

Written evidence submitted by Sept. for Schools campaign group

To Mr Robert Halfon MP, Chair and the Members of the Education Select Committee
From Sept. for Schools campaign group

RE: Parents' experiences of home schooling

On 5th July, we submitted responses from hundreds of parents across the country, describing their experiences of home schooling during the pandemic and drawing out key themes for the committee to consider (submission ref. LEI124228).

On 12th July, we submitted our proposals for home schooling guidelines, to mitigate the negative impact of future lockdowns on parents and children across our nation (submission ref. BPV881798).

At Sept. for Schools, we have continued to be inundated by parents' stories of home schooling during lockdown. Between Wednesday 8th July and Friday 10th July, we had received more than 1,700, and they are attached to this submission. We urge you to read each and every one. These are from families across the length and breadth of the country. Juggling work, homeschooling and childcare is taking its toll on families and is simply not sustainable any longer.

The key themes are the same as those we submitted previously:

- the quality of home learning is inconsistent across the country;
- homeschooling is very time consuming for parents, particularly those who are single parents, are in full-time work or have children with SEND;
- homeschooling is expensive, particularly where families have had to invest in stationery, printers or new technologies;
- learning is a passive experience at present for many children, with little or no face-to-face contact with teachers;
- homeschooling is not compatible with learning new topics or concepts;
- homeschooling is taking its toll on parents; and
- homeschooling is taking its toll on the mental and physical wellbeing of children.

Parents are clear that the government should prioritise implementing the effective and full return to education for all children in September.

If homeschooling is to be part of the government's plan while the pandemic lasts, it needs significant improvements.

Please help us in holding the Department for Education to account for the return of all children to school in September, and in finding sustainable, workable and fair solutions for any further home learning that the pandemic may require.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss the work of our campaign by phone or a Zoom call.

Sincerely,

The September for Schools Working Group

**Collated by Sept for Schools from anonymised feedback supplied when asked
“As a parent what have your experiences of home schooling been during
lockdown?”**

1. Work has been generally ok. My daughter is diligent and self-motivated so has done well. She misses the questions asked by classmates that she hadn't thought of that makes her learn more. I am surprised how very few children turn up to zoom lessons and the fact nothing is said by the school. Class of 30 and sometimes only 2 or 3 students are online. The school changed the day from x5 lessons to x3 lessons. Not sure that was the best idea - rationale being they spent longer on each of the 3 lessons. I think a lot of children will be way behind where they could have been in lock down. Busy families where children are not motivated will have suffered educationally.'
2. 'My 5 year old struggles to read. He has a brilliant teacher who had been investigating strategies with him. Home schooling was hard - any literacy stuff was traumatic for both of us. He went back to a year 0 bubble and did more writing in 2.5 days than 10 weeks of lockdown. The teacher has been able to write a report for the SENCO. The school provided worksheets via the website, but he refused to do them at home. He has been doing them in class. He needs the structure and environment and the skills of a qualified teacher. A couple of phone calls from his teacher were supportive and reassuring for me but not helpful for him.'
3. 'Home schooling has been excellent. I get a lot of time with my son get and my little one enjoys his sibling time. My child enjoys his Google classroom.'
4. 'I've been home schooling an 8 year old and a 4 year old with the help of my husband. We've struggled to fit it in around our work I work part time and my husband works full time. Keeping one younger child occupied while our older child does school work is completely unsustainable and we've only received one phone call from the school asking how we're doing. The materials provided have been ok but we've had no online lessons from the teacher which I would have appreciated. Even if my son has managed to complete the work given it only equates to about an hour a day. He is a good student when at school but home schooling during lock down has left him demotivated, bored and fed up. He can't wait to go back to school!'
5. 'Quantity and breadth of work was reasonable however there was little interaction with the class teacher. There was opportunity to email them as required however only so much can be done over email. My daughter got bored with the routine and was not challenged.'
6. 'Experience has been mixed. It started well with a sensible amount of work set each day - about 3 hrs (my child is in Yr6) but the teachers were very resistant to using Zoom and drew the unions in, which meant that most children were having no contact with their students. They have now gone back on this. Some marking of work would have been v welcome. I tried

to do this but found it v difficult due to working FT. I had some nervousness about my son returning to school but am so glad he has. He's benefiting from the structure and seeing his friends and it's made mine and my husband's lives easier. I know a lot of people have found lockdown difficult and we are nowhere near the poverty line, but we've still found it incredibly stressful and draining - trying to both work FT, home school our two boys and keep the house going. I can completely sympathise with women who say that they feel they've returned to the 1950s.'

7. 'The quality of work given during Covid-19 has been roughly about 65%, comparing to being taught in school. Teacher have also decreased in the expected level of work from students, this therefore has created a equal balance. However student are now months behind, I'm concerned how my son will catch up, we can not create extra months though an academic year, this will impact upon the following school years. My son also has a EHC, learning disabilities, so I know he at more risk of getting further behind than he was before Covid-19. I want to know how these three issues I present are going to be tackled and resolved. My son's education matters.'
8. 'It has been incredibly difficult to even attempt home schooling whilst trying to work a full time job. I have 3 kids and my husband is a teacher (which makes like harder not easier when it comes to trying to home school). I feel guilty all the time that I'm not doing enough in any area of our family life. My kids are falling behind, hiding work, not asking for help. I don't have time to spend working through it with them, so they are left to their own devices. They have very little structure to their days despite us trying every day! They miss their friends, routine, order, support and have missed all of the extra curricular activities that help them to feel engaged. They are anxious now about going back to school. They use their devices way more than before. We have no clear plan of a way forward. We can go shopping, to a restaurant and out for drinks but our kids don't know when they will be back in school. I'm so worried that my children will always be behind. How will they ever catch up??'
9. 'We have been pretty much left to our own devices with home schooling. A learning grid is issued each week with various afternoon activities but the key maths, English etc we have been told to look online with little support or guidance. Thank goodness my child is in year 6 so at least he has had a few weeks of 2 days per week. What we would have done without this I am not sure. I feel sorry for parents without this lifeline. Everyone in the teacher profession seems to have looked for problems rather than solutions. We can get shops, pubs, hairdressers open but not our children back to school. A shocking state of affairs without even going to the economic consequences of so many parents having to do childcare rather than work.'
10. 'Limited contact from school to give feedback and no real online lessons. I am concerned about the impact of my Year 10's progress and how they catch up in Year 11.'

11. 'My daughter's school has been very good, stepping up and continue to deliver lessons for the girls. I felt very lucky and privileged to have such an experience - no doubt because it is a private school with high academic achievements. I am however appalled by the lack of interactions from my daughter's peers who are at various school in the local vicinity- though all rated outstanding by Ofcom - the lack of interactions between the school and students were surprising. To be set homework once a week and not engage with students for long periods - especially amongst teenagers who needs parameters- is woeful neglect. 4 months of work without supervision will leave students behind in these critical year leading to GCSE. Those who have parents who takes a vested interest into their academic achievements have fared better but our children are at a level whereby parents can't always help anymore academically. I would fear for their mental health if schools are not reopening in Sept. whilst hard work can allow for children to catch up academically, mental health isn't something that be be fixed easily and will have long term impact in their development.'

12. 'Home schooling has been a tricky balance with working full time, however both boys have progressed well. The engagement with the kids from the school has been diabolical with no more than 2 shifts given about children's well-being and progression. Saying this I am very worried about sending my children back to school in September as coronavirus will still be in highly infectious and the thought of 30 kids in a confined space is giving me sleepless nights already. A better balance in my mind would be to Move all learning on line until a vaccine is found and stop putting people's wealth before health.'

13. 'My experience of home schooling 3 children aged 5, 9 and 13 has been hard, and made all the harder by seeing how differently my children's school, one private and the other state-funded, responded. Children educated privately benefitted from live teaching, personal feedback and no interruption to learning. The state-educated children were given a pile of materials and exercises, posted on Google Classroom. No live teaching, or feedback on work. No support for learning. What angers me most is the excuses we were given, eg that Zoom or Teams cannot be used because of GDPR issues. Why have so many private schools embraced these technologies and managed to navigate the GDPR constraints? Luckily, I spent time with my children, sacrificing my work, and kept them learning. Even so, they missed being taught by a professional. I hate to think what has happened in families where parents did not/could not dedicate the time or didn't have the technology. When this situation was developing, parents were left at the behest of teachers, in turn hiding behind the advice of unions. It was the role of the Government and of the Education Minister to speak up for us, to look after the interests of our children. Instead, they left it to the Headteachers to decide, and who wouldn't choose a 4 month paid holiday over 4 months of hard work, teaching online etc. ?! It's not fair to children. Our Government must do better, we cannot have a repeat of this scandal.'

14. 'Has been v difficult to work try and get 10/13 and 15 yr olds to do schoolwork. All at different schools. Very different working methods offered by each with varying success. Motivation in recent weeks has been the main problem and resistance especially from 10yr old to do any work they are asked for. There has been a total lack of visual /video chat etc and no live lessons for both 10 and 15 yr olds which hasn't helped. I actually made a point of buying CGP workbooks for my 10yr old as I preferred him to try and get more down on paper/practice his handwriting rather than spend yet more time in front of a screen... Something I am very concerned with that should be addressed at government level (both education, health and digital departments) - and at risk of sounding like an anti 5G fanatic - is the suddenly much increased dependence on tech/WiFi not just socially but now in the classroom. The pandemic has meant we are ALL on it 24/7 and i completely accept that it has been a lifeline in so many ways for home schooling and wider working practices. However with the aim now to 'not go back' to how things were (Matt Hancock speaking just this morning on Andrew Marr), where are the risk assessments for the technology now accepted and needed as part of our lives?'
15. 'My year 9 daughter seemed to be doing ok until an email in early June was received saying she hadn't done her RE homework, a week later, again a similar email. We just asked her to do the missing homework. However, a few days later, we received another email saying she has 30 tasks missing since April-May of lockdown. She had a lot of catching up to do before her year end exams. Why we were not told or emailed earlier was disappointing. She is in a state school. Both parents work in the NHS and home schooling was minimal, with the odd look over the shoulder to see what the children are doing. We needed earlier and closer feedback from the teachers if tasks are not being done.'
16. 'It's been good overall but my daughter suffers from lack of peer interaction and is not personally engaging with the lessons. She's doing the work but in a detached way.'
17. 'Very light workload (4 exercises a day); hardly any interaction with Teacher, no videoconferencing. Child bored around 11am and having to find other stuff to do to keep occupied till 3pm. Can't wait for said child to go back to school!!'
18. 'A good balance of work, videos and interaction with teachers, but expected more work overall. Child easily distracted, don't believe the knowledge is getting in. Can't wait for school to reopen.'
19. 'The majority of the work set has been workbooks the children can work through on their own – with some help from parents. The teachers have spoken to our children (8 and 10 years old) once a week for 10-15 mins a time and then also speak to us for 5-10 mins. It has meant good bonding for all of us and has enabled us parents to have a much better understanding of what our children and learning and of how amazing the teachers are. It

would have been good in the early weeks to have had some video calls just to set the kids on their way but that wasn't really possible with our school. They are at an Ark school but part of the reasoning was that some children wouldn't have access to technology to support this. I think it's very disappointing that some children will be missing out on schooling because their parents don't have the money to source the technology required.'

20. 'No feedback, marking or learning objectives provided to pupils. No phone calls whatsoever. Class Dojo weekly email directing parents to website with weekly learning on it- using White Rose Maths and Twinkl worksheets. No quality provided or depth of learning. No follow up work. Teaching staff therefore no idea what pupils have done or not. No idea of how this fits into curriculum plans (if at all).'
21. 'Primary school team have been fantastic! Regular contact from entire team, work packs, online learning, regular contact from class teacher. Home working has been fun and completed. Only negative, we have felt work has increased in last couple of weeks where usually the children are on wind down and enjoying fun end of year events.'
22. 'Children in Y6 and Y4. Both in private schools (different). Excellent virtual provision during Easter term. One on Google Classrooms (Y6), even when they physically went back to school after half-term, the virtual programme continued as some kids chose to stay at home. The other was on Zoom meetings all morning and virtual work via Juno in the afternoon. The afternoon programme was difficult as they needed supervision. Social contact for both of them was really important. Y4 got two weeks back at physical school at the end of term (they have already broken up 3 July) and benefitted hugely from it.'
23. 'My Child is in Year 2 The school has been uploading home learning documents year group on a weekly . It has been difficult engaging my 7 year old to work from home as well working from home myself and keeping 2 younger children entertained. I think if the teachers were few video sessions with their classes every week it would have encouraged the kids to complete their work. Due to safeguarding policies school, the teachers were not allowed to have video calls with their class. we have had 3 phone from the teacher since lockdown. The lack of contact with teachers and class mates has had a negative impact on my child and harder for her to focus on her home learning. Unless your child submitting their work there has not been any feedback from their teacher or school. The school has set up a profile on Instagram to show off all the work achieved by the pupils of the school, I had to unfollow page due to feeling inadequate with home learning!'
24. 'As a single working parent I have struggled to manage work with childcare and home schooling, and my daughter has been disadvantaged by our circumstances. The school generates 1 piece of work for writing, science or geography and reading each week,

supplemented by links to educational resources. The school has given poor guidance on what is expected, there has been no set work and we have no direct contact with the class teacher, with the exception of a 2 minute call to my daughter in June. Communication with school has been a struggle and when it has been possible to speak to a member of staff the advice is to do the best you can, the school will assess where children are when they return and take it from there. My daughter was already struggling with her learning and I don't know whether this gap will have widened. Further, I am concerned that there will be a general lowering of standards to mask the adverse impact to my daughters education, as OFSTED measures progress and not achievement.'

25. 'To be fair to my children's school, teachers have done their best to keep learning going using Google classroom. My Y12 and Y10 has been particularly prioritised because of exams next year. That said, other than a 10 minute face to face appointment with their form tutor and two days later this week to sit tests, they have not returned to school for any lessons. My Y7 has had lots of work set, but the onus is on her to get it done - hard for a child who had only just settled into the secondary school routine. The past 15 weeks have been horrendous for me as a working mother. My three children have been off rolled for the whole time. I have been forced to work from home, but my husband has had to go in to his office which means all the burden of dealing with the children has fallen on me. Life would have been far easier if I could have been furloughed, but being in the public sector this was not an option. My employer has not been at all supportive of the extra burdens falling on mothers. I feel compromised as a mother and compromised as an employee - like I have failed in both spheres. I am exhausted and very low but I have to keep jolly along for the sake of my children. I resent deeply this situation being imposed on me and my family. The way in which the response to Covid 19 has been handled means the pressure and stress has fallen largely on working families - a group which does not yet enjoy financial security and is still shouldering the responsibility of child rearing. It has also meant the burden falls unfairly on mothers. Over 90% of Covid deaths are among those aged over 60, but children are not at risk. Children and young people have their whole lives ahead of them and still have to make their way in life. To lock them up and deprive them of the education, training and opportunities the older generations have enjoyed freely is an outrage. Inter generational unfairness's were acute before this, but now they are off the scale. This government has no regard for children - and none for families (especially mothers) either. I will never forgive those in power (politicians, the media, teaching unions) for what they have done to children and young people. It's a disgrace - children should always come first. What sort of society puts the needs of adults before those of children. Shame on those responsible. I am sorry to rant but too many people have been made to suffer needlessly in all this. Thank you for all you are doing and for letting me have my say!'

26. 'Very difficult . My daughter needs structure and teacher focus and has struggled to motivate herself.'

27. 'Independent School - excellent support throughout lockdown. Contacted every week via phone call. Work uploaded weekly, lots and lots of daily work to do covering all subjects. All work marked and commented on. The only aspect my child missed was the socialisation with friends - I do not think the academic side has slipped too much at all.'
28. 'We feel like we have been left almost entirely to fend for ourselves as a family. Neither of our children had any contact from their teachers for the first three months of lockdown. Home schooling has been via the DB Primary platform with lesson plans and links shared on a weekly basis for the children and parents to access and navigate themselves. Whilst the content is ok, accessing it has been challenging - links don't work, documents are in non-standard formats. There has been very little effort made to adapt the content to on-line, make it usable or engaging. After 16 weeks our kids are both bored and struggling to stay motivated. There has been no guidance for parents in how to best support or facilitate our children's learning. The school has never asked us how our kids are or how we are, or entered into any dialogue to assess how Home learning is going and whether what they are providing can be improved. Requests for more contact via phone calls or video calls was strongly rejected initially by the head teacher on the grounds of 'safeguarding' and the teachers not having the capacity to support. Only after raising via governors and encouraging other parents to raise their concerns have zoom calls been offered, and only then in the final 3 weeks of term. We remain mystified by what the teachers were actually doing before years R, 1 and 2 returned to school. The leadership of the school has been exposed by this crisis. Underlying issues with quality of communication, a very 'parent child' relationship with parents, a real lack of interest in utilising the considerable expertise and talents offered by parents, lack of sharing knowledge or best practice, focus on results over a more holistic, creative approach have all been laid bare. I remain absolutely flabbergasted, shocked and angry at how badly my children and my family have been let down by their school and the government. As working parents it has been a huge strain on us and our family unit to navigate working from home, full time childcare and 'home schooling'. We have very little confidence in either our school or the governments approach to September or the inevitable local lockdowns etc to come over the winter. End of year report would be graded as 'Very Poor with much room for improvement'
29. 'Our teenagers have really struggled to stay motivated and engaged in their work. My daughter in Y11 feels very distant from friends and support networks. The school has provided work through Google classroom. Pastoral staff have also been in touch. Key stage tutors have sent wellbeing information and the school has emphasised looking after mental health.'
30. 'We have a Year 7 and Year 10 child, and one laptop to share between them, so prioritising Yr 10. We are both working full time from home. This means it is very hard to give proper support to the Year 7 - who needs help to understand what she needs to do. It is very stressful, as we are both self-employed - every hour not worked is no pay (we don't qualify

for any govt help). The school has been excellent in setting work, and interesting work, so we have no issue with the school, teachers are also marking and giving useful feedback. Year 10 is now back for one morning a week, Yr7 going for 15 mins at the very end of term. They need to be more fully back. It's hard for them to maintain their friendships, it's hard to understand new concepts being taught, and I am concerned about the GCSEs that are looming next year.'

31. 'As a single working parent I have struggled to manage work with childcare and home schooling, and my daughter has been disadvantaged by our circumstances. The school generates 1 piece of work for writing, science or geography and reading each week, supplemented by links to educational resources. The school has given poor guidance on what is expected, there has been no set work and we have no direct contact with the class teacher, with the exception of a 2 minute call to my daughter in June. Communication with school has been a struggle and when it has been possible to speak to a member of staff the advice is to do the best you can, the school will assess where children are when they return and take it from there. My daughter was already struggling with her learning and I don't know whether this gap will have widened. Further, I am concerned that there will be a general lowering of standards to mask the adverse impact to my daughters education, as OFSTED measures progress and not achievement.'
32. 'My Child is in Year 2 The school has been uploading home learning documents year group on a weekly . It has been difficult engaging my 7 year old to work from home as well working from home myself and keeping 2 younger children entertained. I think if the teachers were few video sessions with their classes every week it would have encouraged the kids to complete their work. Due to safeguarding policies school, the teachers were not allowed to have video calls with their class. we have had 3 phone from the teacher since lockdown. The lack of contact with teachers and class mates has had a negative impact on my child and harder for her to focus on her home learning. Unless your child submitting their work there has not been any feedback from their teacher or school. The school has set up a profile on Instagram to show off all the work achieved by the pupils of the school, I had to unfollow page due to feeling inadequate with home learning!'
33. 'Primary school team have been fantastic! Regular contact from entire team, work packs, online learning, regular contact from class teacher. Home working has been fun and completed. Only negative, we have felt work has increased in last couple of weeks where usually the children are on wind down and enjoying fun end of year events.'
34. 'Under normal circumstances, I work 4 days a week and my husband works full time in a very demanding job. We have three children, in years 5, 3 and reception. To say that the last four months have been stressful would be a huge understatement. We are very lucky to have our jobs, however, we have continued to work whilst home schooling. This has led to a shift system whereby, we each only work half a day and spend the other half home schooling or

- looking after the children, including cooking and all the clearing up that goes with 5 people eating 3 meals a day at home.
35. When schools opened up to some year groups, we were told that they did not have the space for our reception child. After two weeks of negotiations, including pointing out the woeful lack of home learning for reception (the rest of the school has transitioned brilliantly to online schooling), our youngest started school. But only 9.30-13.00.
 36. Until this point, we had zero work set for our reception aged child, meaning that all spare time was spent researching activities so she could 'learn through play' as we were constantly being told should be the case for a 5 year old. We needed activities for her as otherwise she would disrupt her siblings' work.
 37. Since then, we have only two children at home, which whilst an improvement, is still extremely stressful. We are very much looking forward to the holidays. Although, without any holiday clubs, we are looking at a difficult summer, one where the kids will be ignored for periods when we will need to work.
 38. All three children are normally very active and all three have gained weight - a trend I have noticed in the kids being dropped off in the years that have been allowed back to school. The lack of exercise and not seeing their friends has had mental health implications too.
 39. The youngest was very withdrawn until she went back to school. The two still at home are constantly angry and home schooling is ruining our relationship with them and between my husband and me.
 40. I am feeling fairly upbeat at the moment, knowing that once the holidays start, at least we won't have work to get them to do. However, September fills me with dread. The thought of any sort of home schooling is awful. And I worry that the Proposed staggered drop-offs/pick-ups will just mean that we will spend an hour at the beginning and end of each day escorting kids to and from school. If they are also part-time, this will continue to have an effect on our productivity.
 41. Sarah-Jayne Blakemore took the words out of my mouth: how is opening pubs more important than educating children?
 42. Please keep me anonymous.'
 43. 'Overall home schooling has been ok. My daughter is currently in Y5. The school's online 'classroom' was very well prepared with plenty for the children to do. My main concern was that my daughter missed out on her interventions. She has social anxiety and executive function disorder. She became quite withdrawn about 6 weeks into home schooling, doing her work ok but not wanting to join in with class Zoom chats or with group chats with a few school friends. Transition for her has not happened, as y5 were not seen, I feel, as a priority for returning to school; even though they will be taking their SATS next year! So September is going to be quite difficult for us as a family, as I know that she is going to struggle going back to school. At least if she had the opportunity to go for a few days before the summer holidays, she could have seen some friends, reconnected with them and had the opportunity to meet her new teacher and see her new classroom. And with everything else that they are going to have to catch up on, I'm worried that her interventions for social anxiety etc, are

going to be forgotten about until at least the new year, which doesn't give them long to work with her.'

44. 'I have a highly perfectionist son who hasn't driven himself into the ground trying to get the school work done! There is too much work as it is and with the extended tasks he is in a high state of anxiety and he's very vocal about how hard he's finding it and can't regulate himself and he won't accept any help. I feel so ground down and very weepy as I can't take much more. If all pupils can go back in September, why can't they have somebody this in the last 2 weeks or so? I have to turn work away because I can't manage it with the constant interruptions and emotional outbursts from my son.'
45. 'I can honestly say that our family life during the full lockdown with both parents in our family working, caring for 2 young children (2 and 5 years old), the eldest in reception, so also trying to home-school her during her first year of school has been the hardest, most stressful experience of our lives. I feel that working parents have been silently suffering during this time. Being expected to take on multiple roles, all at once and in one space, has been an impossible task and has tested and pushed all our relationships and had a detrimental affect on the well being of the whole family. I really thought we were the only ones really struggling during this time - turns out I was wrong.'
46. We were hugely relieved when the government announced the return of schools (year R, 1 and 6) in June however we then had another turn on the emotional rollercoaster when we were told that our infant school decided to disregard the government guidance and bring back Y2 children instead. We strongly feel the best place for our child to learn is in a school environment. At home there are distractions, not least of which is her younger sibling, and we had so many battles trying to persuade, bribe and beg her to engage with her school tasks. The education sector as a whole has been extremely negative and focused on what can't be done rather than adopting a pro-active and 'can do' attitude. Sadly I can only attribute it to a lack of financial incentive for schools and teachers to return to work that is clearly at play in other sectors who have bent over backwards to return to work in a safe way as possible.
47. This is NOT a long-term or sustainable situation - for those of us who are lucky enough to have kept our jobs we cannot be expected to perform at a reduced capacity any longer at work. Our school demonstrated ZERO acknowledgement of the pressure and stress working parents are under and I know of examples of when parents struggling have sought help from the school, they have taken the attitude of 'well others are coping ok so...'
48. I would like to see much clearer guidance for schools so that individual heads are unable to take decisions that disadvantage some children over others. We are not in a position to be considering a move to a private school but should the lack of access to education continue in September we will employ a tutor as we can no longer fulfill the additional role of educators. I am pleased that Sept for Schools are taking up the mantle of representing working parents who are (attempting to) home-school during this time.'

49. 'I found home schooling ok with a Foundation yr child aged 5. School assume you had the resources at home already which I didn't. We did probably more work at home than she would have done at school but without the play element! I think the teachers could have made more effort to do online classes for the kids to interact with.
50. She did return to school for 2 weeks but I'm not really sure what they did as I felt when lockdown started again I was having to go back steps as they didn't reinforce what we had been teaching at home.
51. Going back to school with her peers was important for social development. She stayed within her bubble. Not sure how they are going to manage this with 25-30 kids in a class.'
52. 'I have two daughters age 7 and 9 who attend the same school. I was previously working as a freelance designer but because most of my work was cancelled and my children are at home I am now a full time teacher. I am lucky that I have the time to dedicate to teaching them but this has still not been easy and at certain points has been extremely challenging. My eldest daughter is dyslexic and I find teaching her especially hard. She was already really behind but I fear she will have fallen even further behind without the specific help she needs. I have had no additional help from the school at all. The school has provided weekly lesson plans across English and Maths (so 5 lessons a week for each subject for each child which is 20 lessons for me to teach a week) and then every half term there is a set of 'topic' homework which is lots of different subjects including Science, Geography, art, PE etc. that we can work through at our own pace! I have roughly 20 PDF files to download every week, make sense of and then teach. We had a single telephone call from a teacher mid way through but my daughter refused to speak to him. In week 15 they actually made some of their own teaching videos and did a weekly zoom lesson both of which were enormously helpful. It was however frustrating that it had taken 15 weeks for them to figure out how to do this. We can send the work in via email and will always get a response back which is nice for the children but there is no proper structure or marking going on. I feel overall the teachers are doing their best but as a whole I feel extremely angry at the way education has been ignored throughout this situation and there hasn't been a clear plan. Early on in the lockdown I wrote to a teacher raising my concerns about my eldest daughter and her response was "everyone is in the same boat"! As the school year draws to a close it is shockingly apparent that this is not the case. There has been no overall plan for schools to follow and as a result there have been wildly varying approaches. Within my school some parents have been able to access private tutors and some are running mini home learning bubbles where children get together at each others houses creating even more disparity in learning. I think simple changes such as videos from their actual teachers, video calls, formal marking system and some kind of consistency across year groups (So people who have multiple children could teach the same lesson at different levels) would have made a world of difference. I find myself going into summer holidays angry, sad and deeply concerned for my children's academic future.'
53. 'Positive mainly as school set work.'

54. 'Just before lock down my son's school SENCO referred my son to community paediatric for assessment as autism spectrum disorder suspected. We are still waiting on the appointment even though my son self harmed in meltdown. We have had 1 phone call from school to see how we were before Easter holidays and nothing since. It is impossible home schooling and working from home as he can't work independently. I am now having to work from home at weekends when his dad can care for him and home school in week leaving no time for family time and no time to just do fun stuff with my child. We (son & I) both feel this has damaged our relationship as a result. I need help how to deal with his meltdowns as he can't handle frustration with work set by school. It feels like school have set thinks but just firing off hyperlinks they haven't done work for e.g. **** x 3 = ***** containing 3 consecutive numbers not in order is not a maths question to set an 8 year old!'
55. 'Feel like we have been forgotten about and that getting Covid can't be as bad as the home school experience or if it is it will be a relief to escape having to home school it has been so bad!'
56. 'The school, at every point has taken the opportunity to do the least possible to help. After key workers being publicly offered home schooling over half term, each family was individually asked if they really really needed it as 'the teachers needed a rest'. Obviously, the other key workers could get by without! Then when the last key worker family remained, they were told there would be no support as no one else needed the service.'
57. 'During the whole period there has been NO unprompted communication from teachers to children/parents Not a single email or phone call to ask how there are doing or to check their work. Through the very busy teachers magically become less busy when they need to earn from their private tuition work which continues unabated. Daily school work consists entirely of content copied form the internet. When sending work in to the school, there is never anything more than a cursory ' well done, very good. NO marking, checking of any if the children's work has been done for 12 weeks. Even now with years R,1, and 6 in school, the classes are often run by classroom assistants,
58. with the teachers being absent. At no point has the school asked how the parents are finding their 'service' or how they might try and improve. I can guess why. An utterly appalling example to the children and to everyone else. Applng!!!'
59. 'We have been v lucky that the school my girls go to have provided full, online zoom lessons right the way through lockdown.
60. However, especially for my daughter in Year 10, whilst they have been brilliant, they are no substitute for proper class room lessons.
61. I am really worried that if they don't go back in September, it will start to have an enormous impact on the mental wellbeing of both my daughters plus cause significant impact to their future life and work prospects.'

62. 'I have found the entire lock down and home school experience overwhelming. I am racked with guilt all the time; trying to manage full time jobs with what essentially should be fully time schooling. Our son's emotions are all over the place; happy, scared, angry, defiant! And at the beginning of the lock down all you saw on the news / media in general was what people were going to do with "all their spare time". What spare time? It has seemed that working parents (and not just single working parents!) plight has been completely dismissed. The approach, or lack of, taken by schools is a shambles and completely school driven. No two schools have a common approach to parental support. A clear, unified, approach set at the beginning and communicated to schools and parents would have helped greatly; allowing us all to know what to expect. The same for employers; some ignore the fact that people have children completely, some are more supportive, understanding and treat their working parents with respect and trust. Come September I would hope that a coherent, one process for all schools, will have been developed and rolled out across the country. And hope that children's and parents wellbeing (not just academics) are at the forefront of any plan. Well done for setting this survey up.'
63. 'This has been horrendously difficult. I'm a Finance Director for a medium sized company. Therefore especially during these difficult times, I cannot simply neglect my job. Other people's jobs, livelihoods and families are depending on me to get things right and help the business to survive. My children's father and I are recently separated but he is trying to run his own business too. I end up trying to help my children as much as I can during the day, but sometimes this isn't possible as I have urgent deadlines to sort funding, payroll, furlough (of which no one had any clue about). When I have been able to help them during the day, I end up working in the evening. On a short term basis this is viable but now on a longer term basis, I'm exhausted and worried about my ability to do my job properly. My son was initially motivated to do his full days work but now he slacks off at every opportunity, unless I'm focussing his attention. The work provided by the school in google classrooms was originally reasonable but now it is less with one teacher covering both classes. The other teacher is now required to cover children from other year groups now attending school. The submitted work is now not being marked as there's too many children to cope with. What's the point of doing it then? Who's checking if my son is doing the right thing.....I'm not, I don't have time and I'm not always equipped with sufficient knowledge on the topic.'
64. 'I just feel we have been the forgotten masses tbh. Everyone has their own issues and problems to face but the home schooling debacle was mine. It feels that every other sector stepped up but the schooling of a nations children and the effect on their parents was widely ignored or downplayed by the Government, the schools and the teaching unions.'
65. 'Both my wife and I run our own business supporting the pharmaceutical sector including direct involvement with covid-19 related clinical trials. We technically could have argued key worker status but didn't trying to do the right thing. We split our days as best we can to support our year 2 child but it's been incredibly difficult and stressful and I have no idea how

much our child's wellbeing and our own have suffered. She is an only child so we have both had to assume the roles of parent, teacher and friend which is impossible in all reality. We have received no personal follow up from the school, no online learning, no class interaction (other than that we arranged) and were falsely lead to believe there would be some end of it before term ended. I have no confidence they will return in September and it seems everytime the government suggest something the unions oppose it without offering a solution. When every other sector stepped up during the crisis I think the education system at all levels should hang its head in shame.'

66. 'It has been incredibly challenging to say the least. I've been juggling home school for my 5 year old alongside mine and my husbands full time jobs from home. It is utterly unrealistic to have put this on to parents and expect them to be able to home educate, work, and be able to look after the home and in my case another younger child who was out of nursery. It has led me to clinical depression and I've broken down in front of the children and had panic attacks. I fear losing my job the longer this goes on for. My child is now offered 2 days a week only in reception which has helped her and my wellbeing, however it is not enough. Children need to be children, they need to be taught by teachers and to be with their peers. We've received PDF worksheets with activities on and had 3 phone calls during lockdown from her form teacher. No online lessons at all. I asked the Head about the 2 days and whether this could end up being more and was given very short shrift that I ought to be grateful that my child is one of the 'privileged few' who is back at school. I've done my best to muddle through and provide my daughter with an education of sorts but to care for her wellbeing as well and protect her from the worry of Covid. However the mental toll this has taken on me I cannot put into words. Without full time school in September I know I will have to give up work, I cannot ask my parents for help and there is no breakfast club or after school club so my whole support network has vanished. This is on me and I feel that acutely'
67. 'Awful, tears, tantrums, arguments. I don't know how to teach, if he gets it wrong do I show him the right answer or leave it to be marked? He doesn't get it so often and I can't comprehend why not. Every little thing is a distraction, the dog, my work, the postman etc. I must say sit up and focus a dozen times a day. It causes arguments between my husband and I too over how to teach him, his attention and the general stress. The isolation has made him so depressed. He's had nightmares and his sleep is so disrupted. We've booked him in for a dyslexia assessment as he is struggling so much with his English. It just can't be right how difficult it all appears to him.
68. We've had enough of lockdown, the community spirit is fading and nobody smiles or talks anymore.'
69. 'The schools were the last to close because A) Virus transmission was lower than other places
70. B) Education was valued as important. So why is it ok they're the last to open?

71. Every other sector is changing its business model - schools need a system change with a central plan (could be adapted by individual schools).
72. Why do we need to be wedded to the model of 5 days per week with 13 weeks of holiday all programmed at roughly the same time? We could pace school terms and times better for families and teachers. It's a time for opportunity and a new enlightenment for the way our children can learn and education is structured.'
73. 'Some of the online stuff is amazing and better than school but no live interaction with staff or peers is desolate, sad and detrimental. Hats off to the BBC rising to the challenge.
74. Most resources are very middle class and require a certain amount of equipment, mindset and agility to access. For me it has all had pros and cons (at extreme ends) but what it isn't is sustainable in the longer term. And it is creating even greater inequality. have both primary and secondary children.'
75. 'We're both working parents with two kids aged 10 and 12. We're lucky that we can both work from home during this lockdown period, but are utterly and spectacularly aghast at both the primary and secondary schools' inability to teach our kids. Both kids have had homework set, either weekly or daily, and we have been doing our best to keep on top of it. What we're utterly incapable of understanding is why the schools have refused to do any online learning. Since schools closed, our 10 year old has had one 5 minute phone call from the teacher, and that was at our request. Our 12 year old has had weekly 30-minute Zoom calls with his tutor, but not much else. Instead of getting wrapped around social distancing measures etc, schools could quite easily have transferred their lessons online (like many private schools, which have done just that). They have the tech, but not the will. Why? Teachers say they're rushed off their feet, but it's certainly not because they're busy teaching. Please help give us a voice, the teaching profession has a lot to answer for!!!'
76. 'School work pretty good but impossible to implement and do my own job with a 5,10 and 13 year old.'
77. 'My reception child has completed all work set no problem. She is more accepting of being at home and although upset about not seeing her friends, she has taken it on the chin. She is more used to being at home than her older sibling.'
78. 'My year 3 child has being really upset everyday. He gets 'a'grades for effort at school. However he is very reluctant to work at home and won't do anything for mum and dad. He is deflated, lacking confidence and is like a different child. He is so upset about not being in the school environment. I am a teacher and he still won't work for me. His confidence and mental health has really suffered.'

79. 'My daughter is diligent and works hard so online classes worked for her to an extent. She is conscientious so turned up to every class and worked on her offline work. I felt the lack of face to face teaching, no rules for camera to be on, meant she was less engaged than she should be and teachers struggled to get feedback from the students. Many of whom may have logged on but not been properly present. Again, make sure she was up, dressed and at a tidy desk was my only involvement in this.'
80. 'My son found it hard to engage in online classes, not just because his GCSEs were cancelled, after lockdown. He recognises that he learns best in a collaborative, communal lesson with instant feedback. The motivation to engage comes from inspiring teachers who encourage. He found it difficult to embrace the multitude of online sessions available. I'm lucky I didn't/couldn't help him other than ensure he was up, dressed and at a tidy desk!'
81. 'Myself and my husband are both working full time in finance roles which have become increasingly busy over the lockdown as both our companies require more information as to cashflow and severance planning. We have 2 children in primary school one of which has fared better at home schooling as is in year 3 and more independent and able to undertake the school work online. My other child in year one, and summer born, cannot concentrate very well and we have struggled to cope with much schooling at all. The guilt is immense, as he was already struggling with handwriting and English, and it has stretched our patience and the environment at home has been stressful, with a lot of shouting and tears between parents and children, husband and wife. Once the younger child was able to return to school in mid June the home environment has once again become more harmonious. Said child is also now happier as he has the structure to his day, learning at school but also the opportunity to play at a distance with his bubble class mates. We care so much about his education and it was heart breaking not being able to educate him very well - he really needs the discipline of the school environment to be able to sit down and do work. We have tried to continue reading to and with him but I am concerned about the impact of the shouting and stress (attempting to encourage homeschooling) on his own confidence and therefore his future self-esteem which is so important to his happiness.'
82. 'My wife and I both work full time and have a 2, 3 and 9 year old.
83. The 9 year old's school took nearly a month to get structured online learning organised and in the entire period her teacher has arranged just 4 zoom calls with the class and is limiting herself to marking one piece of work a week as she is "too busy teaching her own children".
84. The teacher has refused to send her children to school despite being a key worker as she is claiming she is at risk, as she has type 2 diabetes. This does not put a person formally in the at risk group. Rather than admonish this teacher for withholding labour, the head is entirely supportive.

85. As a result, my child's education has been severely impacted as has that of the other children in her class. The shift to online has been painfully slow and has ignored the government's online resources. In addition, teachers seem to have taken this as an opportunity for time off and for those of us who have been working full time, seeing our school claim that they are even more busy than normal is insulting. The breadth of coursework has taken a noticeable dip, follow up work is non-existent and use of technology to actually support home learning entirely absent. In addition, the school seems to have taken it upon themselves to divert teaching efforts and resources towards pushing a political agenda with regards to critical race theory that is not politically neutral, as is required of them under law.
86. This is a state school and we are broadly supportive of the state system, however this experience is making us question this stance and contrasted with friends in the private sector, it's clear that union and political activist pressure in the state system is having tragic impacts on the education of children.'
87. 'There has been work set, but the only thing my daughter was really able to do was Doodle Maths/English/spellings. The teacher gave them a little bit of feedback via the app. The teacher called us a couple of times. I had to work the whole time as usual (NHS community doctor) and really couldn't help a huge amount.'
88. 'Both of my children have been in full time 'school' since lockdown began but neither have been getting any real education. My husband and I both work for the NHS and have continued to do so throughout lockdown. Home schooling hasn't been a real option for us as both children are at school 6 hours a day and we are juggling shifts to accommodate pick up and drop off due to a lack of wrap-around care. We have maintained the level of 'homework' we did pre-lockdown with them. My eldest is in Y5 and due to do his 11 plus in September, the council are insisting this will go ahead as normal, which is adding to our stress. Both children are bright and we working a greater depth in English and Maths pre-lockdown. I am concerned that the lack of home schooling will be detrimental to both of them and particularly my eldest and it may impact on his 11 plus chances. Schools must open full time for all pupils in September, as not all parents have the luxury to home school. education is not an option but a right for our children.'
89. 'I've been so disappointed by my secondary school, which up to this year I would have said was a great school.
90. My son is in Y8 and for the last 5 weeks he has had ONE 30 minute Microsoft Teams English Lesson per week but that is all for actual interactive learning in all of these months. Prior to that there has only been work set on Show My Homework.
91. We have had ONE phone call - this was from an Assistant Head who admitted he did not know my son! I have no understanding of why his Form Tutor OR another teacher who knows him could not have phoned him once a week, or even once a fortnight, to try and keep him motivated.
92. He has done his best but honestly it's been poor. All of us who have been at work during lockdown have had to adapt quickly and offer the best we can in the circumstances. I think the schools need much clearer guidance on the absolute minimum that they MUST offer if we go into lockdown again'

93. 'In beginning work plans sent home seemed ok but took time to read it all through before starting with my son. He didn't want to do work at home but understood he should try. He did try hard. By week 4 I had highlighted to school we felt let down, there was no workable online platform to submit work, no spelling platform, no phonecalls, no requirement to return or have any work marked, just this weekly plan by email.
94. The plan has maths, english, reading activity and RE most weeks. 3/4 science activities if we wanted to. 1 feedback task per week & 1 sharing task (both optional).
95. Stress levels in the house exploded every day over English we didn't understand as parents (the terminology for alot of grammar; adverbials, sub clauses etc) as they just weren't in use when we were at school.
96. My son was in tears, throwing chairs & running out of the house on 2 occasions, the atmosphere was just too much for us all.
97. As parents we felt he ought to do it, he'd go behind if he didn't, but if it happened again I'd try to be less worried and give him less to do.
98. After Whitsun the school arranged phone calls. Too little too late. Stopped the feedback task cos all the teachers were needed to teach the smaller year groups in school. There was no new technology to use, no dojo or Google classroom for instance. Still the same weekly plan: white rose maths, bbc bitesize.
99. We were so disappointed we again wrote to school. Asking among other things that a online platform must be available for 2021 in case this all happens again!! The head called us & explained in a trust decisions aren't her own, she apologised for lack of contact.
100. In last 2 weeks (June) we have had one face to face meeting for my son to attend & 1 phone call from his new teacher, & a new feedback email for work which is read & replied to by a teacher. In those 2 weeks my son has had his demeanor change from constantly frustrated to looking forward to going back. I just wish these measures had been in place from the beginning!!
101. Any reopening needs to ensure every school has the ability to use technology to set, submit and mark work. Plus ability to contact teachers.'
102. 'I was lucky I work part time & my husband was furloughed. We had time to sit with my son. However it didn't make the task easier & we all suffered. The atmosphere in our house was not happy whenever we tried to do the school work.'
103. 'The main issue has been the lack of engagement between the school and the pupil.
104. The focus has been on yr10 and yr12 due to upcoming exams. The rest of the years have been left to flounder, especially yr 7 to 9.'
105. 'Yes, we have online lessons but it's 'death by PowerPoint' twice a day. Homework is almost none existent, with some not even required to be uploaded, to be handed in on return to school - is that really going to happen? '

106. 'We are a family of 4, 2 parents that work full time, a 13 year old and an 11 year old.
107. It's been bloody hard work and has cause a lot of mental anguish. That we are still struggling with - to the point where we are now paying for extra lessons to bring them both up to speed - I'm just grateful that we can afford to do that.'
108. 'I have one child who is in year 7 at a private senior school (and one who is in year 5 at a state primary school). Both my husband and I work and have not been furloughed. The whole experience has been completely demoralising and has made us seriously concerned for our children's mental and physical well-being. Our frustration at the opening of pubs and shops but not anything which is meaningful for children (schools, swimming pools) has been immense. The senior school my child attends has (despite parent feedback) maintained exactly the same timetable which the children would have had they been at school (including for example, double lessons) but online, with the result that our child has spent from approximately 9 am to 4 pm each day sat at a desk in front of an ipad. Weeks of this has unsurprisingly left her depressed and bored - no adult would be asked to tolerate this. The only change which was made was to furlough all the sports staff and leave the children (that is, their parents) to fill the sports sessions, suggesting that if there was a difficulty with this there are plenty of (oh yes, yet more) online resources. Without the oversight of a teacher engaging them in an exercise class, of course most of them did absolutely nothing at all. We have had no information at all from the school about how they plan to manage the return in September (bar ridiculous emails assuming all is the same, asking for transport plans and informing about which maths set they'll be in) nor do we have any confidence that the government will offer helpful guidance. Working parents and more importantly, children, have been completely ignored by all who ought to be concerned for them. So angry.'
109. 'Both my husband and I have continued to work from home throughout the whole pandemic. We live a considerable distance from any immediate family. Our child is in reception
110. My employers have been very understanding and have allowed me to adjust my working hours to fit round a family schedule we have created to enable both of us to work whilst caring and homeschooling our child. This means I can focus on the activity in hand it does mean my days are extremely long as I have to work 5 hours a day Monday to Friday. The schedule for work is 7-9am, 2-3pm and 7-9pm.
111. At the end of the day we then have to prepare for the next day, food, activities, clean the house etc. The routine is relentless we are both exhausted and have no time for ourselves.
112. We feel fortunate we both are still employed, have a generally happy household and that our child is still engaged with learning. We do think the later is due to the energy we have both put into preparing, expanding on activities from school, for learning and development but that has come at a cost to our wellbeing.'

113. 'We are counting the weeks to September...and have everything crossed for it to be safe enough for the children to return to school'
114. 'It has been truly challenging. I have a 5, a 7 and a 10 year old child. Luckily only my husband works in our family so i could focus on home schooling and household. To homeschool the three of them was very tolling. I had to cook for them and feed them, keep the house together, constantly struggle against the continuous stream of mess, make sure they exercise in fresh air every day. I decided not to use the online materials the school sent as it would take me hours to read through the suggestions and print them, also because i did not want my children to spend their days in front of screens. Instead, i ordered the CGP book series for them covering Maths and English so they could advance from chapter to chapter day by day in an structured and transparent manner. We mainly did it together or i only checked their work after- which also took 1-2 hours, especially if something was wrong and i had to explain the subject to them. It was mentally and emotionally draining, by the end of the day i could hardly speak. I hardly managed as it is, i think to expect families where both parents work (or with single parents) to home school is an absurd, cynical, impossible expectation, putting people in helpless situation with enormous responsibility. Kids from those families will obviously be much behind in their studies, leaving them unfairly in vulnerable, unfavourable state. Which logically will have its toll on their mental health, which will undoubtedly have its impact on society as a whole. Politicians must very carefully tackle this challenge and avoid just pushing this huge responsibility on the parents, as "someone else's problem".'
115. 'School has tried but assumes we understand the lesson plan and jargon. Pleas for video lessons have fallen on deaf ears. Lack of understanding that we have salary paying jobs we need to protect, and dynamics at home mean days are spent unhappy, arguing and detrimental to everyones mental health. Little things like "spellings ending -ils". Just give us the words. We don't have time to go through all 100 words'.
116. 'I have one child who is in year 5 at a state primary school (and one who is in year 7 at a private senior school). Both my husband and I work and have not been furloughed. The whole experience has been completely demoralising and has made us seriously concerned for our children's mental and physical well-being. Our frustration at the opening of pubs and shops but not anything which is meaningful for children (schools, swimming pools) has been immense. With the state school child (who has impaired hearing and consequent attention issues) we have simply been sent packs of work, sometimes at the start of the week, sometimes a couple of days into the week (never in advance, to enable us to read it over the weekend). One individual teacher has tried hard, recording video messages to generate interest, but otherwise the attempts at engagement by the school have been clumsy, driven by a 'must follow all rules however ridiculous and damaging to children's happiness' culture and frankly embarrassing. We have ended up having very brief sessions throughout the day, focusing on things as basic as times tables, interspersed with activity and 'breaks', all of which one of us has to supervise, which is incredibly time-consuming but the only bearable way to

manage the day. Given what we now see of the expected curriculum, our expectation is that he will (at best) be at least a year, if not more, behind year 5 level when he goes into year 6. We have no idea how the school plans to manage the return to school, the academic expectations or plan for his final year of primary school and we have no confidence that the government will offer schools any useful guidelines to enable parents to understand what is happening. We have no concerns about him returning to school or mixing with other children at all, beyond the psychological harm which we think may well result from well-meaning but misguided rigid adherence to safety guidelines which prevent children from having some sort of normal interaction with at least some of their friends.'

