

*-Hey team,*

Who'd have thought it would have been three weeks since I'd seen you all and it wasn't holiday time?! I really hope you are all staying safe and healthy. It dawned on me this morning (Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> Apr) that we are living through history. Never before has the world seen something like this. Nothing has impacted the lives of the whole world on this level before. I chatted to my grandparents last week. They are old enough to remember living through WW2 and they said that even that life through the war wasn't like this. Yes, they had to have rations on food, but they could still play out, they could still see friends and family, they weren't isolated like we are now. You'll be able to tell future generations how you were alive for the Coronavirus Pandemic 2020! Life is really weird right now isn't it?!

I thought I'd share some of what I've been up to since I've been in isolation. I'm doing my part. Because I've got asthma, Michelle doesn't want me leaving the house unless it's really essential, so the only time I'm now leaving home is to do my daily exercise. I decided that since I wasn't going to have my ride to school every day that I'd try to cycle a bit more often. So I've started doing all or part of the Guild Wheel as my daily exercise. I start at home then get onto the wheel near UCLAN then (if it's a shorter ride - about 10 miles) I ride round to near ASDA, then through Sherwood, past Archbishop, past St Cuthbert's church, then to Lane Ends and back home. Those sort of rides take me about 40 minutes. I put some music on then I'm in my own little world. But when I decide to do the Guild Wheel (which is about twice a week) I'm trying to improve my times each time I do it. I make sure I've got plenty of water and my inhaler, I put my music on then I'm off. In total it's 23 miles and I've managed to get down to 1hr35m16s! It gives me such a rush riding along the canal on the way back with less than two miles to go trying to hunt down my time and beat it! I really hope you're all able to get out and do some sort of safe exercise with your family.

Because I have asthma, I've not been in school helping with those who are on the front line. I want to give a massive shout out to all our teachers who have been in school caring for the children of key workers. It has been really strange not being in school, but some sort of school life still carrying on. I really hope you've been enjoying some of the home tasks I set you. Look out for more after the official Easter holidays. I'm going to have a regular TTRS challenge battle session. Starting on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, at 9am, there will be a weekly battle where you all can see if you can outscore me!

A few of you have sent in things you've been up to. I've had a really cool Stop Motion Easter story using Lego; a Powerpoint about the rainforest habitat; and a lovely letter that one of you sent to an elderly neighbour along with some chocolate! Please continue to send things in. It really does make my day when I get something through. Just a reminder my email is [d.bateman@leacofe.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:d.bateman@leacofe.lancs.sch.uk)

Other things I've been up to is been landscaping my garden. There are some really tall trees at the bottom of the garden. I've started cutting them down and digging them

out. It's a lot of sweat, tears (and occasionally) blood! It's a good project to keep my mind busy from being at home all the time. I've got a bit of a system going with cutting down the greenery, chopping up branches then sawing up logs. Our wood store is getting very healthily stocked for next winter (I mean winter 2021!) I'm just keeping going, so that when we eventually decide to do what we want to down there, we can just get straight on with it.

It's taken a bit of adjusting to life at home. Michelle's work load has massively ramped up. She works for church as a part-time administrator. But with the lockdown, she's been busy setting up YouTube channels, producing service sheets, organising the church website. It's been really strange to carry on doing church life but on screens. We've been watching Sunday morning services on YouTube, then doing other smaller apps on Zoom. It's a video conferencing app. I've had a look at their shares and they are making so much money right now!

I went to a family wedding on the Saturday before the official Lockdown order. It was my sister-in-law's wedding and it was strange because it was only family and now friends. I ended up helping my brother-in-law in the kitchen as his 'sous-chef'. It gave me a bit of a desire to start cooking again. So I've started cooking more of our teas and researching different cooking techniques. Last night, I cooked a Bhuna curry with pilau rice - all from scratch, I'm hoping that I come out of lockdown a better chef.

Michelle and I have been doing some jigsaws, playing music together, video chatting with our friends (we try to 'see' someone every day) and doing a pub quiz. I now run one with our friends over Zoom every Saturday evening. It's been good for me to learn new things and create something fun for us all to join in with. I call it socialising at a distance.

