

18th May 2020

Dear Parents

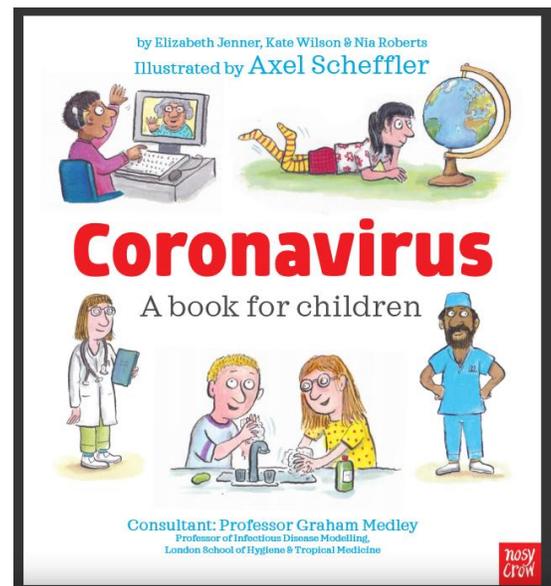
Thank you for completing our recent **Survey Monkey** asking about how you are getting along at home. It was heartening to know that many of the families who completed the form felt a range of emotions: looking forward to being back in school, missing their teacher and especially children missing seeing their friends AND still a good number of children were happy at home! Thank you to all those who took the opportunity to send kind messages to the teachers (which have all been received with delight). Our favourite response was hilariously honest, saying that they needed loads of alcohol, as homeschooling is hard!! I guess that was a parent...

Some responses sent over messages with anxiety about the possible re-start of school on 1st June. I hope that some of your questions, notably those about hygiene practices and PPE, were answered in my recent letter. I also received a few direct messages with questions. I will respond to you all as soon as things become more clear. As you can imagine, the planning, preparation, considerations and risk assessments have been a huge administrative task. Some key reminders:

- There are 5 risk factors that must be met BEFORE the Government commits to school opening on 1st March. The decision will be made by the advisory group: SAGE (the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies). Read about it [here](#). Currently March 1st is the earliest possible date. I am grateful that school leaders were given a good time scale in which to plan for the most calm, cautious and safe re-start. The Government's decision will be announced on or before 28th May. Who knows? There *could* be a delayed start, or not!
- Once we do return, school will involve some reduced freedom for the children. They will use restricted and designated zones both inside and outside of their classroom. Maintaining social distancing of 2m is not feasible for young children. I know you will have been teaching them all about the risks of close contact, but we would not be honest to suggest that the children will not be in closer proximity. As I explained recently, our social distancing approach will be using the '[small bubbles' method](#) where a limited number of friends form a bubble and are in contact. The different bubble groups will not make close contact.
- Some staff are vulnerable and will not return to work until notified. We have planned to be as generous as we can in welcoming children back. Wherever staff are, they are all working incredibly hard. I am so proud of Trent.

The latest Government guidance is [here](#):
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Talking about Covid-19 in a way that children can understand and be reassured:



Mrs Breheny found a lovely free and inclusive story, probably suitable for older ones. It is attached for you to see now. She tells me that I'm nothing like the head in the story!

And here is the link to the Axel Scheffler story for the little ones:

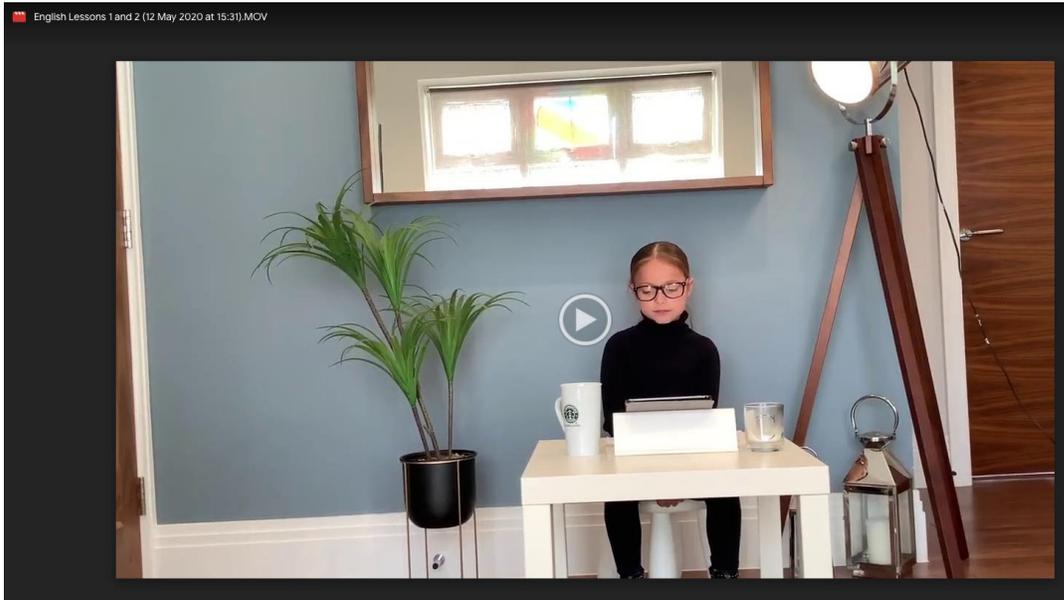
<https://nosycrow.com/blog/released-today-free-information-book-explaining-coronavirus-children-illustrated-gruffalo-illustrator-axel-scheffler/>

One for you, by Michael Rosen (just our of ITU himself with Covid-19)

<https://www.scottishpoetrylibrary.org.uk/poem/these-are-hands/>

The Google classroom is here to stay! Here are some lovely examples:

A budding Newsreader from Year 3. This little video entertained me immensely! Thank you! (What a magnificently huge mug!)