117. 'I work full time with two children - one in yr 4 and one in yr 7. My husband is a hospital consultant so I am the only parent who can home school. My work has been brilliant and very flexible - but it means I work from 7am to 6pm so I can take breaks to home school. However I am not a teacher and I know I am doing a dreadful job of it much of the time, despite my best efforts. I end up shouting a lot which is having a detrimental effect on our relationship. My child in year 4 needs quite a lot of support and input so how much work she can do depends on my availability. My biggest concern is for my child in year 7 who is struggling to keep new friendships going and I am watching his social contacts dwindle. I have to cajole and encourage him to speak to his friends as his confidence plummets. I am watching my happy, well balanced and high achieving child become socially anxious with mood swings and stomach aches. If he is not back in school in September I am very concerned about the impact on his mental health. I am doing my best to help him see friends as lockdown eases but it is no substitute for school. He asked me how come it is safe for people to go to the pub but not for him to go to school. I have no response - the decision is inexplicable to me.'
118. 'The school has been pretty good at setting work. They have been provided with a full timetable of 5 hours a day covering all subjects which they have completed. As lockdown progressed there have been some live lessons (appreciated but our children often just want to get the work done in their own time). There has been some variability in quality but the children feel they have covered much the same material as they would have in school. Feedback on work has been quite limited (just a grade and a sentence), teachers don't seem to have adopted technical solutions to applying the marking scheme they would use in school. It doesn't feel like they will be behind where they would have been in school and their ability to plan and organise has developed considerably.
119. There has been very little communication from the school outside of setting work and limited feedback but perhaps there would have been more if they weren't keeping up with the work.
120. Our children (year 7 and 8) have absolutely thrived working at home (we have also been working from home.) The illusion of school being the best place to learn has been shattered for them. They have found it much more efficient to work at home without disruptions at at their own pace with resources that sometimes explain work better than they

think their teacher would. Their independent working and technology skills have developed immensely. We wish blended learning could be a permanent option.'

121. 'They do miss seeing their friends (though they can keep in touch and work together remotely), a return to school where they are separated from their friends due to bubbles would be the worst situation for them. We've had no communication about plans for September.'
122. 'When lockdown started my kids were 3 and 8 (now 4 and 9). By the end of March both were at home. I have a high-pressure full time job and my husband is a student. He had to revise and take exams whilst the kids were running wild and I had to work - he failed one because of this. We have only been able to support our older child's learning (he has ADHD) so the little one has been largely ignored. My workload tripled in response the COVID problems - one night I worked until 3 am then went to bed for 3 hours only to start again at 7am, this was after several nights of working. There have been many fights and tears over doing the school work, but because our older child struggles a lot at school we have tried to keep him on track otherwise our fear is that he will drop behind like he did in Yr 2 and that he'll have a subsequent loss of self esteem and confidence. The little one has gone back to nursery but only for a few hours a week when he used to do 4 full days. I think our kids have largely done ok through this but I have now been referred by my GP to talking therapy as I am starting to crumble under the pressure and stress of holding down a job, a family, a home, bills etc etc. I have taken on the burden of almost everything in our home mainly so the kids are ok, and so they don't get impacted negatively but the toll it has taken on me is huge.'
123. 'Working from home and So called 'home schooling' is becoming impossible. It might have been looked on as a novelty at the beginning but has turned into a nightmare. Children are becoming undisciplined, it's not the parents fault when they are working from home. Could teachers manage two jobs? I would be very surprised if teachers are in their homes 'working' 9-5 which they should be as they are getting full pay. They are not furloughed! I've heard comments from some quarters saying teachers don't feel safe. Give them all PPE then -problem solved.'
124. 'In one word stressful and exhausting as both my husband and I are in full time jobs and had to work throughout as well as homeschooling one child whilst also attending to the needs of his under 3 y old brother!'
125. School did the best to support us but more direct contact / feedback would have been good .
126. I have 3 under 8 years old. Teachers did a great job setting lots of work and timetables but in reality we managed a fraction of that work and it created huge tensions and stress for all.

127. After completing even a small amount everyone was exhausted as they watched a lot of tv!
128. Their mental wellness deteriorated, there was much acting out.
129. Having started the holidays already we are focusing on less tv, no set work, encouraging reading and other creative activities.
130. If I can practise their maths or writing during a game then I try to but otherwise no pressure.
131. If I think about the set work we haven't done I feel stressed but I believe if I get them to September in a healthy & happy frame of mind this is more valuable.
132. It's already a lot better at home.
133. For the first 3 or 4 weeks, brilliant. Enthusiasm and novelty all round.'
134. 'Week 14. We are still doing 'good things', but the pressure of both parents working and schooling and being a 'parent' too is crippling us.'
135. 'So much was done with the Nightingale Hospitals to create new space and facility to deal with the sick, yet we still have HTs saying there's no way they can school our children. In our day jobs we have had to seek flexibility, share time and space, sacrifice our intentions and ambitions for work, rest, parenting and each other. Have school Heads looked at alternative spaces? Have they looked at flexible timetabling? Have they looked at compromising some things? Have they considered outdoor spaces? No evidence. I think it's time schools and Govt and business and community spaces got themselves in gear and worked to solve this rather than stay in stalemate.'
136. 'Well, my problem is rather the struggle of making three monkeys do school jobs at home, I gave up long ago... I am a supply teacher, can't work, not furloughed, we don't count as key workers... I am a primary teacher and had huge struggles and arguments, tantrums over school work, can't even imagine, how families with no teaching experience manage... Blended learning the same. It just doesn't work without the school environment. Children need it to learn and they need the home to be monkeys. Back to school is what I support, for everyone's sake: families, teachers, TAs, economy... There's too much lost already.
137. I also advocate for these children to resit their current year - especially in early years they have missed a lot.
138. If schools stay closed or open limited, nothing else will work properly.'
139. 'I have been working full time at home a Marketing Manager from the beginning of lockdown. I am separated and have three sons aged 8, 14 and 19. My 19 year old returned from his first year at uni in March. So all three have been at home. I think the reality is that I've been very focused on my work, and, if I'm honest, my children have had to deal with a lot of their school work alone. For my 19 year old, that's no issue. And while my 14 year old is fairly competent, he is not that driven unless he's being coached and mentored. I have relied heavily on him telling me what he's got to do each day and whether he'd done it. Sometimes he has, sometimes he hasn't and I've received an email from the relevant teacher. In the main, considering he has been learning virtually independently I have nothing but praise for him. For my 8 year old, it has been tough. He sits every morning at the kitchen table with me and we go through what he has to do. Often, he has to ask questions or requires help. I have

to give my older sons a lot of credit for helping me out with him. One of them helped him build a Viking long boat in the garden! We have only done the work that is required though. Anything optional we have ignored because I just don't have the time. One project we collectively agreed we would also ignore...to create a stop motion film of the entire play of A Mid Summer Night's Dream. After much discussion, my 19 year old reminded me how long it would take him back in the day to create the shortest stop motion film with his lego. I decided to tell the teacher we hadn't seen the task should she ask. She never did...thankfully. '

140. 'If I had to do this again, I obviously would. It's definitely not been a negative experience for any of us. My boys are happy and that's been my main concern for the entire lockdown. There have obviously been huge benefits attached to having so much time with my children. It's time I wouldn't have had and won't get back. We have gone on more dog walks than ever before and had some of the funniest and most enjoyable conversations. I do not miss rushing around in the morning struggling to get myself and my two youngest ready for school/breakfast club/work. But they have missed their friends very much. My youngest loves school and I had completely underestimated how much he had missed it until he was invited in next week for an afternoon to meet his new Year 4 teacher. He simply cannot wait. And my eldest has missed out on what should have been an amazing first year at uni. None of which I can really compensate for. Whatever happens next in terms of plans in place for another lockdown needs to consider parents who aren't "key workers" but who are, nevertheless, helping to keep the economy going by working from home.'
141. 'Year 2 child: challenging. School let us down by having no live interaction with children (no calls, no online events). As the school is a bilingual state school, the children have two teachers (one for each language). One teacher sent interesting, stimulating instructions each week, reasonable volume of work, prompt, encouraging feedback, sympathetic and ready to offer support to parents. She also sent learning objectives (bronze, silver, gold) so parents and children could see what they were aiming for. The second teacher prepared an extremely complex website of dull, unthemed exercises, told us it was compulsory to complete everything and send copies to her, but provided no feedback and ignored emails requesting support.
142. We have an older child at private prep school whose experience of homeschooling has been streets ahead in every respect. The school maintains regular hours, regular stimulating lessons, online contact. They have finished the term ahead in their curricula. The difference between the private and the state school is largely one of organisation, not of deploying more resources. It shows what state schools ought to be able to do, with better guidance for teachers who of course are acquiring a wholly new set of skills.
143. From these very different experiences we know first-hand how vital it is not to overwhelm children (or parents); to provide some sort of live interaction with the teacher; for teachers to provide prompt feedback; for teachers to find ways to keep learning fun and stimulating; and for teachers to guide parents on learning objectives so parents know what the aims are. All teachers should be guided on these basics and monitored by the school.

144. HOME LIFE: extremely challenging to juggle work and homeschooling. At age 6/7, our child needs an adult with her to focus on schoolwork. Greatest concern is for our child's mental health: 6 months at home with little interaction with other children is damaging her motivation, self-esteem, enjoyment of life. Not to mention her fitness. She exhibits regressive behaviours (tantrums, rows etc). Our family relationships are strained as parents are the only ones to give her guidance, instructions, be strict when needed; yet are almost the only people she can go to for fun, stimulation, comfort etc. This is not healthy.
145. SHOCKING DERELICTION of Governmental responsibility: We find it sickening that people can now congregate socially yet children are not back at school. There is no reason for this. Also that most summer holiday clubs are not running as government guidance was issued too late. Forcing 6 months at home is a shocking dereliction of the Government's responsibility for the education and well-being of our young people. We need only compare with our European neighbours, with children all back at school, to see how poorly our education system is performing.
146. 'It has been a very positive time where I have seen both of my children flourish. My school has set clear expectations and a clear timetable and it has been easy to follow. When we have achieved what we need to in a day I supplement that with lessons or activities from elsewhere. We have achieved a full curriculum for both my Year 1 and Year 3 children.'
147. 'Teachers were excellent, went over and above what anyone could expect
148. Great range of activities provide by school on google classroom but 9 year old daughter missing teacher and her friends and working with peers. She is very emotional and gets frustrated. 7 year old losing motivation after so long. I have been furloughed so sit with the children all day doing homeschool but I don't want to be their teacher I want to be mummy and enjoy the time with them and make home 'fun'. I find it extremely tiring and emotional.'
149. 'As a single parent and full time employee working from home whilst home schooling, the entire experience has been mentally exhausting and stressful. On the one hand you're expected to fulfil your work demands and being told to work more hours to meet your growing workload with no consideration that we are effectively also educators too. I carry the worry that I'm not doing enough to educate my children and they could be falling behind. There has been no support for people in my situation.'
150. 'Overall I'm not happy with the provision of the school. The school put a lot of effort into pre-recorded videos where young kids are expected to engage with a figure 2" high on their screen and do some work as a result. The videos themselves were very unengaging. My son (yr2) as a result has done practically no school work set.' On 1st June his teacher finally got in touch and started calling him daily to try to engage him, but she wasn't great at it, and just gave loads of platitudes and compliments for the amount of minecraft he was playing, which is NOT what we expected. '

151. 'I think children needed MUCH more engagement to continue their learning. The school should have done SO much more to keep children engaged, such as weekly live videos to set students up for the week, and even daily videos to make them feel part of the school learning community and by not doing so they've lost credibility in my view. '
152. 'In the last 2 weeks, they have started using Zoom - a friday afternoon call to chat with their school friends and discuss the weekend. It's nice, but it's not educational, and not used for engaging the kids in learning. Too little too late in my view.'
153. 'We have one son in year 2 who has been given weekly assignments in English, Maths and Topic on google classroom. He is incapable of working independently so I sit with him and guide him through assignments on the days when I'm not working from home. Our other son is in Reception and is back in school 2 days a week. Virtually all of my focus is on my elder son as Reception have provided so little material/ assignments for our youngest. We read a book with him every day but it is impossible to do any homeschooling when I'm wfh and I fear our youngest is falling behind. Our relationship with both children has suffered as completing schoolwork at home is a battle and source of stress.
154. I have a year 11, GCSEs pulled, no one will ever convince me that the exams could not have been run, they could have sat them, spread out throughout the schools and invigilated by teachers who were not baby sitting the children of key workers. The cancellation was a knee jerk reaction. That year 11 has been doing some bridging work, but will he be able to start his A levels in September? It will be absolutely disgusting if he can't.'
155. 'My year 8 has been working diligently throughout and has been set work each day, but this can never and will never be acceptable as an even medium term solution. I have sent emails to Robert Halfon MP (thank god he chairs the education select committee) he is on our side, the Childrens Commissioner, the PM and my MP. This was when the school issue was being ignored.'
156. As far as I can tell, it is the unions, who throughout this shambles, have been obstructive and have refused to engage. It is a flexing of their wasted muscles. I wonder how
157. many union officials are back in the pubs, eating out and visiting non-essential shops, whilst trying to persuade people that schools are dangerous places!
158. We are very lucky, we have a device each and although it's a small house, we have a good enough table that we share, to get the work done, but, having two teenagers who are so restricted, is not easy and I am sure that neither of them will ever be certain of anything ever again.
159. Our school is s positive, proactive place, full of determined and dedicated staff, some of whom have been there since it was described as failing. They have worked incredibly hard to turn its fortunes around and every year, it gets better. These people now need to be allowed to get on with their jobs, and then the rest of us can get on with ours and perhaps our children, who will be paying for this mess for all their working lives I suspect, can continue with what is a basic human right, their education.

160. I hate to say it, but what we need is a bit more of the attitude that the Iron Lady had during the 1980s, to get the schools back safely and if the unions won't engage, bypass them.
161. Homeschooling has been impossible for us. I have a 9 year old and a 7 year old (6 when lockdown started). Year 2 and 4 haven't gone back and so they will have missed 6 months of school. It is impossible to create the learning environment that our kids would have had at school. The school have sent through worksheets every day, but the children have become increasingly lethargic and found it difficult to learn. They have missed the friendships, structure, exercise and playtime of school and their learning (despite our best efforts) has gone backwards. My younger child was at the start of an SEN assessment before lockdown and the school had been supporting us with this. During lockdown we have not been able to access the support we would have had or continue the assessment. My child has become increasingly anxious and distressed which has led to his saying "he has forgotten all learning" and refusal to do any of the work. Homeschooling has strained our family relationships, decreased our kids ability to learn and reduced our income as we try and juggle work, full time parenting and teaching. The children need to be back in school in September. Ideally some sort of holiday clubs/learning support should be provided too.
162. I have four children; three girls at senior school (Years 7, 9 and 11) and a boy in Year 2.
163. The girls' school has continued with online lesson provision which, in principle, was very comprehensive. However, the reality has been that my girls have been on laptops from 8.30am to 4pm every day which I felt was very unhealthy. There have been chunks of time that would ordinarily have been PE or Games lessons as well as subjects that do not lend themselves well to online schooling, such as food tech, PSHE and Art, for example, with the result that for around one-third of the time the girls would end up distracted by other online websites. Trying to track what all three were up to while home-schooling the youngest proved very difficult.
164. I feel that they have had a largely unproductive term; the first few weeks after Easter started well but they became increasingly disengaged over time. My 12-year-old in particular, who is an extreme extrovert, has become withdrawn, (avoiding FaceTime interactions, for example, and burying herself in a gigantic hoodie) and tense, irritable and angry. None of them have done any meaningful exercise during lockdown after an initial enthusiasm for running tapered off without friends to run with.
165. My son's school stuck rigidly to the pre-lockdown timetable which I felt was really misguided. I believe a better plan would have been to be realistic about doing a chunk of maths and English each day and aiming for not more than 2 hours of schoolwork. Consequently I quickly gave up on what they were offering (which exposed an embarrassing reliance upon resources from websites such as Twinkl and BBC bitesize and very little original work). There were no live lessons and a limited amount of recorded input, such as a teacher reading a story or a short assembly - which were of such poor quality I didn't use them. After initially sending worksheets (in completely unmanageable quantities - 40 a week at one point, with the expectation that parents would teach and work through them all with the children)

the school switched on an online platform called Seesaw. I felt that my 7-year-old required far more support to use it than was practicable, essentially meaning I had to work alongside him all the time. I also positively DID NOT WANT him online at his age, especially as my girls were clearly being negatively impacted by long days on screens by this stage, so I tended to print the few resources I felt were helpful and get him to work in pencil and then upload them. This was very time-consuming. Feedback has been extremely limited and follow-up on work he didn't understand non-existent. After a few weeks of initial enthusiasm I quickly realised that our 1-to-1 teaching situation was far too intense and was exhausting both of us, as well as leading him to feel frustrated and regularly to complain that he was 'no good at' a subject. By the end of the summer term I had more or less given up and was just doing a bare minimum of maths (half an hour or so) and some reading every day. Some outdoor summer camps have opened up near us and they have been an absolute godsend - he is so much happier now that he is getting some structure, seeing other adults and most importantly, having friends to play with and having a good run around outdoors.

166. If schools don't reopen in September I fear for the mental health not only of the children but of the parents who are trying to do their best to look after them. It is very stressful fearing that we are letting our children down, and extrovert children are suffering enormously from not seeing friends face to face. Primary school children desperately need to get back to normal play with their friends - taking a 7-year-old out to artificially 'exercise' them is absolutely no substitute for the natural workout they will get if they just play with their friends.
167. Heronway school was amazing through lockdown... the head and staff went above and beyond for all the children .. and there to answer questions from parents .. plenty of support for school work google classroom was a brilliant format .
168. Parent of Year 10 student.
169. School has "tick-boxed" min. requirement for secondary school ie offering yr10 and 12 some contact.
170. Yr10 have had 1 x 2 hour session a WEEK, a masterclass in either English, Maths or Science.
171. Other than that, work set weekly on online platform, no live sessions, no daily register, no set timetable.
172. Disappointing as huge modern school which has the space to have done a lot more.
173. Some teachers more proactive and have motivated my child. Most of the rest have been sadly lacking. Amazed about the lack of IT knowhow and ability to step up to the mark as every other business has had too.
174. Private sector has meanwhile run a full timetable and the knowledge gap widens as a result.
175. Education sector has not been a team player during this time, frustrated by Govt. guidelines and teaching unions.
176. No social distancing for schools in Sep and a full return.
177. Shield if required but do not continue with this lockdown for schools and our children.

178. Children are bored, unmotivated, meeting with friends outside school anyway.
179. Good luck!
180. My child is at primary school. The teacher provides maths and English worksheets each day with an explanatory page online and/or a video. There has been a couple of geography and history projects set too, but really other subjects have fallen by the wayside. We started to use BBC Bitesize a few weeks ago to try to give our child other lessons, but morale is really low now. Our child is working on an old laptop that keeps breaking down and now the sound won't work on it. The online stuff is a nightmare when computers don't work properly.
181. My partner and I have reduced our working hours and income to manage our two children at home with schoolwork - it has been really hard. We thought it would be for a month or so, but now it has become an untenable situation.
182. Our child's teacher is lovely, but once the Reception, year 1 and year 6 children went back in this half term, the teacher has little time to worry about the "home workers", so we have felt abandoned and really fed up.
183. From being a happy child who loved school, my child now says "I hate school" on a regular basis. It has been so upsetting. Online screen work (even if we print out the worksheets) is very limiting and in no way replaces teacher time. The school has not set up any video lessons or invited my child's year into school for any time this term and it seems mad that 3 year groups have gone back in, but no other year groups are allowed. Incredibly unfair and difficult to explain to a child why half their class is back at school but they are not. Our child's change in their attitude towards schooling has been heartbreaking.
184. The school sends out very few emails but does keep us informed. We felt totally depressed when they announced no further years would be taken back to school this half term. We can't understand why extra spaces like village halls and the recruitment of ex-teachers and DBS checked volunteers weren't explored and utilised to make it happen.
185. I feel that if teachers weren't on full pay but were on performance-related pay, then schools would have reopened fully by now - if teachers' wages reflected how much work they have been doing in the past 4 months, they would have had the motivation to get the students back in. My respect for schools and teachers has really plummeted, when I had always held them in high regard before this.
186. Our experience has been awful. So much so that we are considering our school options for next year. The school have been dreadful. Our 6 year old was sent home on the last day with a pack of 15 photocopied papers. That is it. It took the school 2 months to set up a Facebook page where they asked parents to upload pictures of the work they were

doing - which just turned in to a competition for 'best parent with the most time' and made everyone feel bad.

187. At the end of June they sent, via email, a single piece of work which was a picture of a piece of Art. The work required was 'Ask your child to describe the picture'. Our 6 year old: "Its an umbrella". Amazing!
188. When Yr 1 were due to go back we were told that the Governments advice meant that it was full time or nothing and that they could not accommodate everyone. Despite most other schools operating a system that meant all yr1 went back across different days, our school communicated that this was not their interpretation of the guidelines and that they would only offer full time places. This has meant that half the year have gone back and half the year haven't. The half that have not gone back have received NO support. Not even a phone call from their teacher. It is disgraceful.
189. We are both working full time and have been juggling the work/life/school balance for, what seems like, forever. We understand that this has been an unprecedented situation but we feel completely let down by our school. The few emails we have had from the Head suggest that they are incredibly busy at school and that they simply have no more time. Really???? That's even more worrying! They currently have half their normal class size and they don't have time to set work for us, call our children? When they are full how on earth do they cope!
190. Any regular contact from the school would have made a huge difference to us. We have tried to stick to reading and writing but it is hard to motivate her because she knows that her teachers don't care. Having to tell her that she can't video call her friends anymore because they have gone back to school and she hasn't was absolutely heart breaking. She's 6. She thinks she did something wrong and that's why her teachers don't want her back.
191. It has been incredibly hard, frustrating and exhausting. We try to flex our days to cover everything but it is not unusual for us to start work around 7am and still be playing catch up past 9pm.
192. The school sent an email 2 weeks ago saying that the teachers had decided to 'give up' insert days at the end of term so that the yr1s who didn't go back can have 3 days in school. WOW. Thank you. What hero's you are. Don't get me wrong - I have huge respect for teachers and I know that most schools and teachers have gone above and beyond to support and help, it is our school I have issues with. They are so busy - too busy to reach out or call or send anything that could be a little bit helpful and motivating - but not too busy to spend time

recording videos for facebook of dance routines they have created. I would like to know what they have been doing all this time? How can I have confidence that they can cope with everyone going back to school in September when it appears that 15 children are more than a class can cope with.

193. Still at least they have 6 weeks of summer to recover!
194. I have two children, one in Year 3 and the other in Year 1. My husband and I have full-time jobs. Since 23 March we were given the impossible task of trying to continue to work from home and look after our children.
195. We have been trying to support my daughters with their home learning. In order to do this, we have to give each child one-to-one support with their learning, we have tried to set tasks and leave them to it, but this approach doesn't work. As a result, it is very hard to fit home learning between work and zoom meetings.
196. I feel that because of our situation my daughters are missing out on their home learning education. I would love to dedicate all my time to help them learn but because I have a job, I am physically not able to do this. This particularly saddens me that my daughter, in Year 3, was doing really well at school and because we are not able to support her with her home learning, coupled with her reluctance to home learn, she will suffer the 'covid slide'.
197. I think the schools have been put in a difficult situation. There are disagreements with the trade unions, the government and the headteachers are in the middle of this. This isn't putting children first. Where is the Nightingale hospital for children? Why is this issue not getting the airtime?
198. I'm exhausted and I feel guilty that, through no fault of my own I can't support my daughter's learning. Thank you for setting up this forum.
199. Year 3 child - hasn't written anything for 16 weeks. We have been doing 20 mins reading a day and a bit of mathematics the set maths work (each day). She is very reluctant to work. The teacher calls each week, I have to request a call.
200. We've found it a real challenge trying to get school bits done at home and then to realise it's mandatory to do school work.
201. I think the biggest problem is teachers don't want to go back to work, with some which I know complaining that they have had to work 3 consecutive days. The school where

my kids go started off well, but as soon as June 1st came the workload became far too much for the teachers. So they reduced the school week to 4 days and the work being set for my children became laughable. Also we have only had one very brief phone call from one of the teachers since the start of lockdown. I feel really peeved with the teachers attitude with too many in their profession not being prepared to do their fair share to ensure our children get a decent level of education. These are supposed to be our educators surely they could have got together and came up with a standardised online learning programme and made sure every child had access to a computer or tablet.

202. My child is at secondary school. The teachers at first provided lessons to match the timetable. Most work is online, multiple choice-type questions. Worksheets, videos and audio were also provided. This was okay, but as time has gone on we have all got screen fatigue, not to mention schooling from home fatigue. Trying to keep up morale is difficult. The last half term of the summer, the school is alternating timetable lessons and an activity pack - one week on, one week off. In total, there will have been 4 weeks of activity packs this half term and 3 weeks of timetabled lessons. For an activity pack, there is a list of about 20 activities and the child is meant to choose 5 a day. This has caused many problems as our child will choose the easiest and quickest activities, understandably, while we try to get them to choose more in-depth activities. Activities include a film review, build a den, make a bug house, name the authors, yoga, put your feelings in a cloud: a lot of them require more equipment than we have at home and others seem a bit of a cop out. The school suggests BBC Bitesize if more structure is needed - we have used that as a supplement.
203. We much prefer the timetabled lessons - more structure. Both myself and my partner work and we have two children, so it is a constant juggling act and we have had to reduce our working hours and income to manage the children, but we are still trying to keep our businesses going.
204. The breadth of subjects on timetabled weeks is okay. The teachers have not been feeding back since May - the points system the school uses for rewards hasn't added any points for my child since then. My child has had maths feedback from a test but that was a one-off. The online quizzes give you results straight away. We aren't impressed by the lack of feedback.
205. The headteacher emails every day but the emails have become more and more surreal with opinions on everything shared, whether school related or not. We get the impression that teachers are on full pay and are happy to continue with "virtual school" (virtually useless, as we call it) forever - their ideal scenario seems to be to have few students in school and still be paid fully. Whereas my partner and I have reduced our income to cope and have less time than ever as we are managing schoolwork and work.

206. Our relationship with our child has stretched to breaking point. They do not respond well to us as teachers - refusal and negativity are the usual responses to requests to do the work or to go a little further with questions or activities. We are now taking the line of least resistance as term comes to a close. The schools have no excuse not to open to students full-time in September - they will have had almost 6 months to sort this out, but their emails suggest that they think "virtual school" is an okay substitute. It is not. We feel abandoned and despondent. I wish the schools were doing everything in their power to reopen fully in September, but I'm afraid that they are not.
207. Until nurseries reopened, we had a 4 and 8 year old at home, so homeschooling and working full time has been impossible. Our 4 year old just watched tv as we tried to home school our 8 year old and work. The stress has been enormous on the family, our 8 year old now showing signs of depression. He also suffers from heart disease so we have isolated as best possible. Our 4 year old is going to school in sept but there are no plans on how to transition him, simply turn up in sept and off you go. We need the school to offer online teaching via zoom or Skype to give our eldest some interaction. We only hear from the school via newsletters. So in sept my eldest will go back, depressed, confused and not prepared in any way.
208. It's been incredibly hard juggling work and school and my daughter in year 3 now does not feel motivated to do schoolwork at all. I'm working flat out at work who recently did a round of redundancies so I cautious about trying to stay on top of things and as a family we are really struggling and quite frankly my husband and I are burnt out after nearly five months of doing this and both working full time . My daughters mental health has also been affected, she is finding it a struggle without her routine, friends and school community. We also sent my younger daughter back who was in reception and there was a dramatic change when she went back to school, she was so excited to go to school and happy when she returned knowing that her home was where she could relax and play as she had learning time at school.
209. Our school have gone above and beyond to support us every step of the way - BUT my children are desperate for their friends and teachers and gave up any school work several weeks ago. Every day was becoming more and more of a battle and they were getting more and more miserable. So I have put their mental health first and now just try and get them outside as much as possible. Our school did an amazing job of preparing to allow all pupils back part time before summer - which would have been invaluable in boosting spirits - but the Council pulled the plug on this at the last minute due to some very unclear Department of Education guidelines. This was a massive knock to us all at an already incredibly tough time.
210. I have generally been luckier than most, as my husband and I are keyworkers and my son is in year 6. However, for the first 2 months between end of March and the beginning of

June my son had the opportunity of going into school 5 days a week but the school made the decision that they wouldn't be educating the children during this time. They played and watched videos instead. My son thought this was great at first but then became really bored and frustrated, he started calling it 'cheap school'. All the time this was happening the school was sending home tons of homeschooling, one week it was 195 pages. We were expected to do this homeschooling in the evenings and weekends whilst my son was at school with qualified teachers (sometimes on a two teachers to one child ratio) for 6 hours a day, just playing and watching videos. We wrote many letters and emails of complaint and so did other keyworker parents, but the school refused to budge. I ended up taking annual leave for two days a week and sending him into school for three days. During those two days we did as much of the home schooling we could, around 7 hours a day to try and keep on top of it. It was exhausting for both of us and I think damaged our relationship as a result. Since June, things have changed and now the school is only open for four days a week but the teachers are following a curriculum on those days, however, they are still only accepting key worker children so there is a large group of year 6 children who are receiving no schooling whatsoever. This change has taken the pressure off our situation and the difference in the house is huge. Everyone is getting on better, my son is motivated and happier and has been sleeping better. I am really counting on the schools going back in September, trying to encourage everyone just to slip back in home schooling for future lockdowns is just not going to work.

211. We have been unable to home school due to the fact we both work full-time. There is an assumption that only disadvantaged children are affected by school closures but many middle-class children with parents who work have also missed out. It is arrogant and misguided to suggest that a parent should have been able to fully home school during this time. The burden for all this has also fallen disproportionately on women.
212. Both my husband and I have been working from home full time. We have found home schooling very stressful. The children's school has sent out a good variety of school work, both online activities and paper based ones but the children have struggled with motivation. The whole situation has made us all upset at various times. It makes me question whether I am a good parent because I can't simply put my children first a lot of the time, especially when I have online meetings. Our youngest, 7yrs old, is now very emotional, say's 'No' to a lot of things, doesn't want to get dressed or do his teeth in the mornings. He cries because he can't go back to school. He isn't the happy boy we used to have. I'm really worried that we won't get the happy, enthusiastic child we used to have, back. His enthusiasm to do things has gone. I'm really worried about how he is mentally.
213. Our oldest, in year 6, starts secondary school in Sept. He has had 6 half days in school since March. He seems to be coping better than his brother but we are worried about the transition to secondary school.
214. The stress of trying to home school and work has been worse than I thought it would be. It has made me feel really down. We now face a summer with probably no holiday clubs. The children are really missing their friends and social interaction.

215. I really hope things return to 'normal' in September, for everyone's mental wellbeing.
216. My main concern going back in September is what it will be like for my kids.
217. I am happy for obvious changes to be put in place. But as a parent I need school to be school - what it offered my child before lockdown.
218. I am very nervous that school will become a place that causes my children to fear everything. Teaching them NOT to sit close to anyone NOT to put their arm around a friend who is upset, NOT to share. If this is what school will look like in September, I don't want my children to return. I have spent the past few months at home creating a safe haven and a secure environment for them to continue to grow and develop.
219. If teachers are fearful, then don't come back, you will just instill this into our children.
220. Re: 'catching' COVID. It only takes a few droplets from someone who is positive. So, to put huge amounts of time and effort into social distancing inside the school, and then see kids walking to and from school and at break time being close together. All those efforts are futile. Its not worth it. Its impossible to keep kids apart, so encourage washing hands regularly, obviously staying off if any symptoms. But then just let them enjoy school and interact with their friends.
221. It has been hell! I have two very gifted daughters, aged 8 and 10, their report cards always have overachieving and max effort - my wife and I are very lucky in this respects and extremely grateful. However schooling at home is a different story.
222. I run our family business, a large local shop, and we also employ eight others. My wife has returned to the shop to work since lockdown lifted but all during lockdown I've been running the business. However whilst my wife was at home she dealt with the majority of the homeschooling.
223. Since the start of June I've been in work mode seven days a week, working on the dining room table alongside my two daughters, who ask questions every two minutes, it's almost impossible to get anything done.
224. The work itself isn't the toughest but often it's given to them without context and off course no guidance or Q&A from the teacher prior to work start. The teaching methods are extremely different from when my wife and I were at schools, and whilst we're not stupid it embarrassing to say that we've been miffed on a number of occasions with the school work instructions!
225. My business is at peak season during the summer holidays as we sell school uniform, it's like Xmas, Easter and the Boxing Day sales all rolled into one. Ordinarily we juggle the

children during the summer and a number of times they come into work with us, but that is now unfair on the other staff, permanent and temporary, as social distances must apply and we're sure our staff don't want children running around.

226. My feeling is that there's not been enough support for parents or children and not enough access to teachers. It like we've had to pick up a job we were never trained for, (Yes, alright, like much of parenting, I know!), but this is a new 9-3.30 job that we've not had the years of training for that teachers have.
227. Monday is the most stressful day of the week as it's the busiest day of the week for my business, phone calls, emails, WhatsApp's, urgent messages, weekly management meeting, and also the time we pick up the school work packs and the kids pull them apart trying to decode them!
228. My health is starting to suffer with stress related ailments showing - even as I type this my daughter came to ask me a question I have no clue about, and my frustration reflects her own, hard to keep my blood pressure down, not her fault at all, they try so hard.
229. I am a mum of two children (7 and 1) who have been home since mid-March. My husband is also at home but working full time and required to be responsive to work demands during office hours means that it is impossible for me to continue to engage with my work during normal hours. I am a final year PhD student and was supposed to submit my thesis at the end of June. I have been granted an extension until the end of December which is a godsend but I can't get any substantial work completed at the moment. Our usual childcare arrangements are exclusively with grandparents, one of whom is in the clinically extremely high risk group that were asked to shield. With one main wage coming in, paid childcare is not an option for our family until I can get a job which despite my qualifications will be difficult in the current circumstances. I am therefore attempting to care for my children during daytime hours and work on my thesis until early in the morning. This has left me utterly exhausted and with very little energy to engage positively with homeschooling. We are in a routine that is predictable for my daughter, however until reception, year 1 and year 6 children returned to school my 7 year old had no contact from her school at all. Parents were provided with a weekly activity sheet which started after Easter and provided very limited ideas for educational activities. Basically I felt like we were left without any real support. My daughter had no contact, not even a call for a welfare check, for nearly 4 months while she was at home. Since some children have returned she has been offered weekly group video calls with her teacher for 20 mins. I have been trying to encourage her to keep thinking and learning, offering a variety of resources where I could but this is difficult when you're not sleeping and not familiar with the resources available or what's expected to be taught to children who are in year 2. We have had many arguments at home, my daughter frequently screams at me in frustration, she does not want to do anything linked to learning while she's at home. Her 1 year old brother is absorbing all of these interactions and is

copying her behaviour. He is a normal, energetic toddler who is doing exactly what he should be doing at 1: exploring his environment and developing his language and physical skills. He climbs on tables, hides cat fold around the house and demands food, drinks, attention at all times. We have been living this reality for months now, no end is in sight and it is no one's fault. I'm not sure how I will possibly be able to educate my daughter, care appropriately for her brother, finish my PhD and stay sane for much longer. The school does not offer much support, and the prospect of an enforced return which increases the number of contacts my daughter with have substantially means we cannot be supported by the grandparents who are close by and very much missing my children and their normal routine. This situation is absolute hell, and we are a strong, well educated, motivated family unit. I cannot begin to imagine what some other parents are going through.

230. I have just come across your information and at last as it was I thought I couldn't be the only one who felt that there was not anywhere to be heard as a parent. I absolutely agree that the silence of parents does not reflect the full real situation and feelings of some parents and families.
231. I work as self employed in schools (mostly currently on hold) and have found it frustrating that the approaches of some schools differ. My daughter is in Year 6 Primary and returned when there were the changes in guidelines. She has found it extremely difficult being in a socially distanced pod and not allowed to have any interaction with her close friends in another pod (I am aware that other Primary schools at least allow the children to socially distance communicate with each other). However, she is now settled and happy.
232. I have been reassured by my daughters secondary school who have done zoom calls and links as part of the transition in September. She feels more confident starting secondary due to this communication. I know that others in her 'pod' haven't had anything from their secondary.
233. My son goes to the same Primary as my daughter and he has struggled the most during 'lockdown'. He has SEN and awaiting different assessments. We have not had any contact from the SENCO or any phone call from the Class Teacher up to very recently and that was following me contacting school regarding my concerns about our son's disconnection with school and that he was not doing any school work despite all our efforts.
234. The work packs we were given each week were the same for all the children in his Year Group and he clearly found this overwhelming. We are not teachers but could see this work was too difficult for him. He also needs 1:1 to focus and combined with working from home this has been extremely difficult. I contacted the local advisory for SEN (charity) and they advised contacting the school to request more differentiated work for our son. They were also surprised we had not had contact from school - other than a collective class dojo message. These weekly messages did not have much meaning for our son as it was praising

all the work that the other children were doing which made him feel even worse. Whilst this is great to show pictures of his peers and their work, this has made the divide greater.

235. The work pack was the same photocopied format every week which meant our son soon lost interest. We have had access to technology and tried a variety of websites for learning as recommended. Again this has been something that our son has found difficult to engage with. We have tried to keep structure and routine etc as well.
236. The impact on him is heart breaking as a very lively energetic child now needs all persuasion to go out. We do not feel that this is related to anxieties about the virus but the impact of isolation - not able to access the activities we would usually. Sibling dynamics have never been great due to differences in personality and age gap and as a parent it is difficult to see the media portray the 'happy family' home schooling image - there has not seemed to be a reflection of the difficulties on social media either.
237. Amongst this I have been trying to work from home and my partner is still furloughed. Recently I read in the Government Guidance that schools are now encouraged to accept more pupils if they have the capacity. I was aware that our children's school has 2 Empty Classrooms. I phoned 3 weeks ago to request a place for our son to support his transition and help him reconnect before the 7 1/2 weeks school holiday! I was told that he would be put on the waiting list as there was not any staffing. Yesterday as my son was putting his shoes on to go out (after much persuasion) he said "I've forgotten what school is like and I can't remember if I wear shoes in school?". That for us says it all about the impact of this situation.
238. Homeschooling has been pretty horrendous. No online classes on behalf of the school. Just work set each week via their website for different year groups and using the home teaching package of Hamilton. We just felt abandoned to be honest. Communication from the school was appalling too. We had to purchase a better printer to cope with the requirements of homeschooling and share the laptop. Both my husband and myself were working from home too and stress levels for all of us (including my daughter) were high. I worry about her mental health and the impact this extended home schooling will have.
239. It's been incredibly difficult to work and home school and I have failed miserably at both.
240. Initially the school bombarded me with too many on line resources; I picked a few and created a daily timetable. Felt guilty about the ones I ignored.
241. It was June before the school provided a structured timetable, but it was too difficult to change. It was horrendous anyway whatever we did. My daughter refused to do anything

unless I did it with her, if she got a question wrong she'd cry uncontrollably for 2 hours, (although admitted she wouldn't behave this way in school), and we'd both get frustrated and end up shouting. She's incredibly angry all the time which is deeply troubling. I've now just given up completely with home schooling and try to focus on my own job. If she asks questions about a topic I'll try to teach her about it and get her to do some related activity, but other than reading (which she loves anyway) I've lowered my ambitions to just learning timestables and telling the time.

242. I have 2 children in high school, one in primary school. I work part time in the NHS and the rest of my time I run my own private business. Lockdown has been a nightmare. Having worked alongside COVID +ve patients and not catching COVID myself the thought of children returning to school when only 2 under 15 years olds have died from COVID versus the 12.7 million under 15 year olds in the UK.
243. Undertaking risk assessments are all about predicting the risks and limiting them.
244. If only 2 out of 12.7 million have died to me the risk is negligible for the children themselves. Of course there is an increasing risk the children might carry it. But, then those most vulnerable should remain isolated, or if that's parents of children they obviously don't need to return to school and can undertake home schooling as necessary. If its about the teachers catching it, then those shielding stay at home. Advertise for retired teachers to come back to the profession like the NHS had to. This is a pandemic after all.
245. But, teachers aren't treating COVID +ve patients coughing in their faces. They are teaching healthy young people. Obviously any child with symptoms would stay off school.
246. The virus is not going anywhere, and we have to learn to live with it, as safely as we can.
247. How valuable do children feel, when they see the government opening up the pubs and not schools?! They are the next generation who will be paying this off in their taxes for years to come. They are going to need their education to get jobs to pay this back!
248. The work set has all been on line. We haven't had enough computers with 3 kids, I have had to use my work computer which I shouldn't do. Then despite teachers saying don't print work. I have had to for my youngest, as we don't have enough computers. So over last few months I have printed a tree's worth of worksheets.
249. There have been no actual videoed teacher lessons for my secondary school kids, all online work set, which is so hard for them to stay motivated to keep doing. My eldest doesn't enjoy using computers, he prefers face to face so its been particularly tough.

250. I am not a teacher, and am unsure whether they have effectively learnt well at home, or just 'got through' it. So many of their peers haven't done any work. Then due to schools wanting to keep their grades/stats high. I bet they will go over all the work to ensure those not done any will achieve. Therefore disadvantaging those kids who have been motivated to do the work everyday for the past few months.

251. So, I wonder whether we should have bothered.

252. What a mess!

253. I have three children, 4, 5 and 8 years old. My wife and I both work full time, my wife has a very senior position and we are both classed as key workers. The children have been going to key care, they haven't really been doing any learning at school other than reading the odd book, in the main the key care has consisted of play. Whilst this has kept their social skills up-to-date, their education has suffered greatly. It has been extremely difficult to work a full day, then to get back and teach three different levels of homework, not to mention trying to fit in shopping and other house work in the mix. Whilst we might be tired the children are also exhausted from their day of play at key care. This is putting immense pressure on the little ones, and it's hard as a parent to know if we are doing the right thing pushing them to do their work when they are exhausted. Surely if the children are at school a teacher via online video with a teaching assistant physically present could provide a lesson to children. I feel that the teachers in their mind have done their bit by putting the work online, without the thought of how the parents are able to deliver, especially when the children are too young to do undertake it unaided and there are different levels of homework. I believe the government should have put stricter and clearer guidance on the teachers. I believe that because my wife and I are classed as key workers and have been going to work to support the country that our children have paid the price in their education and stress levels in comparison to non key care children.

254. Over 2 schools a junior and a secondary. Great communication and support from both. Too much work from the secondary school though leading to a depressed and isolated child.

255. It has been awful. We work full time with an 8 and 4 year old at home. The youngest went back to school on 17 June which should have been 1 June and kept being pushed back. The eldest got 45 mins with his class, that's it. He is upset and crying a lot. Can't focus on anything or concentrate. I had to take extended leave from my job for a month to support our family because my husband's business is more financially precarious. I have been prescribed medication for anxiety and depression after I stopped sleeping and hit a wall. Parents at the school have abused the key worker system so some have kids in school when they shouldn't and I feel my son has been penalised for us playing by the rules. He keeps asking me why it is all so unfair and I have no answers for him. If we have to do this again it will break us. I am dreading the summer holidays it is physically impossible to do my job and look after my kids at the level both needs to happen. I will never get past the rage I feel at how appallingly badly my children have been treated through this. They have been bottom of the pile and it's been assumed that we would pick up the pieces. My son eventually got a 40 min zoom a week to

play games with his class that's it. All other learning has been entirely parents driven. I can't see myself ever getting past how angry let down and upset I feel about this whole situation. The arrogant complacency of the government, the hysterical obstruction of the unions and the lack of care of leadership from anyone has impacted my children and our family so badly.

256. I have 2 children, one in Yr 6 who has returned to school now and otherwise is extremely capable and motivated to complete the home learning set by the school. My son, aged 7, in yr 2 however, has struggled, and does not enjoy school work at the best of times. I am working full time, from home, and although my husband has been furloughed, we have found it a real struggle to home school. Concentration and motivation levels are low, as my son associates home with relaxing and a different space to 'school'. The work set by the school has been good, especially during this term, however finding the balance between ensuring he completes it to continue learning without putting strain on our relationship with him has been tough. We don't want to put him off learning for when he returns to school. Home schooling with other commitments is neither effective, nor sustainable.
257. Home working has allowed us to provide 1:1 education for our 6 and 9 year old girls. They are back in school for the last two weeks of term but aren't working nearly as hard as at home. But... juggling work and education is a nightmare. I do both badly. I am an NHS worker working flat out at home on work directly affecting our COVID responses but I am unable to do my best as I can only work in short bursts to facilitate my girls education. Luckily they have both coped brilliantly. But they need to be in school. They are getting nervous about going out and de-socialised. They need to be around other kids. Parents can not be expected to juggle this long term.
258. We have two adopted boys 5 and 10, 5 year old has experienced severe neglect and has attachment issues and the 10 year old was taken into care at 6 months. Our 10 year old has a condition known as NF1 which comes with learning difficulties. I (Chris, the dad) have been home schooling them during this four month period whilst my wife continues to work. Both boys have had some access to school but limited. It was only when I stated that my mental health was suffering that it was increased to 3 days for our younger son. Older son gets 1 day a week. By then it was too late and I am now suffering with low self esteem, sleeping disorder and have had to increase anti-depressants. I am part of a fostering / adoption group here in Leicester and such situations are common place amongst the members of this group. Now we have 7 weeks of "holiday" when the last thing our boys need right now is a holiday. Especially when Leicester is still in lockdown. Our boys need the extra tuition now and not next year! I also need a break.
259. It has been tough. My daughter is feeling alone and lost interest in doing homeworks. Learning is a social need and task that needs the guide and support of qualified teachers and dedicated environments.

