

Pastoral News

We would like to share our Lockdown experiences with you before we eventually get back to normal!!!!

Message from Mrs Smith Designated Safeguarding Lead

During lockdown, I've been up to all sorts! I've finally had time to keep up my streaks on snap-chat, my 14 year old niece, is very proud of me!



I've also been learning Spanish. I'm much better reading it, than speaking it. I struggle with where to put the 'accents' or squiggles, over the letters.

Having the additional time, TikTok has consumed me for many an hour, or 3! I'm confident with at least 3 dances and try my best to keep up.

There have been good days and bad days. Times where I've cried and others where I've been thankful of 'family FaceTime'. Thank goodness for technology, so I get to see those who matter most to me. I've been lucky enough to have not been poorly throughout this pandemic. My close family and friends have been impacted in different ways, yet we have pulled together and a spent many an hour or 2, talking through our feelings, laughing and crying. I've been in school, yet have spent lots of time at home with Perrie, (my labrador). We have been on plenty of adventures, got soaked and muddy too!

Friday nights are usually quiz nights, shout out to Mr Weaver, he is a pretty good quiz master and love to hear him sing (badly), during the music round.

Hoping you have all kept safe and have been kind to your families. Really looking forward to seeing you, when we return to school in the Autumn. Until then, be good and take care. Mrs S x



What can I say, lockdown has been unusual but I am really pleased I have found a new hobby. I have taken a liking to gardening! Yes Miss Parrino, Gardening!! This is not something I have ever really been interested in as I am normally always shopping. I have planted lots of tomatoes, herbs and a strawberry plant. I am definitely looking forward to summer when I can eat them all!! 🍅🍇🌿 I have also brought some succulents which I am planning on expanding the collection. They are so easy to look after and look really good!!

I am sure I am not the only one but I have been eating lots and lots. Alongside, this comes cooking and washing up. But here are a few cooking with Miss P pictures.

I hope you and your family continue to remain safe and well. What a strange time it has been for us all; definitely history which we can look back on.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon. Have an amazing summer and of course stay safe.

Take care,

Miss Parrino 🌈



Hello from Mrs Hughes

Hope you all have been ok in this strange time. I have missed you and our chats we have.

I've been keeping busy working from home (making phone calls in my pjarmas some days lol 😊)

I've also been studying while at home. I've completed 2 courses and need to finish 1 more. Might try and fit in 1 more over the summer holidays to keep myself busy. It has been difficult at times to keep myself motivated but after a rest break, I get back to it and plough through another hour.

I've been looking after my mental health and well-being by listening to music, going for walks, baking cakes 🍰😊 and I have started crafting - making cards and some paper based things (lets just say I'm trying as I'm not artistic at all !)

I've missed my eldest son loads during lockdown, he lives in Manchester and he's been working from home. Cant wait to see him to give him a big hug. Luckily I have my youngest son who is still at home to keep me company. He has just left school so he didn't take his GCSE exams this year which has been very strange. He will get his results August like some of you.

Fingers crossed year 11's get the results they want and need.

Can't wait to see you all again.

Keep safe over the summer.

See you soon.

Mrs Hughes.



Bonjourno everyone and particularly to Year 8,

Hope you're all doing well!

I didn't think that I would be sitting here on a Thursday evening in July watching Man City play the champions of England. I shall not even bother mentioning they're name as it pains me too much. However, I am excited by how my beloved Red Devils have returned after the break and hoping for that top 4 finish and a couple of cups along the way. I was hoping that I would be watching Euro 2020 and have been talking to everyone about my trip to Wembley to watch the Round of 16 match however, it wasn't meant to be.

So you maybe wondering what I have been getting up to during lockdown. To be honest, most days I have been getting up at 9am, switching on my laptop and working away. Usually still in my pyjamas until about 4pm and trying to remember whether I had brushed my teeth or not. I've done a few things on Photoshop and also recorded some videos for some school challenges in addition to catching up with emails, making phone calls and uploading lots of work for my groups to do on Google Classrooms.

This time at home has allowed me to develop a few more skills. For those of you that may know me well, I am not particularly great at cooking, so I have had a go at making a few curries and have just finished eating a Cheese Philly Steak Pasta meal which seemed to go down quite well with the family. Also, as I've not been able to play 5-a-side, in preparation for when I can eventually play, I've been running a 5k on a few occasions, when the weather has been good, topping up my natural tan in the process. I also tried doing home workouts with some success but even after a time I started missing the gym. In addition, as I am sure most of the lads reading this have, spent quite a bit of time playing FIFA 20 and working my way to Division 3 on Seasons before deciding I was bored. I even had to school a few members of the Pastoral Team (no names... Mr Hind and Mr Johns) along the way.

What this time in lockdown has taught me to do is appreciate the time that I have with my family. Unfortunately before and during lockdown I have lost my cousin and grandad. So it has taught me, especially with my cousin that I should enjoy every moment that I have with my family and make the most of every-day. You just simply don't know what can happen tomorrow. So I hope that when you have started to see extended family members that you have given them massive hugs and that you are making lots of memories with those nearest and dearest to you. I offer my deepest and sincerest condolences to you and your family if you have lost loved ones during this time.

