

Mr Leaver's Lockdown (Part 1)

About you

How long have you been in lockdown so far? About 13 weeks.

Can you remember your first thought when you heard schools were closing? Were you thrilled? Concerned? Frightened? Why?

I was quite puzzled, wondering how everything was going to work with school and childcare. Also quite paranoid - at the beginning of lockdown, we used to check our temperatures several times a day! I expected school to be open again after a few weeks.

Have your feelings changed at all? Yes, it has become "normal" to work from home while looking after a toddler! In the last couple of weeks I have also been a Year 6 teacher at school. It has been encouraging to see how well the children are coping with all the cleaning rituals and social distancing we have to do now; also, amazing to see how far they've come since I taught them as Year 4s two years ago!



Cleaning supplies

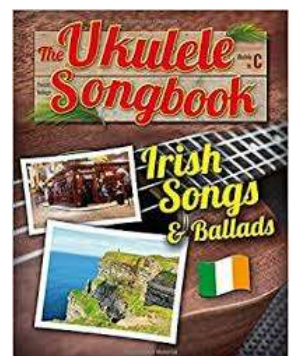


A bendy panorama of what Herons looks like now

What do you miss about normal life? All the face-to-face interactions with people at school; playing music in groups; singing in my choir; Football Club; going to the soft play place with my son and using him as an excuse to go on all the equipment; street food at Norwich Market; the Millennium Library; seeing my wider family; going to the beach on a sudden whim. Loads more, too, but those are the first things that jump to mind.

What don't you miss? Only seeing my son for a few hours on weekdays.

Have you learnt anything new since being in lockdown? Have you developed an interest you didn't have before? I have learned most of the songs from this book and am working on reading the sheet

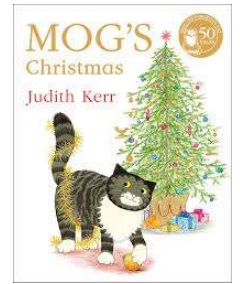


music alongside the ukulele tablature. I have been able to listen to a lot more music than I usually would.

Have you learnt anything about yourself? For example, do you find you are more tolerant than you thought? Or more easily bored? A talented singer?

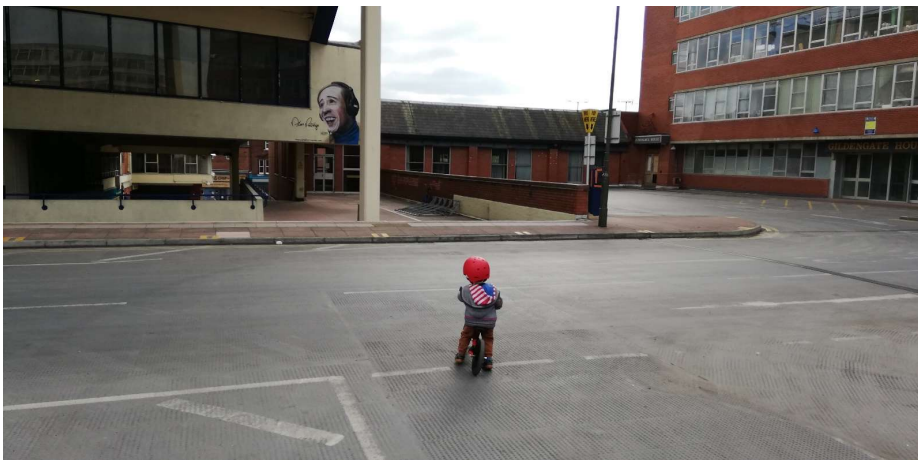


I have learned that I can tolerate reading Christmas books in June and watching Frozen at least once a day.



What has been your favourite moment in lockdown so far?

The moment my son suddenly decided to have a go on his balance bike after ignoring it since getting it for his birthday in January. He has been out on it every day of lockdown!



And your least favourite? When my granny died of covid-19. This is one of the photos we displayed at her funeral.



About those around you

How has your family reacted to being in lockdown? Very mixed. It suits some of my family members to be at home, but others are going completely stir-crazy – like my mum, who lives alone, and my nephew who is missing football (both NCFC and his under 9s team) dreadfully. My youngest sister was very frustrated because she was just about to start a new job when lockdown began. This must be what it's like for a lot of families.

Have you learnt anything about your family that you didn't know before?



Yes. I've noticed that my son is the exact spitting image of my mum at that age.



Have you begun to do things with your family that you haven't done before? If so, what? Daily bike rides, gardening.