

Dear my 31 wonderful superstars,

I hope that in these strange times you and your families are doing ok! I know things are very different and that might make things difficult or make you feel sad but I wanted to remind you of how awesome each and every one of you are and to remind you to try and find positives to focus on. I hope that spending lots of time with your family means more movie nights, craft days bike rides or even more cuddles (I know that my cats have had 1000 times more cuddles than normal and it helps to make me happy although, I'm not sure how they feel about it!). I've been spending some of my time getting back into things I used to love but often had no time to practice like drawing, yoga, running and looking into indoor plants so I can add to my mini jungle. But, whatever makes you smile, try and do a bit of that whether it is doing cartwheels, kicking and throwing a ball around, painting, building lego castles or even, dare I say it, playing RoBlox (although not all the time – your eyes will turn square and your brain will go mushy!).

I have also seen that a lot of you have done the online learning which is brilliant so thank you for having a go and listening to me and your parents! Remember – your parents want the best for you so make sure you are being as kind and polite as you would at school as they are probably finding all this just as weird and scary as you are! So give them a big hug, make them their favourite breakfast or tell them a joke to make them smile.

I thought I'd tell you a few things that I have been up to! So a few weeks ago it was my birthday and that was fun. My mum had a cake dropped off outside my door for me in a huge cardboard box. It was the first time she had baked anything in over 10 years and it was the nicest chocolate cake I had ever eaten! I have been out on a walk or run everyday. Luckily, I have Darley Park on my doorstep (for which I am very grateful) so I don't mind not having a garden. I know I've seen a few of you biking, walking, scooting or running around there! Also, I have been planning for my house move! Unfortunately, everything with that is on pause for now but that's ok as it means I have more time to look into what we are going to do to the house when we move in. I'm thinking of turning it into a jungle with house plants, cool jungle wall paper (not everywhere of course) and lots of funky patterns and candles. Although I have quite a bit of compromising to do with Charley I think as we have very different styles! I have also been doing bits to help others where I can and if any of you have any questions or worries I am happy to help and I'm here to listen. Email the school office ([admin@markeaton.derby.sch.uk](mailto:admin@markeaton.derby.sch.uk)) and I will get in contact!

I hope that soon we can be all back together again and have a huge celebration that will involve dancing until our socks fly off and laughing until our bellies ache. Until then, I hope you all take care of yourselves and help look out for your families too.

Keep smiling.

Keep laughing.

Keep being brilliant.

Speak to you soon!

Miss Hughes