260. The school have been phenomenal in providing academic, social and emotional support for our family.
261. As a grandparent I've got custody of my two grandchildren one left school the other still at school but under SEND there. It has been a struggle to do any work at all with him. He sees the home environment as a safe place and not a school. The school is his place to learn and meet friends. The home is a safe place. We need the children to go back to school. As this Covid19 is going to be with us for sometime. All parents need to return to work for their well being. Lock down has put a great strain on everyone.
262. Our school has gone above and beyond during lockdown, providing daily videos in English, Maths, and Grammar/Spelling/Punctuation with my children's own teacher teaching a lesson facing camera, adding small jokes and attentions for the children.
263. There were also worksheet provided, the children could complete them and send back per e mail. Teachers answered every single e mail they received. The bond was maintained between teachers and children, it tremendously helped my children stay motivated and focused for homeschooling.
264. This being said, homeschooling 3 children of different levels with a reception one who needs 1-1 time to focus on writing, while the Y4 one still will require help to complete a math task, is NOT an easy task.
265. Add to that the strict lockdown measures where they had to stay at home all day, and it can get quite stressful. Luckily I am not working and my husband kept going to work, so we did not suffer on top from managing working from home on top of home schooling. I am in awe of parents who did.
266. Our last disappointment was that our school was ready to welcome Y2 to 5 students on June 29th, my big boy and my daughter were rejoicing, and the county council refused the opening at the very last minute (2 days before !!). Children were utterly disappointed. We are gutted - all the more that we know other schools in the county that are opened to Y2 to y5 with the same provisions than our schools had. We protested, we asked help from our MP, but we were told DfE supported the council decision. We also know academies depending on DfE that are opened to Y2 to Y5 with the same scheme that our school had.
267. We consider the guidance provided from DfE unclear, and the implementation unfair and inconsistent.
268. We are so keen on getting involved for a smooth September back to school.
269. Thanks for all you are doing.
270. I have two sons, one in year 4 and one in year 1. Neither have returned to school. The year 1 child is at an Infants' school which only took back Reception and critical worker children. It has been extremely challenging to keep both children engaged. The government's

policy to prioritise some children over others based on their parents' occupation, especially as time has progressed, is clear discrimination in my view. The first real time contact my children have had with their teachers has been via Zoom in the last two weeks... far too late in my view. My year 4 son in particular has suffered emotionally, is angry and confused and has been desperate to return to school. My year 1 would be happy to never return. He is totally disengaged and I worry about his anxiety (the school has previously reported that he is a quiet and anxious child) on his return to school. The Infants' school seems to have resumed correspondence as if all children are back, detailing the wonderful experiences of those children fortunate enough to be back at school. I complained to the headteacher, asking to consider those not fortunate enough to be allowed to return to school and received a disappointing response which stated that children in school were following the same curriculum sent home for parents to teach and the teacher would share the achievements of those at home were she to receive more feedback. No empathy whatsoever for how families are having to operate at home. I am amazed that parents have not been protesting more to get children back to school. I welcome this campaign!

271. With a young baby and 2 year old, home schooling my year 3 child has been very hard. My husband works long hours, often away for days at a time and I have no help. My eldest struggles to work independently and needs constant help. The school itself only set a few worksheets 3 times a week (most of it needs printing and we don't have a printer) and we haven't had a single lesson on zoom and haven't had a single piece of work marked. I assume that perhaps they are doing that to take the pressure off parents but it actually increases the pressure because I am having to teach him concepts from scratch with 2 young children hanging off my leg. There have been many times we just go round in circles where I try to teach him things but he doesn't understand and I can't see why. It leads to frustration for both of us. It's really affected our relationship and also has left my 2 youngest lacking the time and attention they also need.
272. It was easy and enthusiastic to start with, after the easter hols it was harder to get going, we have concentrated on maths (timetables, work sent from school, various learning platforms on laptop), english (again, reading, spellings and grammar on learning platforms) and some science, we've thoroughly enjoyed our time together, his anxiety and tics have calmed down and he seems to be thriving.
273. I still get resistance, and he doesn't miss it.
274. He does miss his friends but he doesn't miss the mean behaviour from other kids or being punished because the kid who bullies everyone isn't here!
275. I'm very reluctant to send him back until a vaccine is ready as I'm an extremely vulnerable adult and NO provisions have been made as of yet for people like me who have children at school.
276. He's worried about going back as I'm a single parent and I can't imagine how my son would feel if he brought the virus home.
277. I don't trust Johnson, Gove or Williamson (I'm not being told what to do by an education minister who used to sell fireplaces. He has no experience)!

278. It's quite simple really, continue to provide work for parents who want to keep THEIR children at home to continue home educating!
279. I dont want to de- register him as he will be going into yr 6 and it's an important year.....but I'm not paying any fines.
280. The government cannot guarantee our safety so according to sect 44 of the employment act states quite clearly that safety has to be guaranteed then I'm perfectly within my rights as a parent to keep him off!
281. Overwhelming, stressful and tiring. We have a 3yo and a 7yo, both work full time in jobs that have ramped up since lockdown started- public sector. The homeschooling is done but there is no quality from the teaching side - we just do it to get the work done. Balancing with our jobs means we play tag team and catch up for the whole week. The school has supported those that have gone into school and left the others to their own devices, posting up about 20 pieces of work per week with no additional support.
282. The school has followed govt guidance and given the patchy nature of this, the school has been slow and reactive. Some schools have now opened to all year groups, some were able to run online classes since lockdown started. Not ours - why?
283. The educational attainment gap is going to get bigger. I count myself lucky that I am not a single parent with a full time job, with multiple children to homeschool, who did not grow up in this schooling system and where English is not my first language. I can only imagine how difficult it would be for them and their children.
284. My son is finishing Foundation stage this week. He managed to go back to school during June for three weeks before Leicester went into lockdown again. When he was back at school we could see he very much enjoyed being back playing with his friends and seeing his teachers. He was back to his old confident and independent self whereas during lockdown (March-early June) he was getting too clingy. He coped well with homeschooling during that time but we definitely noticed behavioural changes. As parents working full time from home, homeschooling and childcare have been greatly affecting our productivity at work and caused a lot of stress in our relationship, health and well being. It has been very tough to balance/address these. We very much value the school and teachers' roles in society.
285. During lockdown the school uses Weduc for announcements, sending messages to parents and putting the home learning tasks/activities. Tapestry is also used for parents to record their child's work. There were daily set activities based on the weekly theme for English (phonics, reading and writing) and Maths. There were also arts/crafts activities posted in relation to the theme that week. We were given access to Epic, Owl Books, Sumdog and other resources to help our child's learning. Thankfully there's an extra laptop at home for our child to use for home learning or else this would further affect our work productivity if we

had to use our work laptop for home learning. We found that there is a lot of home learning to go through in a day and it was difficult for us to do them with our child with his short attention span. We eventually resorted to work through these daily activities in his pace throughout the week. Logging his progress on Tapestry was an annoying task for us but we knew it was essential. There wasn't much guidance on how we should be logging his progress so we mainly looked at what teachers had previously posted and tried to copy that. What's really lacking during the homeschooling is the follow up work and regular checking in and interaction with our child from teachers and other pupils in his class. There was only one Zoom organised by teachers for his class during end of May and even this we didn't manage to join due to technical difficulties which made my child frustrated. It would've been better to have at least weekly Zoom calls with his class even for just half an hour for them to have some interaction, to check in and for children to 'see' each other and not feel too lonely (especially for those who are the only children at home with no other child to play with for so many weeks!).

286. 2 children:

- 1) year 6 - changes from work set remotely with no interaction to online via Microsoft teams (2 live lessons, others pre-recorded) to back to school full time, to back to school half days.
- 2) year 2 - online work - changed from work set remotely with no interaction to online via Google classrooms - all prerecorded except one 30 min 'form time' each day. No return to school. Reasonably pleased with online provision but it requires hands on support from one parent at very regular intervals (15 mins)

287. A very difficult time. Child (1) became very withdrawn and unmotivated to the extent that he would not get up or go out and on occasion refused to eat. This vanished when he went back to school and he is currently v happy.

288. Child (2) finds it hard to concentrate in a home environment (although is apparently fine at school) which has led to lots of arguing and storming off. She also misses social interaction and we have taken to running our own art lessons for a group of her friends in an outside space with a furloughed art teacher, and joining a tennis club with a school group too. That said, it has been interesting seeing her learn and grow and being more involved with the school content.

289. Both parents (did) work full time. This is impossible with home schooling so I have been getting up at 5.30am to do a couple of hours work, and fitting in calls/ meetings etc. No weekend breaks. Productivity has suffered and it is very stressful working and managing a home with no support team (usually cleaner, au pair).

290. My children are extremely conscientious and we were able to provide new computers. They have been given minimal guidance from the school but just worksheets.

Very few live lessons and only one video call during whole of lockdown. Poor response from head blaming lack of teaching on the fact that his staff have their own children to teach. Really poor response from flagship school.

291. We are fortunate we can afford to print stuff out and give the children a room and a laptop between them. We both as parents work full time and continued to while we home school And look after shielded parents. The thing is we didn't provide friendship, banter, anecdotes, explanation, interaction and the pure talent that a teacher can and our children are lonely and bored. Very sad to see them working at a computer alone all day at such a young age with us popping in to link up the next video. Horrendous times. And we are the lucky ones who can afford the materials and space for them.
292. What about families with one phone and one room between 5? What about the autumn when it's raining and cold and they can't go out? It's damaging for children. They have to see their peers and go to school.
293. We have to make a safe way for the teachers to be protected and the children to all be back in. Let's get the army involved. Portacabins. Extra cleaning staff employed. Come on we can do this.
294. Poorly photocopied worksheets uploaded to the website. Lists of BBC Bitesize videos to watch. Allowed to email work to a teacher once a week but no feedback given. Totally left single full time working parents on their own. When parents asked for video conferencing lessons the school said teachers had to be in school, were at home shielding or looking after their own children. Those at home without their own children "shouldn't be expected to do more just because they don't have children"
295. Both my children's' independent schools have done a good job of providing structured online education during the lockdown. Their academic progress has been perhaps 25%-50% of what it could have been in school, which is absolutely not acceptable beyond this term but I think may well be excellent compared to many experiences due to our ability to pay and hold the schools (which were not good enough in the first few weeks) to account. However, cutting schooling back to the absolute bare basics of core academic subjects has taken all the joy out of their education and impeded their social development, creativity, physical skills and mental well being.
296. My husband and I have been unable to home school our 7 year old as we were working during lockdown, The school provided some work on one orenote . Thee was a phone call for 10 mins from the school once a month. We don't understand why zoom or teams lessons weren't provided as it would have maintained a level of interaction necessary for development. We also don't understand why the critical worker criteria was in place once lockdown was eased so some children returned to school in June but not others. We are very disappointed with the government and school for their lack of forward thinking.

297. I have (thankfully) been furloughed and have one son who was 6 when we started homeschooling-now 7 and in Year 2 about to be Year 3.
298. His lessons were provided on videos for each day and were 'supposed' to be 40 minutes for each lesson. There was a weekly Assembly on Google Meet to chat and 'show' work they were proud of.
299. However to submit what he had written in Literacy in 40 minutes usually amounted to 10 words (if we were lucky) in amongst the 6 toilet breaks/hug per word/meltdown/anger/'I can't do it'/'I don't understand's'/hiding and running off to play Lego! Therefore we spent all day doing both Maths and Literacy instead of the other lessons that should have been fitted in each day?!
300. I did ensure that reading was kept up on the weekly book and thank heavens, my son found The 13th Storey Treehouse series of books and turned into a bookworm for the last 2 weeks of term and read 5 of the books (instead of lessons).
301. His teacher was very pleased with this and did say that it was beneficial long term (agreed) and now needs to be kept up!
302. We had to deliver (& still re) food shopping to my shielding parents in another county each Thursday and then deliver food cooked by my Mum to my sister & shielding Nephew who live close to us as well as her shopping. Therefore one day was taken out by that! School was very understanding but it was a struggle to get all Cote subjects done.
303. Personally I too have cried and craved parts of my old life back!
304. My partner has been working full time since Lockdown so homeschooling was left to me! Our son is too young to do any work 'independently' bar about 6 Maths sessions although I stayed in the room to assist if necessary.
305. I just pray that schools return in September as my job as Cabin Crew is about to resume and I can not be physically here to homeschool when at 36000ft in the air!!
306. I truly hope he is not scarred by the 'experience' and we both cheered when Mummy's school shut for the summer!!
307. However, he is doing a few pages of Maths & English work books each day as well as reading to keep him ticking over for 9 weeks!
308. Thankfully we have a great relationship and I don't think any long term damage has been done. However I can't do another term of home schooling!!
309. Thanks for listening!!
310. One of my children who attended Wilshire-Dacre Junior Academy has had the most amazing experience. They have sent home good quality lessons and work. It's like they were in school the whole time.

311. My other child who goes to a different infant school has had barely any work. The lessons were shoddy at best. Hardly any educational value and poorly organised.
312. Our children are in years 10 and 8.
313. As parents, we are both key workers for the NHS and Prison Service. One of us has hefty contractual hours and significant travel time. The other works very locally and the family run 1 car.
314. We were utterly dismayed to find key worker's children provision at their school consisted of walking around the school grounds and playing some games. There appeared to be no real support for private study and no consideration for parental working times outside the school provision.
315. Home schooling mainly has relied upon our children picking up emails and online prompts and on trust that they would get through work in a timely fashion. There has been very little transparency for parents regarding the children's progress through this work, and relies on our teenagers being honest (or not as the case may be). For the child in year 10, there has been no clear guidance on what this work equates to- whether it is revision or new material, or indeed whether it is a useful contribution to their assessments and attainment for year 11. Face to face provision has been for 2 hours a week for the yr 10, which has meant one parent taking annual leave 1 day a week for 5 weeks to service this as the school transport is furloughed; the firm quite rightly advised it was not viable to lose subsidy by re-opening for this period.
316. Family arguments have snowballed recently, putting enormous strain on the parental relationship. With no clear path to plan for, apart from being advised by school that flexible working may be needed (probably impossible to achieve for either parent), we are now dreading the rest of the year including the "summer holidays".
317. At first there was no pressure from school, suggestions of fun things to do at home, but no expectations to be doing loads. As lockdown progressed and it became clear my children weren't going back, we have been issued with a home learning pack, with more ideas, work sheets and tasks loosely based around the content they would have covered this term. Again, pressure to complete this has been minimal. We have been offered a 2 hour catch up with their teacher session, and a 2 hour meet their new teacher for september session. We have had fortnightly phone calls from one class teacher, but little contact from the other class teacher. We have been directed to some fun videos of the teachers on the school website. The children have had no direct elearning or online lessons from the school.
318. Home schooling has been horrendous- I have been juggling the demands of a Y1 child with being a parent/carer to my 9 year old who has complex special needs. My child with SEN has had 2 x 4 hour sessions and 4 x 6 hour sessions over the past 3 weeks at school with no other support from the SEN school apart from the odd call to find out if I'm OK. His behaviour

has been extremely challenging as developmentally he is around 2 years and doesn't understand the lockdown and why he can't go to school as normal. My other son's mainstream school have provided work which because means a lot of input and motivation from me which I have struggled to provide along side coping with my older son's needs. I do not have a printer which means I am writing out his work too. I am exhausted.

319. I have 3 adopted children , 2 of which have attachment disorder and developmental trauma. Home schooling and working from home has been a nightmare. My oldest son is 15 and has just returned part time this week. My 12 year old has seriously struggled and we have been told he is 15 weeks behind on some of his work despite me sitting with him for 2 hours a day. My 8 year old hates home schooling- she also has sensory issues and struggles with the notion that I am her teacher as well as her mum. It takes her all morning to do 2 pieces of work. It would have been much easier to just give up but I am persevering because I Don't want them to be too far behind in September.
320. I can't wait for the 6 weeks holidays so we can get out and about without the constant stress..
321. I am a secondary school teacher with two secondary school children. Trying to do my job (setting work, supporting students, marking work, running online lessons, calling students, awarding GCSE and A level grades, reassuring worried parents etc) whilst at the same time trying to motivate and support my own children has been stressful and had an impact on our mental health. I don't believe that even with the best will in the world and the most diligent parents and students that real learning is happening anywhere. Work may be getting done but this is not learning. We have had no training, little support and no time to prepare for online learning so to expect us continue with this way of educating is unrealistic for teachers, students and parents.
322. It has been awful. I have tried repeatedly to make contact with the school, writing to the head and Governors to explain the impact but was told that the Government said they don't have to deal with complaints. We've had two worksheets a day, one literacy and one maths which have been taking half an hour to complete. This is not providing education. We have to mark them ourselves and were asked not to send the maths ones back via see saw which then questions how they will know who has completed what's on return. They provided a topic list but none of the materials despite this being the same topic list they've had for at least 3 years so I've had to source and download myself. There has been no personal contact, no phone calls only 2 group zoom calls in July that lasted 12 mins. So how do they know the children are safe and well? Children don't want to do work set by parents they want to impress their teacher so when I send the work in that I've completed with him and only get a smiley face emoji he deepens his disappointment and makes him question if his teachers care. There have not been any interactive sessions or delivered content. The teachers didn't do anything until after the half term when see saw was set up but told us all about the amount of time they spent in their garden while I had spent weeks trying to

provide education and work in a fairly high level job with both of us with key worker status but me shielding so we didn't want to send them to school. Also at school they only did the same 2 worksheets and the rest of the day was spent doing art so his education would have suffered more. The school has not demonstrated any care, desire to educate or understanding of the children's (and parents needs). My son was getting increasingly depressed and when I asked about meeting up at a park with friends he thought no one would like him anymore. I therefore made the difficult decision to send him back to school for the last two weeks of term for his mental health and have seen such a vast improvement in him despite him only being back in pods with people he doesn't know as they are in mixed age groups. I had to balance his mental health needs with education (as still only do 2 worksheets and art) but feel I made the right choice. This period has nearly broken me personally, balancing work and homeschool has meant constant guilt at not achieving either very well while doing it all from a dining table and clearing away every day. I feel my son will be behind other kids whose schools have provided so much more, particularly private schools in a year when he will soon be doing his grammar test in a highly competitive area and wonder if this will therefore effect his long term future. I've done my best but will forever question if I could have done more/ been more inspirational/ effected the mental health of my child. I never want to repeat this time and can not believe that the government has prioritised opening shops and pubs over opening schools before September. I live in fear that we will have to do this again and my child will suffer forever because of the Governments lack of guidance to schools, lack of monitoring and lack of understanding.

323. My children are in yr 4 and reception. It was very difficult to know what we need to specially with my reception daughter. BBC bitsize helped but it didn't have the daily lessons like other years. She wanted maths paper like her older sister but there wasn't any. I had to buy a new printer and we've gone through lots of papers, had to sign up to various website (some not free) to find resources. It got better after May holidays when school introduced google classroom for both years and we were clear on what we need to learn. It is still a struggle to balance life, breaks and off screen playtime. We still do only necessary topics such as English, Maths and hoping trampoline counts as PE. However I have enjoyed my time with my girls and if we had right resources from the beginning, it would've been a better experience. It's been times when I was v frustrated and had to remove myself and remember I'm not a teacher. However I look forward to sending them back to school in Sep.
324. Homeschooling a year 2 and a year 5 whilst we both work at home throughout the whole time from when lockdown started to September when they hopefully go back to school.
325. There has been huge amount of both home school work and actual work, which as a result of COVID19 has increased.
326. School has marked all the work and the year 2 teacher has made two home visits however we got our first phone call from the year 5 teacher in week 12.

327. I've had to print everything off each week which has cost a fortune and taken ages.
328. We've had to do lots of school work either very early in the morning or late in the evening, around the multiple virtual work calls. Plus it's been very hard to motivate the kids as all they want to do is go on the PS4.
329. It's been extremely hard emotionally for the kids who have really missed the structure and social side of school. I feel their learning has suffered even though we have done all the work set as they just can't concentrate at home.
330. More importantly I am concerned about their mental wellbeing as they have had loads of screen time whilst doing homeschool and when we are working. We never would have permitted it before COVID19 but have had no choice as it's the only safe activity they can do whilst we are both in back to back zoom work calls.
331. We feel forgotten and can't fathom why schooling couldn't have been shared out more equally.
332. We have 2 children - 7 and 4 and neither have been able to go back to school. I am working full time from home and my husband can't work from home.
333. I am constantly telling my children to be quiet when I am on work calls which are constant - this is not fair to the children in their own home. Some days they watch television all day. This is not healthy for parents or children and our mental health has suffered. Neither my job or looking after the children are getting proper attention, never mind homeschooling.
334. My company has told me that we need to be accountable. No one was furloughed but I think they could have considered something to help parents. We feel the school could have done so much more such as zoom calls or a daily video message from a teacher or headmistress. They have sent plenty of work but the children need to see or hear their teachers.
335. Mother of 3 girls aged 9, 6 and 3.
336. I gave up my job after 2 weeks of lockdown. I have been at home with my children for 5 years and had just re-entered the job market.
337. My home is a fun, caring, nurturing place. We are usually out and about on trips, at the playground and visiting friends and family. Lockdown was busy with 3 kids but I am used to that. But our home became a place of tears and frustration when we tried to make it into a school.
338. My 9 year old and 3 year old have been fine at home. The 9 year old has been socialising online and the 3 year old is pretty happy at home playing and colouring.
339. My 6 year old has really struggled. We could have done it if she had gone back in May / June but it has been way too long. Home should be a place for nurture and care and she couldn't work out how to balance the two. She is young for year 2 and is in several intervention groups at school. It put too much pressure on our relationship and in the end she stopped

talking at home at all. I tried to stop all the worksheets and just do learning in the park or outside but she just didn't want it from me. It was so upsetting to see her so quiet and with so little confidence. Even the normal activities she loved like riding her bike became a chore. I will never put her through that again. If we have to home school again I won't be doing it with my daughter.

340. The school have done their best, and we are lucky that our eldest (9yo) is very self motivated - but she has found it hard to stay that way without being in class environment with her friends and I don't think would handle it well if schools don't restart in September. Our youngest (6yo) who is quite bright and hardworking at school seemed to find it difficult to be inspired at home and needed a lot of support which was a strain on parents, and also created extra tension in relationships. We were worried that he was losing his joy in learning. Luckily he is in Year 1 and was able to go back to school - he is SO much happier.
341. I wish my son's school had carried on lessons via zoom or similar. Instead, he's set homework that he races to complete as quickly as possible which doesn't feel like learning.
342. My sons school have been very good setting work for my son. They understood lots of the parents are working parents so children could complete as much as they could and sent in examples.
343. It started well but I work for the nhs, so have worked all the way through lockdown. We started well but my 11 year old son gradually lost motivation and set home schooling reduced to zero. I also have a 2 year old so had to split my attention. My husband was daddy day care and his home schooling was pe! We concentrated more on family time daily walk or bike rides, baking, drawing, painting, garden games.
344. Home schooling caused a lot of stress at a difficult time. Facebook littered with super mums who completed whole school days and kids stayed at home all day in their uniform. I was lucky to get my son out of his pj's. My son missed his friends, his gymnastics training and his structure. It became a battle of wills so we decided that home schooling was not priority. He returned to school on 01/06 as he is in year 6. I dread anymore lockdowns with home schooling.
345. I'm a part time key worker in food production and retail. Classified as doing essential work to support the emergency situation. Despite hearing continuously on the news that schools were open to key worker children it was not until end of June that I was successful in getting my son back into school part time. The school did not have the staff available (illness and shielding) and had prioritised other key workers ahead of those in the food industry.
346. Work has been unusually stressful, it's been busy but with less staff due to social distancing. For nearly 3 months I crammed school work into 3 days, worked 3 long days and took Sunday to rest. I got to breaking point and cried and begged on the phone to the school. I couldn't go on any longer. I was exhausted and my son was showing signs of anxiety: long sobbing sessions and crying uncontrollably, unable to focus, scrambled thoughts, seeing dots. Our relationship was suffering, I was pushing him to complete work and it was stressing him out. Materials supplied by the school were/are fantastic but I was overwhelmed as there is way too much. I had to par it back to focusing only on maths and literacy. We email his

written work to the school and he gets feedback. Since he's been at school 3 days a week his mood has shifted, he is socialising and regained some independence. He appears to be much happier, our relationship is back to normal. The school has worked so hard to create a safe environment, I'm not worried about him being there. I don't want to have to go through this again. You might think I'm an only parent, I'm not, and my husband has been working 100%+ to save his job on 80% of his salary. He's not been free to support homeschooling at all.

347. The school have been outstanding. The headteacher is truly wonderful. They have sent postcards to the children, done welfare calls, sent videos to say they are missing them and been very interactive with the work submitted. Luckily my children got to go back on 1 June 2020 which has helped considerably as I was working full time at home and trying to teach.
348. Coopers lane primary has been just phenomenal. Children have received fortnightly calls from their class teacher, there have been videos from each year group at the start of the week with mini lessons in maths etc. There have been videos celebrating the children and their work and even video cooking tutorials from the head teacher! All subjects have been represented and the Mental health of children and families has really been our at the heart of everything. If you are looking for an exemplar of how to do this, Look no further.
349. The school has been woeful in supporting the children. The first contact from the school was in week 12 of lockdown. There was work set, but in maths his constituted setting the children (y7) 9 weeks of work to work through at the start of lockdown. The follow up has been inconsistent depending on subject area.
350. Most of the work is set by email, rather than having a variety of learning opportunities (videos / live stream etc). When challenged over the lack of Video content / other ways of engaging children, I was told that teachers were told not to do this as some families we're sharing laptops. Other schools have supported such situations with school loan laptops. This cannot be an excuse for not trying
351. Overall support from school has been low and the government nonexistent. It's been the most intense and stressful experience and we have cried most days.
352. The head teacher early on even sent an email telling parents to make sure their children did enough work so they did not feel left out when they did a display when they got back. A DISPLAY. I wrote back saying that suggesting that children will in some way (albeit unintentionally) shamed for not completing sufficient work is placing a huge amount of stress and pressure on children and parents at a very difficult time. It's been thankless and impossible. I feel forgotten in this crisis doing 3 jobs- parent, teacher and employee. Not thanked by the government and invisible unpaid labour, like women always are.

353. I also resent the “we will all appreciate teachers more now!” rhetoric. I appreciated them before, they’re also trained paid professionals doing a necessary and important job. I am not in any way trained on educating children, I’m their mummy and I have a different role to fulfil to them to ensure they grow up healthy and well balanced. The demands they put upon me are always harder and more intense because the love is unconditional. The parent stepping into the teacher role is not comparable to being their parent.
354. There is no follow up on work, only one whole class virtual meeting in the whole of lock down. All daily activities are lap top based. 3 extra activities per week which are impossible for child to do independently and often require craft items most people would not have in. We have been left, whilst the teachers have enjoyed an extended break only working every few weeks to cover key workers children. Been told don’t worry about the work - but how can you not when other kids are with stay at home/furloughed parents who can give the time and focus. There’s no thinking out the box - even a 10 minute zoom meeting for a small part of the class to share work would incentivise them to work so they had something to show. I simply don’t have the time to stand over them getting work - well not if I want to keep my job.
355. Home schooling is not the correct term - this is not home schooling this is just school closure.
356. my daughter has SEN and health issues and is shielding. She is 17. Homeschooling hasn't been too bad, she has been e mailed work from school. She has been bored because she has had to stay in - I have COPD too so it is in my interests for the family to be selective about where any of us go.
357. The school could have provided more in the way of online/video lessons, or teachers even spoken to her on the phone. I have had one phone call from a teacher at week 10 of the lockdown.
358. I am considering if to send her back in September, as another child with the same rare condition as my daughter died 4 weeks ago. She suffers from anxiety anyway and I am anticipating that she will be very anxious going back to school.
359. I would be happy to keep her at home if we had more support educationally, as I said I am fearful of a second wave and I dont see how didtancing can be enforced in a 1K + school environment
360. Homeschooling has been brilliant. Teachers follow up regularly, great mix of work.
361. My children have both benefitted from being at home.
362. Sadly so many critical workers have taken up spaces in our primary school that the school has been unable to take back the year 1s and year 6s. One of my children is in year 6, and I'm absolutely devastated that they will have no real sign off to their primary education, not to mention the important face to face interaction with peers which is so important at this age. I was always very keen for all of my children to return this term.

363. I work full time running my own business, and since being allowed back to work on 11th May, I have been the busiest I'm ever been, trying to keep on top of it by working into the night and before schooling in the morning. My husband also works full time. I have done my best to home school my children, having to find a lot of my own resources in the first few weeks as the school were slow to send out anything of any real substance. The children have had 2 phone calls from their teachers since lockdown.
364. The last 2 months have been so busy, but I'm feeling I'm doing a bad job of everything, shouting at my children for not doing what they are supposed to be doing, whilst desperately trying to catch up with my backlog of work, and also trying to protect my husband's job from risk of redundancy, by allowing him to fully concentrate on his work. I have now had to give myself permission to let the school work lapse, as mental wellbeing, and my need to protect my business and earn money have become vital.
365. I was shocked by the attitude of the teachers union back in May, when so many other key workers absolutely rose to the challenge of the virus. Their politicisation of the government's wish for pupils to return to school by the end of term was outrageous, and in my opinion schools could definitely have returned, and it has been safe enough, judging by the number of children at school and parents happily dropping off and picking up every day.
366. The return of all pupils could have been gradual, and might have required a rotation of bubbles of 15 week on, week off. This would of course have required a review of critical worker status, which in my opinion should have changed as the pandemic colour code went to amber, and everyone who had a job was allowed and encouraged back to work, and rebuilding the economy became the focus. The unions seemed to scare monger parents into thinking it was unsafe, and yet the majority of teaching staff and other critical workers seem to have been very happy to send their own children back in (presumably as, like me, they knew it was important for their children), even when they have partners/other carers working at home, on furlough, or not working at all. I even toyed with the idea of getting a part time job at the local supermarket just so that my children could return.
367. The current discrimination against non critical workers' children cannot continue in September. The amount of education every child receives must be fair and equal.
368. My child has suffered greatly. Usually a lover of learning and being at school, she has become angry and distracted at home.
369. Trying to hold down two jobs, a house and home school has been a nightmare.
370. The school send out weekly work via email but it is the only contact we have. No further support from them. They have been told by the government to concentrate on key worker children.

371. Also, the government advised our school to prioritise their nursery children over legal age school children. Why is this the case? The nursery children are not legal, there are fines for us in higher years when we miss school. It has been a disgrace and Yr1 and Yr2 at our school should have been the ones invited back.
372. Many parents are furious at the way this has been handled but our head keeps telling us it was a government decision and not further information why. Parents do not have the time although frustrated to be lobbying for change at the moment.
373. We have three children under 9 at home who have not had any time in school. We have juggled work, family bereavement and financial difficulty and it is taking it's toll on us all. Employers are not understanding, no matter what Boris says in public! Parents need more back-up.
374. Juggling a full time job, especially one that has required greater than average attention due to COVID19 has really impacted on our little family... mentally overwhelmed with the constant need to juggle between being a good parent, family member, community supporter, teacher, worker... Its made all the more harder when the children don't get consistent information from school. It has driven us to despair that we now feel like we don't have quality family time anymore and yet the children's channels are still showing children's shows... why couldn't at least one of them become the teaching channel, why hasn't a free app been developed to at least get the kids through the basic curriculum and why does the school think we all have printers on tap... We had to share devices in order to keep up with meetings and keep up with the requirements... if we have a bad week the schoolwork disappears from the website so we cannot catch up... there is limited provision for kids to be kids and play with each other.
375. School work set on a Friday for the next week, all work due in by the next Friday.
Mostly power point then questions, daughter bored, I'm bored!
376. Very little follow up by teacher, no live video teaching.
377. Good communication by form tutor.
378. Disappointed.
379. 2 Primary school aged kids.
380. Why at no point has anyone asked what access to the internet or devices. Schools have assumed not everyone has rather than understanding the gap and then asking how do we fill it.

381. State Schools have not had to provide education so they haven't so why didn't they furlough some of their staff and save some money as teachers were not doing even a proportion of their job.
382. My kids had no phone calls from their teacher, how hard would that have been.
383. Planning is required because this is going to happen again. And I'm pretty sure prior to 2020 we thought the education of our kids was paramount.
384. I've worked 15 hour days because of covid but what has our education secretary been doing??
385. We have 2 very active boys who were at school from 7:45-18:15 mon-thurs with lots of sports clubs at the weekend. Suddenly this was all gone due to Corona Virus. Neither boy would entertain any of the home learning sent home from school even though at school both loved learning and were doing well. They both developed aggressive behaviour and their ability to play together without fighting reduced to virtually zero. This developed to the point where we would have to separate them and restrain them to stop them injuring themselves, each other or breaking things in the house. We had to ask for intervention for the school and the head teacher had to visit twice a week to try and protect their mental health and ours as parents. One has now gone back as he is reception but the other one is a year 2 and this is his final year of infant school and he has to transition to junior school. This should have been a year of celebration and transition activities and these have all gone. The emotional effect of this and being told he will never return to that school but his brother can has affected his mental health and he has lost all motivation to do anything productive during the day. The government ignored year 2's who were transitioning this year just like year 6's. This has caused many children in this position huge amounts of anxiety. With things now relaxing he is happier because football club and tennis lessons have restarted but he is still suffering mental disturbance and who knows what damage this period has already done. I am not sure he would cope with more time out of school in sept. He is in Infant School not Primary and like the government you have not considered this in your options below.
386. Bloody hard work. Difficult when you are a working parent and expected to work from home and then home school. We didn't have any 1-2-1 communication from tutor which was disappointing. Have a folder full of work and know no one will look at it. I am sure there will be a greater divide when we return so how will this be dealt with in the classroom. How do you also tell a child that it is OK not to Social distance anymore and it is back to normal!

387. The work load set was ridiculous, made parents feel inadequate. The amount asked was way more than they do at school Over time this did improve and after a discussion work was more appropriate to my child's requirements, but only after 9 weeks
388. Sitting reading and maths test at home was not the easiest
389. No discussion about meeting the needs to my child with SEND in returning to school
390. The requirement to return are ridiculous and more damaging to a child mental health
391. In the end we found our own way of learning and made my children happier
392. I have two daughters and work full-time. My husband also works full-time, and we have jointly been working incredibly hard since COVID-19 struck. Our daughters are at a private prep in central London. It struggled to adapt, but we have been using Google classroom and there have been class calls on a daily basis but just for a chat and nothing one-to-one. The input required from parents to organise, explain, facilitate, teach, submit and mark work has been enormous. We have had the resources to pay student nannies to help us, which has been fantastic and has proved that a huge amount can be achieved through virtual lessons which our school refused to provide (live interactivity). But we are not doing all the lessons set, and we are completely shattered and burned out. We have hardly had time to sleep. Our daughters are neglected and we are all struggling to get fresh air and exercise. One of our daughters needs a lot of encouragement to work and has only completed a lesson when an adult has been sitting with her, one of us, a student nanny on zoom or a grandparent on zoom. The other daughter does all her work by 10am and then goes crazy needing attention for the rest of the day. We feel like deficient, inadequate and stressed parents and employees and I am very worried about the state of our health. I had breast cancer three years ago and feel terrified that this period of stress will make it come back (probably irrational). I know of families with children in school because one parent is a key worker and the other parent does not work at all and that makes me so angry when we are on our knees doing everything with no option of school. Why do those families get a place over a family with two working parents and no childcare? Our school has not taken back the years our daughters are in and will not until September at the earliest but I just have no idea how we carry on for much longer. We get messages from our school about the personal sacrifice the teachers are making, but many of them have refused to go back to work and we are all making personal sacrifices. The school has also said it needs a break over summer. We will not be getting a break as our work continues without a 6-8 week break. I do not feel the difficulties facing ordinary working and two-working parent families have been reflected in coverage of the school closures. I also feel very angry that working mothers are bearing the brunt of this situation, picking up the pieces of policies and decisions being made by men who have no idea what childcare means and what it is like to juggle a job and parenting. I am so grateful to you for starting this campaign and I wholeheartedly support it. Thank you so much.

393. We have both kids at home whilst trying to hold down full time jobs. One is 5 (in reception) the other 4 (due to be in reception in sept 2020). Homeschooling and the expectation that comes with it have been very tough. My 5 year was absolute thriving in school and loved learning, but because I don't know how to teach, she now dislikes maths and tolerates phonics/ reading. I'm concerned that more homeschooling will put her off school and learning altogether. It is imperative that schools re-open full time in September - children need to learn in a school environment from people who are trained to be teachers, with vast resources at their disposal. Children need the social interaction with other children. Parents who still have jobs can then be more productive (and contribute to the economy) during the working day. The government and the unions should stop trying to delay opening schools (or have schools available only part of the time to children) - the rest of the country is adjusting to the new norm. Schools should too.
394. Home-schooling has intend been hell, and is not something we ever have the stomach to repeat. When the news reported that it could go on until Oct/ Nov, I was properly on the verge of a mental breakdown ("THIS CANNOT HAPPEN"), and I know I was not the only one.
395. I have a child in Yr 1 & a child in Yr 4 in a First School. The first thing to note is that a London centric government has totally overlooked the Middle School Model, and even though Yr 4 are leaving this yr, the goverment guidelines have not allowed for schools to prioritise Yr 4 & Yr 8, in the way that Primary Schools have been able to prioritise Yr 6 Leavers. In fact ridiculously, Middle Schools (Yrs5-8) have had to have Yr 6 instead even though they are not leaving!
396. I haven't even had to do most of the homeschooling as initially my husband was furloughed, which is lucky because my workload has gone through the roof (accounts & payroll), but I am still at home and involved. However, neither of us is a teacher, and even with distant dreams of how lovely it could be, frankly it has often broken us, and my children have seen me screaming and losing the plot more often than I care to admit. It has put huge pressures on the family relationship, and trying to teach two different timetables to different key stages has basically meant we haven't. Plus it is inbuilt that children do not do what their parents tell them. They may be a dutiful student in school, but at home they are another child!
397. The school have provided guided timetables of suggested learning and links to online learning, and the odd worksheet, but nothing replaces a classroom teaching experience. We came to dread Sunday night lesson planning as we tried to wade through what was available, and what we could actually do with the two of them at the same time, and what we needed to print, and what any of it actually means (everything has a different name to when we were at school). As an aside, the kids have spent far more time on screens than I would normally

ever be happy with. Finally my son got 2 45min zoom lessons a week over the past 4 weeks, but they are just playing games really, but at least he has been able to properly engage, and see his friends. More actual lessons in this format would have been good.

398. I am still very concerned about the lack of social connection on the kids. Even with new bubble rules, there is no rule that allows my children to socialise in close contact with other children outside of school. We cannot do the two household thing because the kids just can't social distance at this age, so it is almost cruel to let them see friends but not play with them.
399. I can't tell you the relief when as a Yr1 pupil, we got 1 child back in school in June, she has thrived on being back in school and with her friends. & Finally just as the school year ends, a very dedicated teacher has managed to get our Yr 4 child back in if only for a few days to say goodbye, which he is loving. I must say that the teachers who have been in school have been amazing and dedicated, but there is only so much they can do. Especially as there are also teachers who have not returned to work in school, and not necessarily for health reasons, just because they are quite enjoying teaching their own children at home. In fact the only other parents I have spoken to that have actually enjoyed any of this are teachers, probably because they actually know what they are doing!
400. With scientists establishing that children are the least affected by Covid-19, I am happy for the children to be in school full time, and can't imagine how anyone is going to keep their jobs or their sanity if this does not happen. If this experience has been this hellish for us and we are in a relatively lucky position, I cannot even imagine how others have survived this. Please, Please DO NOT lockdown schools again. These kids are going to be paying for the consequences of this pandemic for the rest of their lives anyway, please let's not start with them paying for it with their education.
401. Thank you for listening,
402. P.S. I HAVE HAD TO CHOOSE PRIMARY AS THIS IS THE ONLY OPTION YOU HAVE GIVEN, BUT MY CHILDREN ARE ACTUALLY AT A 'FIRST SCHOOL'!
403. My five-year old son has returned to school now. We're all so much happier.
404. It's been the most stressful experience for the whole family.
405. Juggling full-time jobs and home schooling (plus caring for a 2 year-old). We tried to provide a plan, a structure, to make it fun. But there was little guidance from the school, poor communication, online learning tools played up, lesson ideas were inconsistent and needed constant support from one of us (five year old can't really read the tasks being set). In the end, we had to formally complain to the school. We felt alone and frustrated about the lack of support.

406. Curriculum workbooks were a lifeline so I could work. But it got harder each week. I'm his mum, not his teacher. His rebellion and tantrums got worse, ending in tears (from me too). Our boy who loved learning stopped wanting to learn at home.
407. We stuck with it and I can see it's paid off. But I want to be just his mum again. I feel for every parent still teaching at home. Never again. Please.
408. Really poor experience. One 45 min zoom class each week for about half the weeks in lockdown with the whole class for what was ultimately a chat. Group was too big. Not enough engagement. Only got to speak once. Ended up being more of a hindrance.
409. Sunday email with lots of lists of multiple apps to try and complete. Some tasks so basic Eg read this book and others a bit more depth but so many of them and not one platform to manage it all through made it challenging.
410. All seemed a bit too bitty. No strong theme that you could aim to focus on for the week.
411. Could not understand why each day couldn't have started with a zoom to set the kids up for the day.
412. From what I have heard anecdotally private schools had whole days planned and lessons and breaks etc
413. Our school communication about the situation was good and felt caring.
414. It has been very tough, whilst my child's school provided a timetable of work, for the first 12 weeks we had two - 5 minute phonecalls from a teacher to touch base. Whilst we were aware that other schools had teachers providing zoom lessons. My kids have felt very forgotten. They are not in years R, 1 or 6 so they have not been able to return to school. My kids have always been keen learners and enjoy school so to see them be despondent about learning has been heartbreaking. If school does not start back as normal in September I think children are going to continue to suffer; where are their rights to education and being a child!
415. We are sinking fast. 2 boys 10 & 7. I am at home alone all day as their dad has had to continue going into work (key Worker) I am trying to hold my job down by working from home and homeschool both boys. We started enthusiastically but as the weeks have gone on it's got harder and harder. I cried in front of the kids I am ashamed to admit. The kids have spoken their teachers once. It took until after May half term for the school to start using an online system (seesaw) and the last couple of weeks the kids are having 2 zoom lessons a week. I don't hold the school totally responsible I don't think there has been enough clear guidance for schools in terms of expectations. The risk to kids mental health is now far greater than any risk of covid. They have missed too much now and not just in terms of education. Get them back ASAP.
416. Our school have provided tasks to do each week based around a theme. There hasn't been any set tasks to compete e.g. complete this worksheet etc. It's more broad. The tasks

cover a variety of subjects across the curriculum. It is suggested to look at BBC Bitesize and White Rose Maths and some other websites. We have done some of them but not every week and sometimes more than others. There hasn't been any follow up as to whether we have completed the tasks or not from school. So to be honest, we've not been that motivated to do them as we are juggling work around school too.

417. School have done a class zoom chat each week which has been nice. We also get a call from the class teacher weekly to check in.
418. The school have sent regular work via a database called dB primary . Maths, English and craft style activities , we only do maths , English and reading and tt rockstars we can't cope with it all ! At first we really struggled, we were doing everything using a mobile phone ! We had to write out everything by hand .. and then the school were sending so much work , we were under pressure . Then school told us not to do it all, if we couldn't. Thankfully my work let me use my pc and we had a printer and speakers given to us ! That's made things easier ! We don't know how we would have coped without these additional items !
419. In my home 4 of are working locked in rooms , thankfully I work 3 days so I have had some spare time ... my son needs constant support and encouragement to do the work , some days we argue all day, some days he will do it without a row ! gone are the days when I did housework ! I just sit in a room either working or helping my son !!! When I work he has to sit in his room , normally playing fortnite or watching u tube . Fortnite means he can at least engage with other children ... but it's not good enough ... we know this .. but what can we do ?! We have to earn money , and he needs to socialise ! I am really worried about him , his lack of interest , his friendship groups are deminishing , no football training , no cubs no nothing ... not healthy for a child of ten !! Our school has not even taken back year 6 s yet it's a large primary with excellent outdoor space , yet others in the area have ? How can each school be allowed to behave so differently ?? There are even schools that have taken year 5 s back in Sidcup ... we have had one ten minute zoom call with his teacher !! She now says she can't respond to their emails because she is in school ... an utter disgrace ... the young people of this country MUST be put before everyone else it is the right thing to do ... it must be the governments top priority
420. We have two children in primary school, Y2 and Y5. We are both working parents. The experience of homeschooling has been difficult to say the least. The resources provided by the school were less structured, and much more cumbersome than if an individual family chose to simply follow a prepared homeschooling resource available on the internet. In many cases, there was little learning and the work felt like busywork; but it kept the parents as busy (if not busier) than the child. There was also work on topics that were simply not taught at all, leaving the parent no choice but to fully prepare a lesson on the topic. This has tested the parent-child relationship to a breaking point times. There was also no differentiation between learning abilities and levels in the work provided, meaning a child could be faced

with impossibly difficult work (at the great expense of their confidence) or much too easy work (leading to boredom and disinterest with homeschooling).

421. More significantly, the homeschooling experience has destroyed some basic principles that we have worked hard to instill in our children all of their lives:
- 1) Children are the most important thing to us and we value spending time with them above all else. Two working parents and impossibly disorganised home schooling resources provided by the school has lead to the destruction of our childrens confidence in themselves, as we are overstressed, exhausted, and cannot possibly devote to them the time that they need. My 7 year old - generally a well-behaved, well adapted child - has had serious bouts of aggression. Tellingly, she has several times shouted "What has happened to the fun and the play around here?"
 - 2) Their education is very important. My 10 year old has told us that looking out her window every morning watching Reception and Year 1 children going to school has made her very sad. She wants to know why their education is more important than hers.
422. We have tried everything. Trying to help our children in their learning in the limited time we have has been disasterous. Leaving the learning aside and letting the children tend to themselves all day results in rapidly declining behaviour with a level of physical fighting between siblings we have not seen before. My 7 year old is particuarly affected - having not spent any time with a peer, and the youngest in the household, her confidence in her abilities is completely shot.
423. My husband is at a breaking point and feels he could lose his job (he is the main breadwinner) if schools do not remain fully open in September. I am exhausted beyond words and barely have time to get dressed every day, as am completing much of my work during early morning hours and weekends, and trying to manage the children during the day.. this would be a challenging situation for a month; we are approaching 6 months to September and close to a breaking point now. If this goes on until September, something big will have to give. I fear that my girls could need years to recover - not just educationally, but emotionally - forget about the state of the parents.
424. This is just about us. We have friends where the situation is significantly worse - a 10 year old not being able to leave her home and a 6 year old who has stopped talking entirely.
425. The return to school must be a full return, with equality in treatment of ALL children. If school opens, ALL children must be treated equally. The education and mental health of a child (or year group) is NOT less important that another child's (or another year group). IF there is another lockdown and/or homeschooling is utliised, resources that are organised and respect the parent's time with ACTIVE teaching, designed for children of various learning abilities MUST be provided. That may sound like an impossible task for the schools, but up until now, it is only the parents that have been dealt the impossible. this must stop.

426. Amazing amount of well thought out materials. Lots of pre-recorded videos of teachers reading, teaching specific bits of the curriculum. Online feedback from teachers using Tapestry.
427. But, my daughter misses school and doesn't want home to be school so has engaged with very little of the material but has loved the opportunity to follow her own interests.
428. Very challenging with two full time working parents and a year 4 daughter. As a single child she has veered between sad and angry and occasionally positive about the situation and school homework. The arguments are becoming more frequent and there is nothing we can do to make up for her missing her friends and social interaction with her peers. My wife feels guilty at not being able to do work and schooling properly and we are both frustrated at the lack of understanding among work colleagues, politicians and teaching unions. Our family and home life has significantly deteriorated and soon there will be 6 weeks with even less structure for our daughter and us having to take time off separately to look after her to cover this period
429. Home schooling and working full time has been nigh on impossible. My 7 year old is at a private school which has not offered online learning to its primary children (only to the senior school). This has put all the onerous on parents to educate their children. Holding down a full time job and doing effective home schooling has meant long days working and feeling like I am constantly sending my child out of the room. I don't blame the government for this, it didn't want to close school, it was hysteria spread by social media and the general media which caused this. Then teaching unions and local government bureaucracy have deliberately made it difficult for children to return by using them as pawns in their own political agenda.
430. Children MUST GO BACK IN SEPTEMBER for their own educational and emotional needs.
431. Lack of help with a child that falls within SEND. My child suffers from dyslexia and separation anxiety. No thought has been put into this by my child's school.
432. My child is going to struggle mentally once they return and the affects it's had on my child's education is scary to think about. With only 1 year left at primary school my child has fallen so much more behind (she was already over a year behind educational).
433. Weekly list of suggested activities from school. Oak Academy, Purple Mash and school topics suggested.
434. Very much encouraged to prioritize wellbeing - but this means no accountability. Makes it much harder to get kids to do the work as it's not being marked - teachers aren't asking for it.
435. No online learning from the school. No online learning portal for kids to submit work.
436. Email address for teacher. Very responsive but not very visual or motivating for kids.