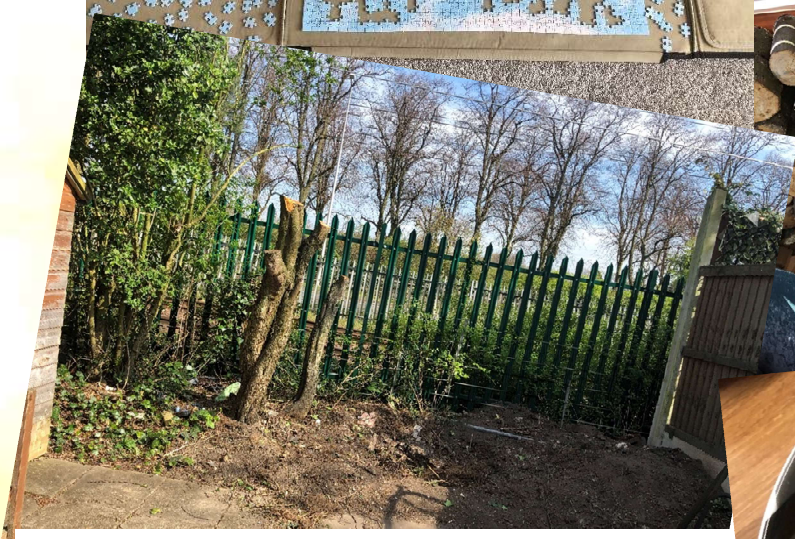
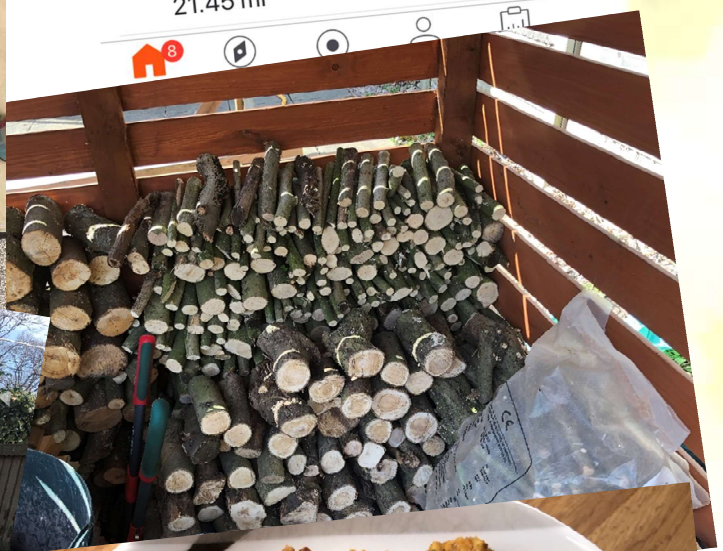
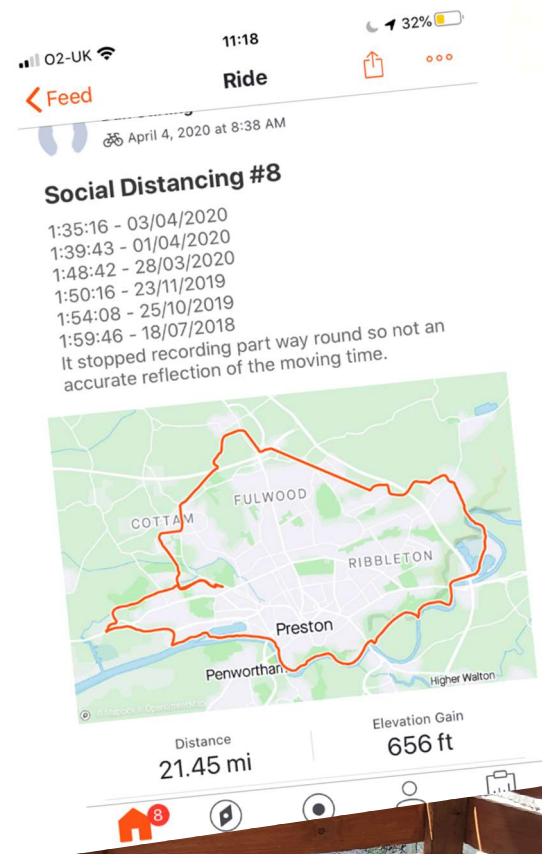
I've tried to keep my brain busy so I don't get bored. Something I've enjoyed doing is watching some live Science classes with Mark Rober (the NASA egg-drop guy). We've looked at him in class and he's running an online class on Youtube. I've learned so much and had my mental model of the world updated so I can now appreciate why the sky is blue, how astronauts weigh themselves and what happens when you fart!

I hope you've enjoyed reading about what I've been doing. If you want to write back, I'd really love to hear from you all and what you've been up to. You can email the letter through to my email ([d.bateman@leacofe.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:d.bateman@leacofe.lancs.sch.uk)) I've attached some photos showing you what I've been up to.

*Stay safe everyone. Much love.*

Mr B





Top left: At my sister-in-law's wedding

Top right: My most recent bike ride. A personal best

Mid left: Where I've got to on the jigsaw

Mid right: What our wood store looks like now!

Bottom left: All the trees I've dug out

Bottom right: The curry I cooked