and goes into Nursing Homes so I was worried for her”
- “I was scared that my Gran, who is vulnerable, might get ill”
- “I was bored at home because I couldn’t get out and do things”
- “I was bored and a bit angry because I couldn’t go to School or Clubs”
- “ I felt relaxed and chilled”
- “I was pleased because I met new online friends”

- Lockdown was boring
- I liked school online
- Sometimes fun and sometimes boring
- Good in my house but bad as I couldn’t see my family
- It was boring
- Good because we spent time as a family
- It was ok when you got to go out
- It was better when the rules were eased
- It was good and bad
- It was boring and rubbish
- It was annoying. Some people broke the rules
- It was the worse being isolated all the time
- Ok at the start and then very boring
- It was boring. I missed people