



To the wonderful of

You continue to 'Wow' me with your great connection with school through your response to the work that has been sent to you by your fabulous teachers, by the photographs, singing and writing that you and your parents are emailing to us! Thank you so much. You have made me cry! It is important to stay connected with other people even though we seem so far apart and for the best reason-to keep ourselves and our families safe.

We have been working hard to keep in contact with you and as you know Mr Conway, Miss Fenwick, Miss Doughty and I have all been writing to you. Your teachers and teaching assistants have been talking to you on the phone and you may have even seen some of them as they are helping people in our community! You might have also spotted Mr and Mrs Nixon around Hebburn in our school minibus delivering various things to different people! In fact lots of our staff have been out and about in Hebburn doing some amazing work. Mrs James has been sharing some excellent ideas for you to try out at home via the 'Keeping Emotionally Healthy' section of the website. Don't forget to keep looking at our school website as it is packed full of ideas.

Last time I wrote to you I included lots of pictures just like you do when you are thinking and talking about what you are going to write. I know this helps you to gather your thoughts before you put pen to paper. As you know, one of the things that we have asked you to do is to contribute to our *Living History Project*. The reason we are doing this, alongside all our other fantastic projects, is because we think it is important that you make your mark in history. That means that this is a time in your life like never before and you can have a voice that lets people know, now and in the future, what you experienced at this time and how you felt about it.

Last week, those children who were at school wrote some poems. I have included Sophia's brilliant poem below as it paints a picture of what life is like now. I too wanted to write something down! I started by writing lots of sentences about what is happening in our world, how I felt about it and then rearranged them to fit together as best I could. You can read it at the end of this letter. Why don't you give it a try or draw some images like you do with your Talk for Writing as it might help. Don't forget to ask your parents or grandparents if they would like to send in a piece of writing. Good luck!

There are 3 ways of getting your work to us:

1. Email your entries to: livinghistory@st-alloysius.co.uk
2. Post them to: Living History St Aloysius RC School Argyle Street Hebburn NE311BQ
3. Pop them in the drop box which you will find in the Junior School car park.

Don't forget to include a little note telling us your name, age and whether you are a pupil/past pupil/parent/grandparent/community member.

Remember, you are all doing a  whether you are at  or at .

Look after yourselves and all the people in your family.

With love Mrs Godfrey x

St. Aloysius

Every day
Our teachers are ready without delay
English is so much fun
Especially when we do our work in the sun

Our school is a building of special finds
Alive with laughter and eager minds
The sounds of chatter would fill the air
Children with funny stories to share



But then a bolt from out of the blue
Descended upon us, a virus new!
Mr Conway knew just what must be done
To keep us all safe, each and every one.

But while on-line lessons were being done
The children were encouraged to play and have fun
Rainbows were painted to send a message so true.
For all key workers to say 'Thank you.'

Sophia, age 8 (April 2020)



A Time in our Lives

This is a time in our lives like no other before.
As a virus tried to break us, right through to our core.
It threw us off course, as we began the fight
Bringing questions and chaos, with no answers in sight.
Our world became different, our lives put on hold
Our homes became havens; no noise on the roads.
Pollution reduced; the Himalayas in view
The Olympics were cancelled; the London Marathon too.

Our European neighbours including Italy and Spain
Lost most of their freedom; forced to halter each plane.
It took us a while to realise the truth
What does it mean for our children, our youth?
Across our own country it became very clear
There was a nervous reaction; a great sense of fear.
We had to think differently, we began to see change,
The world of 'our normal' now distant and strange

It developed so quickly; it was hard to believe
Our beautiful children waving goodbye as they leave
Our school had to close, creating a silence for all
It broke all our hearts, as they left the school hall
St. Aloysius, our school, on the banks of the Tyne
Is a great place to be - all of the time.
So we kept our doors open as we needed to do
For key workers' children, all the way through.



We prepared parcels of food; there was a great need
Witnessed huge acts of kindness, through each generous deed
Amazing newsletters, full of learning and care
Were created by our teachers for all years to share.
The NHS we applauded each Thursday by our door
Remarkable people who gave more and more
Determined to battle, to conquer, to win.
To dispel this destruction, showing such courage within.

But we are made of strong stuff in Hebburn you know
Each small child's hand creates their rainbow.
As we moved from March, through April and May
People worked hard to keep this disease at bay
It tried to force us apart but had the opposite effect
It brought people together and made us reflect
Teaching 34 years in this wonderful place
Has taught me so much through each child's beautiful face.

We were frozen in time but hope is present to see
As we lay down our place in this current history
Spring coloured our land with pink, orange and yellow
A clear indication of the good that will follow.
It's a real privilege to work here and that is a fact
Our great love continues, shown in each tiny act,
The year of 2020 changed our lives through and through
But our hearts remain strong and our future does too.

Carole Godfrey May 2020