437. One phone call from teacher - would have had more if requested. Teacher is working her socks off - teaching a hub of 15 in school and responding on email to her actual class.
438. Contact from Senco as my son is struggling emotionally. Begged for him to go back to school in June but told school is full - priority for key workers and vulnerable kids - not kids with special needs.
439. Breadth of work set has been good but parents have to deliver and supervise the curriculum - my son has just turned 7. He is not motivated to do the work himself and it has created so much upset and tension. Parents are not teachers and home is not school. I also have a toddler at home providing constant distraction and needing supervision and with her own needs and emotional difficulties.
440. My husband is working full-time from home. I am freelancing a few hours a month. I was hoping to increase this after Easter when my daughter started three days a week at nursery but they have both been at home since schools closed.
441. Unfortunately it is those with the loudest voices who have had the government's ear. Unions/Pubs/etc. Parents - and children - have been totally disenfranchised and expected to get on with it. Families are suffering immensely - emotionally and financially. The summer holidays are now stretching ahead and we have no guarantee that our children will be back in education come September. We are at breaking point.
442. Also can I make a point about key workers. Our school has taken in a lot of key worker kids. There was a mad scramble come June to get places and prove yourself to be a key worker. The definition seems to be broad and It feels some firms have been happy to stretch the truth when it comes to verifying people as key workers. When the crisis first kicked off and we were all ordered to stay at home, then of course children of nurses and supermarket workers should have been accommodated in schools. Now everyone is expected to be back at work the government needs to review the key worker policy and its definition. Please keep it for people who are on the frontline - not anyone who works in a vaguely related key industry who can find a loop hole. It's so unfair to the working families whose children are still at home and make it so much harder to keep struggling on when you know half the school is back in.
443. Very very tough working full time still from home and trying to home educate or generally just taking care and occupying my children. Feel as though I'm doing neither job well, all the time. Very lucky to have 2 laptops but very challenging trying to fit in work and concentrate while kids are home.
444. It's been positive overall, but we are lucky as key workers doing 3/4 day weeks. So our son was able to attend his school (right next to our house) for 2 days a week under the key worker scheme, and then do home-schooling on the other days with us. Crucially, while we weren't trying to work at the same time, as that would have been impossible! But our school has been brilliant, with weekly programmes, outline timetables, and lots of resources provided - plus a weekly call with the class teacher for questions/feedback. So it's been an interesting experience, something he will hopefully remember, and some nice bonding time.

But he's very happy to be back in school for these last 2 weeks of the year, to help prepare for Sept.

445. My children's school and their teachers have been absolutely phenomenal in supporting my children during school closure. They have provided work through an online classroom, responded to queries, given extra advice when I have asked for it, and continued to provide the feeling of a community through assemblies, music uploads, teacher messages and so on.
446. Yes on some days and in some ways home schooling has been phenomenally difficult, particularly combining it with working. In particular families with limited access to technology and outside space must have suffered hugely. But I know many schools and individual teachers have gone above and beyond to support those families giving hours of their own time, and at their own expense often while dealing with their own family difficulties. Teachers are also heroic key workers, who have done their best and often placed themselves in harms way and should not be criticised in any way (and no I'm not a teacher!)
447. Schools have had to come up with a system at incredibly short notice, and have had no advance notice of changes to government plans or policies and lockdown has progressed. How they have managed at all I do not know. They must not be the scapegoats here.
448. My daughter is in y7, in a main stream school but has severe disabilities and needs a carer with her at all times. Therefore there is no option for letting her play on her own or do work unsupported. Nursing support in the day has stopped because the team would have to wear impractical levels of PPE. We have had support from carers we directly employ when they were not isolating or if their other work allowed for this. Until the past few days we have also been shielding so even getting fresh air had been limited. The school have been great at setting work and giving emotional support and for the past few weeks there has been 1 live lesson a day. At the start there was a flurry of options and then it settled into a routine, but there were so many new systems and access points to get used to. I spent quite a few evenings working out what we were meant to be doing! My daughter is lucky in that she has an adult to help her learn (if we understand it!) but I don't know how kids could do lots of this independently. My husband and I have also had to continue working from home and looking after two other children who should have been taking GCSEs and A'levels. We play tag, I do caring and school from 7.30am til 1pm and then get my laptop out to work and he works in the morning and does school and caring 1-6pm, when I finish working. Thankfully our employees are understanding and constructive, we also have a big enough house and enough IT kit to meet all the demands. I hate to think how much harder it would be without this... Balancing and juggling has been the hardest part. It has been possible while it was a crisis, but it is not sustainable.

449. We have two boys aged 9yrs and 6yrs (school years 4 and 1). We have many advantages, two parents whose employer has been responsive and flexible and we only have 1.5 WTE hours to cover between us. We live in a semi-detached house with a garden and a small home office so one adult can lock themselves away to work. But we have found this experience absolutely exhausting. I was very anxious when lockdown was announced and we knew the schools would be closing. I stormed out of the house and walked round the block in the rain, crying and panicking about how I would cope. And I was right to be anxious. Trying to combine the roles of teacher and parent has been so hard, trying to maintain my children's motivation, watching their willingness to engage in activities (certainly anything that involved writing) ebbing away. The arguments have been heartbreaking. I never felt able to sit back and say "they will learn life skills through baking, and being outside" because I felt so worried that they would find it really hard to go back to formal learning if we stopped everything. We did enjoy sessions baking and going for walks, but any time like that was accompanied by the nagging worry that we also had paid work to keep on top of. Prior to lockdown, I've always been happy with the boys' school (a large state primary school on the edge of the city) but in the first couple of months of lockdown I felt let down. The resources we were signposted to had little in the way of structure and with all the other pressures on my time, the last thing I had capacity for was trawling through a dozen websites to work out a days schooling for two pupils. We ended up defaulting to Oak Academy for a structured maths and English lesson for each of them daily, and then tried to offer them some other bits picked from the school suggestions. In the last 3-4 weeks the school have really improved, providing a 3-4 minute video for each day and some more structured English and maths activities assigned to each day of the week. I feel frustrated it took them this long to get to that point, as they are a large school with 3 teachers per year and even staff shielding at home could have helped with the provision of remote learning. The other frustration was the fragmented and unclear communication about when pupils in reception, Yr 1 and Yr 6 could return. We got the impression that we were an inconvenience for asking for information. On the flip side, my youngest son in Year 1 has had a really positive experience since returning to school, and they've done lots to help the children settle back in to school and provide them with a rich curriculum. My children's behaviour has definitely suffered, particularly my 6yr old who has suffered massive violent tantrums, smashing up things all over the house. I understand the need for the lockdown, but when people reflect on it as a time of growth with space to take up new activities, I feel so sad that we've struggled our way through and I worry I have damaged my relationship with my children and my husband.

450. Exhausting! We have two boys and both working parents. Neither of us have been able to be furloughed and we're not classified as key workers so we have had to juggle homeschooling alongside work. We have had one phone call from each of the teachers throughout the whole period. Three work tasks are set on a daily basis provided by the school website. For my eldest who is in year 4 he has really struggled with the English side as he doesn't enjoy writing, and this half term he has become very disengage. I have had to look elsewhere to help get some engagement back and set tasks for him to do. For my youngest

son the work has been so basic I've again looked elsewhere to give him more of a challenge. It's also noticeable that they were becoming more despondent as time went on from not being able to interact with children of their own age. Sounds like such a small thing but if the school would have agreed to a virtual class quiz once a week about what they should of learnt over the week it would have given them more of a reason to do the work, as well as an enjoyment factor to be able to see and interact with classmates and realise that the world is still living. We've questioned why they won't use virtual class rooms and are told that it's because teachers are in school, but in the business world we have all taken to virtual meetings. In the case of school those children who aren't allowed a place should be invited into a class room virtually, all the technology is out there for this, I just don't understand why the school is so behind. I am dreading September, I hope they go back but if/when the next waves hits us, I feel our kids education is massively at risk. I am not sure how much more stamina we have either to endure the ridiculously long hours we have to spend on a daily basis to ensure homeschooling is done, alongside completing our own workloads to maintain our jobs and general household chores.

451. Have had an absolute nightmare. Two of us working full time with jobs with significant responsibilities. Secondary school have been brilliant with keeping year 7 daughter engaged, with mixture of interactive work. Primary school have done very little. Year 5 son felt like he was working in a vacuum. Not one piece of work marked, or looked at. Work uninspiring too. Maybe 6 phone calls home over entire period.

452. Feel like I've failed at my job as mum & as teacher & in my professional life too ☹️

453. Home schooling has been a success thanks to the school. The learning platforms were set up quickly and the teachers have been using them to set work. Teachers set, check and mark work daily and give plenty of feedback. The school have also done weekly zoom calls for each class which my children have loved. A very positive experience, thanks SMCS!

454. I have been working at home managing a caseload of violent offenders, hubby has been out working for the Police. We have two children 6 and 9. Both have struggled without seeing their friends and have lacked enthusiasm for school work during this time. I have done my best but the standard of work set by school has been pretty dire, with numerous log ins and links to twinkle worksheets. The children require constant supervision and guidance so I have had to focus on them one at a time. By the time we have logged on their interest has been dwindling. In the end I spent around £100 on my own workbooks and used these to set the children work each day as it was much easier to sustain and the quality of the work was better. I also made the decision to focus on maths and english. I haven't had time to run activities such as making Egyptian masks! The only way I could manage was to work 6 til 2 daily and then educate the kids following this. Meaning stupidly long days for me and children

running wild whilst I am conference calls to childrens services or service users. My working hours have more or less finished me off with me scraping by on around 5 hours sleep a night.

455. Kids have gone to school as #keyworkers children over the last few weeks but prior to this the school were actively discouraging us sending them in. The improvement in the kids mental wellbeing since their return to school is immense and I feel grateful I have the option. I do think as #keyworkers my kids have suffered as I have been so busy.
456. We have managed an hour a day schoolwork maximum.
457. Home schooling with 2 different primary aged children and also a toddler to attend to by myself, whilst my husband tries to find a quiet place in the house to work full time, has been extremely difficult. I haven't been able to give any child proper attention, I have had to flit between each child without feeling I am giving any of them the time they deserve. The television has been used as a babysitter for a very high proportion of time whilst I try to load different online videos, print out many sheets and spend time trying to make sure the school work has been at least looked at. Although little actual teaching has happened, my children just fill in worksheet after worksheet to which there is probably little point but in some ways makes me feel a little like we are doing something. The lack of exercise they have done is appalling but difficult around the demands of 2 different year groups school work, meal times, toddler needs and household tasks. I feel like I am drowning with it all most days. The toddler has struggled with lack of routine and activities. The older children are fed up and miserable, with one child angry and tearful over the situation and often aggressively refusing to complete work set by school. The stress of feeling completely responsible for their education and what they may be missing out on learning and experiencing is torture on a daily basis. The feelings of failure and inadequacy of being able to provide effectively for all three of my children's education needs is huge. This is all from a parent who is actually a trained primary school teacher!
458. I work as a lawyer in a highly stressful job and have a one year old three year old and a seven year old. Whilst work have been sympathetic and allowed me to reduce my working day by an hour the juggle of trying to do my job and home school has been extremely difficult. This is compounded by the fact that I am trying to look after 2 young children whilst trying to teach my child. He is understandably distracted by his younger siblings who are running around or watching TV. This is not a conducive environment for him to work in. Getting him to concentrate and engage is difficult enough but having young children around and balancing my work makes it almost impossible. I just cannot see how this situation is sustainable in September. As a short term solution to keep children 'ticking over' it has been difficult enough but when children need to be developing and progressing in September in new year groups it seems impossible.
459. The work sent from school varies from teacher to teacher with one setting 22 pieces of work online in 14 weeks and only marking 3. We have no idea what progression she has

made and I have today received a 1 page report on her with a one word description for each subject of her progress up until the end of March 2020. When I called the school to question this I was told they will not be issuing end of year reports as this would be unfair to those children who have not completed any work in the last 14 weeks. But apparently it is fair to provide my child with absolutely no feedback on her hard work completing every piece of work sent to her. And as her parent I have no clue as to how she has ended her time in year 8. As a mother of 2 school age children, working full time from home being trained in a completely new role by my employer, with a husband working full time out of the home has been overwhelmingly difficult. It is not acceptable to make your children wait 6 hours before you can log off work to help them with their school work, they are alone and isolated for a huge part of the day, feeling worried and missing their friends and concerned they are falling behind with school work. They are too tired and unmotivated by 3 or 4pm when I can finally spend time with them to complete school work and more importantly they want mum by that point not teacher mum. The thought of this continuing into Autumn term is frightening and hugely concerning to me. Nobody could work under these conditions long term. It is ruining my mental health and my relationship with my children. My nephew who attends Private school has 4 interactive lessons with his teachers per day and has done so since lockdown. My child has had 1 live lesson with her English teacher in 14 weeks. The gulf between state and private education is about to expand enormously. Our government needs to understand the massive injustice to children this situation is causing. There needs to be more funding into education before giving ridiculous amounts of money to home insulation schemes.

460. For the duration of lockdown the quality of work sent out from school has been very poor, only including maths and a "topic sheet" which has no education in, simply ideas of things to write or do, like "invent a potion". After several weeks it was found that the same Topic sheet was being sent to every year group in school. There was little to no contact for a long period at the start of lockdown, unless we sent emails regarding our child's work.
461. I therefore decided that as my son was very keen to learn I'd equip us with better materials, topics and quality as I suspected we'd be in this for the long term. To cut the story short, I am so disillusioned with the state of the National Curriculum, and so shocked at the gaps in his knowledge (for example, being told that he knows certain times tables for their key stage when he does not, and not knowing how to look things up alphabetically) that we've now decided to home educate our son from September onwards, and have deregistered from school. I do not believe that the current guidelines for education that schools are made to follow provide an efficient learning experience suitable to their age and ability. In a strange way I'm thankful to lockdown and having to homeschool to open my eyes to the state of education in this country.
462. The standard of work set was brilliant, the school used google classroom to set 4 maths and English tasks each week and also topic work inc science, history and geography. Work was uploaded to google classroom and feedback given which boosted my child's confidence. The work set followed the curriculum the school would usually follow.

463. Child is in reception and whilst they have followed a weekly schedule of setting tasks, it has been hard to engage my child in them. It has been nothing like the learning through play experience they would have experienced at school, and even as an intelligent adult given my lack of teacher training I am not able to provide that environment. They have also missed out on the social development side, and even now they're back in school they're in a small bubble and I think it's still lacking. I feel the school has done its best and my work have been supportive of the fact I cannot work and look after two under 6's but my reception age child has definitely not progressed as much as she should.
464. I have 2 children in primary school. One of them is in year 1 and so has returned to school. The other is in year 3 and is still at home. I also have a 2 year old at home whose nursery has now permanently closed due to coronavirus.
465. My year 2 child found home learning particularly difficult. She had a glowing school report but at home she was unmotivated and difficult. She became withdrawn and we were worried about her. I did not have any calls from her teacher as there was no online learning. The home learning was generally not very interesting and very repetitive.
466. My year 3 child coped a little better but his school work has also not been interesting and not challenging enough for him. Despite being streamed at school, all the kids were given the same work. Again, there was no online learning. He did have one brief call from his teacher.
467. I don't understand why the Children couldn't have some video call lessons, although I do understand that some families may not have the correct resources.
468. I want the children back in school not just for their education, but for their mental health. It is difficult for me to teach them when I have a 2 year old to look after. None of us are happy with the situation.
469. The teachers have been brilliant with their communication with parents and providing support when needed. They have gone above and beyond in their work and care of the children during this time. Unfortunately the government has cut funding to schools so much that it will be impossible for schools to socially distance in September.
470. The school have been fantastic at trying to maintain some contact with each of the children in the class through brief phone calls on a weekly basis. However, being a small village school with combined classes this frequency has dropped as year 1 children have returned to school whilst the year 2 children have remained at home, thus this delicate balance has been lost as it is impossible for the teacher to both teach a class and contact those children who are at home in the same working hours. No doubt this is the case in many other small school who also have shared year group classes and I feel it is unlikely the government at any point has consider that one teacher may be teaching multiple year groups and thus further disadvantaging some children as contact with school is reduced. This fact aside our experience with the work set by the school has been consistent throughout the

lockdown duration. They ensured sufficient work was set for the first three weeks of lockdown, whilst they found their feet with distance learning and the provision of online resources. On the whole they have provided a range of short and easy to complete tasks in maths and English, with some direction for other subjects given. Again, the return of half the class back to the classroom has affected the frequency and range of work which has been provided as the class teachers are now trying to provide both in class and online resources. However, it must be noted that the school have consistently provided responses and feedback to the work we have uploaded, which had helped our son to feel like he is still interacting with his class teacher to some extent. Although the school have done their upmost to provide work and support throughout lockdown, the actual process of homeschooling has created a lot of upset in the household. Our son loves learning and school but does not enjoy learning at home, as parents we lack patience, thus the lack of engagement from our son creates a negative atmosphere which affects us throughout the day. At 6 years old our son will not and understandably cannot learn purely independently, thus without a parent watching over him constantly the work will not get done. This makes completion of our own work much harder, as it is almost impossible to combine the two successfully. My husband works in a job that involves an almost continuous stream of calls, which cannot be held with a 6 year old in the background, thus homeschooling has predominantly fallen on my shoulders. For myself this has meant trying to juggle homeschooling, completing a full time PhD write up, a part time job as a dissertation supervisor and second marker for higher education students and continuing to carry out all the household duties required to keep a home functioning. There have been times during this lockdown when I have felt like I am trying to maintain 4 jobs simultaneously, without any down time. This has had a serious impact on my mental wellbeing, I have felt both overwhelmed and incapable of doing anything successful at one time or another. Then there is the guilt that I have felt at doing the bare minimum to keep my son's education progressing to some extent whilst ensuring I can meet deadlines at work or for my PhD. Similarly, I have felt like a complete failure in providing enough of education for my son and horrific guilt at our almost daily arguments and battles to complete at least some work. My son's behaviour has deteriorated as he has spent more time away from school and his peers, he misses his friends terribly and cannot fully comprehend why he cannot see them and spend time playing with them. Home feels less like the happy, nurturing, fun environment that it was before lockdown, the dining room table is now a place of unhappiness and arguments rather than craft and fun.

471. I am so disappointed in the support (or lack there of), from my childrens primary school.
472. I was asked to use the seesaw system which I got to grips with eventually. However, despite the opportunity to upload short lessons this did not happen. Links to other resources were used but lacked clarity and instruction that would have been recieved from an actual teacher. I contacted the teacher to say my daughter had spent several days in tears over maths and that the site we were referred to did not help her to understand. Simply returning worksheets with no teaching is a complete waste of time! I was told they would look for something to help her, they did not. In the last month they said they did not have the time to

mark work so not only were we asked to take on teaching lessons but the marking aswell. I am left at a loss as to what they have actually done other than send a list of work each week for us to complete and mark. As parents we were asked to step up as teachers but I see no support or understanding from the schools as to what this has meant for the child and the parent . There will be gaps in their knowledge and I worry how this will be addressed, or if it will at all, on the return to school. Not to mention the mental health impact on or children. Plus sending them back full time in September after months of.

473. I have to say I am left angry, frustrated and disappointed.
474. work has been set and emailed home each morning. however, no consideration is given as to how to manage that and to undertake your work at the same time.
475. The work sent from school has at times been too advanced with no guidance or tips on how to explain to your child. The guidance was always do what you can but in reality the guilt I have felt of not providing adequate teaching has been overwhelming. As a mother of 2 school age children, working full time from home being trained in a completely new role by my employer, with a husband working full time out of the home has been overwhelmingly difficult. It is not acceptable to make your children wait 6 hours before you can log off work to help them, they are alone and isolated for a huge part of the day, feeling worried and missing their friends and concerned they are falling behind with school work. They are too tired and unmotivated by 3 or 4pm when I can finally spend time with them to complete school work and more importantly they want mum by that point not teacher mum. The thought of this continuing into Autumn term is frightening and hugely concerning to me. Nobody could work under these conditions long term. It is ruining my mental health and my relationship with my children.
476. My nephew who attends Private school has 4 interactive lessons with his teachers per day and has done so since lockdown. My child has had 1 phone call from his class teacher in 14 weeks. The gulf between state and private education is about to expand enormously. Please put more funding into education before ridiculous amounts of money given to home insulation.
477. I have 2 children in year 3 and year 8. The secondary school have been putting work through relentlessly with no break at Easter or half term, 6-7 pieces of work per day with deadlines of between 2-7 days. My child has been sat EVERY day at the table working by 9am. My child is on the autism spectrum and there has been no support either pastorally or academically. My other child is in year 3, everyday she has got spag, literacy, maths, topic, reading and times tables. I work from home normally anyway but we only have one laptop between us all, that isn't the problem, the problem is there is only one of me. Who do you prioritise? My work is getting done well into the evening and past midnight, 6 hours plus with

my secondary school child and 2 hours plus with the primary school child whose beautiful handwriting is now a spider crawl. It's not sustainable.

478. We have two children aged 7&9 and have been juggling work and homeschooling since the beginning of lockdown. I have been working full time hours (From home) in a job that has become more demanding and pressured since March 23rd. My husbands core business is in hospitality and took a significant hit halting much of his work although he is working 3 days per week away from home. For 2 days a week he is able to homeschool and then I try and pick up what I can before and after school, or on weekends. It's absolutely exhausting and feels like there is no time to recuperate and recharge which is taking more and more of a toll on us all. The kids are becoming more and more bored of the tasks we have to do, and we're running out of ideas to make things interesting. My husband struggles to have the patience required to teach them too which leads to flare ups daily and I worry about them all emotionally. As a result I'm becoming more stressed as it interrupt my work and requires me to intervene. I'm constantly having to check in to see how it's going and help deal with tantrums. When my husband is at work I have to leave the kids to their own devices. I've tried games to get them to do tasks and school work whilst I'm working but it just hasn't worked. The kids end up getting in a fight, loosing interest and just jumping on any electrical device they can find. Sometimes they decide to 'get creative' and I come down stairs to paint all over my house, floor, furniture that has left me in tears as I work constantly to keep everything in order. My lunch breaks are busy with me frantically running around tidying up the mess that's been made, trying to get the kids to help, feeding them and attempting to get them onto some bbc bite size or computer based learning. I'll then dash back upstairs to try and continue my work. This all makes me feel absolutely terrible. I don't want my kids to be in the situation. I feel like I am completely neglecting them and failing as a mother but if I don't do my job, I could loose my income and won't be able to pay our massive mortgage. With my husbands business loosing a massive chunk of annual revenue the pressure for me to keep earning is immense and it is extremely stressful. It doesn't feel like there is any let up and any real support. The uncertainty of what will happen over the coming months with schooling (what days, what time's, if there's going to be aftercare) is frustrating and I am really not sure how mentally and physically we as a family can keep this up. I'd like some real concrete plans on how working families can be better supported through the pandemic, because at the moment as far as I'm concerned - we've been left high and dry by the government and businesses.

479. One of the worst experiences of my life. It takes about 2 hours of encouragement, tears, bribing, begging to get started on school work, 10 minutes after starting he won't do anymore. He has become angry and aggressive and he is only 7. He wont sleep, schools attitude is shut up and get on with it. I'm self employed and cannot work from home (gardener) it is diabolical situation. I'm in tears everyday, my little boy is in tears every day.

480. Home schooling has been extremely difficult and a real strain on the family. Trying to juggle working from home, home schooling and looking after a 2 year old on my own has left me exhausted and feeling like a complete failure. Feedback from my son's teacher has been limited and the setting of work has relied on me having access to the internet, a tablet/camera and a printer.
481. Home schooling/online learning is doing fine and we find our child is learning more everyday and positive. and actually we would prefer homeschooling /online learning, due to the uncertainty of covid 19!
482. The work that has been set by the school was primarily revision of what they had done in school. The children got bored of this very quickly as the work was not interactive or exciting. Children like to be challenged, they also need an adult to engage with them and provide reassurance and feedback. It has been tough juggling and not being a teacher it's hard to understand the objective at times. The work put online by the BBC Bitesize has been far more engaging and interesting and the children have preferred it. They have also completed it without meltdowns or tantrums. Comparing our school to others has highlighted how behind the times they are in providing educational provision.
483. My husband and I have been working full-time at home since the schools closed in March. We have 2 children, aged 11 and 8 (year 6 and year 3). We are both educated to degree level, and we are lucky to have resources and the ability to support our children with their education.
484. But 16 weeks of trying to do everything has taken its toll. I am not able to meet my professional commitments. My motivation for my job - senior level at a university - has all but disappeared because I've not been able to do it properly. I have needed, and wanted, to be there for my children. But at what cost? My employers have been fantastic, but the last 4 months have made it clear that my children come first. I'm not naive enough to think there won't be a long term impact for women like me whose availability and capability to meet professional responsibilities have been compromised. And yes, some men will have been impacted, but it will mainly be women.
485. And for my children's education and wellbeing? My 11 year spent the first 12 weeks of lockdown waking up with panic attacks most nights. He was inconsolable, seeing images, hot and sweaty, unable to calm down. Most nights for 12 weeks. The impact on him, and on me and his dad, was considerable. On the day I could tell him he was able to go back to school, the night wakings and panic attacks stopped completely. He was calm and happy and relaxed again. Being back at school has changed him back to the boy he was before. He is seeing friends, he is having input from professional teachers and he feels safe and secure. To be fair to his school - a middle school in a 3 tier system - they have done their very best with clear work set daily, support through google classrooms and phone calls when needed. They

have communicated regularly and clearly, and really worked outside their comfort zones to do the best they can.

486. My daughter hasn't been back to her first school. Maths work and a home project have been posted on the school website once a week. There was no other input from her teachers for 11 weeks, when they started sharing weekly assemblies and teachers reading stories on YouTube. My daughter was so thrilled to have this - but I do think it came too late. We've had one phone call from her teacher in the 16 weeks since schools closed. We emailed in some completed work and received an email response a few days later. It's not been anywhere near enough to keep her engaged and provide the support both she and I need. My daughter is quite a hardy child who doesn't show her feelings often. But when writing about her favourite place in town for schoolwork, she chose her school. She wrote a paragraph about why this was, ending it "I wouldn't be me without my school". She's feeling lost and uncertain, and worried about her future. No 8 year old should feel that way, and I do think the lack of interaction with school plays a part in this.
487. I spend my Sunday evenings planning the work for my daughter each day, using a combination of the school maths, Oak National, BBC bitesize, duolingo and Twinkl resources. I need her to be busy all day so I can work. We are paying for a weekly online tutor, and a subscription to Mathletics to keep her interested and challenged. I have always loved my daughter's school, but I have felt very let down during school closure. I know this is a completely unprecedented situation and none of us have done everything perfectly. But I do feel that parents have just been expected to get on with it, without the support we've really needed. Whether this is the fault of the school, the local authority, the government - I don't know. I just know that it's been incredibly hard.'
488. 'My husband and I have been working full-time at home since the schools closed in March. We have 2 children, aged 11 and 8 (year 6 and year 3). We are both educated to degree level, and we are lucky to have resources and the ability to support our children with their education.
489. But 16 weeks of trying to do everything has taken its toll. I am not able to meet my professional commitments. My motivation for my job - senior level at a university - has all but disappeared because I've not been able to do it properly. I have needed, and wanted, to be there for my children. But at what cost? My employers have been fantastic, but the last 4 months have made it clear that my children come first. I'm not naive enough to think there won't be a long term impact for women like me whose availability and capability to meet professional responsibilities have been compromised. And yes, some men will have been impacted, but it will mainly be women.
490. And for my children's education and wellbeing? My 11 year spent the first 12 weeks of lockdown waking up with panic attacks most nights. He was inconsolable, seeing images, hot and sweaty, unable to calm down. Most nights for 12 weeks. The impact on him, and on me and his dad, was considerable. On the day I could tell him he was able to go back to school, the night wakings and panic attacks stopped completely. He was calm and happy and relaxed again. Being back at school has changed him back to the boy he was before. He is

seeing friends, he is having input from professional teachers and he feels safe and secure. To be fair to his school - a middle school in a 3 tier system - they have done their very best with clear work set daily, support through google classrooms and phone calls when needed. They have communicated regularly and clearly, and really worked outside their comfort zones to do the best they can.'

491. 'My daughter hasn't been back to her first school. Maths work and a home project have been posted on the school website once a week. There was no other input from her teachers for 11 weeks, when they started sharing weekly assemblies and teachers reading stories on YouTube. My daughter was so thrilled to have this - but I do think it came too late. We've had one phone call from her teacher in the 16 weeks since schools closed. We emailed in some completed work and received an email response a few days later. It's not been anywhere near enough to keep her engaged and provide the support both she and I need. My daughter is quite a hardy child who doesn't show her feelings often. But when writing about her favourite place in town for schoolwork, she chose her school. She wrote a paragraph about why this was, ending it "I wouldn't be me without my school". She's feeling lost and uncertain, and worried about her future. No 8 year old should feel that way, and I do think the lack of interaction with school plays a part in this.

492. I spend my Sunday evenings planning the work for my daughter each day, using a combination of the school maths, Oak National, BBC bitesize, duolingo and Twinkl resources. I need her to be busy all day so I can work. We are paying for a weekly online tutor, and a subscription to Mathletics to keep her interested and challenged. I have always loved my daughter's school, but I have felt very let down during school closure. I know this is a completely unprecedented situation and none of us have done everything perfectly. But I do feel that parents have just been expected to get on with it, without the support we've really needed. Whether this is the fault of the school, the local authority, the government - I don't know. I just know that it's been incredibly hard.'

493. 'I have a 7 and 4 year old, my four year old has been back at private nursery since the 1st June and wow this came just when we needed it. He is so happy there however I am so worried about his transition to reception in September and if they delay the reception start this will completely screw parents, unless the government still allow funding for them to be kept in the private nursery setting until reception is fully open.

494. My 7 Year old is a sensitive soul and in the first few weeks I think it did him the world of good to have some down time, although the home schooling we stopped a few weeks ago as the fall outs were damaging his mental health and mine. We have a good selection of work provided by school but he's just lost all motivation. Instead I now pay for two hours of tutoring for him at a private educator for maths and English to make sure he is working at the level he should be and so he doesn't fall behind. This however can not compensate for being in the school environment with his friends.

495. I've been lucky enough to be furloughed during this time but I do have friends who are both working who don't fall into the keyworker category and are absolutely at the end of their minds with the pressure of full time jobs and looking after their children for 14 weeks, it's this cohort of people I really feel for they are doing their best but it's hard, it's hard enough when furloughed Never mind if I was trying to work full time.
496. There are also family's at our school who have claimed keyworker status when they clearly are stay at home parents who just happen to be registered as an employee on their spouses business. Our school know this and they have not done anything to rectify this situation. So these situations really do bring out the best and worst in people and families are being turned against each other in this really unfair situation especially when another child is deemed more important than another.
497. I worry for our children I worry they won't have a plan on the 31st August and I worry that they will never emotionally recover from this situation. Children love school it provides a stability and place of learning that just Can't be achieved at home.
498. Our government have failed our children, they should have made them the next priority after the NHS, they should have worked with the events sector to get temporary classrooms (tents /shelters) onto school fields, or partnered with the construction industry to get mobile classrooms on to school sites for September, this was all achievable if they had put this into action on week 3 and not 15.
499. I just feel the schools haven't been solution focussed and just provided the brick wall of no. Parents would have happily contributed time and resource to get our children back to school.'
500. 'I have really struggled with home schooling, it's impacted on all of us. At times I've been in tears trying to teach my son, getting angry with him and having to keep telling myself it is not his fault. My partner has been going out to work, I've had to work at home part time and trying to home school, this was impossible and I decided not to put pressure on me or my son, otherwise we would just be stressed about it. The school have sent work to download, I found this difficult to access and print out, by the time I did this I was exhausted. The work was extremely dry and unstimulating. I was asked to upload work, however no guidance was given on how to do this, therefore I did not send anything in. I had one e mail from the school asking me to contact them but no support given. Zoom lessons have recently started, no guidance on how to use zoom and I've had issues using it, I had no idea I had to put his name in to access permission to the lesson. The whole experience has deflated all of us. The only thing that has been good is BBC bitesize, thank goodness for the programmes and website, this is how eventually we decided how to teach our son.'
501. 'Generally the support has been pretty poor. 2 weeks worth of work set at one time leaving the children to create their own plan and structure. No online learning. Little interaction from teachers. Two parents working full time from home means little support and supervision from us. Very stressful for our child and for us. Strongly feel that our child will have fallen behind in key work and big impact on mental health for our child. Can not wait for September. Children must go back full time to school.'

502. 'Excellent, I have worked throughout lockdown but with the outstanding support received from our school, teachers, head and office staff. The planned activities and work I have seen my children thrive at home. They aren't focused, relaxed, enjoyed more outdoor time, least time stuck in a class environment being taught like robots. It hasn't opened my eyes to the dangers of schools reopening in September.'
503. 'Primary school aged child, school posted learning material online every day without any further support or direct contact/interaction. Our son has had no issues in school previously, was always assessed as achieving above age related expectation, but there was no way to engage him with any of the work set by school at home. Both parents continued to work from home and partially had to attend workplace, additionally we had a preschool age child to care for without support. We gave up on home schooling 2 weeks into lock down as it had a detrimental effect on everyone in the family
504. We will very disappointed not to have any additional support from school even after several times contacting them, highlighting our struggles.'
505. 'It's been really difficult, constantly navigating the pressures of work, home schooling, but also feeding and entertaining the children 24/7. Working from home whilst looking after the children is already impossible. Adding home learning in the mix just adds to my constant feeling of guilt over not being able to do enough. I worry that other parents do a lot more and that my daughter may fall behind because we haven't done enough.
506. Our daughter is now refusing to do any home learning at all and most of the time I don't have any energy left to try to motivate her by making learning fun and engaging. In fact I don't want to be around my children quite a lot of the time and I feel so guilty for it. They are moody and argue a lot which doesn't help the situation. It's a vicious circle.'
507. 'It's been extremely tough to juggle schooling and working from home. I am absolutely exhausted, my son is desperate to get back to school and so am I, this is for the mental well-being of all the family.
508. We coped because we had no choice but it's been the hardest thing to do. Telling him I need to do emails and work and gibbing him off is just not acceptable and has meant very long days with no down time.'
509. 'Unfortunately I was left with no job during lockdown and the stress of wanting to find a job, homeschooling, being housewife and mother has been too much. I have a 7 year old boy (year 2) and 5 year old girl (reception) . Even though the school and teachers have been saying since the beginning that we didn't have to do all the work scheduled, there is the moral pressure that you don't want your kids left behind academically. There were days that the shouting and crying was too much in this house and I do believe that it affected all our

relationship. As so about 2 weeks ago I have sent an email to the teachers saying that as a family we were quitting homeschooling and concentrate on family activities. We haven't done any assignments since. Was it the right decision? No sure. I just don't want my children to look back and remember the horrible mum that was shouting all the time and making them do the 8 to 10 assignments per day and not leaving any time to play and connect with mum and dad.'

510. 'It has been horrendous. My husband is a key worker and I also work full time although no classed as a key worker. We make the decision as we felt that this was what we were being asked to do, to not send our children to school if we really didn't need to. So instead we have spent the last 13 weeks essentially neglecting our children in order to do our jobs. I think children whose parents work full time will be amongst the hardest hit during the school closures: little time to spend on home learning, no exciting adventures and bike rides on a Tuesday for instance. Instead weeks of being told to hurry up with phonics as mummy has to go on a conference call or being handed a tablet to entertain them. Schools have provided little or no teaching relying on the grown up at home to deliver it; something unfeasible if someone is working full time.'

511. 'The quality of work set by the primary school has been fine, the quantity ambitious. Beyond sending the basic lesson plans and resources, the school has not offered any direct teacher contact or interaction with children or peers within the class despite many requests by parents. You can email teachers work and get a brief email response saying well done but there is no substantive assessment or feedback. It is seemingly possible to just abandon children and neglect your duty of care, not even a phone call, despite no doubt receiving funding for these children from the government. The school has blamed lack of contact on staff availability and safeguarding concerns through operating virtually, despite many local schools being able to achieve this. Despite being on the keyworker list, the school have not been able to accommodate my child as they are supposedly full and have not made any effort to review this provision over the summer term despite requesting at the start of June. The enormous burden placed on parents to deliver education over many months and keep children engaged in some productive learning whilst juggling family life with three young children, running a home and working at a time of enormous anxiety has been horrendous and too much for us all over so many months.'

512. 'School is so much more than academics - social interaction and developing relationships with others, sense of community, team building, diversity, change of scene - all has been totally neglected by the school and this government since the decision to abandon million of children in June. Doing this with no plan B is a national disgrace. Britain's once internationally renowned education system is a shambles dominated by factional interests with no real focus on or prioritisation of outcomes for young people who will have to forge a recovery from this. Proper planning should have allowed all children an opportunity to receive some schooling - not just a privileged few year groups who have had the extra benefit of smaller bubbles while abandoning millions which is obviously unfair.'

513. 'The goal posts have continually shifted and now September is looking aspirational. I have two children due to start school this September 2020 who have only had a few days back at their preschool before the summer break and at the time of writing have had no direct contact with the primary school about transition or opportunity to meet teachers etc. Basic information has been sent out but no confirmed details about September, classes, teachers etc. They are ill prepared and the school have not as yet even responded to email requests for information after 3 weeks. I am not hopeful about September and have heard rumours of the start date being pushed back which again hampers parents work plans. Finally, what saddens me the most is my child has become much more anxious, lonely and upset as a result of missing out on all that school has to offer. This is a significant set back and mental health issues are notoriously complex to resolve. Children deserve better.'
514. I implore the government either to lead or allow School Heads to make proper plans appropriate to their setting so that this national disgrace is never repeated. Education has to be a priority not just for our economic recovery but for our children's quality of life and wellbeing in this country. It must be properly funded and made workable from September.'
515. 'Children's work for year one was set in the school website. A few video links to collective worship. A few U tube videos on songs to sing. Very little contact with school unless was parent you contact school with your child's work.
516. A suggestion for one class session on zoom each week to help maintain the links to school. This was not given to hear one but it was used with year four, five and six.
517. School has not managed disgraced the progress of children at all some parents are not working through the materials deputy School and others are I oh doing part of the school work, mostly maths and english.
518. There are huge clashes with a child that cannot work independently and both mum and dad who are also trying to work from home.
519. There are parts of the week where the child spends it on I tube videos while both parents are working.
520. The lack of contact with other children has caused immense frustration and anger. I do think that school could do something to change this and make interaction happen by running some kind of enrichment activities for children.
521. Brownies has carried on via zoom and most weeks the girls have loved doing it.'
522. 'My wife and I both work full time and started working from home when lockdown happened. We have 2 children - one in year 1 and the other at preschool.
523. Looking after the children whilst working is basically impossible unless they are watching TV. So we were forced to split childcare between us then work late into the evening. We were doing 15 hour+ days every day for weeks. Homeschooling was very challenging. My daughter thought it was unfair that she had to learn while her brother didn't even though he wasn't at school and we were low in energy with all the time we were putting in. Add to that, my daughter's school did not being back year 1 in June. After much complaining by the

parents they eventually brought back year 1 for just 4 days this term. That has at least been something and helped with motivation.'

524. 'Our experience has been shockingly poor. My children go to one of the better rated schools in the town and to that end I anticipated outstanding contingency arrangements for emergencies such as these. The school was wholly unprepared and seems actively against changing sing their delivery models from anything other than face to face learning in the school building. No attempt to use any kind of video or audio teaching has taken place, despite every other employee in any other business in the country having to learn how to do that on the hoof and without training. Excuses for this have been 'kids don't all have access to PCs/laptops' and 'there isn't enough broadband' and 'well only 5% of schools are doing that and they are all private". Most kids have phones, even those that are more deprived, And old fashioned printing and sending it home in an envelope could work as a contingency arrangement, and frankly, vulnerable kids could still attend school anyway.'

525. 'Key working arrangements have been dreadful, and thus barely taken up, school closes at 3pm, which is apparently wrap around? I need school to be open until at least 5pm as a key worker, and I have had to leave my 12 year old under the care of her older sibling several times as school arrangements for key worker cover have been so poor. I'm lucky my children are up just about old enough for that, other colleagues have not been as lucky. Schools have not stood up and been counted in the same way as other sectors have in response to this pandemic, supermarket workers have been more proactive, I expected more of education.'

526. 'The work sent home for my year 7 child has been extremely minimal, taking her less than 30 minutes a day, and much of it labelled optional. Project work has been relied on, putting significantly more pressure on parents to help with structuring project work, creating models, And doing kitchen experiments. I work as a key worker and simply do not have time to do this. In many cases one child only received one email all term from their teacher which was essentially a scanned in maths book to work through. My year 10 child has more work but again there has been no attempt to create virtual learning environments and the school has hidden behind safeguarding policies. The face to face time for year 10s has been utterly pointless and very disruptive for parents and their employers/other colleagues who have to cover, my child tells me that there was no reason why it could have been done by zoom. No school transport is running yet the summer sessions were only for 2 hours a week for 5 weeks with a 15 minute max collection window for parents. Many secondary kids travel long distances to school In the North, so walking and cycling are unrealistic, vs London.

527. Schools need to be required to ensure they are focussed on inclusive learning for all, Which will require a blended approach of virtual and traditional, and pragmatic options for transport and uniform policies -(especially for kids who may need to shield all winter). Schools need to accept there will be no return to 'normal', frankly traditional school learning is no longer the right approach for the 21st century anyway. Teacher unions need to start

changing and adapting. Heads and Governing bodies need to get out of their conservative safe havens. School transport for 2000 kids per secondary schools needs to be sorted out prior to September.'

528. 'Schools have failed to adapt, and still are failing to adapt, and I have zero confidence that a second wave of home learning will be any better than the first and that schools and teachers are able to learn as well as the children they are supposed to be educating. It should not be about getting kids 'back to school', but about ensuring 'kids can keep learning wherever they are with the right support'. Overall, I have the impression that my kids school just doesn't want to change and puts the institutional need and teacher needs before pupil needs.'

529. 'I have 3 children age 3, 6 & 8.

530. Homeschooling started ok but quickly the novelty wore off & the kids started resenting us & blaming us for making them do work.

531. The school would send weekly learning schedules via email for each child, which would include many links & things to watch on the computer, different links, videos & subjects for each year group. Only having 1 laptop in the house made it virtually impossible as 1 child would use the laptop & the other child then complains 'it's not fair he's using the computer' and visa versa. Family life became strained as physically we could not homeschool the way the school wanted. It caused great stress & upset to all. The school tried organising a weekly Zoom call for separate year group so children at home could share their work but they weren't always successful.

532. Our 8 year old really struggles, has mood swings, emotions all over the place & just really misses his 'proper' school life. We contacted school about our concerns but not a lot of help or advice was offered. The school seemed to be focusing on the key worker children that were in school & the kids at home were a second thought & a little forgotten about.

533. I understand it's only a small school so not geared up the way larger schools are, so were unable to offer online lessons but could of provided worksheets etc

534. The whole experience has been HARD causing a lot of arguments, tears & troubles.

535. We can't wait for September & some normalish school routines to commence.'

536. 'It's been an emotional rollercoaster for both me and my children. I don't have the skills to teach and they are too young to learn themselves without support. I have also been working full time at home. It's practically impossible to do both. The guilt I feel at not being able to properly educate my children is horrible. We have had no live online teaching sessions from the school, just get handed the work to "get on with". My eldest has struggled the most. His confidence has gone and he calls himself stupid. He's 7! This can not go on in September.'

537. 'I would like to echo what has already been said, i.e. home-schooling has been hell. I am working full time and am not able to sit with my son to teach him; he initially was on top

of everything but has got further and further behind. This has caused arguments and disruption in the household, he is angry and at the lowest point swore at us. He is unable to sleep until the early hours of the morning and does not get up easily in the morning. He is missing his friends. I'm also not convinced that despite us feeling he is falling behind and it having caused a lot of pain he has not done more work than his peers. I am at breaking point, I cannot do this again. He needs teaching, you cannot - for example - give new maths work/ideas to a child and assume he will understand it by watching a video - he needs teaching. This has resulted in late evenings and weekends given over to further work that has not been done in the week.'

538. 'The school have been fantastic and I honestly can't fault them but my child will not do any form of work at home, he has special needs and in his mind school work is done at school!!!! How can I argue with that and cause more distress to him. He has been back for his one day and was begging me to send him back the next day as he loved it. He needs to be back full time ASAP

539. Please please lobby the welsh government for the sake of our children.'

540. 'I have two children at secondary school and keeping them motivated has been extremely difficult and time consuming. Consequently I have found very little time for anything else and the arguments about getting out of bed, working on their next topic and submitting work have become more fierce and intense. The dynamic between parent and child is very different to that between teacher and child. The amount of work set has varied dramatically between subjects and between my two children which has also increased tensions. I am really worried about the amount of schooling they have missed and am struggling to see how they will ever catch up.'

541. 'My wife and I are fortunate to be employed at the same organisation and have the flexibility in our work to change our working pattern to support our children's education and work a different schedule than 9 to 5. Whilst we are able to work flexibly we are still working full-time, as well as educating our kids 6 hours a day. Working unsocial hours to make sure the job is done on top of home schooling. We are also fortunate to be financially able to provide materials for learning that have been lacking from our school. We appreciate that schools have focused their efforts on vulnerable children but this has left us left with little help from school, making up for this lack in our "spare time", finding resources and coming up with ideas for ways to engage our kids in learning.

542. We both feel that we've been cut adrift and left to fend for ourselves. Thankfully our kids (8 & 10) have accepted the challenge that lockdown has presented and have continued to develop and thrive. Their bond has perhaps even strengthened. This has not been easy and has taken its toll on the family, where both us parents are exhausted and in need of a break.

The weekends arrive before we know it but also pass in a blur of activity. We need the certainty of knowing how our children will return to school, whenever that is! September or not (it needs to be safe for them to return), so that we can plan and at least know when the end is in sight. The return of children to school has struck as being a free for all, with friend's kids returning to school in situations where our school wouldn't contemplate them returning. We again realise that the classroom environment must be safe and maintain social distancing. A coherent approach to pupil returns that is national rather than at the discretion of individual schools would be appreciated. Consulting teachers before making announcements would make the process less shambolic too! We have tried to maintain a positive outlook and be thankful of the time with our children we wouldn't normally have had but it is tainted by the lack of support that has been forthcoming.'

543. 'Child in Reception Returned to school part time from 29th June Child in year 4 not allowed back yet. We receive powerpoints everyday. No teaching intervention. Microsoft teams was used from mid June to do weekly register with teacher but no teaching. Powerpoints are typically exercises taken from twinkl website. Exercises are suitable for embedding learning rather than teaching new topics. Communication from school was limited despite being part of broader Bourne Education Trust. Exec Headteacher sent strongly worded mail to parents making clear that she did not expect parents to complain or challenge her authority. We are both full time working parents with no childcare options at moment so incredible amounts of stress undoubtedly impacting children's wellbeing.'

