



April 2020

To my little Earthlings,

How are you? I have been thinking about you all while I have been at home so I wanted to check in with you and tell you what I have been up to.

Like everyone else, I have been at home every day following the new rules the government are setting for us. You should make sure you are doing the same and together, we can help stop the spread of Covid-19. There are some aspects of staying home that I am really enjoying. I can sleep in a little bit every morning, I can stay in my comfy clothes all day and I have cups of tea whenever I feel like it. I have been trying to stay busy. I am going for a walk or run every day, I am trying to read a book each week (this week I am reading an amazing book called From Scratch about a family that goes on holiday to Sicily) and I am using an app, Leap Second, to record a one-second video each day. When this is all over, I will be able to share my Leap Second video diary of what I have been doing. I am still doing schoolwork as well. Ms. Collinson and I are busy preparing your next home learning packs.

You have all made such wonderful progress this year so I hope you are setting some time aside to complete some of your home learning packs. Maths and English are very important but make sure you are also doing some of the creative, mindfulness and PE activities as well. I wonder how many of you are still using Reading Buddy and Times Table Rock Stars? I am still checking engagement levels and I am thinking about setting up a teacher versus students tournament on Rock Stars after the Easter break.

I am so incredibly proud of you all and everything that you have achieved both individually and as a class. We created an incredible review of Oliver Twist for the Litfilm Festival, learnt about forces at the Science Museum, saw the Bee in Me at Unicorn Theatre, baked a delicious Victorian sponge cake and held some real moon rocks! One of the reasons I am most proud of everyone in year five, is because of the new way we teach and learn maths. All of year 5 have fully embraced the challenge of Maths Mastery and now use amazing vocabulary when discussing your learning and regularly complete reasoning and problem solving questions. Thank you for your hard work and making it such a success! Ms. Collinson, Mrs Nicholas and I are so proud of you all.

Some of you are probably wondering about all the fun things that we had planned for the second half of year 5. Things like: our trip to Pizza Express and Kew Gardens, the Summer Fair, Sports Day and who would go to Michael Flanders in Summer Term. I really hope that we get through this quickly and that we can all return to Derwentwater again very soon.

This is such an unusual time so it is normal to have worries and concerns. When I am feeling sad or worried, I talk to my family and friends. I am face timing my mum and dad every second day and once a week I face time my younger brother who puts little Hudson on (he is growing so big and still so cute). My older brother and I talk as well; he and his wife are also staying home everyday in New York. If you are feeling sad or worried make sure you speak to an adult in your home.

I will be in touch again soon. Please continue to follow the new rules because it is keeping all of us safe. Enjoy your time at home!

Miss Ashton 😊