

Dear Braddan Class,

I wanted to let you know that I am missing all of you. These are very different times for us, we should take comfort knowing we aren't the only ones experiencing this different way of living our lives right now. I'm sure your family is helping you to understand why not being at school right now is important, but you don't need to worry. All of us at Rushen are thinking about you and hope to see you all soon.

I was thinking about all the good times we shared and it really cheered me up. Do you remember when we were orienteering at Buchan School? That was a great trip as so many of you showed me your map reading and collaborative skills. I hope you still remember the words to your Viking assembly song and other songs Mrs Stewart has taught you. I smile when I remember when we decorated those biscuits with Christmas pictures, great fun, the amount of detail you managed to get on a small biscuit was fantastic!

Maybe if you think about and talk about the fantastic times we've had, you'll feel happy too. I am sure you are managing to communicate with your friends, even a short call or email can make all the difference.

I hope you are staying safe, remembering to wash your hands! Do you remember the song words that were created by members of our class to help with this?

I hope you had some fun over the Easter holidays, maybe had a chocolate egg or two! You know I love chocolate, way more than two were eaten here.

Enjoying the lovely weather has been very important to me, walking or cycling most days has made me feel brighter and refreshed (and tired as the distance cycled in an hour has been increasing, along with the number of hills found!). I have even been learning to name a few spring flowers along the way too. I am sure you have enjoyed getting out with your family, seeing parts of your local area that you sometimes don't get to see very often.

I have spent time in the garden and my allotment, digging and planting flowers and vegetables. Whilst having more time at home baking cakes has been a popular activity (I love eating), I have also had fun playing games with my family, even though I have been beaten many times at Monopoly, Snakes and Ladders and Guess Who!

I have been enjoying planning home learning for you. It's been very different planning challenges and activities for you to do at home. I hope you have found some things fun, some challenging, some interesting, some helpful in improving your learning. I know how creative some of you are, I bet there are some amazing rainbows out there in Port Erin.

I have found it quite difficult working in this way, but when I think about you all, I know it's worth it. I have had to learn a lot of ICT skills. Miss Smiley has been helping me. I have also had to think in a different way to normal when thinking about how to help you learn. I am still doing some teaching at home though!

Our theme for this term is about the environment and being an Eco Warrior! I hope you have been able to think about how we could help look after the environment whilst completing some of the learning activities. I have a large stack of recycling here to take when I can. I have also been reusing some resources to make some new toys with items too.

Don't worry if you're struggling to get much done right now. As long as you are trying your best, using your learning muscles and managing to read every day, that's all I ask. "Reading gives us a place to go when we are stuck where we are." I have this up in my front window. Spending time with your family is the most important thing. You will reflect back on this in the future and remember it.

I really miss you and can't wait to see you all again. Don't worry those of you in Year 6, we are communicating regularly with Castle Rushen staff to find ways to support you with the move there. I am hoping to see you all before then!

Best wishes and stay safe

Mrs Higgins

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1st May 2020

Dear Braddan Class

I know we only used to meet on Fridays, but I miss our Fridays together so much! This is a funny old time isn't it and I hope you are coping well with all the changes that are happening on our Island at the moment. Let's make the most of spending time at home and look forward to when we are all at school together again.

My two children were playing hide and seek in the garden the other day and it reminded me of the time you all taught me how to play that hiding game outside, as part of our Invaders and Raiders topic. Do you remember? However, I couldn't remember what it was called! Was it called Whizz? Forty Forty? You will have to remind me when I see you again!

Every time I hear the Matt Lucas Potato song on the radio, I think of you as I can imagine you enjoy it very much. Maybe I will teach myself how to play it on the guitar and we can have a sing song when we get back to school. I have been using some of my time at home to write some new songs for school, I can't wait to play them to you.

Did you have a fun Easter? I hope you all had some yummy chocolate eggs! We had an Easter egg hunt around our house that I unfortunately got a bit too competitive in and still can't find one of the mini eggs I hid! I am sure I will find a mouldy mini egg somewhere in a few months!! We also tried to make some Hot Cross Buns, but left them in the oven a bit too long, so they were rather crispy! I must remember to set a timer next time!

We planted some sunflower seeds the other day in our garden and so we have been very thankful for the rain we have had this week, as we can't wait to start seeing them grow! We also made some bird feeders and bird food to hang in the garden, it was really easy. You just mix lard with seeds (a bit messy) and

squish it into a cleaned-out yoghurt pot and then hang them on a fence. We have had lots of new birds visiting us, which we have been trying to identify and match up to pictures in books and on the internet. Maybe you could have a go too and we can see if we have any of the same birds in the garden!

Have you been practising your spellings? Sometimes it's tricky working at home, as there can be lots of distractions, especially if you have siblings. Just try your best and keep reading lots of books, you can't go wrong if you keep reading. I am reading a book about the history of the Isle of Man at the moment and also a book about a lady who runs an ice-cream shop in Cornwall. I wonder what are you reading?

Keep smiling your lovely smiles and I can't wait to see you all again.

Mrs Stewart