544. 'Excellent communications and support from school. Broad and balanced curriculum. Value given to all learning not just academics. Virtual sports week this week which she is really excited about. Phone calls regularly from school and positive feedback given on home learning uploaded to google classroom. Child has made excellent progress in reading, writing and maths since March, as well as learning lots of other things - today she made pizza for her tea - and being able to do a daily bike ride or forest walk. Reading for pleasure from choice. Behaviour (which is an issue) has been calmer and fewer emotional outbursts. Child is Y1, FSM, eligible for 'vulnerable' place but stayed doing home learning as sibling is shielding.'

545. 'Initially my son at primary was sent home with about 3 weeks of work and the school set up Google Classroom - which has been a godsend! However 9 year olds thrive on interaction and he's found staying engaged difficult unless I'm joining in with him.... but both myself and his dad are working from home - do this has been extremely stressful for me as my husbands work is mire meetings based so he can't do it. I'm also spending hours in the evening uploading work, I have a phone full of pictures of his work and been e-mailing to get it on the laptop then upload never mind finding and reading when it has been marked!!! My older son at secondary can work more easily on his own but doesn't plan very well they use SMHW /Satchel app but have been set more work than he'd usually do in each lesson so has fallen behind. But I believe he is making more effort than many others in his class.'

546. 'Difficult but rewarding. Teaching and learning are different things and neither is straightforward.'
547. 'So hard...juggling working from home and schooling my nine year old has been a nightmare.'
548. His school started well, providing good resources via google classroom, but after the Easter break only sent one A4 sheet a week with a few ideas and links to websites. Not enough to keep him busy while I worked, and completely reliant on him managing his own work. I've had to make my own plans and buy a subscription to a teaching resource site to produce enough for him to do and even then it's about 2 hours a day. Definitely not getting enough exercise either. Two phone calls from school in the entire time we've been off. Work have announced 20% of staff will be made redundant so now it's even more important to make sure you're seen to be busy when working from home. Like other parents, I feel completely forgotten about. Surviving not thriving.'
549. 'My son's grammar school provided only two online lessons in 4 months. My son was given tonnes of worksheets on each day for each subject which was unmanageable. Both my husband and I work full time and had to negotiate time during our working hours to teach my son Maths, Chemistry, French, German History etc. My son did not see the point behind all the worksheets and neither did we. I complained to the school on multiple occasions and they said many teachers did not feel confident doing online lessons or did not do them out of principle. This was very difficult to accept as it is a selective grammar school but obviously with lots of teaching problems which we have come to find out due to Covid 19. I wonder if I should complain to the department of Education as I cannot grasp how a teacher can refuse online teaching out of principle.'
550. 'I'm a freelancer and run my own graphic design business so having my 6 year old son at home instead of school has been extremely tiring for me. My son and I have had some lovely times don't get me wrong, we've spent some quality time together and done a few good 'school' projects but on the whole it's been difficult to get him to associate being at home with learning, as fun as I've tried to make it. I've not worked during the day as it's impossible when my son is around, plus I don't see it as fair on him either. So I've had to greatly reduce my working hours and do most of my work during the evenings when he is in bed and some at weekends while the husband entertained my son. While I've received a grant from the government for loss of work I've still had to keep my regular client relationships going and do some work for them, otherwise it would be like losing my job. I've not had the luxury of being furloughed. I have been completely shattered, up till early hours in the morning with not enough rest time before having to do the whole day over again. It's not something I can sustain long term and will be damaging to my health and business if it keeps happening intermittently over the next school year. Not to mention my son was making such good progress with his current teacher and I'm so disappointed that he's missed out on a lot

with her and his friends this year. The whole reaction has been completely disproportionate to the situation.'

551. 'I have two boys, year 3 and year 5. They attend an outstanding church school. However during lockdown I feel the support given has been far from outstanding.
552. The school has remained open for key workers and children in need.
553. Work has been set daily via dojo, an on line facility. PDF's or web links sent for 3/4 subjects per day. The has happened without fail every day of the academic term.. so technically good.
554. But there has been no actual teaching, no videos of how to do things, no phone calls, no one on on check ins, no zoom/ group on line classes . A few video messages have been sent out. But ther year 3 has seen his teachers face for two 60 sec videos in 16 weeks.
555. The learning has 100% relied upon me as a mum stepping in and explaining & motivating The learning. Quite frankly I'm exhausted.'
556. 'My own business has gone on hold. I can't parent and teach while running a business. Fortunately we can survive on my husbands wage, but what will happen later this year only time will tell.
557. My children have been withdrawn, cried about home not being the place to learn, mourned the loss of friends and I've fought each day to Jeep them upbeat and stimulated. Walks in different places, different ways to play etc. Which has taken its toll on me and I no am regularly reduced to tears.
558. As a mummy we are built to protect and nurture our children, not shout about sitting still and holding the pencil the right way. Home is for love and fun and discipline in different ways. How it's deemed acceptable for blended learning or home school to be A continuing solution I've no idea.
559. What I ask is why key workers children have continued to be an elite class, singled out for 100% school time, long after the panicked effects of the pandemic eased and most key workers were back to their normal jobs!!
560. Why still do state paid parents have all children care needs accommodated while normal parents struggle and drown under the daily pressure and little support? Please fight our corner and help us normal mums and dads?'
561. 'We have twins in Year Two, one with special educational needs. We both have full time jobs and have been working at home throughout the lock down. Home schooling has put stress upon us as parents juggling two roles and trying to support our child who has difficulty working unsupervised. We believe it has affected the children's mental health. We requested our son with learning challenges returned to school when they reopened in June but the school declined because places had to be retained for children in the specified year groups even if their parents chose not to send them back to school - this has led to a huge waste of public resources with classes below capacity. It also appears that all public sector workers were deemed "critical" and their children could attend school throughout lock down. For those parents working in the private sector there has been no support.'

562. 'The school has worked hard to deliver a good curriculum online. However as a single parent family with a high pressure job, I have struggled to give my children, aged 5 and 8, the attention that they need to do the work online. It requires huge organisation in the evenings printing off worksheets and working out what tasks my children might engage with without too much support from me. Often by the evenings I'm exhausted from doing my own job and/or still have work to do and can't give over the time to this. After a few weeks I therefore stopped doing the online work set by the school and instead have concentrated on keeping the children happy and occupied. They read online to grandparents, listen to audiobooks, do a bit of maths in a workbook that we bought and play. This is the best that I can do while holding down my job. I need school to get the children back in September. The focus for this age should not be on catching up, but on wellbeing, social skills and getting back into the school routine.'
563. 'Patchy at best! I am not able to teach my kids in the ways they are expecting, using the tools and language they recognise - we didn't call things 'number bonds' when I was at school. I also don't have the sort of English grammatical knowledge that people of my age only have if they've done Latin A level. It seems I am therefore unable help an 8 year old with literacy...! I am also working full time, so can't supervise kids all the time. I'm worried about the potential mental health impact of them mooching round the house for hours on end.
564. Schools absolutely cannot win. I am a parent governor - we don't have advance notice of requirements, but we have to react quickly to government info with no additional budget. Extra cleaning is all very well, but where does the money come from to pay for it?'
565. 'Heart breaking lack of care and contact . We waited till after Easter in the hope that school interaction would commence but only limited " work " was put up on the website or sent to students . There was no phone contact till a call in Mayby one teacher . No lessons till one teacher broke ranks and started audio lessons once a week for my y10 around June . My year 12 child also started to receive live lessons and interaction from one wonderful teacher in one of the A level subjects . With limited contact there was limited motivation so it was difficult to get students out of bed and as we had no direct communication with school we didn't know what or how much they were being sent . Teenagers do not like parents nagging them to know what they have got from school or indeed how much work they have done each day . By June the majority of subjects reachers started using Teams or some prerecorded lessons Using voice and whiteboard . When y12 finally had a visit to school a teacher apologised to the group for there being no teaching ; that had been due to the senior management team . My child was also told there was no teaching due to safeguarding . The students knew that at other local schools the students were receiving an hour of live lesson in each gcse subject each week with homework and feedback and similarly supportive for y12 and all other years . As parents we received a very wordy " update " each Friday of what school was PLANNING , CONSIDERING , ORGANISING , THINKING ABOUT ETC . but with very little substance. It appears that unionised SMT have been able to control the teaching or lack of it but as parents this is only an assumption. The school has some wonderful and caring teachers so it was strange that they were not able To teach the students . The amount of

missed teaching will never be caught up but next year my children will be expected to sit exams along side peers in other schools who have been taught considerably more consistently and thoroughly . The lack of care for the students has been heartbreaking with some teachers really trying hard to help .’

566. ‘The school provided good support via online learning system - SeeSaw and my children were relatively engaged and interested in this. My employer was understanding too But given this pretty positive starting point the experience has still been immensely difficult. Trying to do your day job and be a teacher is enough to drive anyone to a breakdown. Trying to work in scattered chunks around home schooling makes it so hard to give any meaningful thought to your own work and the children have been good at doing work but also have had to be dumped in front of the tv a lot of time.’

567. ‘Neither of my children have been in school at all since it stopped providing an education in March. I am a key worker and my kids are reception and y2. The decisions on key workers was random, disorganised and appeared to be in a first come, first serve order rather than fair. I held off applying as I didn’t want to take advantage, which meant I lost out to others in similar situations when places ran out. Online ‘learning’ has been appalling - just a few links to Twinkl each week, which we couldn’t always print. No interaction with teachers whatsoever until we complained then we got one video of the teacher reading a story and two 5 min phone calls to check in with us. There was no task setting, no marking work, no projects set or online classrooms or lessons. We had no bespoke work from the school and they neglected to highlight the Oak Academy sufficiently. Reception children didn’t return to school, just key worker kids from some year groups. Management was disorganised, communication was messy and defensive and I feel it was politicised. The school procrastinated for Government advice, blamed difficulties with the guidelines, didn’t mention education once - only health and safety, and sided with the unions. There was no willingness or strategy to open. It was a weak effort and we were wholly let down. And this from a well funded Ofsted Outstanding school. Awful, I’m glad we’re moving to a new area and new school with more proactive and organised management.’

568. ‘Very limited and disappointing support from the children’s school. Limited activities sent home, all requiring a large amount of input from parents, the school seemingly disregarding the fact that parents need to work. Work only sent (generally without prior warning of when this would be) once before Easter, once in the first summer half term, once at the start of the second half term. The final 4 weeks the school started bi-weekly class zoom calls which improved the situation slightly but still fell alarmingly short of the standard and quantity/quality of teaching that should have been provided throughout. Extremely disappointed with the school.’

569. 'I haven't really needed to school my yr 7 child beyond a little guidance. The school has provided a reasonable amount of work and child has managed to workload, surprisingly well.'
570. 'I must mention, that I have noticed an improvement in overall mood. Aside from the lack of routine, there haven't been too many negatives at all.'
571. 'I have a 12 year old at High School and a 10 year in year 5 at Primary. My husband and I have been working full time from home: home schooling has been nigh on impossible. For the 10 year old we have had to leave her to her own devices - by the evening everyone is so tired we just don't have the energy to go through what little she has done and what has been missed. Work comes through each night from school but a very low percentage has been completed. '
572. 'The school approaches things from their perspective: we received a survey regarding going back to school in September and how that may have to be done on a week on, week off basis. For working parents they have absolutely zero understanding of the implications of this which makes me very angry (and I'm a ex-parent governor of the school). The survey included questions such as 'what day would you prefer your child's teacher to have a half day off doing preparation!'. Preparation for returning to school has been haphazard and making use of the multi academy trust facilities has been non-existent (use of school halls for larger groups etc). We receive bulletins of stay at home mums making floral bunting and baking cakes with their children which makes you feel inadequate and a failure as a parent as we don't even have enough time to check whether they've done their homework. I do feel very much as if it's been all about the teachers and how they're going to cope on return, not about the children and the time they've missed. I'm incredibly frustrated by the hold the teaching unions still have. I do feel the Government is starting to stand up to them.
573. Thank you for your campaign and all the work you're doing: finally working parents have a voice. We're not all building nature gardens with our kids and going on cycling trips every day. Some of us are trying to keep companies afloat and the economy going, whilst trying to do the best for our kids.'
574. 'The school has set work using its Firefly system, so print out or online work.
575. Comments based on my year 8 DS.
576. All subjects have been setting work.
577. English-followed a plan each week, PowerPoint and worksheets. Feedback sometimes.
578. Maths-always mathwatch tasks. Work not that challenging. Zero feedback. No lessons.
579. French-followed a plan. PowerPoint, worksheets and an online textbook. We tried! Feedback was excellent.

580. Science-powerpoints and worksheets, videos. Zero feedback.
581. ICT-as above! Zero feedback.
582. Humanities-as above. Zero feedback.
583. Tech-powerpoints, worksheets, videos and make tasks. Some of the make tasks we've enjoyed, especially making the marble run. Good use of Google SketchUp for the last 3 weeks. Feedback barely.
584. Art, drama, music, pe, personal development-did none!
585. Communication from subject teachers generally non-existent.
586. Use of group video teaching (zoom,teams etc) non existent.
587. Work done each day - maybe 1.5 hours. I go out to work so not there to supervise.
588. DS has lack of motivation and inclination. No-one holds his poor work quality/quantity to account.
589. He'll go back in Sept with a MASSIVE hole in his knowledge. But because we're not low income, he won't get extra help. He'll be the lost lower/ middle ground kids who the school won't do anything for.
590. Footnote. We started KIP McGrath tutoring with him last year in English, because school had let him slide down into the bottom set. 4 months of Kip, he moved back up a set! Over lockdown, Kip has been great. A hours online video tutoring once a week, where he's taught, supported and held to account for his work. Set homework is marked and gone through the following week. He works hard and his teacher can't understand why he's in such a low set.
591. For my year 10 DD. Similar comments to above. Main gripe is I've heard other schools have used video lessons extensively. I feel next year's GCSEs will show up the hads (zoom learners etc) and the had nots. The hads will have less gaps in knowledge so cutdown exams, extra teaching time, reduced grade boundaries etc will lead to 2-tier results.
592. Sorry about the rant.'
593. 'My 8 year old is not motivated enough to go onto a portdl with no direction to self-educate. My husband and I work full time. We've had to leave our child, to fend for herself and to compensate are paying 2 hour weekly one to one online sessions in English and Maths. We were expecting the school website to be a temporary measure. Nothing replaces the presence of a teacher. I've felt guilty throughout for not being able to support our child but i also feel let down by the school and saddened that children were not prioritised during this crisis. It'd not just about the lack of school and being behind, its also about the family stress this situation generated and the anxiety it created for children who had their routine disrupted. I feel for single parents and for looked after children. This has not been easy for anyone. Its effects on children's mental health and well being are yet to be revealed.'

594. 'Google classroom English and maths daily which has been structured and easy for the children to understand. Lessons recorded by teachers and then submitted for basic feedback which has been sporadic. The lessons of themselves worked well until separate maths for each level within the year ended as more pupils went back to school which meant homogenous maths set at too basic a level for the two more apt groups in the year. Other subjects simply had links to follow to find work, ie science, art, RE. On the whole the school and teachers did well although I think there could have been specific science lessons set too. We've had emails from the school but no contact at all otherwise. The ability to settle down and concentrate has waned over the weeks for my two children. I almost feel that we shouldn't really be working towards an end of term date as there has been no school. It would be better for the ones that didn't get to go back to be able to have a few days at school at least to meet their new teachers for next year and to say goodbye to the old ones so it feels like it's more of a natural transgression into the next year. Our school also took back year 2 for 3 weeks which I think was unfair to years 3,4 and 5. Other schools took back all years for a few days which would have been better for the children as mine have begun to suffer from separation anxiety which worries me for September. They won't have been without a parent for 7 months and have lost their independence. I think it's unfair for children that the schools and unions have been left to make the decisions about who goes back, provision of lessons and contact'
595. 'Hellish - to be honest. Impossible to juggle full time work and also homeschool 2 kids who do not want me as their teacher. Husband and I run our own business so cannot take time off or ask to be furloughed - or our company would collapse and many jobs - including our own - would be lost. We have never worked so hard without a break as well as trying to keep the kids educated and their mental health stable. We are pinning everything on Sept being back to normal hours as we cannot go on much longer. Tantrums aplenty from both kids and myself. All their friends are having the same issues - they are all pale, tired, despondent and fed up. So many parents are struggling and the kids are too - this will set working mothers in particular back years. The schools are barely open but we can all go to the pub - where are the priorities?!'
596. 'It is not home-schooling! It is trying to hold down a full time job and somehow replace the 96hrs of schooling and paid childcare per week that usually enable that.
597. I am lucky to have bright and relatively compliant kids, so the teaching itself is not too bad when it is possible. However, trying to balance delivery of two radically different syllabuses to two children of different ages is borderline impossible for any length of time (and not something that teachers normally have to contend with in the classroom). Working late into the evening and at weekends to catch up has become the norm, meaning that there is no respite for working parents.
598. The schooling situation is compounded by the Infant/Junior (as opposed to Primary) school system being completely overlooked by the government and glossed over in their guidelines. My son is in yr2, a transitional year between Infant and Junior, but he won't get

any schooling until September, when he turns up cold to a brand new school with teachers he has never met, while also never having had the chance to say goodbye to his Infant school and teachers.

599. So in summary, home-schooling has been hard, but certainly easier for me (in a relatively stable and well-resourced situation) than for many.'
600. 'It has taken its toll on every member of the family, directly or indirectly, and yet does not seem to be recognised as a central issue in getting things back toward normal.'
601. 'I am a key worker and a single parent. I cram a week's work worth of homeschooling into my two non- working days and have take annual leave to specifically do more. It has put a huge strain on my relationship with my daughter and I am exhausted. I am extremely anxious about Welsh schools's move towards blended learning in September. This approach is not sustainable.'
602. 'It has been awful. At a time when my job has become more pressurised and urgent (working in payroll) I have not been able to adequately supervise let alone home school my children. My eldest is 9 years and at every point needs to be reminded what needs to be done when. Constant interruptions when I am trying to focus on my job and my stress levels have been through the roof. I got to a point whereby my employer asked me to speak with a doctor urgently due to my physical symptoms and I was signed off with stress that day. I have never suffered with stress before. School have uploaded work to Google drive but there is so much of it. Pages to be printed daily. We gave up quickly as the paper and ink was being consumed so quickly and my eldest lost interest after the first page. It was months before we had a phone call from the teacher.'
603. 'It is impossible to simultaneously carry out work I am being paid for and home school children. No-one would expect me to bring my children to the office and adequately educate them with a full day's worth of work so why is it expected now? Working parents are the forgotten 'squeezed middle'.'
604. 'I was unable to Homeschool due to Being a critical key worker and also my child didn't really understand what was being asked of her so wasn't able to do
605. It in her own! We agreed that my work would come first! Such a stressful time!'
606. 'I work 30 hours per week as a specialist nurse, early in lockdown I began working at home running clinics by telephone, because it was impossible to socially distance in my crowded office, all clinics became telephone only and I have a health condition that meant I

was vulnerable. My husband work 30 hours as an engineer, and also began working from home.

607. We took our two children out of key worker care provided by their school, because we felt that if we were both working at home we should. The school have worked exceptionally hard to support children during lockdown, and to provide learning resources. However the learning platform took some time for all of us to get used too. It has been very difficult to balance work and home schooling, even though we have both had a day off per week. We have needed to give the children considerable amounts of time supporting them with the school work and emotionally. We do not grudge them this but it has been hard to do both every week since march. There have been times when the needs of our jobs and the homeschool have been incompatible, leading to feelings stress of failure in both areas. We have been motivated to provide some structure, routine, interest and learning for our children, believing that this was best for them, especially emotionally. However it has been hard, and at times had impacted negatively on family relationships. Having said that it is not all bad, we have had more time together as a family that we would ever have expected. Home schooling has given us a greater insight into how our children learn and areas where they need support.'

608. 'My youngest Son is in year 7. School have been good at providing work. Initially we were encouraged to try and follow the school timetable but not to worry if this wasn't possible. Both me and my husband work from home. We did what we could to support our Son while trying to make it as stress free as possible. As time went on school started to ask for work to be submitted which put a bit more pressure on but we coped with this. A few weeks ago they put all the lessons on Google classroom and sent a timetable to be followed. It took a while to learn how to use Google classroom which was an added stress. Our son has found the new timetable hard to keep up to. There is more work to complete for each subject and more subjects for him to cover.

609. You can message teachers if you need help and this is something we do rather than our Son. We also upload and submit any work he has managed to do. We feel that it's enough for him to do the lessons which are on PowerPoint slides, with audio now. On top of this our other Son in year 10 has an educational health care plan. He has been unable to engage with home school and is struggling with returning to school now that he can. 4 months of trying to home school while WFH has taken its toll on all of us.'

610. 'It was hard I'm a sole single parent of a 10 year old attempting to juggle full-time work from home with home-schooling. It's impossible. Some days I am on conference calls all morning and all afternoon. My son has no siblings, no other parents, no neighbours. Under different circumstances the lack of human interaction would be considered neglect. The school has been appalling in regards to what is sent through, and the general lack of engagement. There shouldn't be any distinction between key workers and other workers. There a key workers with one stay at home parent able to send kids to school. Single parents, should have had more support. All kids should have had the opportunity to go to school, even

if just 1 day a week. Reception, Yr1 and Yr6 going back full-time, while others have nothing is unjustifiable.

611. We have felt that school have provided a good level and variety of educational material which has kept my son fully working for the whole lockdown period. He has received a reasonable amount of support and feedback from staff including video messages from the headteacher. There have been issues where teachers were not receiving his work but this, while frustrating, was resolved quickly. He has been great and has learned skills in online communication with his friends. I worry about the lack of hand written work he is doing as this will impact his exams performance.'
612. 'Absolute nightmare when your not a teacher far too much work set daily takes hours to do it as a working parent its impossible to do it all my child got fed up with it we fell out alot cause he would laugh when should be concentrating hope i dont have to do it again.'
613. 'I have a son in Year 1 who doesn't want to do any school work, go out, see his friends. It has been too long without much interaction. He is on the one plan and very much in need of that 121 teaching which I cannot give him as I also have a demanding 2 year old and work from home. My husband and I are separated too. The fact his school didn't/couldn't take him back as I am not a key worker was really unfortunate and will definitely have an impact on him when returning to school in September. Lockdown has definitely has been a struggle.'
614. 'Teachers would send a link to a website on a sunday night. That's it. They were far too busy with key worker kids that were at school to combine with teaching kids that were at home so that was entirely done by me/parents while trying to do my fulltime job in business development for a multinational company. I would get up at 5am, start work, then start schooling with him at 9am and often be working, even in zoom calls, in parallel. I'd then work until 9pm after he was in bed to make up for lost time, and go to bed to start the same thing again the next day. Finally we stopped this insanity last week! A colleague of mine who is a single mother with 2 girls would regularly be on Skype in tears as she couldn't cope. Meanwhile a lot of kids in the area just spent the 3 months playing outside on their bikes as the parents just gave up pretty early on. There will be massive inequalities from this which I've decided, perhaps selfishly, to deal with by sending my child to private school in September on the basis that I'd rather pay to make sure he's properly educated than go through that again or even deal with the fact that even if kids go to school next year, most of the time will be spent dealing with the kids whose parents gave up.'
615. '2 parents attempting to do full time jobs working from home and home schooling a 6 & 9 year old has been impossible. It has resulted in guilt over the lack of school work being done, guilt over the amount of screen time, and guilt knowing I am not supporting my team at work properly. I have been attempting to work in the evenings but this is not doable long

term. My work have been supportive to a point saying I just need to do what I can, but my work load has not changed.'

- 616. 'Lack of foresight anticipating home schooling.
- 617. Lack of engagement. Only way had teacher interaction through pestering school.
- 618. No use of online teaching. Simply weekly updates to a class page with default work packages much of which is forwarded on from the education authority.
- 619. Lack of cross class or cross age within Clitheroe thinking.
- 620. Was forwarded link to a Burnley college science day that was interactive - our son loved it.'
- 621. If I wasn't so exhausted and if it wasn't so unsafe I would be protesting on the streets.'

- 622. 'I have a full time job that although not classified as a key worker has been busier than ever since Covid 19. As a single parent I have been forced to choose keeping that job and contributing towards my company getting through this crisis over educating my children. I cannot home school. Unless you would like to persuade my teenagers that a few hours at the weekend should be dedicated to lessons?'

- 623. 'The guilt that I have felt as my children lag behind their peers who have two parents or parents with more flexible jobs is immeasurable.'

- 624. 'Although the school has been sending work, I had no direct contact from a form tutor until late June. And then it was a message that she was only available to speak to us for two hours the next day. I couldn't make that time but apparently any other time was not convenient as she has to be in school to make the call? What was the point anyway three weeks before the end of term.'
- 625. 'The school has also only begun using online teaching for one subject once a week for my children's year groups in the last fortnight.'

- 626. 'The school is now talking about blended learning in the autumn with a mixture of in school and home learning. It is already clear that mothers have borne the brunt of the pressures of home schooling and simply caring for children during what should be the working day. It was already hard enough to be a working mother but this is breaking many of us. I don't want to ask my employer for special arrangements when the office starts to reopen in September. I want the same priority to be given to getting our schools open as our pubs.'

- 627. 'The biggest challenge has undoubtedly been managing work with home schooling. Although my employer has been great about flexibility of work with the responsibilities of

parenting and home schooling, this does not take away the fact that working parents are being put in a very difficult position. On one side we have our commitment and professionalism for working for our employer which we take extremely seriously. Personally, I hold myself to account to work to a high professional standard as an archaeologist and as a local government officer and I also take my role as a line manager very seriously caring for the well-being of my staff. However, I have to balance that every day with my family. I am pulled towards my children and their education and well-being as well as my wife who is

628. also working from home full time. Both of us as adults in the house have a mental and emotional battle everyday between work and our children and at the end of each day we never win, at the end of the day you can never have done enough to help your children's education with home schooling and you can never do enough to meet the relentless continuity of the demands of your job. At the end of the day you feel you have failed as a parent and as a professional, you can never win. The toll is taken on mental health for each member of the family, on physical health, on sleep deprivation, on sheer exhaustion. We feel as full time working parents with school age children we are being penalised, we are being asked to do two full time jobs, teach our children, the ones we love the most, but also work for our employer who, as great as they have been, expects us to work as much as we can. I am only able to do this because mentally I am strong and do not give up and I continue to fight every day to teach my children as much as I can, to complete their school work and to do my job for my employer as much as I can and as professionally as I can but I would be lying to myself if I thought I was doing either of these effectively or to anywhere near the level I would like. So, as a working parent I feel I am being punished and it is not the fault of my employer, nor the Government, nor the schools, nor anyone. It is the situation we are in but at the end of the day I am doing two full time jobs and I absolutely can't wait until September!'

629. 'My husband and I have both been working from home and have quite demanding jobs. We also have two young children, 3 and 5, to look after and school activities to do with the 5 year old. The first part of lockdown was just awful. I've never known stress like it, or more guilt that I wasn't doing enough for my kids or enough for my employer. I hated having to tell my kids that I couldn't play or couldn't help them with something while on a video call with work. Nobody got enough of my attention and I ended every day absolutely knackered. As time went on, the kids learned to play together more and we all got used to it. But then, around the end of May, it seemed to all get too much for everyone. Work was extra busy, kids were extra demanding and kept arguing with each other. School work went out of the window and we all got more miserable by the day. Thankfully now the kids are back at school and nursery so working from home is OK and our employers have been flexible around drop off/pick up times. The thought of having to go back to all being at home and having to do it all again fills me with dread. My children are just so much happier now they are back at school, like different people and come home with a big smile on their face. They are learning, playing, interacting with others and living their lives, not stuck at home with parents who are stuck to a desk and struggling not to shout all the time!'

630. 'It was refreshing reading the BBC article about homeschooling being hell. Because it was exactly that! My mental health has been atrocious the past 3 months. Juggling work and homeschooling is impossible. Working with kids full time at home is soul destroying. And reading about the teachers unions fighting to keep schools closed reduced me to tears. Our school hasn't been supporting us at all. My son is in year 1 and he's only back 2 days a week even though his teacher is doing nothing the rest of the week. They have only 90 kids back at school, not attending the full week, for a school that usually has 500 pupils. There are enough teachers and classrooms for Reception, year 1 and year 6 to go back full time, but they have decided to do the minimum, even though there are loads of parents like us, trying to work at home and feeling miserable.'
631. 'Way too much work. Every day. Same as school timetable. Full on science, maths etc including experiments and algebra. All 3 kids behind with most of it. EHCP SEN children just forgotten. Dyslexia and ASD - I have to teach her myself. I am a single parent. I feel like I am going crazy. My house is a tip. 3 teen girls changing clothes all the time and cooking! When they have gone into school as "permitted children" they play games on the internet and watch YouTube while TA's just wander around the open plan area. So even when in school the work isn't done. Two have done NO maths in 4 months because it is too difficult, there are about 30 maths assignments sitting on Microsoft teams.'
632. 'School have tried to set work as normal, but we didn't even have laptops for the first 3 weeks (wonder why they are behind !) no-one knew how to even use Teams, PDF's don't open, we only have office 365 which doesn't have full word.'
633. 'At home we have way more arguments than normal, I expect work done - even bought school text books from amazon - they don't do it, school winge at me, I have a go. I just about manage to wash up each day and take the dogs out for a walk. Sick of furloughed Lycra cyclists and "bored" people. It is a mission as a single parent to go to a food shop. I don't have time to be bored - maybe furloughed people should volunteer to help teach kids (oh hang on, teachers have been furloughed and some just upload pdfs.'
634. 'Secondary school is way more full on than primary, and try motivating teens! This will mess up their learning and their future. Dreading September when everyone on holidays circulate more virus and schools close again :-(that is AFTER the next 6 weeks of continuous 3 teen girls on my own with no money.'
635. 'I have my own company and should be working and preparing company accounts now. No chance. It has been so difficult with a toddler and an 8 year old, we have jobs to balance with looking after our youngest and unfortunately it's our eldest's home schooling that has suffered. We are doing our best but it's been so hard and she has not had the time or attention we would want. We are not teachers and feel like we are letting her down. Which in turn is impacting us.'
636. Thank you for what you're doing!'

637. 'I am a secondary educator with a child in KS1. I had enjoyed spending extra time with my son before he went back to school. I did find juggling home schooling and my work commitments a struggle. I couldn't ever give either my all for every day. One always had to give, so I would be on constant catch up. As time moved on I saw my son losing motivation and become disinterested in learning, which is a shame as he loves school. Other parents I have spoken to have had similar situations. They would ask me for advice and I would help as much as possible, but the reality is although I teach myself, I really don't know much about KS1, so I could imagine for parents who haven't done certain topics it must be incredibly hard for them to help children with home learning when they are unsure themselves. My son has benefited greatly being in school recently and is motivated to go to school.'
638. 'It's been hell, I have 1 8 year old, we are both key workers but the other half has been able to stay and wfh full time so we've kept her out of school, school have been worse than rubbish, the work has been appalling, the teacher has called us once during the whole period, I've given up on them and now set my own work for her each morning and bribe her to do it. If schools don't go back this Sept I seriously am going to have a total, whip ass tantrum, it's ridiculous the way it's been handled, our school could have done so much more to help'
639. 'School has done a great job BUT trying to juggle home/cooking/full time work for both of us and school work is nearly impossible. Both have been totally bored at moments as school send work but can't tailor to the child or send extension activities. My son has lost end of year 6. Transferring to a huge grammar next term where it is likely they won't allow all the subjects etc as usual. What a shame and waste for the children. Schools should be designated as critical infrastructure. There is mounting evidence children are hardly affected. If older people are affected more then why are children being sacrificed when adults are now increasingly resuming their normal lives? It is INFRURIATING that pubs, bingo halls, theme parks and restaurants all take priority over children's education.'
640. 'Awful.
641. The school fail to realise that the decisions they make, without consulting parents, has an effect on not only the child's education but also work and home life.
642. There is no structure or consistent approach to how work is set.
643. One week my son had completed all his work by lunchtime Tuesday and received no further work.
644. There is no forum to provide feedback or make suggestions. Hopefully this forum can help. Thankyou for giving us a voice'

645. 'Our school has provided no online learning at all (for safeguarding reasons!). We managed ok in the beginning using online resourced but then after 4 weeks the school started sending home learning packs which were triple the volume the kids normally do at school with no lesson (just the exercises). We were 'required' to use these and discouraged from using any other online tools. This forced us to provide the lessons so every evening 2 hours were spent preparing the lesson plans for the next day. My wife and I have been working 10 hour days to keep up with our normal jobs (which are both exec level jobs) and have had to do lessons, manage the kids, mark the school work and keep up with the lesson packs while running the house. It's simply an impossible task made even worse when the children start to display aggressive behaviour and depression due to the lockdown. Private schools seamlessly switched to online learning using Teams or Zoom while offering e-mail submissions for homework. I simply cannot understand how state schools managed to allow safeguarding and training to be the reasons for not offering anything!. Furthermore with social distancing in schools clearly being impossible why aren't the government working to open up public buildings for schools to allow a bigger physical footprint for the bubbles?? The way this has been handled by the Government beggars belief! If schools close again in Sept I will be moving my children to private schools or relocating to Europe where they seem to know how to manage these issues.'

646. 'Frustrated probably doesn't cover it really. Yes the home schooling situation whilst trying to also do our own jobs from home is difficult and frustrating. However I feel now that our children are being badly let down by those in power both in the government and in education including the local authorities and stance of teaching unions. There seems to be a total lack of leadership from these bodies. The government since the u-turn ending their attempt to get all kids back to school in some capacity in July seem in disarray on this issue. The only rhetoric we hear from the local authorities is about what they can't do, nothing about what they can do, no proposals or plans for what can be done. We seem stuck with the fact that our kids will have no effective teaching and no social contact with classmates until at least September.'

647. 'From our own experience the initial response by our children's school was good with a weeks worth of work set via email at the start of week 1 following the school's closure. We could send work in to teachers for feedback although this was voluntary and there was no proactive contact from teachers. We were directed to online learning resources such as BBC bitesize, White Rose Maths, Active Learn etc. The quantity of work and coverage of subjects has been good, though a little repetitive. However this approach remained the same for the first 11 or 12 weeks with little progress or improvement. The onus was almost completely on the parents to do the schooling with virtually no contact with or from the teachers apart from an email at the start of each week detailing the work to be done. This was ok for the first few weeks as people got used to the situation but other organisations adapted to the situation and working remotely/online but the schools seem very slow to do this. After we and other parents complained about the lack of contact and visibility of teachers ours have over the last 4 weeks of term improved somewhat with teachers providing more input to the learning

resources and planned work and also a 1 hour class zoom meeting per week. We as parents and our children have appreciated this but it came too late and is really still insufficient. The home schooling while trying also to do our day jobs has been extremely challenging and stressful for the whole family and my wife works part time and we have very understanding employers. I have no idea how families where there is only 1 parent or both parents work full time can be coping. It has also been very disappointing there is no provision available for schooling or clubs over the summer holidays. We are using some private holiday clubs and sports camps. Those which normally are run out of the school in holidays are not happening. I don't understand why private ones can run but those at the school are not.

648. There is no middle ground or plan for the interim.'

649. 'I have a Y7 son and a Y5 daughter and my husband and I are working full time from home.

650. My son has received support daily from his teachers although no face to face lessons have been undertaken. The online learning platform which was set up pre-lockdown however has been great, especially as this has continued to evolve during the absence, and he has continued to develop and receive daily feedback from his teachers. We have not needed to give him too much additional support due to the attentive teacher supervision. This has been a huge help.

651. My daughter attends a CofE school who could not have been more uncompromising during this period. The school motto 'Realising the potential of all children within a caring Christian community' could not be further from the truth. The lack of support has heaped so much pressure on us all and impacted our relationship with our daughter that we've reached breaking point. It is more difficult than I could ever have imagined. Other faith schools in our area have gone above and beyond to support the children and continue to nurture their development. It feels like we have been abandoned like dogs, thrown a few scraps and left to fend for ourselves.'

652. 'Home schooling provision has been extremely poor from my sons secondary school.

653. A haphazard, complicated learning platform which hasn't changed since the day it was introduced in mid March. Only now, 2 weeks before the end of term, do they finally move over to Teams, but still no live lessons. Only science has been brave enough to record voice only lessons. The difference between private education and state education is a disgrace and the govt, unions and teachers have failed all pupils who are state educated. When the world embraced online technology like zoom why did teachers fail to follow suit?

654. 'Home school teaching a 5 year old while also running on line lessons for my year 6 class has defiantly been challenging. I have enjoyed spending time with my boy, but home is definitely the bigger challenge to home schooling. It is not a natural environment for learning (education based) when the child thinks of home as down time, play and being with mum and dad. We struggled through, but it will definitely remove some elements of stress when things get a little back to normal.'

655. 'School have not engaged with my some at all. They post 3 worksheets a day that are often duplicates or for the wrong year. School have contacted him once during the lockdown. He has effectively been cut adrift.'
656. 'I have an eight year old daughter, who has really struggled during lockdown missing both her friends and her teachers. She had been desperately hoping to return to school before the summer holiday but this is not possible. Her school have been really good, there are activities, weekly assemblies and interaction from the teachers. The focus has been on core subjects, maths, English, and basic science, however, there are times when the tasks set are not realistic if you are balancing home schooling and work. Both her father and I work full-time and while we have been doing our best to support her through her schooling, however, our primary concern has been her emotional well-being. She is a bright child and we are confident that she will be able to catch up on her schooling, however, she will not be able to catch up on the time she has missed with her friends. As an only child who has been through a lot of disruption in her short life she was finally starting to feel settled. She needs reassurance, company and lots of stimulation - which when you are trying to balance work, can be very challenging. We have cried numerous times as we have tried to parent, teach, work, play, do exercise, and meet the emotional needs of our daughter, but we cannot offer it all. She needs the company of children her own age.'
657. Her friends are not at an age where they have mobile phones and so are dependent on parents being able to arrange contact, now that the parks are open we will do everything that we can to arrange play dates and opportunities to mix with friends her own age, but until the school reopens this will continue to be irregular. I hope that the Education Select Committee can see that for children, schools are not just about education, but providing children with essential social interaction which is crucial for their wellbeing.'
658. 'Work set on Google classroom (used pre lockdown for homework). No feedback or marking at first, has improved slightly recently. No opportunity for interaction with teachers. School refused outright to organise any kind of video teaching citing inequalities of access, yet the other local school in the same town which if anything serves a more deprived population has provided several lessons a week.'
659. Nightmare.'
660. 'School work given but not marked. No real help given. Even as a keyworker the head teacher at short notice decides to close easily before school holidays.'
661. 'My child suffers from anxiety and was reluctant to go in to school when he had to. Only sent him in last 3 weeks to school and before then homeschooling.'
662. 'Not sure what I was supposed to be teaching. Not a teacher.'

663. 'Written work set weekly via website, little or no marking, occasional feedback by email but only if instigated by the student. We have had to fill a lot of gaps and level of work has been very variable between classes.'
664. We were very fortunate that my husband is furloughed and my son is keen to learn (for a 15 year old).
665. I felt there was no overview revised of the curriculum and as children had not brought books home (at any point since starting high school) we had no knowledge of where he was up to.'
666. 'Homeschooling with two working parents and a 1 year old sibling was quite frankly impossible. We read lots and tried to make everyday tasks educational where we could. We completed a number of the tasks set by school but by no means all of them. We went for walks, played board games and of course there was a fair amount of television involved but we were safe and happy.'
667. 'Hoping the schools bear in mind parents are not teachers and incorporate a bit of a catch up in September.'
668. 'I started lockdown thinking homeschooling would be great. The first few weeks were good, I had motivated kids and they got on with the work. After the Easter holidays however they really struggled getting back into homeschooling. I wish school would have done online lessons much earlier as this would have helped.'
669. 'My kids are great and we've used all kinds of online packages to try and motivate them. TT Rockstars, IXL, Twinkl etc as sometimes the work from school was uninspiring. Only recently have school used Google classrooms for some lessons and it's made such an impact on the kids mental health (for the better).'
670. 'I've worked from home throughout lockdown and at times it's been a real struggle. I'm proud of myself and my kids we've worked together to try and muddle through and they've maintained about two hours per day of school work focusing on Maths and English. I do feel though that this may not be the case for other parents, we have the means to access online packages and pay for subscriptions. I also have diligent children who understand the importance of education. All in all I can't wait for them to go back to school full time in September, I'm disappointed it couldn't happen before summer, even for a few days. I'm disappointed that the school seemed to be governed by trade unions who used my children's lives as a political tool to flex power over the government's advice.'
671. 'Lessons put on vlc for children and at first massively overwhelming in volume and no feedback. More recently been more positive with 3 days a week full days of online lessons

where could interact with teachers and see messages from other students. This really helped my son cope with feeling isolated from his peers.'

672. 'Homeschooling fell to parents, online work was initially disorganised and uncoordinated. Volume of work assigned for each subject took no account of what other subjects were setting. No feedback on homework. Anything they could not understand to be noted and addressed in Sept. No online lessons with their teacher...only you tube videos occasionally.
673. Google classroom in place now but other subjects using other platforms making it really hard to manage work over other platforms.
674. No school text books to use or refer to, no workbooks.'
675. 'We have both been working although we've had to cut our hours. We have 3 kids under 7 none of which have been a thing school. It's been very hard trying to motivate our 7 year old, while entertaining our other children's and working. We've had minimal support from the school until recently. Overall we're lucky. We have jobs, a house and a garden but we're exhausted and quite angry. The kids are ok but I don't think they've learnt anything much and they've missed school and nursery lots.'
676. 'Primary school got work out straight away, did quizzes and songs to keep in touch with the kids and weekly calls and work and recorded lessons on website. They also took on board feedback on work and gave support when needed.'
677. 'We have had fantastic quality lessons planned and sent to us daily by true professionals. They have been easy to contact for clarity on any subject and have been amazingly supportive throughout lockdown. The live and video lessons have been great too. We have been very happy and would be equally happy to continue this way for longer!'
678. 'Home schooling has been tough as we have both been working from home. Even though we both have a boss who is very understanding we haven't been able to complete much school work. Luckily our LG is in reception so most learning is through play. She hasn't been keen to do work and we've been struggling to balance working, school work and childcare for a 2 year old. There has been lots more screen time and lots more cross words from everyone.'
679. 'Support from school has been poor and inconsistent. Argue unable to support online due to safe guarding and equality but all communication and lessons are via email and purple mash. Leadership lacks courageous integrity to do the right thing, adapt and be innovative To begin with my experience was fabulous! We did work each morning and structured and free play in the afternoon. When the weather bags to get a little hot, sitting at a table for so long became near impossible so we set activities up, still following the different tasks set by school but in a slightly different way. After 4 weeks of home schooling life became a little hard! My

eldest became very grumpy, stubborn and refused to take part in any work at all. I managed around 30 mins of getting him focused and taking part in some structured play. After working in a preschool for 17 years I am lucky in that I can think outside the box and do things different. I followed his interest each day and we began learning about flowers, vegetables being in the garden observing nature. The set school activities went out the window on week 8 and we just went with the flow. I linked his interests to what the school were following that week if I could be generally taught as questions arose and encouraged play and investigation. My eldest is in year 1.

680. 'My homeschooling experience hasn't been easy and for most hasn't been a nice experience when following set work. We developed and had an amazing experience once we followed our child's lead. I feel my child has a lot to catch up on now but know for now taking it easy and introducing different experiments over the summer will enable them to catch up a little.'
681. 'Got the majority of lockdown, work has been set on the online learning platform in a variety of formats but often huge volumes of work intended to last many weeks. The content was overwhelming in volume and had little guidance for parents in how to deliver work or Spanish language presentations. Or the standard of work too high (GCSE level English assignments for year 7 students) that it was immediately impossible to get my son to engage with the task. The school have contacted us about four times to discuss and my concerns were heard. In the last 3-4 weeks, my son has received one day per week of fully online led lessons with opportunity to engage with teachers and students. Enrichment lessons are available and work continues to be set.'
682. 'My primary concern is that whilst I have been striving to continue with delivering school work in school hours 9-3, it has been impossible to complete the majority of work set. The two days a week my son attends in person because of me being a key worker; the volume of work completed is low and quite often unrelated to work set electronically compounding the continual feeling of falling behind.'
683. 'There has been very limited feedback from teachers regarding completed work.'
684. 'Videos and messages from the teachers have been well received and helped us feel part of the school community despite being away from school completely whilst a family member was furloughed.'
685. 'My 10 year old has been set regular tasks which are easy to follow although the majority require internet access. The challenge is to keep him motivated and it is difficult to know which subjects to work on as the nature of managing a home, working part time and other commitments means I can not deliver a full time education. Tasks are available from across the curriculum.'

686. 'There has been three phone calls from school during lockdown. There has been no other contact for my child although communications to parents are good. There has been no online teaching content or simple contact videos from any teaching staff to the children. There is no feedback to any of the work completed at home. There is no opportunity to share work with other classmates.
687. Children expected to follow normal school timetable. Portal available with work to be done. Pupils expected to hand completed work into portal. Homework also expected. Not huge amounts of interaction but teachers email children with extra information. Very difficult to get a sullen 13 year old to self start so I'm having to micromanage. Only way work really gets done is if I sit and explain. Too much work given in my opinion.'
688. 'Until this week, organised 'packs' of school work sent out once a week for children to complete. However no followups or checks. No incentive for child to do work. No interaction via zoom or similar from teacher. This week they have started google classrooms, however its far too late in the day. Its a better system as the children have to 'submit' work.'
689. "Homeschooling' as they have called it has consisted of a series of worksheets. My Year 9 was set 57 maths test to do with no support. He has also not been chased to submit any classwork or homework since lockdown began. He checks in once a week with his form tutor and is sent work by the homework app which he typically completes within 1 hour. For my Year 10, pretty much the same approach but with much more work. In the last 4 weeks, he has been in to school for two 20 minute 'wellbeing checks' and a series of four 1 hour 'Masterclasses'. From the content of these lessons, I wonder if teachers even understand the concept of a masterclass. For example, his lesson in English was to use 'more descriptive language, in Maths it was a A5 paper booklet with some revision concepts and in Science it was a verbal test of knowledge. I'd love to understand how they think that is 'all year 10's returning to school for lessons before the summer'.'
690. 'What is really sad is that the kids all have school laptops, they all have google classroom which includes a video conference facility and yet the Head teacher would not allow the teachers to interact with the children remotely. One teacher was stopped from creating Zoom lessons which at least were a little more engaging. I would suggest that for our school, it is not lack of equipment but lack of effort, care, motivation or consideration from the Head teacher. He is standing as a Union representative for the ASCL and frequently tells the parents how he is totally supported by the Unions in his decision making process.
691. For me, as I work from home permanently as a Learning and Development Specialist in the Financial Service sector, I am able to support my boys with their independent learning. They are also used to me working and so the environment is familiar to them. My eldest has an historic expressive speech delay and his speech was suffering as he wasn't having to form expressive sentences as much as normal but we solved that by him having to discuss what he

had learnt at the end of each session. My year 9 is exceptionally bright and so, as the work is not stretching him, has immersed himself in projects on space.

692. My concern now is what happens in September. Taking my year 10 in for his sessions this week, I have witnessed how the lack of school structured has affected the kids. Some had done no work, some had worked out that the teachers 'don't care anyway'; groups were almost feral - and all this is in a semi rural village. I would suggest that it is going to take at least a term to get the kids back focused, behaving properly and learning again. And so what happens to kids like my sons who have continued to work? Are they held back whilst the others catch up? But what about the schools that have kept going with zoom lessons - how is that going to impact on mine that haven't been offered that facility? My eldest is always in the bottom group due to his historic difficulties. Learning is limited in those groups as they tend to put the kids with behavioural issues in there so where does that leave him - abandoned?'

