Family Lockdown

It has been the strangest of times, not without its challenges, but not without its silver linings either. We have enjoyed getting to know our community better and looked forward to seeing our neighbours on the streets every Thursday night. We have been beyond grateful to have this beautiful countryside on our doorstep and tried to make the most of our one hour of outdoor exercise per day. We feel so lucky to live here and so fortunate in so many ways during these unusual times.

The prospect of being promoted to teacher filled me with horror, especially with a one year old in tow and the older two having differing requirements. I have experience of teaching, albeit to a very different audience and in a different set of circumstances. My children did not take kindly to being treated like Army soldiers. We have also learnt that home schooling and working from home are mutually exclusive activities. The two just do not mix.

But we have found our way. The support from our local school has been outstanding. They have kept us informed every step of the way and have provided many teaching resources. The most helpful and reassuring message was one letting us know that all activities are optional and there have been no deadlines for completion of any of the work. Maintaining realistic expectations and standards has proven the key to maintaining my sanity.

We have adapted to our new normal in many ways, learning to find satisfaction and joy in small things. The garden has become the most important space in our lives during the stunning and timely sunny weather. This opportunity to spend so much time with all three of our children together will almost certainly never be repeated. Our youngest will be bereft when the older two eventually return to regular school and I have loved having them at home. We have discovered new priorities and favourites now that the old ones have been removed. Health and happiness are paramount. We are grateful for both, when so many can't say the same.

Chloe Eriksen