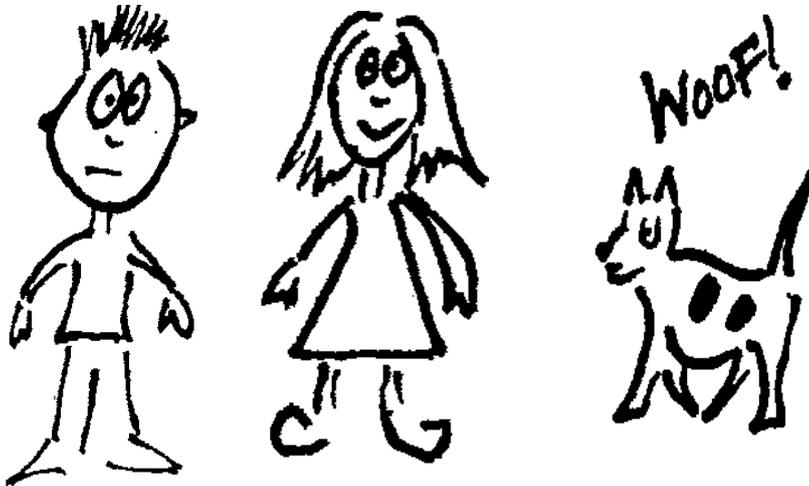
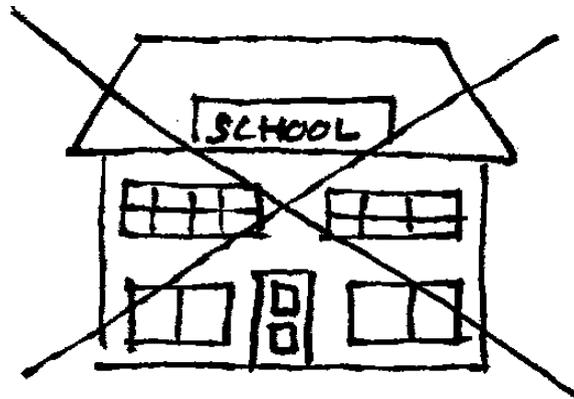


**This is a story for children in Durham about a new type of bug called Coronavirus and how it is affecting the things that children are able to do and the people that they can see.**

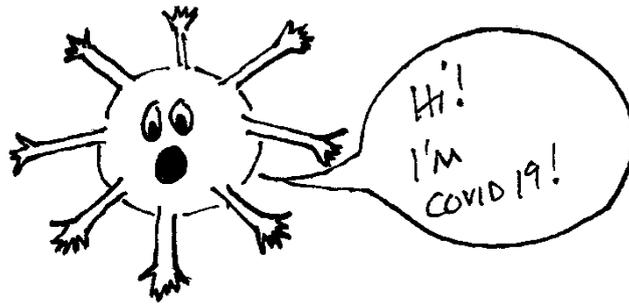
Steven and Molly live with their foster carers Val and Dave and their dog Spot. Steven and Molly have been seeing their mam and dad every week.



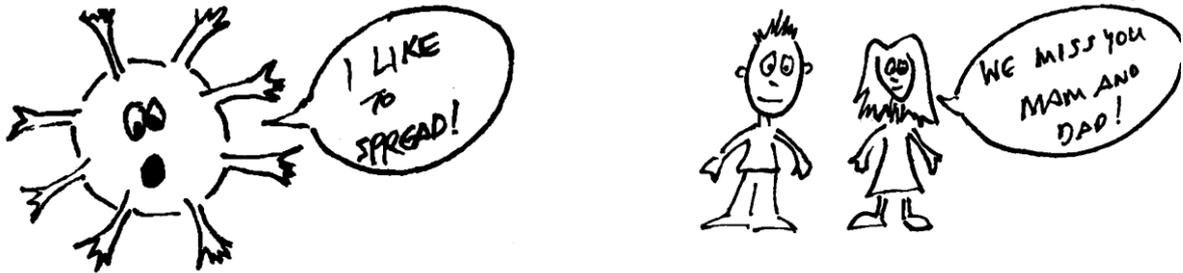
Steven and Molly go to school near their house. They both love school. But now all schools in Durham and across the whole country are closed because of something called Coronavirus. Some people also call it Covid 19.



Coronavirus is a nasty bug that makes people cough lots and it can make them feel really hot. Some people get sick with Coronavirus and need to go to hospital. Coronavirus 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 Coronavirus.



To stop the nasty bug 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 Coronavirus 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.



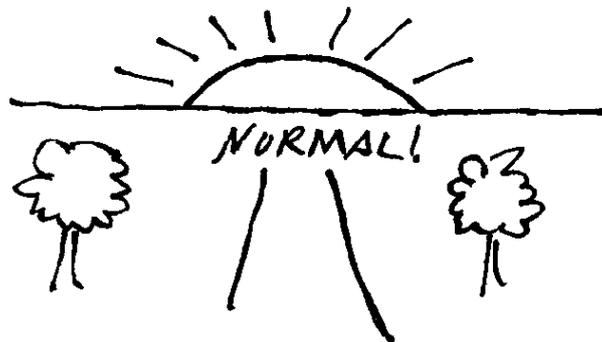
To make sure that the virus doesn't spread, Steven and Molly's social worker Sam isn't allowed to visit them now either, but Sam will keep in touch with Steven, Molly, Val and Dave by talking to them on the phone or on video. If Sam can't come to work, then someone else will keep in touch with Steven, 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 Coronavirus 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 until then Steven and Molly are going to keep washing their hands and if Steven and Molly have any worries then they can talk to Val and Dave.



Until it is safe enough for all children to go back to school and play out with each other again, Steven and Molly are thinking of lots of fun and interesting things to do, like drawing, building Lego and playing board games.