693. 'I think if there was one word that sums up my feeling, it would be abandoned. My kids have been abandoned by their school; parents have been abandoned and left alone to find their way through the maze of homeschooling and no one is listening. And yes, before you ask, I have offered my services to the school - I have offered to help with gaining delegates engagement over webinar learning, ways to keep in contact, structuring learning timetables at home, blended learning approaches etc. Unfortunately, the Head teacher refuses to engage with me. He only engages with positive people so any challenge is branded as negative...meanwhile the kids are suffering, Mine will be OK because I am not afraid to challenge but I fear for those who parents are not as strong.

694. 'My eldest sons High school have worked their hardest to ensure a continuity of education and ensure the children are ready for their GCSEs. He has two full days of live lessons, one additional live lesson later in the week and fresh work to be completed through the week. Work is submitted and marked. His form tutor is in regular contact, he also has contact via live lessons and email with subject teachers too. We feel confident that he will be able to return to school and pick up where he left off.

695. My youngest sons school has been dreadful. He has had one phone call with his teacher since March. One. The head had called once too, but only in response to my complaint. The head blamed the unions and explained that they had been told the curriculum was suspended and teaching stopped. This was never communicated and the message only sent after I had complained.'

696. 'My son received four or five daily worksheet links on the school website, there is no formal marking or submission of work. Parents are left to guess at answers or what particular terms mean, especially in English where the rules on what is taught are substantially different to what they learnt.'

697. 'We feel let down and betrayed.

698. Our school has provided content and lessons but no live online teaching whatsoever. The content and lessons are so boring and out of touch that my children will not engage with them, and to be perfectly honest, I can't engage either. We've had a short phone call every two weeks from the children's teachers. No support for parents as they only want to speak to the children. The school hasn't contacted parents at all to get feedback on the emergency distance learning provision. Most parents I've spoken to say the children aren't interested in any of it, so teachers have effectively just been wasting their time since March. If there is another lockdown, I will not be using the school's distance learning provision as I can do it better myself. If I want worksheets I can go to Twinkl. If I want topic-based content I can go to YouTube. For Maths, there are plenty of fun games vs boring old worksheets all the time. The lockdown has made me realise the UK's educational system is old-fashioned and completely out of touch!'
699. 'Initial work supply, support and provision by the school excellent. Amazing prep in a very short time but after 7 weeks this stopped. No calls to parents/children. Support/worksheets only if asked for and equating to 10 mins work a day leaving me to buy and make learning materials (no printer). Eventually, videos provided via tapestry but the electronic devices in our home are used up by me and my husband trying to work full time. I'm happy that it's the safest thing for our 5 year old to be at home with us but if the government are expecting parents to work and home school they need to assist with this. My employer has been very supportive but I am contracted to work a number of hours so if I don't achieve this I end up working at night when I'm also preparing school work. It's physically and mentally exhausting while ultimately affects the child.'
700. 'Home schooling had been hard. I have a 6 year old in year 1 and a 4 year old still in preschool. It had been hard to entertain the youngest long enough to help the 6 year old learn. We have all been reduced to tears on many occasions Over doing school work, My son struggles with his reading and writing and these things have definitely been affected. It was a relief when our school opened back up for 2 days a week for year 1 pupils.
701. Not only has it been a struggle academically but emotionally as well. I feel our relationship has changed now. It is sad.
702. They also had to deal with the fact both myself and my partner caught the coronavirus early into lockdown, this was very scary for them and affected their emotional well-being, trying to do school work while we were sick just went out the window and there was no support for this.
703. Overall I think our school has done well. They have set a variety of work, but I think the expectation we could do it all was too high. We have had daily email or tapestry contact from the class teacher but very little other contact.'
704. 'Bloody hard work. Have been working flat out so have had very little time to supervise learning. Sharing IT has been the biggest struggle.'

705. 'Home educating my son has been amazing. His confidence has grown in abundance. His self esteem and belief in himself has finally turned a corner, he is now willing to try new challenges and is enjoying learning! I am so glad he has been able to have this time to realise how amazing he is instead of trying to fit into a box at school. He is now achieving at a much higher level than he was before lockdown. I have serious doubts about the benefits of him returning to school, especially with the government's supposed plans... I am concerned that it will undo all the progress he has made at home. I think a complete overhaul needs to be considered into how this country approaches learning. I believe more emphasis on families being able to have quality time together will do amazing things for children's learning, more so than any amount of hours in school could ever achieve.'
706. 'It has been virtually impossible to work from home while homeschooling my Year 4 child who has not been able to return to school since March. We now face a summer where childcare options are severely limited despite the Government announcement on 11 June : "We're going to get all schools back in September if we possibly can .. but it's going to be a big summer of catch up."
707. "We're going to keep making sure that kids get the remedial help that they need for the stuff that they've missed for months and months to come so that they genuinely make up for lost time." More details will be revealed by the Education Secretary Gavin Williamson next week. No10 stressed today that such camps would last for the summer "and beyond"
708. This Government have left working parents high and dry over the last few months. Now no extra summer help is forthcoming, despite a massive gap in the time some children have been away from school. Their guidance to out of school providers came late in the day & there is so much red tape over the schemes that many aren't opening and others have to be fixed groups of much smaller numbers. Parents are desperately finding ad-hoc solutions. What's most frustrating is that a month later children are all supposed to be back to normal for school re-opening. This doesn't bode well for that does it? It all feels a bit like the 'all children will be back in primary for the last month of summer term' that failed to materialise...'
709. 'I have a year 6 child due to start secondary school and am incredibly concerned that there will be further disruption and damage to my children's education (and further negative impact on my ability to work effectively). The local outstanding Secondary School had to recently appeal to local businesses to get old laptops or computers for students without access to IT as the Government promised laptops were still not available. It's simply not good enough to leave children without access to education.'
710. 'Keyworker status for workers allowing their children to return to school has become more arbitrary as time has gone on. I know of a furloughed hairdresser whose children were

given places at school as her husband is a fireman! This is while other parents are desperately struggling to work from home! All children are being disadvantaged through the pandemic but the Government must now ensure that from this point on they are given fair chance to attend school even if that is on a rota system - years or groups should not be 'cherry picked' leaving other children without access to an education in school.'

711. 'We have experienced very low and poor engagement from our school. The experience we have had since the lock down has been disappointing. The last two weeks prior to Easter holiday was totally disorganized - home schooling teaching materials were put together with very little thought. There has been the appearance that the school has been better organized since Easter holiday. In effect, it has been a weekly dump of materials on Google Classroom and little else.
712. However, there has been close to no engagement from the teaching staff. We have been told that the teaching staff in some of the schools in our area have been far more engaging, including calls to follow up on progress and actual feedback on submitted work.
713. Submitted work has little or no feedback. There is no evidence that our children have been assessed and there has been very little feedback on points of improvements.
714. Some of the teaching staff have been more interested in sharing their extracurricular activities rather than keeping the children focused on the task at hand. They even told the children that their work will not be assessed - how do you motivate children to complete their school work when their teachers are telling them that their work will not be assessed?'
715. 'For some, this has not been easy. For us, it has been, generally, a very special time. My four children have had nearly four months of bonding time - they age from 19 to 9, and they have been camping together in the garden, sharing many computer games and other interests, undertaking various challenges as a group or competitively against each other. My 15 year old daughter was so mentally distressed by her GCSE year and the pressure she felt she was under - I was being encouraged by school to take her to the GP and apply to CAHMS - but after a couple of weeks of school 'detox', this lovely, fun young woman started to appear - prepared to try the odd new thing and get involved with some household tasks, like bathing the dog. We now have much better conversations, and she is slowly treating me more like the Mum I hoped to be. My youngest son is still in Primary - the school have kept in bi weekly touch, and there have been topics with lots of interesting activities circulated by them. However, I had already instigated BBC Bitesize Daily and we have followed this all the way through lockdown and are still going. We've had some tough moments, but so much as improved for him. He's a year 5 taught in a mixed class of year 3,4,5 & 6 in a rural primary school. He says the work is repetitive and too easy, and that teachers mark his book, but DON'T SPEAK with him about his work quality and ways to improve. Too many cuts in education have meant classes taught by TA 's - often only qualified themselves to GCSE level. I have a degree and could do better for him. Even the school have mentioned that 'many people in my position would home school' - Is this the 21 st century education our children need? No. If we want a higher value, prosperous nation, with social mobility, we need actual education in classrooms - not child care.'

716. 'I have two kids both in primary school. At first there was so many tasks to be done sent via school. I had two different year group child to teach and lot to do. I struggled to keep the track and kids didn't feel like doing much as they felt not at the school because they kept telling me we are home not at school. They didn't go back to school when some year groups started because they were not in one of those year groups. I was furloughed and my husband was working from home. But I have been called back to work and I went back to work so now I have less time to do all the lessons are being given. My husband is no help as he works all day. To me homeschooling was sooo hard and still is. I hope everything goes back to normal soon as I am not a teacher specially I brought up abroad and my mother tongue is not English.'
717. 'None of my three children have been in the year groups allowed back to school. I am a key worker so they could have gone back in a key worker group, but as my husband was furloughed so we decided to keep the children at home.'
718. They have done as well as can be expected learning from home. I feel my eldest at secondary school has missed out the most. She has just been sent weekly PowerPoints and left to teach herself. I have been able to help my younger two a bit more. We are looking forward to getting back to school.'
719. 'Balancing two full-time jobs and home-schooling has left my wife and I completely fried. Our son is in year 2 and cannot self-learn, hence we find ourselves having to sit with him from 8am to 3pm every day. The schools provision has been excellent and they talk to their teacher twice a day over video conference, however the amount of work he has been expected to complete has been draining. We struggle to get him to work effectively, very often resorting to shouting out of pure frustration. Our relationship with him has really suffered. Our jobs are very technical, in telecoms and cyber security, and demand from our customers has risen during lockdown, increasing stress significantly. Juggling conference calls, presentations, design and analysis alongside teaching an unmotivated 6 year old about the Great Fire of London has been horrid. We must have schools reopen or we strongly fear for all of our sanity.'
720. 'I feel totally let down by Thurnby at Luke's Primary School in Thurnby, Leicestershire. There has been no contact with the teachers beyond a very basic written blog on purple mash. No work has been marked, no phone calls, no zoom or teams sessions. The work set by the school is nearly all from generic websites (white rose maths, purple mash) and is something I could have provided myself with a quick google search and use BBC bitesize. I would estimate that putting the whole weeks activities together and posting them on the website for parents to view would take me about an hour, perhaps two hours at a push per class!

721. On top of this the school's headteacher had the nerve to send out an email newsletter to all parents that showed zero understanding of the pressure parents are under to work from home at the same time as homeschooling. The letter had critical and threatening overtones and stated that they would know which children had not been doing the work etc. Unsurprisingly perhaps, although there was no apology for this, the newsletter in question no longer appears on the school website unlike all the others for the year! A nicer letter from the board of governors subsequently appeared instead, but the damage had been done.'
722. 'We have completed all of the school work provided despite having to cope with a full employment and it has been a horrendously difficult and distressing and ultimately unsatisfactory experience for all involved, as there is just not time in the day to do both to the best of anyone's ability. Unfortunately the many positive media articles about great teachers and schools and how they have supported pupils and parents during this difficult time have absolutely no resonance with my experience as a parent. I can only hope for other parents and pupils sake that this is because our school is not as typical as I fear.
723. Today to add insult to injury have received a School newsletter today stating that during the first week back next term the school will only be open to each year group for one day instead of three. How convenient for them as per usual! If I could feasibly move schools I would.'
724. 'No interactive lessons of any kind. Work plan provided each week. Daily maths, English and topic subject interjected with others such as art and computing. White Rose maths work sheets used and have been the same format throughout the entire school closure so very repetitive. Much of the English is taken from bbc bite size. Email address provided to contact teacher and can be used up to twice a week to ask questions. '
725. 'No formal Marking. Parents encouraged to share learning pictures over the email. One contact to meet the new teacher for sept has been my daughter's only time in school (1 hour). No work now being set on Fridays (only mon-thurs) and no work to be provided for last week of term either as school says they wouldn't normally be doing much learning! This fails to recognise the difficulty this poses for working families they seem to think we are just all available to do 'bug hunts' or 'den building' which are the suggested activities to do when we parents have to work! Home schooling has caused strain and upset in our household which has been distressing. My daughter has stuck to the work each day despite the monotony. What she needs though is to see her friends and be in the school environment to have a stimulating learning experience which she is not currently getting. She misses school very much.'
726. 'We are both full time working parents and we feel we have been given the impossible job of doing a full time job with with full time childcare and homeschooling. As a mother, I feel I am failing at everything. I find myself either shouting or crying and thinking

something is wrong with me. I am worried of my 7 year old son's mental health and wellbeing, my relationships at work, having no time for myself. I am nearing burnout and there is nowhere to go and no one to help.'

727. 'Almost impossible with 2 at different ages, different abilities and different personalities.. and an active 1 year old. And a husband with a new job.'
728. 'I have 2 primary school children (yr1 and yr5). I am exhausted I homeschool them between 8-12am while also working 8-10hours a day, by doing 7-8am and then 12:30-8pm, i even have to catch up over weekends. Doing two jobs at the same time. I do my best focus on maths, English, arts and some science - never able to do all the activities that the school sends via Twitter. We had tears, all of us! My eldest was very sad, no smiles, missed school every day and it's hard to see how their mental health gets compromised. Exercise are done less often, more screen time. I just hope they've learned something. It has been a bumpy road indeed! They need the school as I need our play time! Play time is now homeschooling... it has change us but I am hopeful that we will come back stronger!'
729. 'No structured work sent home by school for the first 13 weeks of lockdown apart from 1 week where we had 4 recorded writing lessons for a No More Marking writing assignment. Access to several online maths platforms only with some curating of content. Fortnightly phone call home from class teacher to "check in" and suggest BBC Bitesize, Oak Academy but no steer as to what they could/should be learning, how much to get involved or help as a parent etc. Online platform for sharing homework set up in week 14 of lockdown and a sudden increase to 3-4 lessons a day expecting to be completed just as the kids have absolutely had enough of it all! Thank goodness for Twinkl and Carol Vorderman workbooks.'
730. 'I have thoroughly enjoyed homeschooling my 3 children since lockdown and may continue doing so in September. I had never expected to have so much quality time with them and it has bonded us all as a family so much. I think many people forget that it is the PARENTS' responsibility to ensure education for their children. The fact that most people in the UK hand their children over to good-quality schools each day is a bonus. It seems that most people now in the UK have misunderstood the role of schools: they are there to offer education, NOT a free childcare service.'
731. 'Like many parents we've been faced with the difficult task of home schooling our 7 year old son whilst both continuing to work from home in demanding and stressful jobs. We've shared the childcare responsibilities but have both found it impossible to work and home school at the same time – our son just doesn't have the self-sufficiency and independence to work on his own yet. This has meant us both working long hours every evening to keep on top of our work responsibilities.'

732. 'Home schooling started well but my sons enthusiasm soon diminished to the point that we have been unable to get him to do any school work for the past 6 weeks and I'm sure that he's regressed academically. He's an only child; The lack of routine and structure that school provides coupled with near zero contact with children his own age has had a massive impact on his mental health. He now has frequent and prolonged angry outbursts which have put an immense strain on our family and left us desperately trying to find a solution. After contacting the school we had some support from the ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) but the resources we were given were similar to home schooling activities and we just couldn't get him to participate. In desperation, we've resorted to private therapy. The school have recently found a space for him on one day a week but it's all too little too late. The provision for children struggling with the current situation has been extremely disappointing. The school have done very little to implement the government guidelines fairly with many instances of key worker children returning to school when one parent is not working.'

733. 'Watching my son go from a happy, confident and bright young individual to one who is in constant emotional turmoil is heart-breaking. The school have given us plenty of home learning activities but there has been little interaction from his teacher in terms of phone calls, video calls and feedback. The general message from the school has been that it's OK because most children are in the same situation and they will all catch up eventually. There is absolutely nothing OK about the current situation. We're both exhausted and desperate to help our son return to some sense of normality.'

734. 'Not the greatest at all times. Understand that the immediate closure needed a quick solution for homeschooling but this didn't adapt once things settled. Felt we had a lazy provision offered. A series of links to external resources. No video / online classes. One or two video messages once a few parents really pushed for it. Seemed Like the whole set up was very much geared towards those stay at home parents who were able to invest the time required. If you sent work in for marking then you got a very generic response, that's nice or we'll done. Nothing substantial or constructive. When we asked for additional feedback, the response was that the teachers were too busy to provide that. Our son attended school part time as I am a key worker, it was made clear this was 'not school' but childcare, very often there was no teacher just a TA or LSA. I have mixed views as I know things have been difficult and recognise that not all children will have kept up. I worry that those whose parents were Working full time like me are at a disadvantage in some areas, so I guess the autumn term will require catch up! '

735. 'Too much repetition and what seemed like easy options for the teachers. It felt like maths sheets were too easy and not stretching enough but no effort to offer additional tasks. I have purchase books to encourage my son to practice and learn more. English tasks were

strung out all week with too much focus on creative writing. No contact for the first 5 weeks until I asked to send our son in as I was struggling to manage work and homeschooling. The interaction in a bubble has been great for his mental health. At times it feels like the approach was geared to the easy option for teachers rather than focussed on the children. This was a time for teachers to really shine and I am not sure that has been my experience !'

736. 'At Primary school for my son in Year 2 no contact for 11 weeks despite follow ups. Very little direction provided, just a few links and the majority of parents believed the teachers were furloughed. Shocked to see no plans to catch up on the curriculum throughout the summer. Nothing marked throughout lockdown. Very different experience at experience at comprehensive school where work has been set and a lot more structure.'
737. 'I have kids in year 4 and year 7. I have a job that has primarily always been home based so that didn't require much adaption but trying to combine that with having 2 kids at home has been incredibly challenging. My year 4 child has been amazing. Very motivated, organised and conscientious to complete work but as lockdown has passed has missed school and friends desperately. Every day my child has got up and continued and been patient when I have been on a work call or responding to an issue. This has led to outbursts, tantrums and an increasing jealousy and upset as more friends have returned both to school (key workers) and other schools of the same age. I feel very let down that school has not even tried to enable year 4 return even for a few days. Direct contact from the school has been 2 phone calls and 3 half hour Google Meets. My year 7 child had hardly settled into secondary school but was happy socially and established a good working routine. My child now feels very disjointed and unsure of their new environment and friendships and is nervous to return. They have had more structured learning, some google classroom and has done some good work but as this has all been via screen has increasingly found it hard to resist the temptations of youtube etc. After nearly 4 months my child does not seem to have the ability to concentrate on a task without flitting to another screen numerous times during the day which is leading to frustration both from my child and us as monitoring is required to finish work. All this has been combined with me trying to hold down a job, take on the additional domestic requirements of having 4 people constantly at home and provide the emotional support etc. I find it unbelievable and extremely disappointing that the Governments focus was on opening pubs and restaurants before getting children back to school.'
738. 'Awful, it almost goes without saying. I have two sons in primary school. The quality of work sent home by teachers varies enormously. One teacher, despite saying anything we did was valued, then started emailing parents a spreadsheet each week, which collated points the children had earned for good work. Every child was listed, whether any work had been submitted or not, thereby shaming those who had sent less or none. When I said I wouldn't be sending more updates as I was putting too much focus on the points and not my son, she told me not to worry, as it had 'served its purpose'. Which tends to suggest it was exactly an exercise in shaming certain parents into action. Much of the work sent home is in the form of worksheets. This is understandable but boring for the children. My youngest son has gone

from loving maths to hating it and there is a small civil war whenever writing is involved. So I end up doing a lot of my own planning, which takes up time at the weekend when I'd like to be spending nice time with them. My husband isn't coping at all well and I do not think the recovery of relationships within our family will be easy. I am currently working reduced hours, which is helping our situation compared to many but my bosses will not look kindly on a continuation of this arrangement in September. Frankly, neither will I. I think we all accept that it's a national emergency and we have to do our bit but when the country's social life is getting back to normal, it's intolerable that our children are not getting an education.'

739. 'Year 8 girl normally enjoys school. Not progressing well doing lessons online. Bored and demoralised. Lacks the maturity to be able to focus for hours on a screen as tasks given are mundane and uninspiring. School is an outstanding one but like all schools it has received no funding or expert support from central Government. Structure for future online learning should be provided by the Government incase the planned return to school in September does not happen or there are local lockdowns.'

740. 'School has mostly focused on wellbeing of the kids which is great. Assemblies, etc. Very professional approach to reopening safely and good communication from head. Surprised it took so long to establish Zoom sessions though. Good amount of work set if you choose to follow weekly learning plans - foundation and enrichment.'

741. 'We have had a really lovely time homeschooling. Yes, it has been hard work and there have been some arguments and some reticence but on the whole we have enjoyed learning together. We have planned our own learning as our children didn't find the online resources engaging but that has been fun too. This is time that I would not have had with my children and to me it has felt like a gift, notwithstanding the suffering that many people have and are going through. Having said that, it has been hard to organise lessons and work around each other. The only work I can really do during the day, in school hours, is to reply to and write quick e-mails. Any meaningful work has to wait until the children are in bed and I am sometimes working into the early hours. I am lucky that I have a job that can be this flexible. This has had an impact on the rate at which I can work. I really have to concentrate for more complex tasks because of the fatigue. Annual leave will provide some respite in a few weeks, as will the summer holidays, but I do think the demands on the time of workers with caring responsibilities of any kind needs to be given more thought should there be another lockdown.'

742. 'I feel that the support from school has been poor. I have a child that is shielding and the school don't even know because no one at school has ever asked. I have had only 3 phone calls from school in 18 weeks to cover my 2 children. The first call wasn't received until week 13.'

743. 'There has not been a single virtual lesson or even a zoom call throughout. The work provided has been basic and simply downloaded from the internet. Maths and English for my year 5 and then told to read for 30 mins and practise the 100 spellings. Spelling have not even been split into a weekly set as would be the norm. My year 3 has received maths, a SPAG piece and a reading piece of work each day. Asked to read 30 mins each day and work on a set of 5 spellings each week. I don't believe much thought or preparation has been put into it. As a teaching assistant myself I feel that much more could have been provided based around the children's usual lessons. Since the return of more school children on 1 June, I feel totally forgotten about by the school and entirely on my own.
744. I feel lucky that I am capable of locating further work for my children based on a full curriculum to try and at least give them the best that I can do. '
745. 'I am very concerned about my children's education and the future for them. Trying to homeschool 4 children- 1 with additional needs has be exhausting and emotional. Whilst I love spending time with my children homeschooling 4 different age groups has been quite a challenge. The children have had no feedback from their teachers and nor have the school asked the parents how things are going. '
746. 'The child are missing the social interaction with their peers and it's hard for them to keep motivated. Both my husband and I work so trying to juggle the children and work has again been challenging. The school have however provided work for the children to do which provides a structure although an online lesson or two would have been gratefully received!'
747. 'Little contact with the school. My 7 year old daughter has become completely disengaged with school work which is not like her as her enthusiasm for life school and dancing is infectious! We have had tears and tantrums and her confidence in her academic ability is at a worrying low.'
748. 'Working from home and home schooling is not achievable regardless of the great intentions.
749. We have 2 boys in primary school, the youngest is 7 and very much needs 1:1 support to maintain confidence and concentration. I am a doctor and have needed to work through the pandemic with no leave. Dad. Is an engineer who has taken the majority of home schooling. We had 2 days that the school would have the boys but they made it clear it was only to supervise and not to teach. We therefor have tried to keep them at home to do our best to educate them. Any days I get off to relax from the stress of NHS working- I have been home schooling as we don't want our children to miss out. It has been exhausting and at times rewarding.

750. 'We have found the teachers at our school to appear lazy and disinterested in making contact with us or marking work. Thoroughly disappointing experience from the school We need the children to return full time and be taught properly.'
751. 'If there was a further lockdown I have no confidence the school would step up to maintain education.'
752. 'The school has been amazing running an almost full timetable from MS Teams so my son can see and interact with his teachers and classmates in each lesson. However, the effect of being completely isolated from other children for 4 months (and another at least 2 months to go) has had a profound effect on him. He usually loves school and thrives on the routine and interaction. Working alone from home has led to him gradually disengaging from lessons completely. He had become very flat and withdrawn with increasingly frequent angry outbursts including physical aggression. The experience has been far from positive for him and I believe the lack of social interaction has had a massively detrimental effect on both his learning and emotional health. He is 9 years old and in Year 4.'
753. 'My partner and I have homeschooled our two primary aged children since the beginning of lockdown whilst also both working full time from home. Challenging does not come close to describing the situation - we had to split our days so that one of us schools the kids whilst the other one works. Which means early mornings and late nights. The children have struggled without their friends and we have struggled not bringing sure how to explain certain areas of work to keep it along with school approaches. The work that was set by school was slightly disappointing - online quizzes and timetable rockstars but no lessons by their actual teachers. Later on we were supplied with oak academy lessons which were slightly better. But if this was to happen again I would hope that schools would be expected to actually stream lessons or record on YouTube. The technology is there but obviously schools and families will need help and money to be able to utilise these. If the parents can have online meetings / conferences why can't the kids have proper lessons delivered. I felt towards the end that actually what we are doing is given by school to keep children entertained rather than schooled. And I really could've done without that if that was the case....'
754. 'It has been very challenging, having to home school 2 children, aged 8 and 12, and both parents working at home as well, with a broadband speed of less than 1mb. Despite asking for improved Internet to help with the schooling, this has been ignored by our MP and Openreach. It has been very stressful trying to balance the day and I feel that our children's education has suffered as a result of this is stressful for the parents as you try and home school and work pressuring you to do your normal day job. On top of that, for part of the lockdown, we also had to provide childcare for our 3 year old. But the worst thing has been the lack of Internet in our rural area.'

755. 'We have found the effects of the school closures pretty horrendous, both in terms of the impact on our two young children (age 4 and 7) and on us as two parents who have both been working from home. Until mid June, we were working full time hours from home (itself not ideal - we have no study room in our house so we're always jumping from the living room to kitchen to bedroom depending on what space the kids need at a particular time). This meant at least one of us logging on around 5am every weekday morning, and also many late working nights for me (often working until 10 or 11pm). Juggling the (very limited) online learning that the kids have had from school has been difficult - they are both too young to sit independently before a screen and do school work, so need lots of attention from one of us to get through the bare minimum. My husband and I have been covering each other's work calls, and splitting the childcare between us. The children's requirements are also very different due to the age difference, so even juggling two kids of different ages and housework/cooking has been tricky enough 24/7 for several months, let alone without throwing in a full time job on the side... however, the real concern is the impact that the school closure and lack of social interaction with their peers/ relatives has had on our children, which has made things considerably more difficult. Our 7 year old in particular seems to have regressed emotionally, resulting in tantrums, and refusal to do school work. We have good days and bad days with him. He seems fine in his academic areas of strength, but he seems to have gone backwards in his academic areas of weakness . We have built up a good parental relationship with our kids, but for the last few months we have had to also be our children's only teachers and friends. Our closest relatives are several hours' drive away, and because we are not allowed to stay overnight we have not seen any relatives since lockdown began. We do not have a car and because of the public transport situation, we have not been further than a 2 mile radius of our house. Our son told us recently that he does not want to spend all of his time with us two. We understand! Because of our working from home situation, the kids have largely been stuck indoors Monday to Friday. We have not been able to take them regularly to the park because of our work commitments. Even though our 4 year old is supposedly one of the government's priority years, we found out on 1 June that the school would not take her year back (apparently because of lack of space/staff). We were totally exhausted and frankly, broken (physically and mentally) by mid June with another 3 months of no school left to go, so I asked my boss to massively reduce my working hours until the Autumn (obviously not ideal given the precariousness of the economy). Since then things have improved because I have more time for the kids and we are all less tired and stressed as a family. I am disgusted that the govt has re-opened pubs (amongst the highest risk covid-19 activities) while totally neglecting the vast majority of children in this country, despite the fact that covid-19 presents a very low statistical health risk to them personally. Our children have taken a massive hit for the health of older people. The pub reopenings will likely lead to spikes and local lockdowns at exactly the time the schools are supposed to be going back. That speaks volumes about the govt's priorities.'

756. 'Really good because school have been amazing.'

757. 'Our children were sent home with a 'pack' at the start of lockdown. This was 3/4 reading books and some worksheets. We did this the first week, and then had no contact what so ever from the school. I have muddled through on my own trying to teach a 7 and 5 year old, whilst entertaining a 2 year old whilst my husband worked full time as a key worker and I attempted to work from home.'
758. 'Incredibly difficult - my children need stimulation and learning of new work which I cannot provide. Our children's education and future will suffer if they cannot return to school ASAP.'
759. 'Trying to work and juggle teaching and then spending your evenings reading about it so you know what you are talking about .. it's stressful and then you worry you aren't enough and the husband Not helping at all - it's all me. Children are missing being kids and running around.'
760. 'Awful. School provided plenty of resources via suggested activities online and offline. Over this period I was either heavily pregnant and working or furloughed, and now have a newborn baby. My husband and I initially split the working week and childcare/schooling but the pressure escalated quickly. By this stage we have all but abandoned schooling. The problem was not lack of ideas but trying to implement them with two children of different ages while trying to juggle work calls and emails, pregnancy fatigue and pain, and/or a newborn. The children are a completely different mindset at home during a pandemic than they are at school in normal times. So the battle is getting them to engage with learning and getting them in the right frame of mind, along with figuring out all the logins to different learning websites set by the school and attempting to supervise and help both children aged 4&5 with different tasks at once. It was enormously stressful and made everyone miserable so we have now opted for mental health over education. The stress now lies with worrying about how this affects their development but the children at least seem happier.'
761. 'I have had a really positive experience and I wish there was more. We struggled a bit initially but I did some research on finding resources and a new routine but once that was established we were fine. '
762. '2-3 weeks into lockdown our school released DB primary which has been a brilliant resource and support for homeschooling.
763. Here is the letter I have recently submitted to the school. I hope this is useful to the campaign:

764. I am writing to you following the communication over the last 48hours on Dojo regarding the movement of 1W from an afternoon slot with one teacher to a morning slot with another teacher. Full screen shots available.
765. I am disappointed in a school, which I have supported, has failed to consult with working parents at such a difficult time. This change of timetable for the final 3 weeks of term has resulted in the fact that Jessica will no longer be able to attend school and will have to attend work with me for the next three weeks. The attitude that I should just “fix” this when I had already made extensive plans to accommodate your scheduling is unacceptable and thoughtless. Over the last 24hours I considered trying to change plans but the impact on peoples lives are to far too extensive to make it worthwhile for 3 weeks of part-time teaching.
766. Here is why:
767. I asked the school 4 weeks previously if Jessica and 1W could be moved to the morning and this was denied. My goal was to keep Jessica with Isla Whitely (her best friend whom she had been isolated from for 3 months). So for Jessica's mental health I created a domino effect to allow me to return to work and accommodate your scheduling. If you had foreseen your scheduling issue and put 1W and 1F both in the morning when I asked none of what follows would have occurred.
768. Alice Buxton has been withdrawn from the school nursery provision and she has been moved to Back to the Garden. I have moved the 30 hours funding (Mrs Egan will be aware). She has been joined by Ella her best friend who she has isolated from for 3 months and together they are re-establishing bonds which they will bring back to Reception. This is also essential for Alice's well being.
769. Then I negotiated with work to only work part-time (25 hours a week) and to come off Furlough (something which can only be done monthly and from the start of July). I am a single parent and normally a full time working Mother. I run a company and I am needed in my role as Director. I am responsible for 20 people and 20 people's livelihoods. I also had to convince another member of our team to only work part-time and for her childcare to only be in the morning to cover the hours I am unavailable. I needed to go back both to work for mental health benefits and financial necessity.
770. To cover the mid-afternoon pick ups and eating habits of children who are now having to eat out of synch with me I have had to employee a Nanny to collect my children. Something Miss Wild is aware of. My Nanny has two other roles and is only available late afternoon. Also by increasing her hours I would further struggle to balance my finances so just “hoping my Nanny and Nursery will accommodate this change”(Mrs Lyde Dojo) is an unrealistic and insulting statement based and your lack of knowledge surrounding a full time working single parents.
771. My clients, manufacturers and employees have organised their childcare, their schedule and their travel to meet with me in the next two/three weeks based on my hours

availability being pm only. Shall I now reach out to them all and ask them to change their plans to accommodate the schools last minute scheduling?

772. My ex husband does not live locally and does not offer support.

773. My parents live 3 hours away and my Mother currently has a broken leg.

774. Key work provision – I am ineligible.

775. I hope the above illustrates why, as a professional in communication, I regard the decision and communication style you all chose to be unacceptable. I have personally been at the school gates everyday between 22nd - 30th June so I ask you why have you not consulted with the 5 parents this change effects? Getting a teacher we have never met to send a directive, which would financially impact me, is thoughtless and insensitive; irrelevant of how “great a teacher” (Mrs Lyde Dojo) Miss Slater will be. I have attended all zoom calls, and submitted homeschooling for both my children despite juggling demands. I have even completed the home schooling not done by my ex-husband. I have also ensured they have remained balanced and had fun during a challenging time. I have volunteered to not work at times to meet their needs, but in June I had to establish how I could return to work so I can pay a mortgage and save a business from collapse. I had worked around your scheduling to enable this and then when I was only one day off furlough you change your mind.

776. So let me ask you all – what would you like me to do? How are you going to help me solve this problem without me incurring a significant increase in costs?

777. Explain to me why other schools in Trafford have managed to reopen for a full school day, and for additional years but Broadheath has not? If Miss Slater can not do an afternoons, why the Y3, Y4, Y5 teachers and even one of the senior management team can not teach for 2 and ½ hours when Miss Goodhall is beyond her bubble capacity?

778. Explain why schools are playing politics with people's lives. This is not an opportunity for teachers to score cheap points against a Conservative Government and hide behind Trade Unions. If there really were concerns for our children's safety¹ you would have serious issues reopening Owls Nest for the 5 weeks over the summer (hours provision 7.30am - 6pm). The difference in your stance on this is that Owl's Nest summer provision has to be paid for and generates income.

779. Moving forward you need to improve your communication with parents. Dojo is not an emailing system. Face to face communication must be an option. Discussion via telephone or in person is the only effective medium to settle a complaint. On Thursday I complained; a text message response is inadequate.

780. Regarding Jessica's attendance for the next three weeks she will only attend school in the mornings if it is not inconvenient to my schedule and the meetings set. However if she is not in school she will also not be on zoom or doing any online learning. My time frame for this

provision has also passed. I do not expect this to be recorded as an unauthorised absence because you have created this absence through your un-consultative change of provision.

781. Finally, I am aware that I am unusual single Mother but whatever my circumstances I should feel supported by the school environment to enable me to nurture two strong, intelligent and magnificent young ladies. This week you have failed in this role, and therefore let Jessica, Alice and I down. As a school who states "We put the children front and centre"(Mrs Lyde at every event I have ever attended) I strongly suggest in this current climate you rethink your strategy. This virus continues to ingratiate itself into our society with no vaccine insight and there is a long road ahead.

782. I look forward to receiving a response from all parties.

783. Regards'

784. 'Extremely hard with the number of different systems we had to log into. Teachers feeling they need to set so much work to keep the kids busy, but my ADHD son found it all totally overwhelming. There have been none stop arguments and very little proactive contact from the school. Other schools have had live lessons via Zoom or MS Teams... helping the kids keep in contact with other pupils... this seems to be the normal for Private schools and has worked really well.. but not in the state schools sadly. It has been really tough on all and we know schools have had adapt, but there really does need to be a better approach to this as my son's has basically missed 4 months of their education.'

785. 'My husband and I have been homeschooling since March 23rd. We both work full time (from home currently) so it has been hard for us to provide much support as our jobs are demanding.'

786. 'The school have provided learning plans online, but these only keep our 8 yr old occupied for 2 hours a day and I don't feel like he's learning or developing. The school have not proactively contacted us to find out our situation and I feel like we've just been forgotten about. I'm so disappointed in the school. There's been no attempt to interact in anyway and as a result I would say my son is depressed. There's one transition morning planned - for 2 hours - on the last day of term which will be his one opportunity to see his class mates and meet his new teacher before September. It's not acceptable. There's so much education time lost and no plan to make this up.'

787. 'Shocking is all I can say. Severe lack of work suitable for my yr 10. Most work sent was quizzes and reading links which my daughter doesn't process due to her ptsd. They said

no to live classes until last week due to safeguarding which I don't understand as my Brownie unit has been running via zoom since the start.'

788. 'Hi, I have two children aged 10 and 12 and two totally different experiences, illustrating the total lack of consistency from local schools therefore from the dept of education in guiding them. My 12 year old son who attends secondary school In Matlock has been fortunate in that his online learning appears to have been well organised and set out for him. As both of us parents are keyworkers, but sometimes able to work from home; he has been old enough and able enough to manage his learning virtually independently. We have received fortnightly phone calls from his tutors checking on his well-being. I think this has been acceptable although am concerned for the fact he has spent almost all day every school day, sat alone doing his schoolwork whilst myself and my husband work, albeit often at home.
789. I have a very different experience of primary school for my 10 year old. I was sent links to a multitude of random websites and overambitious timetables to implement with him. This would have been ambitious for a stay at home parent let alone parents with jobs. School have not once called my 10 year by phone to check on his well-being. I was able to secure him a place at school for a few weeks towards the end of June given my husband and I are keyworkers but advised in no uncertain terms my 10 year old was to be kept at home if one of us was working from home. Given the nature of my job it was impossible to home school and work at home simultaneously.'
790. 'The stress of the last few months has been unbelievable on the entire family. I am appalled by the lack of support for working parents and no clear model for employers supporting working parents to make allowances for parenting responsibilities.'
791. 'I would say it has been pretty horrendous- we are a well off , well educated family with good access to computers and the internet, however trying to balance both parents working full time jobs from home with a 2 year old, 7 year old (with a learning disability) and 9 year old has been extremely hard. Our daughter with a learning disability was given no support under her EHCP and was expected to use the online resources set for her peers- this was clearly not going to work. She was finally offered a morning place back at school at the end June but this lasted 10 days before she was send home due to her 1:1 support worker's daughter having symptoms of a cough. Three days later and we are still awaiting results of her COVID test before we have a plan for her return. We are now at home again with no provision- bare in mind that all hearing, sight tests, hospital appointments and play therapy sessions have ceased since lockdown down. The private nursery where our youngest attends opened up on 1st June - all is working well and they had an early plan in place which meant the transition was seamless.'

792. 'My son is 6 and has really struggled with home learning. He asked us 'just to be his mummy and daddy'. He wanted our kitchen table to just be our kitchen table. He was regularly in tears. We gave up as we were worried about his mental health.'
793. 'I am a parent to 2 adopted children who, aged 4 and 6 (Reception and Year 1), have only been with us for 2 years. Parenting them through this time has been the most challenging thing I have ever done in my life. My youngest has struggled terribly with not being in school. For the first few weeks, he would have at least 2 tantrums a day because he was so devastated that he couldn't go to school. They have both loved learning at home because they are intelligent kids who are interested in everything, but what we can provide at home does not compare to learning in a class with their friends. My eldest did well to start with, but then watched as her sibling had phone calls from his teacher to stay in touch and she had none. After a battle with the school, we agreed that the LAC co-ordinator would ring every week and she has been our lifeline to proving to our kids that school has not forgotten them. The big problems started after the Easter holidays. According to the government, they were both to go back to school. We were told that Year 1 were going back and given a date. I started preparing my eldest. Then school did a U-turn. Yet again, my eldest felt completely rejected and started experiencing anxiety, not being able to go to sleep at night and having screaming tantrums that would last for up to 2 hours. Eventually, school agreed to take back some Year 1 children. I read the criteria and believed that we would definitely get a place. I was told that my eldest was "vulnerable, but not vulnerable enough" and that she would not be given a place. I argued with the school and we secured her a place. She is now in only her second week (well 2 days a week) of school and that's it as next week they are doing transitions to the new years. I feel that school have totally abandoned my kids. We are constantly being asked to understand that teachers are having a tough time, but there is absolutely no understanding of what parents are going through. Due to the additional emotional needs my children have, I don't work, but looking after them all day, every day, with no respite has proved to be utterly exhausting. My husband has had demands from his work which have meant that he's had days where he works until 10 at night. This has meant that I have had to look after the kids non-stop for over 12 hours a day. School have provided such little support, contact and continuity for my children during this time. We've had workbooks which the kids sometimes engage with and they have sent videos to help with the work, but they are difficult to access and use as they put them on the Class Dojo app which is not designed for this and a nightmare when you want to separate what the siblings are doing. Work that we post on Class Dojo is not looked at by the teachers and we get no feedback on it. Both my kids have come on so well academically during this time and have progressed brilliantly, but this is because I dedicate myself to it every day as I'm lucky enough to not be trying to balance a job with all of this. Because of their additional emotional needs, I find myself have to answer constant calls for my attention and they also both struggle so much with getting something wrong. I'm sure that all the emotions are heightened because they are at home and that they would not be like this at school. The truth is that I'm only doing as much as I am because I want my kids to have the opportunity to learn and develop. I'm lucky that I understand how to teach and can do this, there are so many parents I know who say they just don't know how to help their kids with this stuff. I'm also lucky that I have had some support from my adoption agency who are absolutely amazing. I've never had to call and ask

for their help and support before, but trying to deal with this situation has left me so exhausted that some days I can't think how to deal with the tricky behaviour and the tantrums, let alone parent a child who is so terrified and anxious that school don't want her, that she can't go to sleep and can only scream. I wish I could say that our school have been amazing and have supported us, but the truth is that I feel let down, disappointed and that they have not made any effort. I'm sure it's not true, but to only end up with 2 weeks of school at 2 days a week, when the government had stipulated a whole term, just feels like a half effort to me. The only saving grace through all of this is that we've discovered that the kids love the Oak Academy lessons and teachers and that they will happily watch educational programmes on YouTube! I'm so nervous that although they've said all kids will be back full time in September, that another U-turn will be made and our school will decide that they can't have them back more than 2 days a week and that we're still homeschooling in September. Thank you for setting this up and for finally giving a voice to the other side of this situation. It's all been about how hard teachers are working and no one has stopped to consider the families. My worry about the long term effect this will have on our children's mental health continues as the longer this goes on, the more vulnerable I see them all becoming. We need schools to be properly open in September for the well-being of our kids.'

794. 'The past four months have been a huge emotional rollercoaster for our family. We recognise that we are very fortunate to have space, a garden and with both parents still working we are currently financially stable. But we are also feeling the strain, the emotional turmoil and constant guilt that is a consequence of this pandemic and the homeschooling situation. As a bit of background, my husband's work involves him having to be in the States most months, what this has meant for his currently working situation is that he now works 14 hour days on video calls, with the UK in the morning and until sometimes 11.30 at night with the States. The situation has created more work for him, which is positive in many ways, but in terms of family life and homeschooling has meant the sole responsibility is on me, the Mother to educate. I have seen not gender equality as written in a recent article, but, certainly in my household and in many of my friends the opposite, gender inequality. I feel like I am doing three full-time jobs and it's relentless. I am not the main breadwinner, but my job is important to the finances of the household and my own mental wellbeing. I have struggled to find the balance between homeschooling and working and feel constant guilt that I'm not delivering on either. My children (8 and 5) tend to spend the morning playing or watching TV whilst I do work, I encourage 'educational' TV but that doesn't always satisfy. I then spend the afternoon assisting (I say that because I am not a teacher) with the work the school has sent out. This is made harder by having two children in different years and stages of education, and both where they need constant attention. I then go back to work when the children are in bed until I go to bed. The school has provided an excellent and extensive variety week on week of work for the children to do, covering all subjects. It is not expected that the children would complete all the work and there has been no follow up from the school to check whether they are. However, I have felt neglected by the school in terms of support with very little contact from them in the beginning. I received a phone call from my 8-year-olds' teacher after I wrote an email exasperated that my child was refusing to do any work. I was disappointed at the very start of 'lockdown' as we didn't really hear anything from the school until after the Easter holidays which is when a process was put in place to provide weekly 'challenges' for the children (Maths, English Topic work etc). In my view, the most

disappointing aspect has been the lack of teacher-pupil interaction. I feel that if this had been implemented from the start (class video calls were only introduced after the May holidays) my children would feel more inclined to do work, as far as they are concerned it's me asking them to do the work and not their teachers because there hasn't been that interaction. I have seen a definite change in my 8-year-olds behaviour and I worry that this is causing him emotional pain. He has tantrums, slams doors, shouts and cries when we ask him to do any school work and as a consequence, I sometimes feel that it's not worth the upset. I am ashamed that I have been unable to hide my emotions and have broken down in tears many times in front of the children, this is not the person I want them to see as a role model, I feel I should be providing a stable environment and I'm not. At the start of this, I said 'I want me, children, to remember this as a time they got to spend loads of time at home with us enjoying themselves'. My children have done barely any school work and practically no exercise, I worry that this will only increase the gaps that were there before lockdown particularly in my older child. We have talked about getting a tutor once this is over to try and make up for the time lost. My 5-year-old is in reception and was already excelling compared to her peers in reading and writing and so I feel less anxious about her education. Teaching a reception child has certainly been a lot easier, we do reading every day and practice writing. To sum up the experience, the changes need to be made if we were to go back to homeschooling at any point. Education needs to be provided by the school and should not be the sole responsibility of the parents. Our children are the future of this economy, there needs to be much more investment in making sure schools can adequately provide a rounded education to all children even if that means it happening at home.'

795. 'Home schooling my daughter (year 2) whilst also looking after my 4 year old son and meeting the demands of my job as a solicitor has been one of the most overwhelming and difficult experiences of my life. For the first few months I was extremely grateful that the school were not putting pressure on parents to complete set work at home. They were of the view that our well being was the priority in the unprecedented time. We received a weekly call from my daughter's teacher and helpful home learning pack that we could complete. A further home learning pack was shared for us to complete with our children as we wished. We were encouraged to share work our children had completed on social media but were not expected to complete sent it for marking. As the weeks have passed I have found it more increasingly difficult to motivate my daughter. As she helpfully tells me, I am not a teacher and I don't make it fun like at school. The guilt I have felt for letting my four year old watch TV for long hour periods at a time whilst I try to do home schooling tasks (not to mention my own job) has been unbearable. In the last couple of weeks twice weekly zoom calls have finally been organised by the school. However, this largely involves some time talking to the children about what they have been doing and the setting or work to be completed during the week rather than "teaching". My daughter is not independent enough to complete these tasks alone and so yet again I am expected to be teacher. I then have to work into the night or before the children wake for my paid employment. I have tried my hardest to bring some enjoyment to our days, regular scooter rides, kids yoga and baking cakes etc. However, if I am honest, I am now so exhausted that sometimes I just can't do it. I have just found out that my four year old will not start school full time until 15 September. The prospect of managing my job and childcare for a further two weeks into September feels like the final straw. I was

desperately clinging to schools returning in the first week of September. My children have been incredibly resilient, I however, feel like I am broken.'

