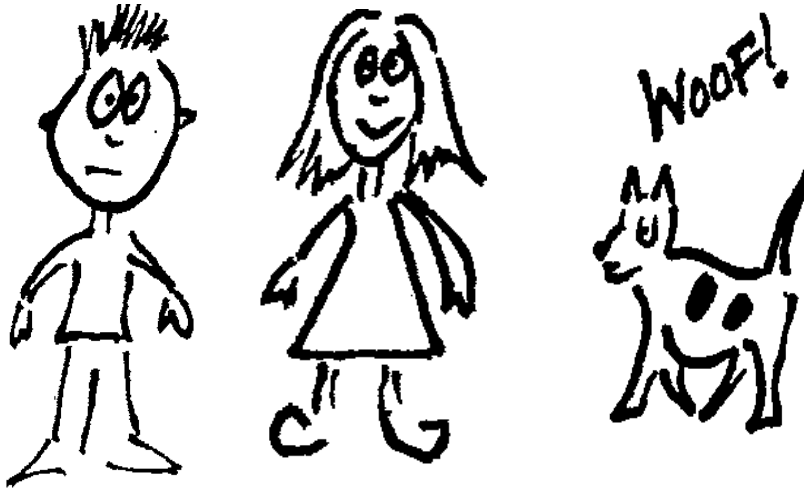
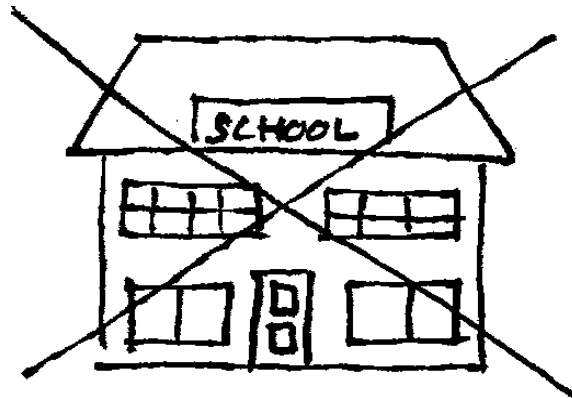


This is a story for children in Durham about a new type of cold called Corona Virus and how it is affecting the things that children are able to do and the people that they can see.

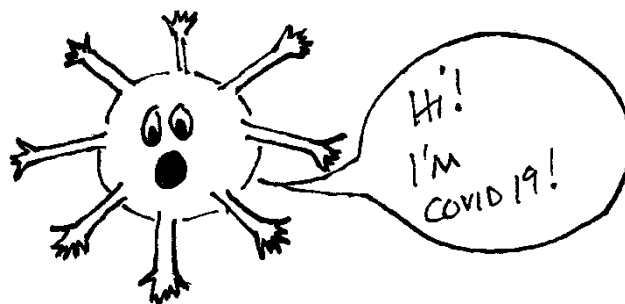
Steven and Molly live with their foster carers Val and Dave and their dog Spot. Steven and Molly have been seeing their mam and dad every week.



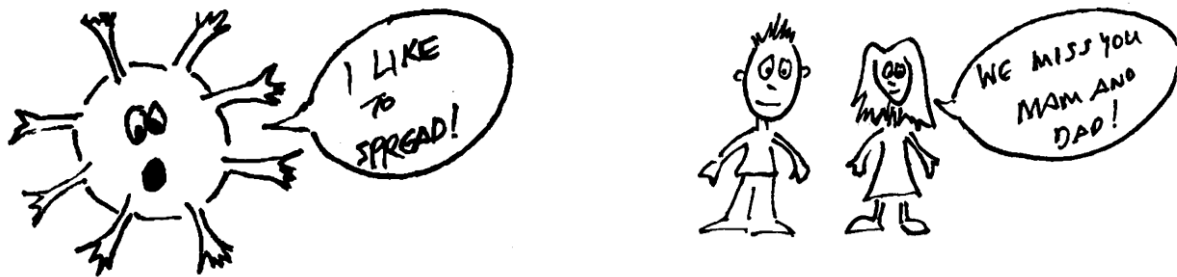
Steven and Molly go to school near their house. They both love school. But now all schools in Durham and across the whole country are closed because of something called Corona Virus. Some people also call it Covid 19.



Corona Virus is like a bad cold. It makes people cough lots and they can feel really hot. Some people get sick with Corona Virus and need to go to hospital. Corona Virus can move from person to person really fast. This is why many children can't go to school, play outside with their friends, or go on the swings in the park. Some adults can't go to work. This is to stop lots of people getting the Corona Virus.



To stop the bad cold from moving from person to person Steven and Molly can't go to see their mam and dad either. This is making them feel sad. Lots of other children can't see their parents too. Some of the places where Steven and Molly used to see mam and dad are closed now. Steven and Molly really miss mam and dad and they want to see them again soon. When Corona Virus stops moving from person to person, Steven, Molly, and all the other children who aren't having visits will see their mam and dad again.



To make sure that the virus doesn't spread, Steven and Molly's social worker Sam isn't allowed to visit them now either, but Sam will keep in touch with Steven, Molly, Val and Dave by talking to them on the phone or on video. If Sam can't come to work, then someone else will keep in touch with Steven, Molly, Val and Dave to make sure that everyone is okay.



Some boys and girls like Steven and Molly are going to talk to their mam and dad over video so that they can stay in touch, but not everyone will be able to do this. If you aren't able to go to see your mam and dad or talk to them over video, then you might want to stay in touch with them in other ways, like talking on the phone.



We hope that if everybody stops Corona Virus from moving around then soon all children will be back at school. Steven, Molly and other children who live with foster carers will be able to see their mam and dad again. We don't know how long it will take for things to go back to normal but if Steven and Molly have any worries then they can talk to Val and Dave.