Here's a colourful message of support to the NHS – from siblings working together!



Amelia Bingham's Lockdown advice poem:

It Wouldn't Hurt to Ask!

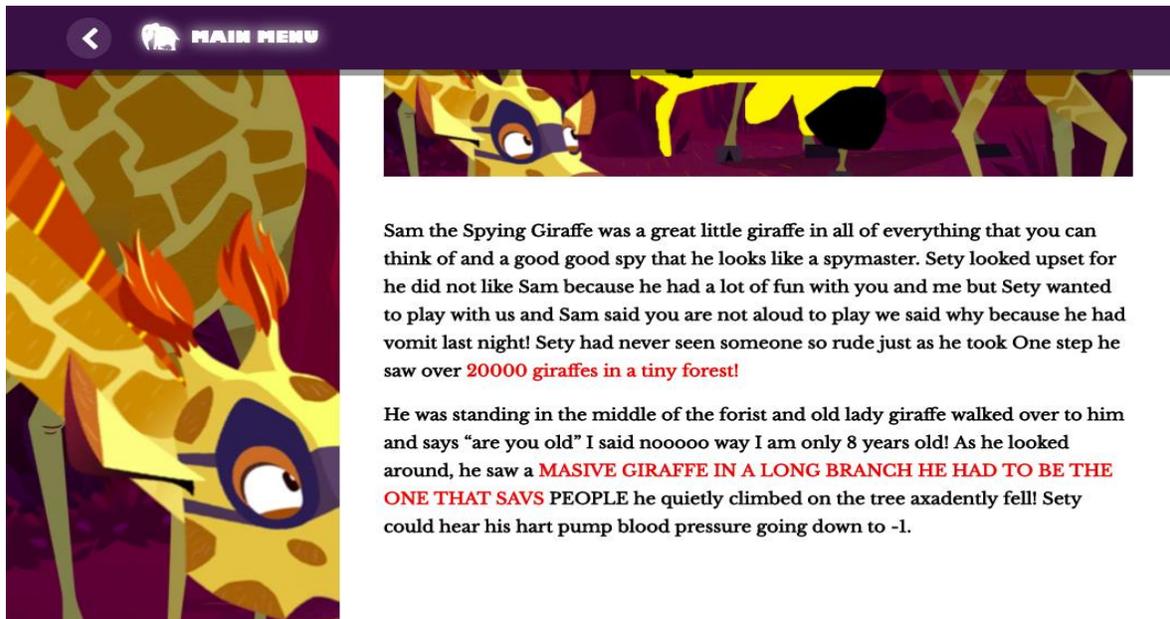
By Amelia Bingham

It wouldn't hurt to ask
When am struggling with a task,
If my brother's being a thug,
It wouldn't hurt to hug,
If my friend's a meter away
It wouldn't hurt to just say, "Hey!"
If someone is coming my way,
It wouldn't hurt to just run away,
(they would probably like it anyway),

If my little brother yelps,
It wouldn't hurt to help,
If I could fly up high
It wouldn't hurt to try,
If I was having the blues,
It wouldn't hurt to try something new,
If something did go wrong,
It wouldn't hurt to sing a song,

So, my best lockdown advice to you
Is learn to ask, and then, to do!

Lucky Mrs Bradley has also received an invitation to go tractor driving from the author of this stunning piece of work:



The screenshot shows a digital interface with a dark purple header containing a back arrow, a giraffe icon, and the text 'MAIN MENU'. Below the header is a large illustration of a giraffe with a blue mask and a yellow and orange flame-like mane. To the right of the illustration is a text box with a white background and a dark purple border. The text in the box is a story about a giraffe named Sam the Spying Giraffe.

Sam the Spying Giraffe was a great little giraffe in all of everything that you can think of and a good good spy that he looks like a spymaster. Sety looked upset for he did not like Sam because he had a lot of fun with you and me but Sety wanted to play with us and Sam said you are not aloud to play we said why because he had vomit last night! Sety had never seen someone so rude just as he took One step he saw over **20000 giraffes in a tiny forest!**

He was standing in the middle of the forist and old lady giraffe walked over to him and says "are you old" I said nooooo way I am only 8 years old! As he looked around, he saw a **MASIVE GIRAFFE IN A LONG BRANCH HE HAD TO BE THE ONE THAT SAVS PEOPLE** he quietly climbed on the tree axadently fell! Sety could hear his hart pump blood pressure going down to -1.

Lastly, thank you for the positive and encouraging comments from viewers of last Sunday's Christ Church Live Service. How blessed we are to be supported by their prayers and care. Thank you to Celeste and to the whole team.

Have a good week ahead. Keep safe everyone. You are important to us!

With my very best wishes

Louise Yarwood

Mrs Louise Yarwood