So to finish off, I know that this time is strange for everyone and there is still a lot of unknowns. I am hoping that I will get to see you all hopefully in September. I didn't think that I would miss you but the fact is that I do, in particular my Year 8s. So I am excited to see you all and hear about what you have been getting up to as well as seeing you get your heads down and working hard and hopefully appreciating your classmates and teachers and realising how lucky you are. Make the most of the time that we have until we return and I shall see you soon.

Take care,

Mr Lally



So mid-March we left Coppice, all fairly happy at the news schools were closing and we were getting some 'bonus' holiday time. Whoever would have envisaged what lay ahead? People fighting over toilet rolls, shops and pubs all closing, standing in the street clapping on a Thursday night, Liverpool winning the league and Tik Tok (although I still don't really know what that is). Now 15 weeks later, I am sat at home desperate for a return to 'normal': a return to our noisy corridors, a return to having to say 'tuck your shirt in', 'sort your tie out', 'why are you late?' and a return to seeing even our most annoying students. How very different the 15 weeks have been. Never in my life time (and I am very old) have I experienced a period of time like it. On the positive side, though, year 9 haven't received a single behaviour point, although I bet parents have been tempted to give a few out ...

So what have I done in this lockdown? Well, it all started so well, staying in a good routine of getting up early, healthy eating and good habits. But how hard is it to keep that going? So hard to live a life without any clear structure, hard to drag myself away from Netflix or my Xbox. How hard was it to cope without football on the TV? And, when it finally did return, how even more weird watching it without a crowd. I have developed into a sofa teacher, where I seem to spend everyday sitting staring at a laptop screen sending endless emails and checking in on Google classroom. It has made me realise how much I miss the classroom 'banter' and the micky-taking – mainly by me – on a daily basis. It's just not the same sitting on your own and trying to do it by email. I have appreciated the many emails off students asking if I'm ok, and checking in with me regularly: you will never know how much they have meant to me...and even made me smile.

During my lockdown time, I have turned my hand to playing lots of golf, cooking, and also learning how to grow stuff in the garden. Just realised that makes me sound very old! My golf days have been ruined by an injury to my wrist...many of you who have been in school recently will have seen the impressive cast I have to wear. The gardening seems to be going well: much to the amusement of the PE department, I am growing tomatoes, potatoes, onions and rhubarb. I've taught myself to make rhubarb crumble and even turned my hand at making home-made naan breads.

It has been a very rewarding time to be able to spend so much time with my daughter, although I am sure she is now fed up of spending so much time with her mum and dad. Like a good many of you at home with parents, it can get very stressful – you, trying your best to do your lessons, and all they seem to do is nag. Just remember, they have been worried and stressed too. These are indeed very strange and weird times...but we will be back and we will return to normal. I look forward to our return in September, no matter how different how that will look. I look forward to seeing all our students and staff and I look forward to hearing your stories about your lockdown experiences. Stay safe, please be careful and be kind to all those around you.

Mr Dodd



I went for a 3 mile walk daily first thing of a morning and sometimes in the evening.

Needed that exercise as the 1lbs were piling on 🐻

In April I had a milestone birthday party planned with friends and family, ♡ well it didn't happen 😞, I was gutted as I wanted to celebrate my 40th again lolol 😊

So after taking a month to get over no party 🍷🍷🍷

I took to doing the garden and I am quite pleased with what I have done.

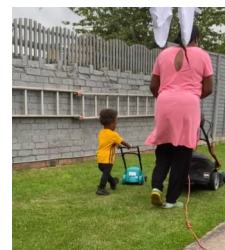
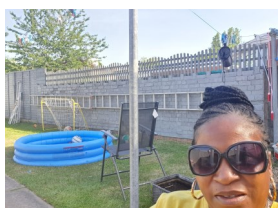
I now cut the grass weekly and even got myself an apprentice as I need the help.

I have absolutely enjoyed spending so much time with this little man everyday.

Where would we be without family ♡ Technology is the best being able to face time and video call with as many as 4 households at times even though I was able to see my family regularly I was happy to video call friends too..

Well I am really looking forward to seeing you guys in September and missed you all.

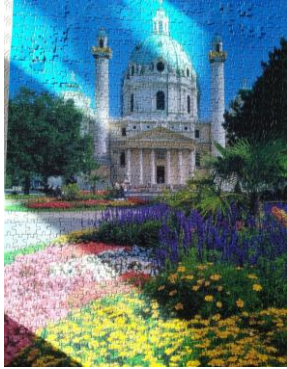
Coppice family



Bread Making and Baking



Jigsaws and Reading



Mrs Rhodes Lockdown

Face timing friends and family
– many hours explaining the technical stuff to elderly parents, who insist on showing us their carpet instead of faces!!



