



GROW IN LOVA

First Class/
Second Class

Primary 3/
Primary 4



A special lesson for teachers
to facilitate reflection on and
discussion of the Covid-19 crisis

Let's Look ...

CHATTING

ABOUT BEING AT HOME SINCE THE START OF COVID-19

- Begin by sharing with the children how you found the experience of being at home since the start of Covid-19. Everyone will be only too aware of how shops, playgrounds, swimming pools, etc. were closed for a long time, and it will be important to allow the children to recall their own experiences of those times, whether their stories be positive or negative, but perhaps try to focus a little first on some positive experiences of your own during that time, so as not to begin on a negative note. So you might mention, for example, how you took up cycling or some other form of exercise, how you got to discover things about your neighbourhood that you had never noticed before, how you got to know some elderly neighbours through offering to do shopping or small jobs for them when they were cocooning or shielding, books you read, movies you watched, etc. You may also have some sad stories to share, and doing so will help those children who have had difficult experiences over the past months to share those stories if they wish.
- Then chat together using these or similar questions:
 - » What did you miss most about not being able to come to school for all those months? Or did you miss school at all?
 - » Was there anything good about staying home and not being able to go out? Tell us about it.
 - » Did you learn to do any new things during the lockdown, or start any new hobbies?
 - » Can you think of anything you would like to have done that was cancelled because of the virus? How did you feel about that?
 - » Did anyone have a birthday or a special occasion during the lockdown? How did you celebrate? In what way was the celebration different to what you might normally do on such occasions?
 - » Perhaps someone had a family member or relative who got the virus, and perhaps you would like to tell the class about that, but only if you feel comfortable about doing so.



Let's Learn ...

STORY

Read this story for the children, which tells about one girl's experience of what she did during the Covid-19 lockdown.

Ciara's Great Idea!

Ciara and her classmates couldn't believe what they were hearing. They all stared at their teacher, Mr Walsh, as he continued making his announcement.

'So that means, boys and girls, that, from today, all schools will close and we must all stay at home. There will be no playing with your friends for now, no dance or choir practices and no sports. I know that will be hard, but it's the way it has to be to keep everyone safe. This new virus, Covid-19, is spreading very quickly to every country on earth, and already it has made many people very, very sick. The best thing we can do to prevent it from spreading further is to stay at home within our own family units and away from others.'

Ciara swallowed hard. Then she raised her hand and asked, 'But what about the St Patrick's Day parade, Mr Walsh? We've worked so hard on our dance routine and our ...' Her voice trailed away as Mr Walsh, looking apologetic, slowly shook his head. The St Patrick's Day parade would be cancelled too.

That night, Ciara's mum tried to keep positive. 'Don't worry, love, this will all be over very soon. Dad and I have to stay home from work too, so we'll have more time to spend together. It should all be over in a few weeks.'

And so Ciara settled into a new routine with her family: school work in the morning, play in the back room with her baby sister in the afternoon, and movie time in the evening.

'Can't we go somewhere?' she asked one day. 'Like the zoo, or the playground?'

'I'm afraid not,' Mum answered. 'Everywhere is still closed. It looks like this thing will go on for longer than we thought.'

Ciara sighed. 'What about Grandad's?' she asked, suddenly excited. 'Can we go there?' Mum shook her head. 'I'm afraid not,' she said. 'The best thing we can do for Grandad is to stay away for now. You can video-call him tomorrow.'

Ciara went to bed that night feeling very sad indeed. No friends, no dance class, no



Grandad ... And it was to continue for months! This was the worst.

Ciara couldn't get to sleep for hours, because the whole situation kept replaying in her head. Then suddenly she had an idea. She bounced into the kitchen the next morning. 'Mum! Dad!' she shouted, 'I have the BEST idea ever!' When she told them her plan, they agreed that it was a great idea. So, that afternoon, they loaded into the car and set off for Grandad's house.

Ciara saw her grandad's face through the window as they pulled up into his driveway. 'Anne! Ciara! What are you doing here?' he asked, looking worried. 'You know we're not supposed to ...'

'You stay right there, Grandad,' interrupted Ciara. 'In fact, go back into the sitting room and open the window.'

Grandad did as Ciara asked. And there, in the middle of Grandad's driveway, Ciara sang and danced her heart out. By the end of her performance, Grandad's neighbours were leaning out of their windows too, clapping and cheering her on.

'Oh Ciara, that's done me the world of good,' Grandad said. 'I wish I could hug you!'





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‘I’d love to hug you too,’ Ciara replied, ‘hopefully we be able to do that before long.’

From that day on, twice a week, every week, Ciara and her parents went to Grandad’s house. Sometimes Ciara did a dance or sang for him as he watched from the open window, and sometimes they simply chatted while her parents went and did Grandad’s shopping and even picked up some bits for Mrs

O’Shea, who lived next door. They all enjoyed these special times and it made the lockdown seem not so bad after all.

One day, months later, when Ciara and her mum pulled into Grandad’s drive, he walked out, arms wide, ready for a hug.

‘I like your facemask, Grandad,’ said Ciara, opening her own arms. ‘I like yours too,’ replied Grandad. And for the first time in months, Grandad and Ciara hugged.