796. 'My children are 8 and 11 - year 6 and year 3. The 11yo has been back in school for about five weeks now but the 8yo is still out of school. For a while all we had from school was written work emailed out for maths, literacy and topic; nothing marked, no feedback, no one seemed to know or care if you were doing any of it. In June we got a letter from the class teacher and for the last couple of weeks we've had a phone call from the teacher on a Friday - that's been the only contact. No online lessons - we've been promised Google Classrooms for several weeks but with only a week left until term ends we're not very optimistic that is going to happen. Our bright, cheerful 8yo who loves school and is both sociable and academic has been thoroughly miserable. We've done our best to engage her with the work she's been given and with interesting activities but it is so difficult and we all feel totally abandoned by school. Some days she can't be persuaded to get dressed and complains she feels ill. Other days everything is a screaming match. We are trying to work from home and occupy her and it has been a strain on all of us - I think someone has been in tears pretty much every day, usually her but sometimes also me or her father.'
797. 'majorly disappointing - no support and negligible contact from school. School only seems to be looking at compliance with guidance for the school and concerned with pupils who are actually at school - home school work set consists mainly of a list of weekly links on the school website - no requests for work to be sent in to teachers - my usually highly engaged and motivated 10 year old has lost all interest'
798. 'Not an enjoyable or productive experience! We have two children, a boy and a girl and neither are in the years that have been allowed back yet. Both myself and my husband have worked throughout the pandemic at home, and simply do not have the time to home school the kids as well when we are trying to stay employed (husband) and stop a business going under (self). Our school have provided some very dry work packs but to be honest the kids find them boring and we are lucky if they will do a couple of questions in a day of 'schooling'. Unless we sit with them and work through the questions they struggle to work on their own. We have had a phone call every couple of weeks, but no zoom lessons etc as have been provided by a lot of schools and we have ended up paying out for zoom classes and additional workbooks in an attempt to find education they find interesting. Their relationship is also suffering and much of the day is spent policing the constant arguments and bickering.'
799. 'Secondary have been excellent, providing a full curriculum through an online platform. They listened well to feedback in the early weeks (things like making sure materials worked on a range of platforms, Mac and PC, Ipad etc) and have been producing very professional Sway lessons (including audio and some video) for months now. Work is graded overall A-B-C but not marked unless it is an assessment piece. Grading can take a while to come though, so my son tends to ignore it. As a Y7 he is reasonably independent, and there have been days when he says he prefers home learning because he can go at his own pace, but that's certainly not every day! There are a few teachers offering subject specific zoom 'drop ins' for queries but there is no face to face contact. My son has a 5 minute zoom call

with his form teacher at the end of term, that's the only personal level contact he's had since March. Overall for a state school I think they have done a really good job but we are all exhausted.'

800. 'Please share your experience: It has been tough at times even though my children are very luckily, quite independent learners. It is difficult when both parents are working and therefore are constantly torn and stretched between all the demands. Ultimately children are suffering from lack of interaction, outings, and rely too much on the screens for learning/entertainment and social interaction, even for sport. It feels like a lot of children, unless they have a parent who is able to give them the time required during the day, will miss out on basic activities which ultimately might impact their learning, let alone their mental and physical health.'
801. 'It is impossible to successfully split yourself in two - acting simultaneously as a teacher and an employee. We both work, and have had to try and split our days around video calls and teaching. This means early mornings, late nights, no proper family time and absolutely no time for any personal space. School have provided some teaching resources using an online platform, but there is then a strong expectation that children complete all the work that is set. Some parents have been 'spoken to' about this. Young children need to talk their way through learning - challenging when parents have endless video calls because the Boss expects commitment. Coping with their emotional swings on top of the adult roller-coaster has definitely taken its toll on everyone. And next up we have an unstructured summer with no kids clubs available. It will get worse before it gets better.'
802. 'The Teachers worked very hard to continue providing education via an online platform. Morning subjects - Maths, English, Spelling, Reading - were compulsory; afternoon subjects such as French, Art, DT, Science, Music were optional but all correspondence assumed these were done even though we were working on my 7yo's morning work till 5pm most days. Activities often factored in adult involvement and even when they didn't, my daughter needed supervision and support FT anyway. I found myself having to sit in with the class to understand how to support her, mark her work after and submit online late into the evening. Any work not submitted was highlighted in red "overdue" letters as soon as you go into the portal. I've felt underprepared, under qualified, demotivated and under supported by the school. This all made parenting/stimulating/supporting my 4yo (out of nursery and with no homeschooling) impossible. Understandably, the 4yo's attention seeking behaviours and tantrums increased dramatically as the situation went on. I'm furloughed but even so, layer on top of this grocery shopping, cooking, basic household chores, it's been an impossible juggle. My relationship with both children has deteriorated as a result of trying to homeschool and I have genuine concerns over my children's and my mental health.'
803. 'Both trying to work whilst looking after two young school aged children has been pretty awful. We have achieved very little with home schooling and both ended up massively stressed trying to juggle things.'

804. 'Both of us parents are key workers however we have a young child who was prem and has asthma and another school age child. We chose to keep our children out of school for the first 6 weeks to protect my toddler and his health. Home schooling while you are working excessive hours both in and out of the house was impossible with younger children - we were sleeping less than 3 hours a night to enable us to do the roles as workers, care givers and teachers. In the end we had to choose between the risk of putting our children in nursery and school vs the potential health of my youngest, which is an impossible situation to be in.'
805. 'We have a 9 and 7 year old at primary school, so we are being asked to home-school both KS1 and KS2 level children. Both myself and my husband are working from home full-time, in senior professional roles that involve managing teams and require regular online meetings and calls. The time we have available for home schooling during working hours is extremely limited. The schoolteachers provide a daily blog for each class with set Maths, English, Science, Theme and Art work, but there is no online video 'teaching' to support this, even when they are tackling new topics rather than revisiting previous lessons. The children can contact their teachers via the blog or email, but they are reluctant to do this. The school have said that we can contact them if we need help, but we just haven't had time to do this, and I'm not really sure what valuable support they could offer other than online teaching (It's not that we don't understand the work)? Our 9 year old can work independently, but we rarely have time to review the work completed and it is not seen by the teacher, so we have no idea how they are progressing. Our 7 year old needs us to be present while doing schoolwork and indeed, much of the work set requires an adult presence (e.g. maths board games, paper aeroplane race, science experiments). We have been told by the teachers that it is OK if we miss some of the work set, but the message from the headteacher is very different, enforcing the message that WE do not let our children down by allowing them to fall behind. We are being expected to work full time + often overtime to cover the work of furloughed team members AND be full time teachers to 2 different age groups. The parent-child relationship is worlds apart from the teacher-child relationship; children are just not as willing to work for their parents, and this causes unnecessary friction within our home. Once the school work is 'out of the way' (I worry about the negative associations of this), we have no choice but to let the children spend the remainder of the day glued to a screen so that we can work undisturbed, which is not the way we parent at all. I am overwhelmed, exhausted, guilty, heartbroken and frequently in tears. I hate the feeling that I don't have time for my children. I feel that I am failing my children by not being able to give them my full attention and support, whilst at the same time falling behind in my work, which brings with it great stress and many sleepless nights, only exacerbating the problem the following day. We rarely make it out of the house during the week anymore, there just isn't time. My children have seen me cry more over the past few months of lockdown than they ever seen. We cannot carry on like this long term.'
806. 'Home schooling is horrendous. I have a 12 year who goes to bed at midnight and gets up after 11. Home schooling is incredibly challenging and my daughter struggles with any enthusiasm to do the work. She desperately needs to return to school. I am a keyworker who works from home every day.'

807. 'Our experience has been hit and miss with homeschooling. My and my partner cannot work from home, our workplaces were open as they were considered "essential" but we are not deemed key workers. As such we are juggling working, household chores, childcare and homeschooling. I have two kids, one of them 7 years old and the other 3 years old. Some days are better than others, but we cannot do more than two hours a day or five days straight. He doesn't see us as teachers, so the dynamic is different. He sees home as the place to play and relax. We don't have a dedicated space for him to do his school activities and my other kid obviously tries to join in and irritates my son. He also misses his school friends terribly. He has always liked going to school because it is the place where he would learn and socialise. We of course try our best, we always read with him every night, but his classroom and fantastic teacher are irreplaceable. Even though his school is great, I found the lack of contact disappointing (we have never been called just to find out how he is doing). All the contact has been through a school app.'

808. 'The demands on our family were enormous during lock down. Both of us are academics at a top university. We continued doing our work remotely. All our teaching has been remotely, with interactive sessions through Teams. Our work demands increased significantly as a consequence of providing a good support to all our students and changes in procedures. On the other hand, we are parents of two children, both in primary education, one of them with SEND and EHCP. The children received zero feedback, zero interactive sessions, zero video calls, just a weekly email with a list of work to do, two 3 minute phone calls in 4 months in 4 months. English was taught through Oak academy, but not feedback was provided. Maths, History, Science, etc was taught by us. My son did not receive any task to do during the whole lockdown. His weekly emails were for the class, but he is not able to work at that level, and no adjustments were provided. His EHCP did not exist since lockdown. I have resources and knowledge to home-school him, so I did my best. However it was extremely painful to feel left down. He was also not allowed to come back to school with his class and his teacher, with his bubble, when year 1 children came back to school. He was allowed only for 2 hours, four days a week, in a class alone, with one TA. It was extremely painful. It was as painful as feeling being discriminated. The whole lockdown was very demanding on us, it was extremely demanding, and we felt down by the school. We were also comparing what we were doing for our students and what was being done for our children, and that was very upsetting. The school teachers seemed to be completely unaware of what we were going through. One of them, which seem not to have any caring responsibilities, was sending one weekly 3 minute video recorded talking about how much she was enjoying the sunshine, long walks, having zoom chats with friends and baking....Why don't you make an interactive zoom session with your pupils?! Do you know how much time I had for walks? We were only allowed by the government one walk per day as a family. My walks with my children are also demanding. My son has a high mobility rate in his DLA. It was so frustrating. We contacted the school, but there were using all sort of excuses to not changing the approach. This is a good school according to OFSTED. I would have said an outstanding school before lockdown! ...during lockdown, extremely poor. They failed in communication, so I do not know whether it was their fault, or the LA fault, or the Government fault, or the teaching unions fault. What I know is that the circumstances were extremely demanding on us. We are very resilient, and we did relatively well considering the circumstances, taking day by day,

doing our best, and being kind to ourselves. Despite of this, we felt we were not able to do everything that we had to do, so we had to set priorities and do whatever we could. We had to compromise a lot. It has been exhausting, and our wellbeing has been obviously compromised. It was also very painful to me to deal with this disappointment. I really hope the situation in September changes completely. Seeing what we were doing for our students, and comparing it to what it was done for our children, was an awful experience. We were completely overstretched. I did two very demanding jobs. I am actually still doing both jobs.'

809. 'School has been very caring and supportive of wellbeing. The work is only revision though- both I and child frustrated by the lack of new learning after so long. The workload is very minimal. Whilst this makes it more manageable my concern is there's too little and not learning. I would have liked to see a lot more actual teaching over google classrooms. This too would have been helpful for working parents.'

810. 'Thanks for doing this. Here's an idea of how the homeschooling has gone for us. Our son (Yr 4) has had a Zoom with his teacher most weeks, plus two Zoom assemblies with the head. And he's been invited back in for a two hour 'farewell' next week. They have put learning in all subjects on the online learning platform and we can send this work in to teachers via email, although this isn't compulsory. There are some short videos available from teachers and links to other online videos - although this has been limited. They also put up creative activities and ideas for games - there was a 'Olympics' one week for instance. His teacher has read a chapter of a book every day and posted it. He's also had a 5 min phone call with his teacher every few weeks - I think we've had three so far. We've received regular updates from the school, which we've really appreciated. I'm not sure they could have done much more, given the need to teach the kids in school and respond to government guidelines. That said, the online work isn't particularly interactive and the tasks tend to be quite similar. The work doesn't take account of different needs to a great extent - that's left to the parents. Our son tended to finish the tasks quite quickly. As we are both working (or trying to!) this made it quite hard - we couldn't rely on the online learning to keep him going. There were hardly any extension activities for kids who needed 'the next level'. If the teachers at the school (or most schools) were going to teach online in future, they'd need training in how to do it - there are organisations out there who already specialise in this - I suggest calling on some of these to train teachers in online and blended learning. The expertise is already out there! Since the government abandoned the plans for all children to go back by the end of this term, I feel we've been forgotten about - not by the school - but by the policy makers. This is a horrible feeling - it feels like they don't care. And we're quite privileged - our jobs are flexible and we can afford to buy books for instance. It must be so much harder for single parents or those on limited income. Good luck with it all.'

811. 'Really supportive school where mental health is at the forefront for children and parents. However working from home combined with supporting two children, one Year 3 and one Year 6 has been draining. I feel I can't support children adequately and do my job properly. I am also lucky enough to have an understanding employer but have resulted to tears on different occasions whilst also balancing the needs of two other households who are shielding (my parents and in-laws) who need help with shopping etc. It has been one of the

most stressful times of our lives and we are very concerned about the impact going forward on our children and their engagement in learning. They have tried their best and engaged but it has been a battle at times and hard when four of us all need one computer - which incidentally I had to replace during lockdown to enable work/school work.'

812. 'Awful No zoom or video lessons No interaction with pupils No telephone calls No follow ups No feedback Work isn't marked The school doesn't check on its pupils well being Nobody is checking to see if work is completed The school isn't checking on those they haven't heard from Not asked to submit or send evidence that work is being done No opportunity to link friends and pupils up together to chat virtually Licenses run out on online games Little to no communication from the school Do not print work for those without access to a computer No opportunity to access resources within the school Bulk of the work provided is a link to online booklets and pamphlets No work tailored to the individual child Doesn't appear to be curriculum based work NO TRANSITION DAY OR MEETING for the next year group - so after 6 months away from school children are being expected to return in September to a new classroom with a newly hired teacher that the children have never met whilst also getting to grips with the any covid safe changes that will have been made. The stress this alone is causing is unbelievable and not healthy for any child'
813. 'It's been really tough to keep them motivated and I know they will be behind. No online lessons. One of mine is year 10 so critical time and I will probably have to find additional private lessons'
814. 'Not a lot of communication and only live lessons in the last 2 weeks. But overall not too bad'
815. 'We have two children at primary school; 1 in year 3 and 1 in Reception. The reception work sent home was very "light touch" and only took a few minutes each week to complete. So, we ended up buying our own workbooks and using online resources. We were offered one 10 minute support call from our teacher early on in lockdown and nothing since. 3 half hour class zoom calls were arranged but these involved playing a game together. We have not been invited to send our reception child back into school as the school wanted to focus on key worker provision. Many key worker children we see going in have one parent that is not working. For my year 3 child, she has been given daily tasks in English, maths and other projects. There has been plenty provided. We have only had the time to do the maths and English (up to an hour a day for each) as we are both working. The work given has been taken from BBC Bitesize or other commonly found online resources. They were often very dry in content and did not interest my child. We have now decided to hire online tutors a couple of hours a week and to work through our own workbooks for the rest of the time. Again, we have been given one ten minute support call from the teacher and a couple of class zoom calls, which involved playing bingo. Neither have been invited to submit any work for marking or feedback.'
816. 'The school has put basic materials online and told us to use BBC Bitesize. We've not had much more interaction than that. It's a nightmare. We are both expected to work from

home. I have the knowledge to educate my son, but I don't have the primary school teaching skills to persuade a 9 year old that education is important. It ends up with constant battles around doing schoolwork. We feel that he's doing far too little and are worried about his progress, and he feels like he's doing nothing but schoolwork, because it takes an hour to persuade him to do 5 minutes work. It's extremely stressful and has affected the mental health of the whole family to a massive degree. It is completely unsustainable.'

817. 'Really struggled having two children at home - Year 2 and Year 5. Really disappointed with support and guidance provided by school.'
818. 'Mentally frustrating and draining, hard to balance work, home and schooling whilst worrying about the crisis and also working in a high risk workplace. At times feeling inadequate, caused numerous arguments. Very stressful time. Feel my children have lost out on so much, education wise, though have tried my best. My eldest moves to secondary in September, feel he's been robbed of everything a year 6 should've experienced.'
819. 'Homeschooling provision has been very good. My child enjoyed studying from home. There's 30 in his class and I wished that the class size could be reduced so they can spread out a bit more in September.'
820. 'I have had little to no support or communication from either my daughters primary school or my sons secondary school. I'm trying to work full time from home and I just had to give up trying to make the kids to work. It was nice in a way to see other parents saying they've been reduced to tears as I have too. Constantly have to decide if you work to feed them or educate them. There was absolutely no reason why schools could not have offered online classes. If teachers cared they would've made some effort to support kids and they haven't.'
821. 'There was a good range of materials, some specially designed (year 6) and others just links (year 2). But there was no answers or feedback from teachers which were irritating and kids didn't fill it like responsibility. Teachers just gave phone calls every 2 weeks.'
822. 'There has been zero clear direction as to what the children are meant to be doing. There's been zero support for the children and the parents/carers. I'm astonished at the lack of contact and zero support provided in a time of need. I'm disgusted in the way this has been handled and in reality the children have clearly fallen behind through no fault of their own. Shameful!'
823. 'No supportive structure for children. No feedback on activities undertaken. No clarity on levels or achievements. Minimal (underperforming) well-being provided. No direction as to where we are up to and/or where we are going! Communication terrible. Support diabolical.'
824. 'The school have been supportive in providing materials and zoom chats, well being mornings but for those of us who are working from home and home schooling it has been

challenging for both parents and children. The material set by schools has either been repetitive and recapping or completely new topics/skills set for example using a protractor to measure angles which requires either 100% support or with recapping a lack of engagement from your child who views this as pointless or too challenging. There has been very little follow up on the work set and parents have been expected to mark/assess our children's work having been given the answers for the tasks. It has not been advise in terms of how the teachers can assess the children's work and retain the examples re: achievement of levels. There has been a huge of activities provided for the , some unachievable the week it is set, leaving parents and children feeling overwhelmed. Only in the last month has communication via Zoom been arranged and this purely from a keep in touch perspective. Schools have been very effective communicating the current situation but it has been quite deflating to continually read that nothing will happen. However the most concerning impact is not academic gaps but the mental wellbeing of the children. Adults have developed a resilience to cope with these adverse circumstances, children have not and were taken out of their normal routine overnight with no sight of it ending. This creates hopelessness, frustration, anger and increasing anxiety about returning to friendship groups that have ceased functioning effectively, a loss in confidence and concerns over possible gaps in their learning. For the first time children are not excited about summer holidays yet schools do not consider opening schools during this period or earlier than September to minimise the impact they have had and start supporting children back to school sooner. Instead it is parents who are now trying to find ways to minimise the anxiety and frustrations of their children. It is essential that schools start to work better with the Government and stop placing barriers in the way through their teaching unions and realise the impact their decisions have had on the children, in not returning the children to school this academic year. It would be hugely detrimental both for the children but also for parents and their support/relationship for schools for schools not to achieve the full time return of all children come September 2020. The communication currently about this from schools is still vague and non committal which is disappointing given the Government's statements about it, demonstrating again that Schools do not seem to want to work with the Government.'

825. 'Homeschooling has been hell. I have to work from home and earn a living. At the same time I have to know what work is set for both of my children and get them to do it which is impossible. I have to sit with the younger kid whilst the work is done as she doesn't have the motivation, skills or concentration levels to do it herself. The older one is a teenagerr and I'm having to force her to sit at the desk to do some work. The first two months she was expected to learn just by reading text books. There were no interactive lessons. Now she has 1 or 2 lessons a day online. I have to know what lessons she has, make sure the computer is set up and make her physically sit there. If I leave it to her, she won't do it. Even when she's sitting there she switched off mentally because she can't take it all in. Not because of laziness, but because she is scared, doesn't understand the work and hasn't got the confidence to email teachers. She needs proper lessons with teachers in front of her. She can't digest the information any other way. I'm so worried about both of their mental health and academic education. My daughter's GCSEs are going to suffer massively and there's nothing I can do. She is year 10 and has done nothing like what she would have done at school. Our relationship has suffered hugely because I have to nag her all the time to do some

work. I am constantly on eggshells. And I have to work and prove to my employers that I am working whilst at home. There is no time to breathe.'

826. 'Two children in primary school. One child is in a year group that went back to school when they were allowed to in my area. The other is still at home. The school gave us a pack of work for each child when they closed, and they upload maths and english to the school website for every day of each school week. The child in school is continuing the same work that is prepared for home schooling, but with a teacher. They do a morning message each day for each year group on the school website (sometimes this is uploaded for all days at the beginning of the week). They also got a list of Topic work activities (which hasn't changed since the beginning of lockdown), one child gets a single, basic, French worksheet uploaded about once a half term, and also some PE activities. Occasionally additional tasks and ideas are uploaded. They also get Spelling Shed and online maths such as MyMaths and TTRockstars. We can communicate with teachers via email (they are good at answering and will help with questions), but generally they would like us to upload work to Seesaw. Seesaw work generally gets a short comment of acknowledgement, but it is not assessed or corrected. We (I) generally upload pictures to Seesaw of extra curricular activities. School work only takes a few minutes of each day, and the longer this is going on the less time is taken to do it. It is difficult to work at home and educate/occupy the kids at the same time.'

827. 'Home schooling is very difficult. Explaining things to children is not easy and requires specialist communication skills so not to make children despondent. It can be harmful to my relationship with my children as a mother and not a teacher. I love facilitating their learning under the guidance of a teacher's expertise but not being responsible for their full time education'

828. 'Our experience, like most with primary school children and working parents, has been a juggle, a mess, a balancing act and I suppose an experience, though not one that any of us are keen to repeat. My children are in year 6 and year 4. My daughter would work in my office/box room, I was in the kitchen helping & teaching my year 4 son, my husband worked in my daughter's bedroom for 12 hrs a day, and I worked whenever I could make time. I get up at 5.30am to work before the children need me. We would walk our dog and then I would homeschool until around 2.30 And then I work again in the afternoon whilst Netflix, Youtube, Minecraft and Tiktok do the childcare. My year 6 child was devastated to be missing all the rites of passage associated with finishing primary school. Luckily she is a very positive soul and has got on with things as best as she can. She has also had the opportunity to return to school for a few weeks which has been a real life line for her. My son has been off school now for 16 weeks. He is a more anxious personality and has struggled with being away from friends and school. I really worried about his mental health and as a result we set up social pods with friends 3 afternoons a week that has really helped him. But he has lost the will to work and our homeschooling now consists of doing the minimum possible. We are lucky in that we have a house, and a garden, and enough tablets and tvs to go around, but even with that we have struggled with the intensity of being together, the need to have structure and timetabling at home, the expectation on me to help do the work and teach (our school only uploaded work to Google classrooms, there has been no live teacher contact). As parents we

are not meant to be our children's teachers. We should not be expected to find the time in amongst our work to teach our kids, to the detriment of our own careers and relationships with our children. Luckily I work part time and get up early to fit in work, but my husband works full time which means I have to do absolutely everything else, and work. I'm exhausted, short-tempered, impatient and fed up, and it is very hard not to pass this stress on to my beautiful children. This is not the way life should be. Our school is amazing and they have tried hard to help but they are only able to mark two homeworks per week which are uploaded on to Google classrooms (just a couple of sentences of feedback) and they don't do face to face time because there are several children in the school who may not have access to laptops or being online at the same time and they don't want to treat any children differently. Plus they have a lot of key worker children. I am well educated and able to help my children with all subjects if they need help but the interaction between us has become frayed and, to be honest, I have no interest in ruining the relationship I have with my kids. And so homeschooling now (with my yr 4 son) has very much taken a back seat. I can't imagine ever managing to home school again after this. My son was crying again about having to be at home and not at school the other day, a regular occurrence, and I asked him how I could help make him feel happy again. He said 'mummy I am just done with school at home, learning is only fun when I'm with my friends'. And so we sat down and watched a movie together and had a cuddle. That's what parents are for ... not for homeschooling their children. The children must all go back to school properly in September. It is paramount to their mental health, their relationships with friends and family, and their education.'

829. 'The material set by the school is highly variable in extent and volume (GCSEs). We have approximately 30 mins of 'video' teaching per week. Meanwhile, my wife and I are taking turns trying to fill in the very significant gaps, resolving IT problems or waiting for teachers to respond to basic questions. There is precious little teaching going on; unbelievably the head of our school made the decision that he would not mandate video teaching at any minimal level .Despite being in a 3 school coalition and the rest of the uk having to learn about zoom etc . Meanwhile the education department has been asleep'

830. '1 primary y4 - school does provide work, but it took them a while to get organised and we got used to doing the BBC bitesize daily lessons instead. The lessons provided on the school website are sent weekly and have separate English, Maths, Topic and a 'daily solve' for maths. They're good quality, well thought through, and a mix of links to video / audio and worksheets. We look at them and do any that we fancy, but we more heavily rely on the BBC bitesize daily lesson. We occasionally email the teacher to check in, she is responsive and approachable, but we are mostly doing our own thing. For contact there is also a weekly zoom call with the class teacher. This week school is doing a virtual sports day where kids are encouraged to try some activities and send pictures of them doing them, they have also given the school chef a section of website where he does cook-along recipes. We do daily - Maths, English, extra subject (usually from BBC bitesize, but with leeway to do something else if we prefer) We also do daily nesity (a website to help kids learn heuristics for spelling) and ttrackstars and once or twice a week prodigy (a maths-learning game).'

831. 'It's been extremely challenging. I am not his teacher, I'm his mother. I am trying my best to be both, but I worry I am failing him in terms of teaching - I have no idea what I'm doing and we often argue about schoolwork. He was behind in English and I am worried he'll be even further behind now, despite both our best efforts. He's an only child and has missed the social interaction of school the most. It's affecting him emotionally and mentally. I've seen him develop a tick when he's stressed (this has only developed since lockdown) and often appears when we are outside of the home, he often doesn't want to leave the house and he can be very clingy. He is part of a football team which he absolutely loved before lockdown, but he seems to be losing interest. I worry some of these are symptoms of depression. He is an amazing kid and we are trying all we can to keep him entertained, happy, safe and educated. But the one thing that would make the biggest difference would be a return to school. I don't worry about him catching the virus by returning to school - I worry about the effects on him emotionally, mentally and educationally of not returning.'
832. 'As a parent and a teacher I just want a return to school asap. It has been too much juggling work and home and my children are on a screen more and more as I can't give them the help they need. We are all tired and grumpy and need structure to our day and a sense of purpose.'
833. 'We both work full time and have continued to do so throughout lockdown . We have had no access to school for either of my year 3 and reception children. I have been starting work at 5 and stopping at 12:30, whilst my husband works from 12:30 until some time late evening. We try and fit in home schooling during the our non-working periods, but we are often being asked questions about work whilst we try to do this. We are both very stressed and exhausted. I have been seeking help for anxiety about my work commitments mounting up. My husband gets very angry and I worry about him getting physical with the children. My children are both emotionally scarred by the experience. My oldest child cries a lot because she misses her friends. She gets angry a lot and breaks her belongings. Behaviors that are new to lockdown. My youngest has developed a social phobia. If we have friends over to play in the garden, he hides in the house. He doesn't want to see his friends. He's always struggled socially and we'd just got to a point where he had made friends and was happy to go to school. Now, I'm not sure how he will cope going into Year 1. I think they will have to physically restrain him to keep him in the class room. I don't even want to think of the damage the time of school has done. Both children have regressed and I frequently find myself in tears over it. I'm aware the private schools are providing much better learning support and have tried (unsuccessfully) to find my children places there. Both my husband and I have good jobs. But if schools don't go back in September full time, one of us will have to reduce our hours or stop working completely. I know that will be me. I'm sure it will mostly be the women who suffer in this way.... We need the children back in school as soon as possible. We're already past breaking point.'
834. 'I found it a real struggle having to juggle home schooling three children in three different school years, even though the schools sent adequate homework and help packs. I would love for my children to start back at school, for good quality education'

835. 'Homeschooling 3 kids whilst trying to work at home has been a complete nightmare for us - I nearly quit my job twice as it is not possible to look after all 3 children and do my job properly which is crazy with the threat of redundancy looming. Each child has different needs and particularly our youngest needs someone working with her in order to get any work done. I discovered that my 10 year old, despite appearing to be working well, had done no work for 6 weeks. Thankfully the school contacted us to let us know so she now sits next to me all day so I can help her as needed while I am working. The situation is not sustainable and highly damaging for the mental health of parents and children.'
836. 'We have done well accomplishing a lot of home learning. The emotional well being of both my children (one toddler) and myself and my husband is in jeopardy. My daughter needs school for her mental health. And so do we. We need human contact as a family and school is integral to this. We are home learning but it's not enough. My daughter needs to achieve her learning objectives and that's not happening as it is. I would prefer they did not distance in school if the covid numbers remained low.'
837. 'It's been awful on the hole. The school expected us to teach new concepts e.g. Time or nouns with no resources beyond twinkl and other freebies. They had no live streamed lessons, no video recorded lessons. The work set was poorly organised with questions like 14 x 9 for a year 1 pupil before teaching multiplication. There seems to be no quality control or consistency. The lack of interaction with the school led to a feeling of pointlessness with my kids and a loss of connection. Parents are not teachers. This is not the relationship I wish to cultivate. My daughter used to love school and learning. Now she hates it. It's unfair that I have been put in this situation without support, the guilt in her loss of interest in learning is heartbreaking. Luckily I've been furloughed from June. In April and May I struggled to make things work and find the balance. I'm meant to return to work in September. Sometimes I feel like redundancy would be better as I can't go back to teaching and working. There is no plan b for schooling. Why was it the last consideration anyway? The impact of taking kids out with little guidance for schools and the slow return was not considered properly. The emotional and mental impact on families will be significant This situation has set women back decades in terms of equality.'
838. '1 secondary y7 - all subjects give work, 1-2 hours a week depending on how many classes the kid had in that subject. Work provided is high standard - powerpoint or web-based content (including video, links to texts etc). Teachers are incredibly responsive if kid emails with a problem. I rarely interact with teachers (have had 2 phonecalls, but am happy kid is supported). I have been assisting kid a lot - often just by suggesting they google it or by showing them how to find the information. I'm educated & none of the subjects are out of my ability range yet. I'm not answering it for the kid - it would be a lot less work if I just gave them the answer - but I do worry that I've helped too much on what to google, or how to approach a problem, or reassurance that their answer is ok - I worry about the transition.'
839. 'School and government should not expect parents to do the homeschooling. I am training to be a nurse and not a teacher. Homeschooling brought additional stress, anxiety and anger during the lockdown in our household. How on earth can I manage work, studying,

cooking, laundry, cleaning, shopping etc with on top of that homeschooling at the same time? Schools had been one big let down during the pandemic. I hear countries like Poland, Italy, Turkey could organise a few hours a day online learning so why this has not happened in the UK? I'm still to hear from my daughter's class teacher how she was doing in y4 as due to long and inflexible hospital placements I could not attend parents evening'

840. 'My husband and I have both been working from home full time since the start of lockdown. We have one 12 year old, who is very motivated and performs well in school. Since home schooling began the school has provided Show My Homework as the tool to communicate with classes and the work they are required to do, and have asked the young people to learn how to use Office 365 and all of the tools in it, have asked them to set their own pace and follow their normal timetables with no real check in with the children as to how they are coping with this - generic 'let us know how you are getting on' and 'we are here if you need us' kind of messages. The school has worked hard to keep assemblies going, to give feedback on work (of varying quality/depth) and to set a varied approach to class delivery - again very variable in quality. There has been no use of videoconferencing at all, which is disappointing - safeguarding and 'digital divide' issues have been quoted as reasons why they are not doing this. The approach teachers have taken to setting work has varied significantly, with some carefully following their timetable and setting classwork on the day their classes are due - which has worked best. The teachers who have set work almost as a 6 week project have caused most stress for our Year 7 child. My husband and I have both tried to work with our child to set out what could be covered in a day/session, but often the expectations set for timing are wildly out for a child not being directed/paced through it by a teacher. There has also been little/limited interaction between classmates, and no real contact from groups like the choir - which I think would have been easy to do online, and could have continued the sense of community/connection within the school. We are pretty lucky really, as we are at home and can try to squeeze support in around the demands of our work. Our child is getting through much less work now than at the beginning, and is getting down in relation to the monotony of the days...it is a challenge to get up in the morning, and easy to get distracted. I just worry about getting engagement with education back to where it was before lockdown.'

841. 'Two children, Daughter in Yr9, Son in Yr8 but in different schools although both State Schools, Daughter has had little support with her School, they have set work online, but there has very little contact, except the 2 phone calls in the 16 weeks of lockdown, this was only when I contacted the school to explain my concerns as she has been very withdrawn, been outside only 6 times in 16 weeks, hardly bothers getting dressed and has done only a handful of schoolwork. She will be very behind when she goes back. My sons school is better, his teachers have been in constant contact with my son, checking his welfare and even having online video chats. They even provided us with a laptop to use. He has veered off course a few times, and it takes a bit of reminding from me. I work part time and am a single Mum. I can't wait for them to go back and I know they are both missing school a lot, they need routine and support that I cannot give them.'

842. 'I have two children - one in primary and one secondary. The secondary school has been fabulous - supporting the kids from day one online and via email and providing

interactive lessons and resources. My son has struggled with the emotional and social aspect of not being in school and they have supported him in this and shown their worth. I pray the long term effect of not being in school is not as bad as i fear it will be. The primary school has been awful! The Head refused to do anything online or interactive - citing safeguarding issues, his staff's work load etc - so the kids effectively finished this year in March. We get materials emailed over which we are expected to print out - circa 30 pages each week (not sure what happens if you dont have a printer or the funds to pay for ink) and they are left to it! No assemblies online, no videos saying they are missing the kids, no marking of the kids work (what is the point in rowing and making them do something that will never be marked, apart from by us!). Just last week, week 15, the teachers were finally allowed to arrange Teams chats with classmates (after lots of parent criticism) - too little too late! The damage has been done. This is wildly different at other schools - some are fully interactive and marking work and providing online assemblies/classes, some are doing nothing as with our school. This is not acceptable. There should be guidelines and clear expectations set out for schools - they are paid to teach our kids and the kids deserve this support. There has also been a massive gap between those kids who have been going into school as their parents are 'keyworkers' (part time school office assistants are NOT key workers) and those who have had no interaction at all. The Government needs to be clearer with who is allowed to take advantage of this and who is not. My suggestion is that if one parent is at home, kids have to stay at home! How can it possibly be fair to have two parents working from home who are not allowed to use the keyworker place, yet one part time worker with a parent at home full time are allowed to use it? Again, put guidelines in place and be clear! People will take advantage wherever they can to avoid parenting/teaching their own kids! If this happens again and we are locked down again, we NEED a clear plan of how schools should perform and reach out to kids at home. The teachers need to be told of the expectation on them and adhere to it. If they are shielding let them be the ones to record the assemblies or do the marking, if they are in school then they can get on with this. I WILL NOT stand for hearing stories about teachers running half marathons or learning to knit or read 15 books during lockdown...and on full pay!

843. 'Have loved home schooling my 8yr old boy. I found the school homework was good from his school but the BBC Bitesize was outstanding. I found the work from school not overly stimulating and we have had only one call from his teacher which was lovely but I would have liked more contact. The school kept in touch via email and pings and we would email work then his teacher would quickly respond back which was great. I brought some BOND maths and English books to keep my child at a certain level to his age bracket . I am self employed and work from home so was able to home school around my work. We did about 2-3 hours a day but kept it flexible to his mood/needs. I tried to keep his after school activities going via zoom or FaceTime on watsapp . Overall I think the teachers and school adapted well but more priority from the government was needed to get the children back to school.'
844. 'Limited input from the school and that only came after parents protested. Children are withdrawn and sad- not themselves at all. Trying to work and parent and homeschool has pushed us to breaking point and the need to take unpaid leave. No support for parents. The unions are behaving disgracefully and no one is standing up for our children's education.'

845. 'Our school (private school) has been fantastic at providing online lessons and set work. However, even so, it is not a substitute for physically going to school. My children are 6 and 3, both too young to focus on their own. They therefore require constant supervision, which is hugely difficult at the same time as both parents are trying to work. In practice, my husband (who runs his own business and therefore has some flexibility) has borne the brunt of the schooling and has therefore not been able to work much during lockdown, with zero earnings as a result. Both children's ability to focus seems to have gone down over lockdown. The return to school needs pragmatic guidance that balances risk with a need to return to some level of normality so that parents can work again.'
846. 'Really disappointing. Only received one weekly email of work to do for a y4 student. No zoom lessons, nothing to encourage online interaction with class friends. No requests to see any completed work. No feedback as no work submitted. No will to increase numbers in school or show any initiative.'
847. 'I have 2 children and both of them are at secondary school in years 10 & 8. When we knew we were heading towards lockdown school sent out letters explaining what was required in terms of work (stick to a full days timetable) and where it could be found (all online). Unfortunately, the home school lesson seemed to take much longer than a lesson in school, so my children were getting further and further behind - my elder child got very stressed about this, my younger child just wasn't bothered! School have been very good at keeping in touch offering reassurance to us & our children but also to give them a talking to when needed! We've been trying to work at home at the same time as home school & it has been & still is, incredibly stressful - tempers have been lost & I have cried on more than one occasion. My year 10 child is now back at school for 2 days a week & he is enjoying being back in the school setting and seeing some friends. My year 8 child is still at home & we're lucky if we can get him to engage in 1 lesson a day. We're very worried about what they've both missed and whether they will ever be able to catch up - our feeling is that they won't.'
848. 'My son is in year 10 and he has had to complete mock mock exams (10) during the lockdown, supervised by myself a disabled working single parent. My work was mainly remote already and I quickly made a full transition. However, it does mean that I have back to back meetings on Zoom. Timing exams was impossible let alone trusting that he didn't use the internet. The only contact he has had with teachers is through 3 or 4 different learning platforms (e.g. Google Classroom or email) but nothing individual and if any pupil asked a question there was no response. He was given a 10-page document which had every lesson on it but no direct teaching at all. I suggested, early on, learning possibly via zoom or such like to the deputy's head however I was palmed by saying they didnt think this was a way of delivering quality teaching and that private schools were doing this to explain the ongoing payment of fees (obviously my son school is state school).To which I replied it was better no teaching. My son's motivation was already poor and concerns had been raised about this from school before lockdown. From the beginning of June my son has been going into school for 3 hours on a Wednesday, which he sees as pointless and also has an hour Zoom with his tutor group on a Friday. IN short the way the teachers has reacted to teach ing ouru children

is been inconsistent and complicated and there has been a lack of contact overall. To add insult to injury yesterday the school-issued pupils with their termly progress report which I have chosen not to reveal to my son as I think it would completely deflate him. As expected, even though he did revise through "Easter hols", he did not do very well in his mock mocks. I am left with a really bad taste in my mouth about school. We live a very white privileged town where I suspect most families who couldn't fit homeschooling around their homeworking, would have employed tutors and furloughed parents could put all of their time into home learning and show off about it on Facebook. This is an important year for my son and I feel that he has been really let down. As a family of two we have also been dealing with other COVID traumas which have impacted on my son's motivation and learning. I hate to say this, as I know that teachers also have families and their own COVID journeys, maybe bumpy, as well, but more contact would be most gratefully received. One last point is that this experience is not being seen across all schools, as I heard from a friend, who works in education, that a school in West Sussex is managing to deliver daily 5 hours of online (direct over Zoom) teaching time to year 6s & 7s.'

849. 'My husband and I have badly struggled to work from home while caring for two children including an 18 month old, while attempting to support my daughter's learning. It has been impossible to do any sort of schooling for her as her little brother continually interrupts and damages or destroys any activities she is doing (eg age appropriate jigsaws or worksheets or craft activities or threading small beads to make necklaces etc). I cannot lock him in another room to be able to support her and she is far too young to be left to teach herself how to form her letters or do simple sums. She wants company and interaction and attention. We have given up trying for the benefit of everyone's wellbeing. This is obviously on top of the other challenges caused by lack of contact with her peers or grandparents, loss of routine etc. I am extremely concerned about the long-term impact to her mental wellbeing and social development of these lost months and the negative associations she is building up regarding any sort of academic activities. Schools need to be kept open in spite of any future second wave or spike in cases - they are an essential service. Public health is not simply about medical wellbeing, but also about mental wellbeing and long term stability and skills. Children have paid a high price to protect adults so far. This cannot continue.'

850. 'I am currently a stay at home mum having worked part time until my 3rd child was born. My husband is a key worker and although he can work from home his workload is huge. He's often working late into the night and over the weekend so I have of course taken on all the childcare and homeschooling. My kids are 10, 7 and just turned 3 so all at completely different stages. It is impossible for one person to give them all the attention they need when the school children are doing completely different work and the little one needs constant attention to keep her safe. So all the children feel rejected and pushed aside while I'm wrung dry trying to provide everyone's physical, mental and educational needs with no help or even any adult conversation. After almost 4 months of it I'm now ill with flare ups of old medical conditions brought on by stress and lack of sleep. Yet I know we are lucky that I'm not also trying to juggle work. My eldest has been able to go back to school but there was no room for my middle child and she and the little one are both struggling with no contact with younger children. The youngest should be starting nursery in September I'm worried how she will

cope. After so long in the house with just me and the older children. I'm also concerned about my eldest who'll be starting secondary having a disrupted experience that will make it stressful. The lack of clear planning for schools throughout all this has added immensely to the stress of the situation. We are in many ways in a very fortunate position but being unable to make plans is very difficult. I had intended to return to work or education myself in September and now feel that I can't incase I need to homeschool everyone again at no notice.'

851. 'I am currently a stay at home mum having worked part time until my 3rd child was born. My husband is a key worker and although he can work from home his workload is huge. He's often working late into the night and over the weekend so I have of course taken on all the childcare and homeschooling. My kids are 10, 7 and just turned 3 so all at completely different stages. It is impossible for one person to give them all the attention they need when the school children are doing completely different work and the little one needs constant attention to keep her safe. So all the children feel rejected and pushed aside while I'm wrung dry trying to provide everyone's physical, mental and educational needs with no help or even any adult conversation. After almost 4 months of it I'm now ill with flare ups of old medical conditions brought on by stress and lack of sleep. Yet I know we are lucky that I'm not also trying to juggle work. My eldest has been able to go back to school but there was no room for my middle child and she and the little one are both struggling with no contact with younger children. The youngest should be starting nursery in September I'm worried how she will cope. After so long in the house with just me and the older children. I'm also concerned about my eldest who'll be starting secondary having a disrupted experience that will make it stressful. The lack of clear planning for schools throughout all this has added immensely to the stress of the situation. We are in many ways in a very fortunate position but being unable to make plans is very difficult. I had intended to return to work or education myself in September and now feel that I can't incase I need to homeschool everyone again at no notice.'

852. 'Combining home schooling and home working is impossible. Primary-age children do not work without direction and supervision, and if I even attempt to do anything else I am continually interrupted which makes concentrating on my own work impossible. It has also been very difficult emotionally, with daily meltdowns and anger from my eldest and more suppressed sadness for my youngest. Despite my efforts, with home schooling each school day and being in a relatively good position to help them (having space, computers, internet and being well educated myself), it feels like my sons' education has gone backwards. Offerings by primary schools in our area have been highly variable. Private schools have been teaching timetabled lessons over MS Teams or Zoom, directing their pupils' learning and giving feedback. State schools just post up work (sheets and/or online resources) for parents to set for their children, and in our case there is no marking or feedback (I gather some other state primaries have managed to do this, to some extent). The school hasn't a clue what children have been doing or how much they have learnt over this time. The lack of guidance or expectations from above have been part of the problem: even the education authorities don't seem to regard continuing children's education as a priority, so unsurprisingly many schools have given up on this too.'

853. 'My wife and I have one seven year old son. Before Covid-19 we both worked in an office. Currently we are both working from home. We have tried to give our son a structured learning timetable throughout the week. We are lucky that our employers are flexible with the hours we work. To say we are home-schooling him is a stretch, we are just giving him work to do. We are lucky that he has always been quite studious and likes reading. While year 2 were supposed to go back to school on the 22nd June, the school has refused to take anyone who is not vulnerable or doesn't have two key workers as a parent. We feel we have received minimal support from our school as the amount of work provided for our son can be completed in less than one day per week, so I have had to scour the internet for relevant exercises for our son to complete, so we can work. While I have no evidence the school have been obstructive in attempting to get pupils back to school, I certainly do not think there have been any real constructive effort to get pupils back to the school or even consider any left field thinking (lessons outside with parent support etc) or consultation with parents regarding this issue. Our son, understandably has sometimes got quite emotional and upset despite our best efforts. He misses his friends as he is very social and likes to talk. There needs to be a well thought out, funded plan on what happens if schools are closed due to outbreaks after the summer holidays. This cannot continue as the health of young people will be affected and we do not know the longer term impact of this. We do not wish to put anyone's health at risk but schools/government need to think of alternative ways of delivering the structured education and social environment young people need.'

854. 'I am a stay at home parent with a 3 year old and 8 year old. At first the weekly school work provided e.g maths worksheets and English topics was engaging and gave my daughter focus, but over time things have started to wane and the novelty of home schooling has become an arduous chore. I have to sit with my 8 year old and sometimes refresh myself on the particular topic as she is not at a self sufficient age to "get on with it", leaving my 3 year old to "get on with it", usually by way of watching thousands of TV programmes or playing play doh, puzzles for 10 minutes! If I worked as well there would be no chance of helping my daughter nevertheless, I am not a teacher nor do I have the skills to explain particular methods. I don't get the same respect from my daughter as she would to her teacher as she sees me as her mother therefore does not listen to me! The number of times I have tried to explain a maths question in various ways for my daughter to still "not get it" is so infuriating. Even my husband tried and we were at a loss. I am not sure if I am meant to let my daughter get on with it, partially help her or do all her work for her. It would have been nice for my daughter to have had some online lessons just to keep her more engaged rather than a last minute zoom call to play games the last month. Home schooling has been very challenging and has had its advantages disadvantages but it is now taking its toll and my daughter really would benefit getting back to school as the strain on our relationship is showing.'

855. 'School has done a fantastic job trying to motivate children via google classroom and with resources. But it is a huge challenge to balance home and changed working practice. My husband's work was paused so he could support home learning but once resumed hugely difficult to balance everything. As time has gone on we're not teachers and our kids know that. Positive things- Teachers have provided brief feedback on work submitted most days.

Upload completed pictures etc work to class dojo. Lots of engagement via class dojo. Year 6 back 4 days a week 9:30-2:30. Year 4 x2 play dates and round off & transition day. Fun videos by teachers and challenges sport/performance from both school to kids and kids to staff. Great job with resources available but no live teaching sessions and impossible to support children to any valuable degree when working. Huge pressure on 2 working parents. Really need MST or it system to support live learning in the future.'

856. 'Poor quality home working decks provided by school(copies off twinkl). None or very little teaching therefore expecting parents to do, with little help and whilst doing a full time job. One teacher we met outside school told us she "quite liked being off for 5 weeks and at school for 2 weeks" during lockdown period; she had an amazing sun tan, whilst parents didn't have that choice. Most parents doing 3 jobs at the same time. 1) being a parent(not technically a job, depending on who you ask), 2) full time jobs and 3) being a teacher. Kids do not take to home/school working with parents as they would with teachers, seems teachers are unaware of this phenomenon. Daily multi hour arguments to get them to do work and get off iPads and phones.'

857. '9 weeks of homeschooling. Very challenging even when we were both on furlough. Children gave Oak academy a go but we felt our children were not given adequate support from their own school teachers. We asked for pre recorded lessons with their own teachers or live lessons. We were met with resistance claiming it was down to the leadership team. We felt our children were cast adrift despite phone calls and you tube recordings with the head teachers each day. By the end of the 9 weeks I felt our children were fed up. We were fed up. Thank goodness we got them back under the key worker scheme. Even this was met with resistance. I feel parents with young children have really suffered throughout this. Home schooling is not sustainable for children or parents. Mental health is as important as physical health for overall wellbeing. We feel a generation of children have been let down. Too many what we can't do rather than what schools can do to get children back into education . We feel it has all been stalling tactics until September. We have a 7 year old and 9 year old. We noticed a difference in their demeanour as soon as they wee back in the school environment. Even if not as they knew it before. Children have missed months of education now. It is worrying. Children have a right to an education. Parents need to be able to go to work.'