Watching the TV especially holiday programmes and dreaming



Looking at videos, pictures and talking to my grandson



Games and Quiz nights with school, friends, and family



Moon and star watching – pink moon



VE celebrations with a socially distanced street party



Garden meets with my parents in the front garden, socially distanced



Queueing for shopping



Celebrating birthdays



Decorating



Walking and looking after the dogs



Hi all

Well where do I start ?

When this lock down began I never thought how much I was going to miss you all and Although I have been in contact with a lot of you it is still not the same as being face to face meetings.

Although on the upside to this I can now (face time) and do zoom meetings which I had never had to do before lock down.

It as been fantastic at times having all the adults and grand children face timing and having some strange conversations with people speaking at the same time. And if one of us was feeling down or not getting positive vibes then the rest of us came on line and cheered them up, On top of this no matter where the family go then Wolfie our pet dog comes along as well and he brings joy no matter where we are.

Before lock down I was doing over 12,00 steps a day so when school had to close I dusted off the exercise bike and started to use daily for 30 minutes and I now do 12 kilometres each day and have set myself a goal of 20 kilometres each day by Christmas.

As much as I love being with my family, Lets get the coppice family back together ! so Stay Safe and Take Care and see you all soon .

MR Holdcroft



Yes Yes Coppice Gang,

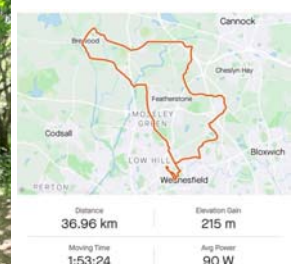
During Lockdown I've spent many hours of it in the Gulag 😞. I've been doing 5k Runs and long distance bike rides, my first bike ride didn't go down well I brought a second Hand Bike and within 15 minutes of riding it my back wheel come off 😊 to add to the shame I was spotted by the year 10s 😞. A new bike later I'm finally on the roads again 🚲👊.

Best thing about lockdown is I've got to spend a lot of time with my daughter who turned one in April, she's started walking and climbing now which has officially made me retire the word "chillers" as I'm always chasing her. But getting to see the growth has been the best thing for me especially as you may never get to spend as much time again with your loved ones ❤️👊.

Lockdown has been made a lot of easier with the return of football and for first time in my life I'm going to see my team Liverpool win the league ⚽👊100

But Coppice Gang hopefully autumn we're back for another year, everyone stay safe and I'll see you soon 🙌👊

Mr Jones



Hi Me Little Chickens!!!!

I have to say I have quite enjoyed lockdown as it has given me the chance to do some things that I wouldn't usually do.

I have had to do my own decorating which is unusual as my dad usually does it for me.

My garden has become my favourite pastime and I have really enjoyed the hot weather whilst painting my fence and sheds!!!! I have planted LOADS of plants, flowers and shrubs so I can't wait for them all to grow and mature.

I have read 24 books and completed a few courses on mental health, bereavement and safeguarding. Disney+ and Netflix have also helped when I haven't been reading!

The hardest thing for me is not being able to give my daughter a kiss due to her being a sister at New Cross. Because she lives on her own and is not part of our household, we have had to keep each other safe and stay away. I am so relieved that the restrictions have now been lifted and we are allowed to spend time with each other. She has been amazing throughout the pandemic and I am very proud of her and her colleagues.

I have kept my steps up by walking with my son but can't wait to start my laps of the school with all you guys in it!!

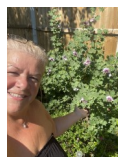
I've missed Cineworld, my caravan in Wales and celebrating my Mom and dad's special anniversary but we did have a social distance garden party on the drive of their house.

I am really gutted for my year 11 who didn't get to have the send off they so deserved, but we will have our Christmas Ball to look forward to!!!!!!

I now look forward to working with Mr Dodd and the new year 11.

Take care for now and I will see you all in September

Mrs Mac xx



The strangeness of lockdown

These past few months have been the strangest of not only my teaching career but my lifetime.

I have missed the Coppice atmosphere and seeing everyone. Being in school when it's so empty is just not the same.

I have felt desperately sad about Yr 11 and how their year ended so abruptly.

I have felt anxious about my family and especially my Mum and Dad who don't live near Wolverhampton. None of my family do. I have really missed them.

I have felt a real sadness for everyone who has suffered in so many ways during this time. Life can be very cruel.

I have felt a pride in all the key workers who have continued to work throughout lockdown. They are amazing.

I made sure we were there, outside every Thursday at 8pm to applaud the NHS.

I have learnt how to use Google classroom.

I have really loved getting emails from Coppice students...however brief and random!

I have made the most of being with my family at home. Normally we are never in together. This has been a very positive thing.

I have made sure I say "Hello" to people and show kindness. People have become more friendly. Don't stop this. Be kind.

I have cut hair. (Not my own though #lockdownhair!)

I have exercised every day. This helps my mental health a lot.

I have taken photos during lockdown to show remember the changes and our "new normals".

I have tried to take positives from this experience and hope it makes people more aware of their surroundings and what they are actually capable of.

I hope we can all appreciate what we have

Take care and see you in September.

Miss McKenna