After you have read the story, check the children’s understanding by asking some recall/lower-order questions such as:

- Why were the schools closed and people asked to stay at home?
- Why was Ciara not allowed to go into her grandad’s house?
- What great idea did Ciara come up with so that she could spend time with her grandad in a safe way?
- What did Ciara’s parents sometimes do while Ciara was entertaining her grandad?

Then dig digger by asking these or similar questions:

- Why do you think Ciara wanted to spend time with her grandad?

- How do you think those visits with her grandad made her feel? How do you think they made her grandad feel?
- Ciara’s parents often went and did some shopping for Grandad and for the woman who lived next door to him. Can you remember any things that you did, or that your family did, to help or care for others in the last few months?
- Can you think of any other acts of kindness that people could do for the older members of the community?
- Some of you may have found the lockdown frightening. Who or what helped you to get through it?
- God is always with us, even when we forget about God. Did you ever think that you could ask God or Jesus for help during the lockdown? How could someone ask God or Jesus for help?

LITERACY ACTIVITY

MY COVID-19 EXPERIENCE

Note: You will need a copy of the template on p. 7 for each child.

- Give each child a copy of the template.
- Ask them to write and draw a picture in the left-hand column about one thing that they found hard about being at home for so long because of Covid-19. This might be something that they missed, or something that they weren’t able to do, like see their friends or, like Ciara, to go to dance class.

- Ask them to write and draw in the other column about one thing that was good about being at home for so long – like being able to spend more time with their family or, like Ciara, coming up with new ideas for putting their extra free time to good use!

The worksheet is titled "My Covid-19 Experience". It has two main columns. The left column is headed "One thing that was good about being at home during the Covid-19 outbreak was ..." and the right column is headed "One thing that I missed during that time was ...". Both columns have several rows for writing and drawing. At the bottom of the page, there is a small copyright notice: "© Grow in Love | First Class/Second Class and Primary 3/Primary 4 Teacher's Pack".

Let's Live ...



CHATTING

ABOUT ACTS OF KINDNESS

Recall the story of Ciara and her experience of Covid-19. Then chat with the children using these or similar questions:

- Ciara entertained her grandad by dancing and singing for him, and having some great chats with him. Ciara's parents often went off to do some shopping for her grandad and for his neighbour while Ciara kept him company. How do you think Ciara's grandad would have felt about these acts of kindness? How do you think the neighbour for whom they did some shopping would have felt?
- Can you remember one act of kindness that someone did for you during the Covid-19 lockdown? Maybe your parents bought you a new toy, or maybe someone made you a funny video. Perhaps your cousin or friend video-called you. Share your stories of what happened and how these things made you feel.
- Can you think of some act of kindness that you did for someone during the lockdown? How did doing so make you feel?
- Even though we are back at school and able to do most things again, the Covid-19 virus is still with us. Can you think of any things we can do to protect ourselves and each other? Those are acts of kindness too! (e.g. *wash our hands, cough and sneeze into a tissue or into our elbows, stay a safe distance from other people, especially if they are older, etc.*)

PRAYER

Sign of the Cross

Teacher (*lighting candle*): Our candle reminds us that God is with us.

Today, we have been thinking about how things have changed for us and for others since the outbreak of Covid-19. God has been with us and with all the people of the world during all this time. When we were scared, God was there. When we were frustrated, God was there. Now that we're back at school, God is still with us.

We pray together, 'God, be with us all and protect us.'

All: God, be with us all and protect us.

Teacher: We think of all the children in our school – from those starting in Junior Infants/P1 to those who are beginning their last year in the school. God, be with us all and protect us.

All: God, be with us all and protect us.

Teacher: We think of all the teachers in our school and we remember their families too. God, be with us all and protect us.

All: God, be with us all and protect us.

Teacher: We think of the secretaries, SNAs, caretakers, bus escorts and all the other people who work in our school. God, be with us all and protect us.

All: God, be with us all and protect us.

Teacher: We think of all the people in our community who did acts of kindness for others since the Covid-19 situation began. We think of the acts of kindness that each one of us did for others too. All of these acts of kindness brought God's love to others. May all of us experience God's love in return. God, be with us all and protect us.

All: God, be with us all and protect us.

Teacher: We think of all the people who cared for those who were ill with Covid-19 – nurses, doctors, paramedics, care attendants, hospital porters, those who kept the hospitals clean, those who made and served the food for the patients, and all the other people who work in the health service. They brought God's care to others, and they continue to do so. God, be with us all and protect us.

All: God, be with us all and protect us.

Teacher: Loving God,
you are with us all the time,



when we are excited and when we are nervous,
when we are happy and when we are sad.
Help us to settle back into school,
to have fun with our friends and to learn well
together.
Help all those who have been ill with Covid-19.
Bless all those who did acts of kindness for others
since the start of Covid-19.

Help us to be courageous and strong as we
continue to do all we can to get rid of the virus.
May we continue to be kind to one another this
year.

All: Amen.

Sign of the Cross

My Covid-19 Experience

One thing that was good about being at home during the Covid-19 outbreak was ...	One thing that I missed during that time was ...