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Dear Ben Jonson children,

Hello everybody! How are all of you doing? For the last two days I have been walking to school. As I pass many of the buildings you live in I have been wondering what you all have been doing since school closed a month of ago.

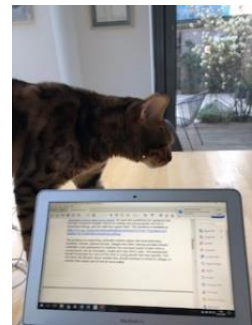
Though we have some children in school it is only a small number and I am missing the sound that all of you make. I really miss the sound of Year 3 going up the stairs past my office. I miss the sound of the ukuleles and the recorders coming out of the music room. I miss the sound of the children playing in the Key Stage 1 and Early Years playground and the noise of knocking on my window as children try to catch my attention.

The school feels so empty without you all. A school is not really a school without children in it so thank goodness we have a few children coming in every day to make the school feel right!

During the month we have been closed I have been doing a mixture of working at home and working at school. Working at home has been a bit tricky with my cats, Ruby and Rafi. They have loved me being home! Here is a picture of Rafi



disturbing me while I was trying to work on my laptop on the kitchen table. When Rafi is not annoying me on the computer he likes to sit on one of the chairs outside in the sun.



Ruby has spent the time during the school closure lying on the garden wall taking in the sun. She has also enjoyed chasing and trying to catch birds, frogs and mice! Sometimes she likes to find a sunny patch in a flower bed. But she has been squashing all the flowers!



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At home I have not just been working. I have had time to do lots of reading which I never usually get time to do. I hope you are taking the opportunity to do lots of reading too! I also have been singing with a choir called the Great British Home Chorus. I download the music onto my phone and then I join in the rehearsal on Youtube. When I have learned the music well enough I will upload a video of me singing the songs. This video will be connected into all the other videos people have



submitted to make a film with us singing! In the last month I have also done lots of knitting. At the moment I have just finished knitting a blanket for a friend's baby. Now I am knitting squares for a large blanket. Once I have finished all the squares I shall sew it up together.

At the moment the school is open for a small number of children every day. We have five children in each classroom and we all have to work hard to remember to keep two metres apart, even at lunch time. The day starts with hand washing (of course!) and then an exercise class with Joe Wicks on YouTube. This is an exercise class for children that you could do at home if you have access to YouTube. As the weather has been great the children have spent a lot of time outside playing games, doing scavenger



hunts and using the large construction blocks. Yesterday the children created artwork from things they had collected outside. Here is Zeeshan's art. Lamisi has been making sure that we have great lunches. All the children and the staff eat together – but off course two metres apart!

The children have also been thinking about the hard work and courage of those people who work for the NHS. The children in childcare have been making a banner today with Guy and Matt to say thank you to the NHS. They are busy looking for a place to put the banner up so people can see it. Rayyan wanted to say thank you in his own way. He made a poster and a model.



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We are beginning to get pictures sent of you doing home learning. Here is a picture of Maya's work after she has been inspired by the artist Paul Klee. There is also a picture of Lilith having fun making a rainbow!



I know that some of you have found it tricky to access all of the online learning because you don't all have enough devices at home to do the work. We have tried to put some more work online that you just need to read and then can come offline or off your parents' phone to do the work. Most teachers, for example, have been setting writing tasks that require you to read something online and then to write on paper. In Year 5 they have set a challenge of 100 things to do inside. Here are some of the activities...

- *Put seeds or the ends of things you've eaten (such as carrot tops) into water and see if you can grow them.*
- *Create an obstacle course in the house. Who can complete it the quickest?*
- *Memory games - objects on a tray, take one thing away. Can you tell what has changed?*
- *Taste games - have a variety of different foods available. Close your eyes and taste them one at a time. Can you guess what the food is?*
- *Hide pieces of a large jigsaw puzzle around the house to try to find them all to complete it.*

There are lots more ideas on the Ben Jonson website.

I am really missing you all and I am looking forward to the time when the school is open for everyone to come back. Until then if you have pictures of you learning at home that you are happy to share you could ask you parents to send them to ict@benjonson.towerhamlets.sch.uk

Best wishes,

Headteacher

P.S. I thought I would end the letter with this beautiful tree on Harford street!

