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***By Sinéad Traynor***

I’ve been spending the last few weeks at home. I haven’t got chicken pocks or the flu (if that’s what you’re thinking). It’s because of COVID-19. COVID-19 is a type of coronavirus which is an illness that affects your lungs. COVID-19 can spread really quickly and you could possibly die from it. Elderly and vulnerable people are most at risk. In order to stop the spread, the government has declared lockdown like most countries in the world. This means no one is to go to non-essential work and is only to go to the shop for essentials, exercise or bring food to the elderly and vulnerable people. So the only person to leave my house is Daddy as he is a dentist. That is why I’m here, not at school, typing this report.

Monday ☺

I woke up to the sound of my radio alarm clock, had my breakfast, played with Betsie (my chocolate brown labrador) and got ready for the day. I then sat down at the kitchen table and started homework. I completed the work set by Mr Ball in world around us, maths and English. That took me up to lunch time. For lunch we had a homemade pan loaf made from a recipe my mummy got from a neighbour. It was delicious. After lunch I finished homework for the day and then phoned Neve. During the lockdown Neve and I video call each other on Whatsapp every day. It is nice to talk and play on our Kindles together. After, I practiced my flute and violin for 30mins. In the evening I helped Daddy plaster a wall; it is good to learn new skills. The rest of the day I relaxed, until it was time to go to bed. Mummy and I read Ann of Green Gables together. Then we said our prayers and I was left to listen to my brothers (Liam and Conor) whisper in Conor’s room. Later, Daddy and Mummy came in to say good night and I happily fell asleep thinking about memories of school, which I miss a lot.

Tuesday ☺

This morning was much the same as Monday except, for breakfast I didn’t have my normal cereal instead I had homemade potato bread (made from left over potatoes from yesterday’s dinner) and fried eggs (laid by Conor’s hens). After homework, I made some fluffy and delicious scones. Yummy, yummy in my family’s tummies! Then it was…Whatsapp Neve time!!!!! We spent a little longer than an hour on the phone. OK! OK! I spent an hour more than I was supposed to. Opps! ☺!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! For dinner we had my all-time favourite ever...lasagne. In the evening we went for a walk. It was beautiful; the sunset was a hue of pink.

Wednesday☺

After home work I had some of Conor’s yogurt-bread, his home economics assignment. Yummy! After lunch Mummy and I made two new cushion cases for my two little fluffy cushions. We also made a drawstring laundry bag. It was fun to learn to use a sewing machine and up cycle old material. They really complement my bedroom. When Daddy came home from the shop we had to wash the surface of all the groceries so they were COVID-19 free. That night we had a family movie night. We watched Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone on the Amazon fire stick and munched on Easter eggs.

Thursday ☺

Today’s breakfast was yummy; it was homemade soda farls and lemon curd jam. After completing my home work and a bite of lunch I went with my brothers for a spin on my bicycle. On the cycle we saw lots of garden birds including blue tits, siskins and robins. We even saw a crane fly out of the bog. That evening myself and mummy planted lots of flower seed in our green house, and potatoes, onion and lettuce in our garden patch. If we water them well we should have a nice crop in the summer. Just before bedtime everyone came into my lovely room and said all five decades of the rosary. Mummy and I then snuggled under my thick, cosy duvet and read more of Ann of Green Gables.

Friday ☺

Today started much the same as every other day during lockdown. One thing that was different was my mummy had completed a 5km Virtual run to raise money for Brainwaves. This was an event organised by the Killeeshil runners to raise funds for this charity. It took place over the entire weekend and the runners completed runs from 5km right up to 26.2 miles. Everyone ran on their own in order to social distance. It was a great success. After lunch Liam baked Mummy’s favourite cream buns, chocolate éclairs, I prefer brownies or doughnuts.

Saturday☺

No homework! ☺ Well, unless you count mindfulness colouring. I rang Neve and we played this super fun two player game called Secret Hide out Tycoon. It was very exciting! As it was my cousin’s sixth birthday and we could not get to celebrate with him in Wexford we had a virtual party. We made a chocolate cake, buns, banana bread and salad tortilla wraps. He “blew out” the candle we had on the cake through the Whatsapp video call – all very strange indeed. That evening when Daddy came home from working in the Dental COVID Clinic we had my second favourite dinner, chicken pie! It was so nice.

Sunday☺

After we went for a long morning walk we sat at the dinner table and watched Fr. Hannigan celebrate mass in Tullyallen chapel on the laptop. As we can’t receive Holy Communion we said the Act of Spiritual Communion. That evening after Sunday dinner we played rugby out on the front lawn. We had my third favourite dinner, spaghetti bolognese.

The things I like about being in isolation include learning new skills especially when making the cushion cases and the laundry bag from old fabric. I also enjoyed plastering the walls and holding the party for my cousin. It is fun to video call Neve every day and bake delicious treats. However, there are things I don’t like about isolation*.* I don’t like not being able to go to my aunties houses for sleepovers and not seeing my grandparents and friends. I would like to do normal activities such as shopping, visiting people and most of all I am sad at the fact I will be leaving primary school without saying a proper goodbye to my friends and teachers. It is strange times that I will never forget.