

TIME CAPSULE

Dear future me!



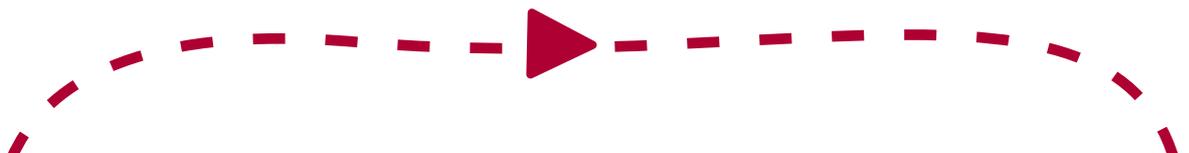
Hello small Kate, you would have never have guessed what is going on in the world right now! I am writing to you to tell you all about a global pandemic that we are currently in which was caused by a horrible virus called COVID-19, and to tell you what you are getting up to now!

First of all, let me tell you a little bit about this scary virus. Sadly, because it is very infectious and dangerous to lots of people, we had to go into a lockdown! This was a very scary time as you weren't able to see your friends or your family. This has meant that a lot of things have changed for some people, and we are looking at a new way of normal for living as sadly there is no cure for the spread of the virus yet. As you may be thinking, this has meant that some people have sadly not been able to work through this terrible time. However, you are very lucky as you are now a primary school teacher and you have been very important in continuing to teach children through the pandemic!

You must be thinking; how can children still be going to school if you aren't allowed outside? Just like everything else, school now looks a lot different for children. As we weren't allowed into school as it wasn't safe to see each other, we have been doing lots of online teaching to children in their homes! This has been slightly funny and unusual – can you imagine being taught by your teacher over webcam whilst you were sat in your kitchen?! This meant that children didn't miss out on their learning and were able to complete it at home. Lots of children also realised that their teachers actually don't live at school, and get to go home as well! This has also meant that lots of Mummy's and Daddy's have had to try and help teach their children as well – everyone has pulled together!

There have been some children who haven't been back to school since March, which was when England first went into lockdown. Yes, this means that they will have had 6 whole months away from school by the time we go back after summer!! This may sound amazing at first, but children have been really missing being able to play with their friends and being able to see their teachers every day. When we go back to school in September, we are hoping that every child is going to be able to return to school, which is really exciting as we haven't seen them for such a long time!

However, school will look a little bit different now...in order for everyone to stay safe we have to 'social distance', which means not getting too close to each other. In the classroom, each child sits at a desk that is 2m apart from somebody else. This has been a little bit strange, but everyone is getting used to it. Our classes will also be known as 'bubbles'. The way we see it is that we are one bubble together and we don't want to go too close to somebody else's bubble as it may pop! So, to keep safe we must stay in our own bubble and be very cautious that our bubble doesn't pop and nobody else's does either! This means that our bubble will stay on their own all day, and have their own designated play area so that we don't mix with anyone else. To also help us stay safe, we are washing our hands much more frequently, for example every time before we go out to playtime and when we come back inside. Everyone has been very good at doing this and we all understand how important it is to keep us safe; people even sing 'Happy Birthday' twice to make sure they are getting rid of those nasty germs properly!



Because of COVID, it has been lovely to see all of the different hobbies that people have taken up or are practicing. When I speak to the children in my class, many of them have been doing lots of baking, going on long bike rides with their families, learning a new language, or making a space rocket! Although it has been a worrying and uncertain time, I think it has made lots of people appreciate what we have a little bit more, which is very important! I definitely know that I really missed seeing my friends and family, and I even missed going into school to be a teacher! This is your dream job - do you remember when you used to line up your teddies and make your own register to play schools with? Grandpa says you used to be very bossy (maybe you still are), but make sure you carry on playing those games as it will become true one day, so best to get your practice in!

Lockdown is easing slightly now, meaning that schools will re-open for everyone after the summer holidays and everyone can see each other, in a safe manner. I'm sure life will very quickly go back to being very busy, but I will try to remember how much I appreciate being able to do the things I love. I am very excited to meet my class in September and see what the year brings us – making sure first that we carry on to stay safe!

Time for me to go now – keep enjoying being young and try your best at everything! Keep playing your teacher games as you will love being a real teacher one day.

From,
Kate