858. 'When lockdown began, I was expected to start working from home. This would have been difficult to achieve given normal circumstances, but with the children at home and lockdown rules, it felt at times an impossible choice. Homeschool and try and salvage my children's education or contribute in some way at work but ignore and neglect my duties as a parent. Either way, I've felt guilty, divided and like a failure at both tasks. Since being furloughed on 18 May, I have been able to devote myself fully to homeschool. However, this has still been a difficult time as although our school has massively improved the home school offering on google class room with defined lessons, streamed sessions etc, the kids' motivation by this point was low. We were demoralised by the continued learning at home in our isolated bubble. The sameness and the lack of interaction with peers and qualified professionals meant we were limping along. Motivation for working with parents was very low and the relentlessness of trying to keep them doing work with I felt utterly unqualified to

teach made for some really tough days. Of course, we had good days too and they have produced some great pieces of work but I have no confidence that I have kept them where they need to be. I have been concerned for my year 5 daughter's mental health, she needs to be with her peers, not her 6 year old sister. It is impossible to achieve a decent school day of work for both, someone is always compromised. I am very grateful to all the work school did to support us with the home learning and also to allow my year 5 daughter to go to school for 2 days before the end of the school year.'

859. 'School work has been set efficiently with assemblies and full timetable every day of lockdown. Amazing effort from staff to learn new Tech and prepare on line lessons. Very stressful for parents who are also working from home, however. Children have truly missed social interaction with friends and regular exercise.'

860. 'Both my husband & I are working full time from home and trying to school our son. Whilst our companies are expecting us to carry out our full day of work, unfortunately the easiest thing to drop is schooling. Of course we don't want our son falling behind and we are trying our best to cover the basics but we're not teachers. It would be nice if the government could provide some guidelines to companies on how we, as parents are to deal with both demands and spend quality time together as a family.'

861. 'The school has unrealistic expectations of what is possible in terms of home educating a child when we are not trained teachers, do not have a parent - teacher relationship with our children and both have full time jobs.'

862. 'As a working mum with two young children, I have found the home schooling experience immensely challenging. I am fortunate in that both my husband's and my work has been unaffected by the pandemic, but this has meant that challenging choices have had to be made in terms of prioritisation. My 3-yr old son requires constant attention and engagement otherwise he becomes destructive and upset, therefore there was never the option for both me and my husband to be working simultaneously. Instead we managed the situation by me reducing my hours significantly (unpaid) and spreading my workload over the week, mainly in the evenings. On top of managing the household and trying to encourage some form of home learning and keeping the children occupied and engaged, this has meant that for the last 3 months I have had very little down time. My daughter is in Year 2 and is academically very able which has helped me feel less pressure about keeping on top of school work. However, she is not yet mature or motivated enough to work independently and so trying to get her to do just minimal formal learning has been incredibly challenging, especially with constant interruptions from her younger brother. The school have provided a good range of materials to work through each week, though we have managed very little. I am also grateful that the school have not applied any pressure to complete tasks as I have observed with other schools. However, on the flip side, there has been minimal interaction from the school which has made any progress or even maintaining motivation very difficult. The school have recently set up Teams access for the children and plan to start informal sessions with a teacher and several children, however I understand that these will not be for learning per se, rather for keeping in touch. It is disappointing that there hasn't been more remote interaction

put in place until now, though I understand the challenges the schools have faced. If there needs to be further lockdowns in the future, I would hope that as a minimum, regular remote learning sessions could be set up online to help keep children engaged.'

863. 'Stressful and unproductive. Unsettling for kids. Safeguarding issues at home.'
864. 'Hi. The school is now sending out work for home in A timetable way which helps me to keep track of my children's work. However, we use our phones to access the internet in our house and this can make study challenging despite being sent paper copies. The school are good at telephoning regularly and emailing feedback and have resolved my concerns when I have rung them. Although my children are older - both are doing exams next year the worry over how this will affect them is immense and the school has already told us my child will need to drop one gcse. I am constantly 'nagging' my child to do their work and I am very aware it is difficult for them to be motivated. Indeed my child constantly tells me that we no longer have conversations any more - I just constantly nag and talk about schoolwork. I work in the NHS and so am not at home making the situation increasingly stressful. I am frequently up helping with schoolwork until midnight and going to work the next day. I would very much value my children going back to school in September safely as the current situation impacts massively on the whole family's homelife, relationships and the children's academic future. The one positive is that my child has found the one school session in a week in a small class group much more beneficial than normal classes.'
865. 'It has been a total nightmare. Being forced to choose between educating a school age child, meeting a toddlers needs and supposedly doing a job from home is one of the worst experiences of my life. The decision to simply close schools with no idea of when they return has led to fractious relationships, lack of a routine ,confused children, anxiety and depression. I am incandescent with rage about it and struggling to work as a result . The message that schools can simply be cancelled at any moment has left the impression with my child that it is voluntary in a way that I completely resent. Constantly telling my children to be quiet while I work has been extremely difficult and stressful and destroyed what was a happy family rhythm. Needless to say I am extremely angry with the Government for doing this without a plan. Our school has taken weeks to organise some online work. This has been limited and simply encourages obsessive screen time which all studies show is bad for children. Please can I reiterate that this was an appalling and unnecessary decision which was made in blind panic, compounded by the inability of the Government to reopen schools properly and is going to have life changing consequences. I am worried my children will never recover from this. I would urge that the Government opens schools as soon as possible and NEVER considers doing this again. The impact on me and my children's life has been profoundly detrimental.'
866. 'Honestly homeschooling has been a nightmare. A battleground. Source of so much stress and tension in our house. I have a 7 year old and a 2 year old, both my husband and I are trying to also work from home. My 7 year old is not capable of doing the work independently, especially at the moment when his moods are fragile and his confidence seems to have taken a nosedive. So we sit with him to work through his tasks but that is at

the detriment of looking after his brother who is mostly parented by CBeebies at the moment or left to play alone, and our own work which gets left to be done late into the night. Mostly I give up with my own paid work and do it after the boys are in bed, meaning I work until after 11pm most days. I have very little contact with my colleagues that way which means tasks take twice as long. School initially gave us a list of suggested work, a kind of pick your own, which worked ok, and we chose what we thought he should prioritise. After May half term they implemented a timetable with work to be submitted twice a week. This caused huge stress and guilt on our part when we couldn't keep up while trying to work and wrangle a toddler. We felt we were letting him down. Very quickly they gave us a choice of timetable or pick your own. His teacher used to call once a week which was lovely, but once she was needed back at school this contact stopped. This was probably at the time we needed her most. Overall I was looking forward to homeschool and the opportunities it would give us to learn new things together and reinforce some wobbly areas, but it's just been no end of stress. My son hates it and we hate it. It's sad that education has now been tainted in this way.'

867. 'A different experience was had between the half terms. In the first half when only key worker children were in school we were receiving work that was set by the child's own teacher and covered a broad range of the curriculum. The work seemed similar to the work that would have been done in school. Generally I was fairly happy with this, however, I did have the following issues: 1. No timescale was given as to how long a child should spend completing each individual task; 2. The teacher did not indicate any priority order to the work meaning if parents didn't have time to spend completing it all, they had to guess what work was the most valuable from a learning perspective; 3. Balancing time spent between children who are all learning different things was difficult; 4. We were given no clue as to whether the work being sent was topics already covered or new work to the children; 5. We were not given any indication of what the outcome of the work should be; 6. All responses given to the work was 100% positive. Whilst being a good motivational tool for the children, it would have been helpful to have conversations between teacher and parent as to the real quality of the work. Was the work in line with the teachers expectations based on expected levels for age group and ability of the child? 7. Some teachers did not bother to respond which had a demotivating effect on the child. After half term, when certain years returned, we were then given a learning mat prepared by the Robin Hood Multi Academy Trust. This mat was useless! It required parents to become a teacher. The work seemed pointless and didn't correlate to the work they would have been doing had they been in school. At this point I gave up using the work set by school and resorted to doing my own lessons with my children focusing on maths and English. I am an educated person but I am not a teacher so my focus has been on getting the children to think, and maintain knowledge I know they already have rather than to introduce any new topics. I feel utterly let down by the school. I was very annoyed this week to receive a letter from school which talked about 'lost learning' and told us that the school were preparing a booklet to complete over the summer to make up for lost learning. Surely had the school been setting quality work over the term then my children would not have had any lost learning. I am a stay at home parent and I recognise not all parents are in a situation where they have the time, knowledge or technology to effectively home school their children. Given the right work from school I was up for the challenge of home schooling (which I saw as

guiding my children through the school work set). Therefore should we not have focused the return to school on those children who could not be home schooled whilst providing quality work for those that could. I feel the whole approach has been short sighted. There has been a refusal by the education system to try anything new and make use of technology. Overall, it has been appalling the way we have been treated.'

868. 'The school seemed well prepared with Google Docs at the ready from day one and tasks in maths, english, science and geography, art and PE. There were five tasks a day. To start with my child got stuck in and enjoyed doing things, but this lasted only about three weeks. After that a new more interactive system was introduced, so tasks could be set via video, verbally or written and the children then have a direct way to upload the work in the same range of ways, the teacher is then able to pass comments for them to see and add some of the better ones to the blog. This worked well for another few weeks, but some of the tasks seemed rather hard for the age group - draw a portrait of someone you miss in lockdown and write about a piece of music you associate with them! I couldn't do this and you expect my ten year old to do this without assistance? Anyway, these harder tasks just got left and then all of them as YouTube and Minecraft proved too much of a temptation when online. Even the garden went unused, despite some lovely weather as a sporty child lost all interest. My husband has been out of the house working throughout and I am busier than ever working from home. I have found the conflict of conscience - work versus schooling, so hard, and I feel like I have failed as a parent at a time when my child needs me most. My boss is flexible and understands my situation, but other staff want answers when they are working and me replying hours later, working when my child is in bed just doesn't work. I have therefore had to work in the day and hope he can self motivate. Of course he isn't of the age to do so, but I kidded myself that he could. I really feel that the staff could have done more online sessions via a video conferencing platform, before they returned to school - once a week even, but something that kids could relate to and connect with. Yes, there might be children who couldn't participate, but then they were also going to miss out on the online learning anyway, so that seemed like an excuse. At the beginning, the class teacher rang every couple of weeks, but that happened only twice. On both occasions I mentioned that being an only child, I was concerned about my child's social isolation. The teacher said something about safeguarding and changed the subject. So the amount of engagement my child had reduced and eventually stopped and he preferred baking to lessons. But in the meantime we have had blazing rows and I feel my son then takes it all out on his Dad when he returns from work to a tension filled household, just waiting for the blue touch-paper to be lit. Their relationship in particular has really been affected. My son has become easily angered, won't listen to reason and is moody and disinterested in things he would previously have jumped at. I wrote to the school explaining my concerns and asking if he could join in with the year 1's and 6's returning and they replied saying no, he will get his 4 days later in July! 5 months of no school, followed by four days of semi school, then 7 weeks of nothing at all - bloody marvellous! How grateful we all are! As an intelligent, caring and doting parent, I have been left battered and bruised by the experience. Instead of feeling closer to my child, I feel less so, divided by something neither of us understand, there are even times when I don't recognise him and don't like what he has become. I am angry with the school which failed to answer my concerns. I feel we were abandoned as parents and just left to 'make the best of

it' without any real help or advice as to how to motivate or explain things to the children. If I had wanted to be a teacher I would have done it as a career - I didn't, and yet it is assumed I know how to do it, and all while working full time. I feel the school has let children down badly in relation to their mental health and social needs. As a working parent I don't pick up and drop off at normal times, so don't have any contact with other parents and as an only child, my son's wraparound care at school is his contact with his 'siblings'. I feel very angry that this was never considered. On a positive note, I'm grateful to have this opportunity to voice my concerns and I apologise if it looks like a rant, its not supposed to be. One positive is that someone put us on to private, paid for online lessons - 15 in a class with real time teaching and my son loves it, he looks forward to his two hours a day and even wants to continue in the Summer voluntarily. I think this speaks volumes!'

869. 'Awful. Both parents working full time from home, I am a key worker from social services and we have a disabled 14yr. Neither child can work independently, can not be left alone due behaviour issues and all home schooling with our 10 yr old has always been after a fight, tears and refusal. Very little achieved for my work or their schooling despite making every effort possible. Totally stressed. Contact from school has been minimal. No phone calls from 10 yr old school, no teams or attempts from school to check on well being. Special school has been better, calling once or twice a week. We have no printer and our IT is in use by hubby and I due to our need to try to work. 6 months schooling missed due to all the above and I can't continue much longer.'

870. 'I work 3 days a week as a Physiotherapist in the NHS my husband is currently working full time from home (due to Covid 19). He does not normally work from home and we do not have a 'home office'. Our children are 9 and 6. They were not accepted by the school as key worker children as my husband is at home and the children can therefore be cared for safely at home (as advised by out school). Three days a week whilst I'm at work my husband has been expected to hold down a full time job whilst home schooling a 9 and 6 year old. This is impossible! The children have suffered immensely and have been left to complete whatever work they can independently as my husband has constant phone calls and meetings. He work has made no allowances with regards to his expected output. A 6 and 9 year old can not be responsible for their own learning or have motivation and self discipline to complete it to the best of their ability with no supervision or guidance. My sons (age 9) mental health has particularly suffered. He has missed his friends and social interaction. He's bored and under stimulated. He is not getting as much exercise as he needs as all his sports clubs have been closed. Schools must open in September for all. I fully understand why they shut for most children but the children must now be put at the top of the priority list.'

871. 'Myself and partner have both been working FT during entire lockdown, from home. Two primary kids two years apart so different needs. School call 5min for each child twice in 4 months. We have been unable to do more than maybe 30mins a day of maths and reading. School work posted on web site not suitable for kids to even attempt on their own. Kids have been largely ignored in this whole thing. Massive assumption that parents were not actually working. Many Key Workers working at home as told to and then denied a school place later. It is impossible to work in the day and home school kids simultaneously. Parents and kids

have all been under massive strain. Arguments and fights several times a day have become a norm. Kids crying has become normal. Kids doing no educational work as per what school set. Kids have missed 6 months of school and all their clubs and extra activities and only limited chances to play out and see friends. No real contact from school so kids have totally disengaged from the whole thing. I will have no qualms taking them out to go on holiday this year, since out school has happily left them high and dry for months'

872. 'Both my husband and I have been working full time and trying to home school a year 4 child and a year 7 child has been really difficult. My son who is in year 7 needs a lot of support as secondary school was so new to him and he lost that support overnight. Trying to continually get him to study has been so difficult whilst dealing with the demands of work and another child. I constantly feel guilty that I am not concentrating on work sufficiently and then not caring for my children and their schooling sufficiently. Luckily I am a key worker and my daughter's school allowed us to send her every day from May which has relieved some of the pressure on us. Now we are nearing school holidays, I am very relieved but now have the issue of entertaining both kids whilst I still work as there is no childcare provision open to us during the school holidays. Our kids need routine and education - I worry they have missed out on so much that they will find it hard to catch up. Then the pressure on schools to educate these kids quickly and to the level needed is a concern as teachers will end up stressed out and possibly end up off work.'

873. 'I am a single mum and work monday to thursday. I have been home schooling my 6 and 8 year old at home as well as being expected to work my usual job, from home. When I am not working (e.g. when I've taken holiday) I have quite enjoyed home schooling and the additional time with my kids and we've done cooking, baking and planted lots of plants. However trying to work a job with client and internal calls, webexes, and pressurised trading etc as well as look after the 2 kids not to mention their schooling has been horrible. The poor kids have spent most of their time glued to the TV, my daughter has gone backwards and can hardly read a word and I have really tried to balance things, I made a schedule as everyone at work seems to have been saying works so well. It hasn't worked!!! The kids want my attention, the kids need help and motivation with their school work. They are hungry, they are thirsty, the internet cuts out every half an hour. It has been horrible. The school have been great and said just do what you can and have called lots to make sure everything is ok. It's just not possible to do a full time job and care for 2 young kids. I wish my employers had furloughed me but I haven't even been offered it as an option. My health has really suffered I have had a chest infection since march that I can't shake and often end up in fits of coughs on calls. I am exhausted by the evening and have done very little exercise.'

874. 'School have been amazing!!! Work is uploaded to the class dojo app on a Thursday for the following week, giving you plenty of time to organise yourself and ask questions if you need support. Teacher feedback is really good and responses to queries/questions is immediate (even on a w.end) School have kept us up to date with anything that affects the school with regards to c.19'

875. 'I'm an intelligent professional, working for the Civil Service, with two children - son aged 7yo and daughter 6yo. Home schooling reduced me to tears on a near daily basis, and them to tears approx every other day. I am their Mother and care provider, not their teacher. They did not want to learn in the home environment - it isn't their school, this is their home. I am more than capable of teaching them, but you cannot teach someone who doesn't want to learn or listen.'

876. 'We have one child (9) in primary school and one (11, just turned 12) in secondary school - both state schools. Both schools have tried hard to provide structured work and encourage and support parents. The secondary school had a whole programme of work online very rapidly, across all subjects - at first totally unrealistic in its expectations (and sanctions for non-completion) but these were quickly revised as the staff recognised the limitations children faced in trying to download and upload work and taking into account the fact that some children had no or limited access to computers (they tried hard to provide hard-copy booklets of core subjects). As time went on the school tried to add facetime sessions for tutor group lessons and some core subjects. The quality of lessons and feedback has been excellent, though we had to push back several times early on because our daughter does not have independent access to a computer (and we do not wish her to). Our daughter is very self-motivated, but a lot of time was spent photographing all her off-line work and emailing this off as well as helping her sort out technical and software issues for online work. The one to one email contact with individual subject staff (both for us as parents and for our daughter) was appreciated, though must have created more work for them. The primary school was more shambolic at first, so I developed my own curriculum, but after a few weeks they put up resources and links and after Easter they had structured weekly sessions and in the past month have also added a weekly facetime session for yeargroups. We appreciated that they have also always emphasised that whatever it was possible to do at home was great, and that they did not expect us to be delivering a school curriculum (on contrast to the secondary school). Indeed the first few weeks went pretty well. But it is fantasy to assume that working parents have time to homeschool their children or that children can learn in a home environment in the same way that they do at school, even if we did have time to support them properly. As time has gone on it has got more and more difficult. My husband and I both work in demanding senior-level jobs - his workplace is totally and utterly lacking in understanding of the difficulties we were facing with trying to homeschool and having children around all day; my own workplace was very understanding at first, but demands rapidly mounted as covid-related pressures increased on our own work. Consequently we had little time to supervise schoolwork. I gave quite a lot of time initially (catching up on work late into the night) but as time has gone on the children's motivation to do "school work", especially of our 9 year old son, has plummeted leading to rows and tantrums - like other parents I have been reduced to tears, feeling inadequate as a parent and stressed about not being able to do everything I need to for my job. In the end, the only way to reduce stress on all sides was to accept that I could not give the time he needs to engage him to complete his schoolwork and that even if I could he was not going to accept being taught by his mother. Since "letting go" over the past couple of weeks, the anger levels have decreased and he is much happier playing, reading as he wishes (which fortunately he does alot) and watching various educational programmes (though we continue to strictly control screen time). And we

are fortunate - we have a large garden and a decent sized house ... how working parents without those luxuries have got through this in one piece I cannot imagine and the mental health toll must be considerable. All this has made us reflect on two things. First, lockdown has made clear how many households have two working parents, yet the state assumes they are (or at least the woman is) available for homeschool and childcare whenever called upon, with no support. Though some women work solely from choice, a great many more (myself included) work also from necessity. How is it possible to undervalue honest work to such an extent that two parents have to work fulltime to support their families adequately. As we navigate towards a new normal, shouldn't society reflect on the benefits of better pay that could allow both parents to work part time and share childcare responsibilities - if lockdowns must become a part of our future, a new work-life balance has to be made (financially) possible or families and societies will not thrive, or even survive in any healthy way. Second, do we need to rethink the values that underpin our education system? Lockdown has highlighted the importance of healthy, thriving families and communities and the importance of values like understanding, compassion and generosity towards others as well as local ingenuity to overcome crises. Yet our education system (like our economy) is overwhelmed by targets, scores, structure, process, competition and seems to have lost sight of the core values that make societies work. Society is not (yet) dead and covid has shown us how important local communities are - but without a radical refocusing of our education system to promote these values (not just through lessons and curricula but through the whole ethos of education) and recognise the importance of nurturing unstructured creativity, our future looks desperate.'

877. 'Incredibly challenging. There has been no acknowledgment that it is impossible to home school children whilst also working. We are both working increased hours whilst trying to support 3 children in 3 different key stages (in 2 different schools). The provision put in place by the primary school was minimal - up until May half term we received 2 packs of worksheets and no online support at all. The pressures in our jobs have increased, not least due to other staff being furloughed and having to cover additional work as a result.'
878. 'My husband and I both work and home schooling our children has been an impossible demand. Just because a few very determined middle class parents can report doing 3-4 hours home schooling a day doesn't mean everyone is able to do this. Both my primary age children have struggled to learn at home and in the period when I tried to home school the pressure on me was immense. I've pulled back on home schooling and my work to save my sanity but this is at the expense of my children's education and my career - I am being bypassed in the workplace in favor of colleagues with no caring responsibilities. I'm furious with everything! It feels like the revenge of the men.'
879. 'Disappointing response from school initially and hasn't really improved. No recognition of people working and trying to homeschool. Really disappointed at schools approach and communication. Showed the inequalities of small primaries schools to mobilise and maximise modern technology. Early doors felt teachers took the Michael and then weren't in the frame of mind to play catch up. Really difficult seeing the variation from other local schools, some using zoom or other software to enable 2 way communication. No real

monitoring of what is done out of school, no feedback system to teachers, complete lack of understanding to change delivery model. Most teacher seem to think they need to be told by government to do stuff rather than use initiative. Some clear winners in support schools gave, mine just didn't.'

880. 'I have two children in primary school - one in reception and one in year 4. I am working from home whilst my husband is out at work, my husband was at home for about a month in the entirety of the lock down. My eldest child is currently under review for ADD but that has now been placed on hold during this time so we have no extra support for that. The school have dropped off 3 work packs each during this time with work that has already been covered during this school year but they do not follow up if they are completed or if they require any further assistance. They do post on twitter regularly and email with various useful links and websites should we need them. I have also purchased workbooks for both children. My youngest did some work at the beginning but as time went on she lost interest, she has now been back at school 2 and a half weeks and has a week and a half left until the summer holidays. This has been a relief that I know she is getting some education. Whilst at home I found the practical things she got more out of than the sitting down and writing, she has made bug houses for example and also PE in the garden. My eldest has completed quite a lot of the work packs but due to his needs he lacks concentration and thinks everything is hard, I do not have the knowledge or patience of a teacher so I struggle also, he doesn't want to know if I try to explain something. He prefers the work books as he prefers maths over other subjects so he can pick which pages to complete, he does take a long time to complete a task though. I think if we had his diagnosis before the lock down this may have been an easier situation but it is what it is. I worry because he is going into year 5 and soon enough high school choices will have to be made and I do not want him to be overwhelmed. Overall I have found this time very stressful, being at home I want to enjoy spending time with my children not forcing them to do work but I also get very worried they will fall behind and forget things so I know these things need to be done. The kids enjoy school when they are there and they have friends who they miss.'

881. 'If we'd just had a bit more support from the school it would have been ok, but sending home constant work sheets - even with a daily timetable - isn't enough to motivate a 5 and 7 year old. The work itself isn't the problem it's motivating them to do it. They need to see the teachers and hear from them. We asked for some videos to perhaps introduce new topics, or even just say "hi" at the beginning of the week and maybe say "this week in maths you are doing X and in literacy Y and out topic is Z". 5 minutes a week that would have taken them but even when we asked nothing materialised.'

882. 'If we'd just had a bit more support from the school it would have been ok, but sending home constant work sheets - even with a daily timetable - isn't enough to motivate a 5 and 7 year old. The work itself isn't the problem it's motivating them to do it. They need to see the teachers and hear from them. We asked for some videos to perhaps introduce new topics, or even just say "hi" at the beginning of the week and maybe say "this week in maths you are doing X and in literacy Y and out topic is Z". 5 minutes a week that would have taken them but even when we asked nothing materialised.'

883. 'I have two children at different primary schools - one a special school and one in mainstream - both have special educational needs (though different ones) such that to do any school work each required a parent to sit with them to do the work. Both myself and my husband were expected to work from home. We found ourselves doing long days - with school work from 8 to 1 (with lots of exercise breaks in!) and then we would take turns to work until the kid were in bed and we could work late into the night. We are utterly exhausted and feel we are doing both roles badly. Our jobs are potentially at risk so we have had to keep on top of work as best we can. The parent child relationship is different to a teacher child relationship and throw in the fact the setting is home it becomes very difficult to do school work over a sustained period of time. There have been lots of positives amongst the exhaustion - we have a better idea of how our children are doing academically. One is clearly not being challenged enough at school (e.g. the tasks set were generic to the class/the whole of primary and were much too easy for our son) and the other is clearly behind his peers (e.g. the work the school set was way beyond his capabilities). We ended up doing our own individual work with both. Our oldest has enjoyed Oak National Academy - in many respects this is much better than the education he normally receives as he was able to select lessons for an appropriate age group which wasn't always his actual age group e.g. maths he has successfully been doing year 8 work, science year 7 and English year 6 (year 6 his actual age group) because of his SEN one of us did have to sit with him to encourage and support him with his focus and concentration. I hope Oak national academy continues as we have continued to use it even though he is now back at school part time and probably would if he was back full-time to give him the opportunity to extend his learning. The only contact we had with his special school was a weakly risk assessment phone call asking us if he had taken drugs or alcohol etc which weren't really appropriate given his age. Our son didn't speak to a teacher for 3 months. He has an EHCP and is now going back to school part-time but to be honest we felt he should have been able to go to school through out lock down given his class size is only 6 students. Whilst the school stayed open for a few key worker children, our son wasn't given a place though retrospectively the school have tried to make it seem as if we did have a choice. Our youngest son's school provided activity sheets initially which lasted 4 weeks and then recommended online resource some of which we were expected to pay for. Some of these were inappropriate for our son e.g. the reading comprehension activities were clearly too challenging as he has dyslexia, so we looked around and bought resources to do these activities at a level that was more accessible for him. The school were open to parents doing their own thing as opposed to my other sons special school which were less happy our son choose to do his own thing on oak national. Though the school kept in contact via email with a fortnightly newsletter, we didn't receive any individual phone calls from his teacher. The pandemic has shone some light on problems in the education sector e.g.: - lack of widespread adoption of technology (this is a real problem for our dyslexic son who would really benefit from this - we looked for a private school place for him because our local private school has great use of technology but his academic ability meant he didn't fit their expectation even though it was a non-selective school!) - Class sizes in the UK are too big. My youngest son with dyslexia chatted a lot at home about what he finds difficult at school and most have to do with the sheer size of the class e.g. if he cannot read the instructions he has to put his hand up and wait his turn for help but by the time help has come the lesson has

moved on and he hasn't done what he was expected to etc. - The education system is too 'one size fits all' - you visit schools and you can predict the things they will tell you about e.g. reading cafes, forest school in reception etc as if you are hearing the OFSTED expectation but where is the variety in approach. Children are not pegs and do not neatly fit into the same shaped mould. My oldest son is currently in a special school - do I think this is the best option for him? - no- but there are no alternatives, we've had to compromise and gone for a school that can meet his emotional and social needs but not his academic needs. School that would be academically appropriate for our son would not be able to support his emotional and social needs (he has autism - and was made to feel like a naughty boy at his mainstream primary school - he isn't a naughty child at all (he is very concerned for following rules, being honest etc) just misunderstood and stuffed in a system not designed for diversity). - Pre-pandemic the government focussed on getting both parents in work but employment practices are quite inflexible and do not recognise the needs of parents, carers etc. I've done well in my career but I look at it now and see the cost of getting where I am and wonder if it has all been worth it. I cannot mention family/childcare responsibilities at work as the male bosses wouldn't know how to respond other than to say "oh, that must be difficult" before moving on to the next item, I have been overlooked for things at work because of my family circumstances but proving that would be difficult.'

884. 'We are home schooling 2 boys, one in year 2 and in year 6. Our eldest could have returned however as one of us has been shielding we took the hard decision to keep him at home. Really disappointingly, the school shared following this that teachers of years returning would only focus on those in school and not share any work set. We have been left to find work for him in addition to home schooling both of them & working. The silver lining was finding oak national academy online (but only 4 weeks ago - 2 months into home schooling!) & He has thoroughly enjoyed the exceptional teaching of year 6 history. We have been very concerned regarding our year 2 son's wellbeing as lockdown progressed. Initially engaged in home learning set this has become increasingly difficult with parents being placed in a teacher role in the home environment as well as trying to work at same time- you end up doing neither job well. We went through huge amounts of ink & paper initially printing work set, which was quickly abandoned. However with no teacher follow up other than an acknowledgement that they'd received work possibly providing a comment both our children saw no point /motivation to complete. We have had to place our sons wellbeing as a priority over completing work set. Really worrying is he was keen to learn: all joy, curiosity and motivation has disappeared. More worryingly school have not had any phone/video contact with our children- no check in with their wellbeing. As parents we have all requested that school use video conferencing tools to meet with children/ set the scene for work but even a phone call would be better than nothing. As an NHS worker we have had to rapidly get our heads around using these platforms and been hugely successful despite barriers. Primary schools seem to have missed a trick. Our head teacher even feedback that he was doing what was required (implying this was not in the guidance). So it will be vital that any guidance to schools needs to be explicit about ensuring Virtual lessons with their teacher is up & running in September should we go back into lockdown. Private schools & secondary schools have managed it. Wellbeing should be made the centre of any guidance as all the research is stating our children are going to have significant difficulties. This needs to be developed first

so they are then ready and receptive to any future learning. Teacher's are likely to feel pressure to make up the lost time but this pressure must not be passed onto our children & to us as parents as this will be counterproductive to any progress. This whole period has been hugely stressful for both my husband and I and we are lucky we can share this burden.'

885. 'As many others have no doubt said, working and home schooling is impossible. You cannot do both well, but you have to do both. Even if you have both partners working from home inevitably there are mornings where you are both on conference calls that you need to attend. If you want the best for your child, and don't want them to lag behind, you're desperate to support them as best you can. Although the school has provided access to many online tools, I'd have preferred to see, and be provided with, more offline options. I've ended up buying a lot of workbooks that have been great, but could have been supplied by the school. For many reasons I believe offline work for primary should be encouraged; my child will have enough screen time in their spare time due to lockdown and not playing outside with friends, not having access to tablets/laptops/PCs, and ensuring handwriting is still encouraged (especially for the younger children) for development. My child has had 2 phone calls from his teachers, it's become obvious there is a lack of technological support within schools to encourage social calls with the class and teachers. Teaching may not be possible this way, but I'm sceptical about reasons as to why not, other than lack of available equipment for some children.'

886. 'I have two children Y4 & Y6 who I was trying to home-school whilst also working full time. When lockdown originally started the work being set for the two weeks prior to the Easter Holidays was structured and gave the children some continuity with work. After the two weeks, the work changed from being online to paper, this then gave the children a different direction in which they were learning and required more parental assistance with the younger child to complete. This could take at times until 2pm to complete, by which I would then have a days work to fulfill. This time has been very testing over the months, my youngest has severely struggled with the lack of social contact and has become quite withdrawn from family life. The lack of motivation and willingness to do anything has increased as the weeks have passed and it has become at times really upsetting for everyone. The eldest child has missed all the fun exciting things of the last year of Primary school and now faces an uncertainty with regards to transition to Senior school, causing him to be at times anxious, upset and worried about going to this new school. My Y6 child welcomed returning to school in June and it has done him the world of good to get back to school, his friends whilst this has been done during different circumstances, he has still enjoyed his days. The only phone call we had from Y6 teacher was the week before returning to school and the odd message on Purple Mash that is being used. He has felt very cut off from his normal structured way of life. The work he was set at times I feel was purely out of giving them something to do and without much interest and there was no follow up or guidance with the maths been set. He has struggled with some of the maths topics to which the teacher/school was notified to be told to keep practising, not the most helpful way of encouraging a child to complete work when they don't know what they're doing. The Y4 child struggled with maths before all this started and was having a private tutor to assist, I am worried that the work we had done to help her will just be a complete waste of time. She has had one conversation

since March with her teacher approx 2 weeks ago, when it was discussed about her not wanting to do the work, struggling with the work, I was just told to "sack it off", again not the help or response I had expected. I have to say, the home-schooling and working has been very stressful and has at times caused major meltdowns from all within the family. As a parent, I am emotionally tired and drained with trying to do two jobs as well as trying to keep a home. The children's relationship with us as parents I feel has changed as the Y4 child resents the fact that she has been unable to return to school and is angry at this, she doesn't want to be home-schooled by her mum, she wants me to be her mum not her teacher. Times are very hard at the moment and the government and unions need to think about all the working parents struggling with their life and structure'

887. 'My 15 year old twins in year 10 have self taught for months. Using YouTube lessons and websites. They've had perhaps 2 sessions with a teacher and the work set has been inconsistent. One teacher has provided pre-recorded lesson content and actually marked work set and given feedback. But all others have been pathetic. My 8 year old is in year 4 and doesn't have the determination or motivation to be self driven. She's a school refuser who complains all day long at being asked to do anything and I either give up and let her play, or we battle until I force her to do something and then we all hate each other. At the same time I'm trying to run a new business from home and keep it afloat when premises have closed. I work until midnight as I can't get anything done In the day when the younger child is around as she needs constant supervision and support to get anything done. When I do need to deal with customers during the day I can't homeschool the younger child. The primary school teacher has only just arranged a weekly check in online meeting. But there are no online lessons. We don't have enough computers for everyone to use at once and despite pupil premium being paid for all three of my children, not one of them has had their appeal to be provided with a laptop approved. I've spent a small fortune on revision guides and workbooks for all three children as they need somewhere to learn from. I don't know what the schools have actually been doing, but they've not been teaching my children anything. I don't want My children to return to school as I don't feel it's safe. I want the schools to actually teach the children online. Real timetables. Actual lessons. Mark work. Provide Individual feedback.'

888. 'It has been hard to work full time and be responsible for supervising education. My workload tripled with lockdown but was expected to supervise 4 hrs of study each day in school time with 1 laptop for household. It has been very stressful. I dont keep my business going i will lose my income. My childrens education has been reduced to a list of demands and deadlines. School have not clapped eyes on him or spoken to him since March. This has not stopped them from issuing a progress report without any discussion with us who have been doing the education. He has had no teaching, just set work which has not been differentiated. Learning that comes through the relationship with the teacher has been lost. This has been very uninspiring and for complex tasks he has felt overwhelmed without the talking through part. It is unreslistic to expect 11 year olds to sit and focus at a screen for hours at a time without wandering off to more interesting things online which is why parents can't just leave them to get on with it as need to supervise internet access. We finally have a routine where he sleeps in til lunch time so i can get work done and do his school work in the afternoon.'

889. 'Awful. Trying to work remotely at my 9am-5pm legal PA role and trying to educate my Yr7 son is not compatible. Our school has provided a confusing parcel of school work, accessed via email and Google Classroom, which in theory should be accessible but in practice is confusing and laborious. My son is only Yr7 and does not have the emotional maturity and self discipline to self educate. I cannot give my full attention to my job, resulting in poor performance, mistakes and negative feedback. My son is struggling emotionally without his peers, he is clingy and emotional and seeking constant reassurance. His education has suffered drastically. I am filled with guilt, anger and anxiety.'

890. 'It has been awful...hugely stressful, pushing me to the very edge of my mental health, going to some pretty dark places as I *try* and often fail the 'struggle juggle' of schoolwork/ entertaining/ parenting/ oh and doing my full time day job. And then collapsing exhausted in a heap at the end of the day. And I know many working parents experiencing the same awfulness. Since lockdown my daughter's teacher has spoken to her once. There has been no class based outreach...no zoom calls, no encouraging collaboration. No sessions just for the children to say hi to each other. Depending on the school your child is at, the support has varied. I hear of local schools where they rotated all year groups back in. But sadly not ours. Where teachers have spoken to parents every week. But sadly not ours. There is zero recognition from school of the impact on parents, and as a working parent I feel especially that it's my problem to solve. Apparently it's even surprising to them that I can work full time from home. And now with staggered drop offs and pick ups we face a whole other impact on our working day. Plus no commitment to after school care. I've been told that I should sort out after school care myself if I need it for my work. What the hell?? How do they think working parents are going to work? How do they think we are going to get out of recession?? I've been doing their job and my job since March. I am angry and feel let down. But I'm also exhausted and haven't the energy for a fight with school. I'm seriously considering changing schools though if I can make it happen. My daughter's nursery on the other hand has been brilliant. Her going back has made a significant difference to our family wellbeing. They are making it work and are doing such an amazing job... I am now spending £500/ month on tutoring, babysitting and part time nannying support for my daughter's wellbeing and academic progress. Oh and of course so I can work. My work has been brilliant. Really supportive and giving me extra leave...as well as just plain old empathetic. Getting how hard it is. School has been nothing of the sort. Where I feel school has let down my child the most is with their wellbeing. The burden has been on parents alone. The mental health impact of this on children is already significant...Let's hope they're as resilient as everyone keeps saying they are.'

891. 'I have been lucky enough really that my 8 year old has had both parents to help with the home school. However it's still been a battle with a very demanding 4 year old who struggles with his temper. Lots of tears from both children and parents when neither of us has understood what we are doing or you're repeating yourself for the 10th time and feel like nothing is sinking in. I was very disappointed at the start of this, we were self isolating for 2 weeks prior to schools being closed due to symptoms and when I asked for some work to do I was told no and just to read. But most disappointing for me is that apart from feedback on

google classroom there has been no contact from the teachers, I know other schools have had teachers calling the children to check in with them but we have had none of that. Even just one phone call in 11 weeks would have made a huge difference to my son who is really missing his friends and I believe this has definitely affected his mental health.'

892. 'We have had 4 months of lockdown hell. I am a Key Worker but school would not help us as my partner is not a KW and we were both working from home. We are however horrendously busy and one of us was on lots of very high pressure deadlines to deliver work; pandemic or not. Our kids are 8 and 10 and not interested in more than a few minutes of educational stuff, unless we are fully engaged with it. We could not be as working. School sent out stuff that almost all had to be printed off, in full colour etc and was quite frankly, boring and needed full parent support. We abandoned it all early on. It is cruel to make parents work FT and expect young children to self entertain for 8 hours a day, barely supervised. They were not interested in 90% of the BBC bitesize stuff either. They have been sad, depressed, lonely, crying etc We have tried working in shifts, but end up both working every night for months. We try and do some educational stuff at weekends and not work. My son has smashed up the house in frustration and daughter become angry and unhappy. My partner had to return to work place by July and I as a KW was left paying a fortune for childcare on some days so I can go to work as school still wouldn't budge on it. Shambles'

893. 'This has been one of the most stressful periods of my life. I have been put on anti-depressants and had to access CBT. I am a keyworker (who can work from home in theory), but the school and nursery would not take my children as my husband is not a keyworker. The school only provided a handful of (boring) exercises to do at home. It was 5-6 weeks before we got anything shared online - with the teacher pointing us to online resources. About 4 weeks later they launched a google classroom, which we simply haven't engaged with. It wasn't until last week (in July) that my daughter had any direct face to face (through zoom) contact with teachers. We had no wellbeing checks during this time. The reason homeschooling works is that they approach learning completely differently. Simply trying to replicate class room teaching at home does not work. I was not homeschooling - I was trying to work from home and help my children to learn something. My 3 year old never used a table or mobile before lockdown. He now knows how to get onto YouTube. My 6 year old has basically become addicted to TV. There was an opportunity at the beginning to embed good practice, but I really feel that the school failed to provide adequate support during this period. Then bad habits set in and it is even more difficult to change. The school has taken a very risk adverse approach to opening (despite the school actually being well designed for this as most classes have direct access from the playground and didn't have to share small corridors). They have failed to set forward a proposal on how they would keep kids safe, instead simply asking parents if they would send children back. This lead many parents to say no - the school then failed to open for year groups who were meant to be back in (critical to parents who need to work).'

894. 'I just wanted to share something which I think a lot of people will not have considered. My 5 year old (year 1) went back to school on June 1st but unfortunately we are just inside the border of the new Leicester lockdown. Our school catchment area is in the

next village and outside the lockdown area, most of the children who attend are from outside the lockdown area. We had no notice that those children who lived within the lockdown area were not going to be allowed to attend school and so her teacher told her suddenly on Wednesday that she would not be allowed back to school, but all her friends were still allowed to go. This is the governments rules not the schools. My daughter came home from school that day the most upset I have ever seen her, sobbing and hysterical, which is not like her usually. It has taken several days of consoling and explaining to make her understand and she was clearly feeling fragile. I am sure it has been really distressing for those children whose school have closed completely but for those whose boundaries cross lockdown areas it is even more so as there are different rules for different children and the younger ones really don't understand. The government can't keep opening and closing schools especially primary schools as it will have a huge effect on the children's mental health and it has already effected them enough.'

895. 'Very difficult. The school has consistently missed opportunities to improve / refine it's home learning provision. It's made some effort, but the work being set contains careless errors such as links missing or not working, or worksheets that don't correspond to the accompanying PowerPoint or video. Child gets frustrated and loses motivation and it's difficult for me as I am trying to work as well as home school. These obstacles make it do much harder. I've tried to draw the school's attention to this, but the leadership there seems to have an unassailable belief that they are doing a great job and they do not seem to respond to any kind of challenge very well. This experience has made it clear to parents why the school has always had mediocre results.'
896. 'Ridiculously hard. Class teacher individually has been as supportive as the school has allowed her to be. All school work for the week has been uploaded to the school website, sometime at 10pm sunday night, for parents to print ready for the week ahead. We self mark, and are expected to email photos of work done by the friday. When my son has struggled and asked for help, we have been told they are not allowed to call. There is no online classes or assemblies, and support has been minimal by senior staff. I am a single mother working full time, sharing the dining table with my yr 5 son. We have fallen out, had tears (both of us!), but made up again. He understands my pressures - but I am in no way a teacher. Following the unexpected loss of his yr 5 teacher at christmas, we feel that yr 5 at our school have missed the entire year, after the christmas period the first 6 weeks was all around counselling, grieving etc due to what had happened, we got a new teacher then this happened 4 weeks after. We have been left to our own devices with very little support. We are hugely concerned what will happen if our children do not get back in september, or if there is a second wave as our school is clearly not investing in any form on decent on line support compared to other local schools.'
897. 'It has been hard to home school. We also have a 3 year old so trying to sit down and do school work with a 6 year old is difficult. The work set was good but not quite enough and no reading books to help continue the reading at home. Overall it was very stressful and I felt my daughter did not get much benefit from it. Motivation was quite low and this resulted in us deciding to send her back to school as she is year 1. Also trying to work when trying to

home school is a hard theres too much as a parent to try and juggle and eventually something had to give.'

898. 'Trying to help my 9 and 15 year olds with their work whilst also being the only member of my team kept working from home has been awful at times I have tried my best but when I have managers asking for reports / details at the same time my 9 year old needs academic support or my 15 year old needs emotional support (due to growing fears that she won't be ready for her GCSE's next summer) it's really taken it's toll on my mental wellbeing My 9 year old's teacher gave very little encouragement, support or feedback initially which made it harder for my to keep his momentum going'
899. 'We are both full time working parents, with two kids -3 and 7 years old. It is an absolute struggle to do any homeschooling. On average we do less than an hour a day. We are provided with every Monday new worksheets to download-these are 3 sessions a day and we usually cannot do a single one. Currently, we are 5 weeks behind. Why the schools are not providing on; one lesson? Even a 30 min session in the morning and one in the afternoon would make a difference.'
900. 'Year 7 child Considering child (a) goes to the so called better secondary in the area, no phone call etc to check on child. Work was sent , but hit and miss. Certain teachers told them not to submit work as they would have to much to mark !!!! End of year special reports sent home last week, grades from excellent to very poor. Son got excellent and good in majority for returning work etc, low and behold gets poor in subject that teacher told them not to submit, he was upset and I was angry. He has completed all work set so therefore I told him to submit the whole lot on Saturday, I don't care if the teacher wants it or not. ~ Year 11 child (Silloth) Child (b) goes to the local secondary considered not as good a school...However hands up child received 2 phone calls a week checking on wellbeing and asking did they understand work etc..Was sent work every day , work marked and sent back to them online EXCELLENT. School has been amazing, and considering GCSEs cancelled have offered support and gone out of their way to supply work for 6th form subjects. As a household I have children at different schools their choice...Also child at college, and myself working from home....Therefore 4 devices needed all day, broadband hit and miss in the country. When you know your child/ren have given 100% commitment to their schooling and you get nothing back from the school it is a slap in the face.....All children should be treated the same under these circumstances not free school meal children getting all the vouchers/extra time/laptops etc. As a working family with dad working away all through lockdown I am beyond stressed 24/7 with 3 children all home schooling at different levels of their education, eating me out of house and home, missing their friends and family and trying to keep up with my own work and bills paid. EVERY CHILD MATTERS !!!! And EVERY PARENT MATTERS...'
901. 'My daughter's school provide homeschool packs each week. They are uninspiring and dry. It's obvious they just print them out with no thought A follow up email every 3 weeks which seems to just be a box ticking exercise No marking, no feedback, No video clips or zoom calls... Resulting in an unengaged 8 year old who feels like the school doesn't care. She doesn't want me to teach her. She just wants me to be her mummy. I feel that children are

having to make the biggest sacrifices yet are the lowest risk! I would also like to point out that we see a lot of children playing together and not social distancing. So they might as well be in school'

902. 'Our particular school closed in March, myself and my wife have been working full-time from home. We have two children in the same primary school. It's been really tough fitting in work and home schooling. We started off okay like most families but as weeks went by, it just got harder. The most disappointing aspect of all this has been the lack of support from the school and the teachers. We look at other key workers in our country and admire the courage and commitment from NHS workers to shop workers. I wouldn't put teachers in that category based on my experience. Our children enjoy school and it's not just the academic side it's seeing their friends and the group learning that they thrive from. We saw some light at the end of the tunnel when the government announced that primary school children would be going back to school from the 1st of June. This was not supported by teachers or the teaching unions and a political point was made with our children's education. This was really disappointing, we have just about had enough, why is it that other European countries we able to get children back to school and we failed. The teachers at our school send one or two emails a week with work to do for the children, most of which is available on BBC Bitesize. A lot of parents have had the added stress of being furloughed, I myself have been in this position, therefore losing income while teachers get paid in full and we do the home schooling. There will not be any summer schooling support from our school, again disappointing. We have only had two email correspondence from the head teacher over this period, which is shocking to say the least. My final point would be that the schools better open in September because we as a hard working family can't suffer anymore. We have all done our bit now its over to the teachers to do their bit for the children.'

903. 'Our daughter is 13, and is just finishing year 8. Her secondary school has been very proactive about sending out work to do, and arranging online classes in seven of her 14 school subjects. And they are excellent about praising students who are trying hard and producing good work. This has been helpful and we have actually gained a better view of what our daughter is learning, and what standard is expected. There have been hiccups along the way, but we generally cannot fault the school as they have put in an enormous effort. If anything, we feel like our daughter has *too much* to do as opposed to not enough! School effort aside, we do feel as though we struggle at times. My husband and I are both working full-time from home, which means (mostly me) taking time out from my work to help with school work and prepare meals. My husband does a bit but is not able to step away from his work so often due to its nature. This makes for very long days on my part as I then have to do extra work in the evenings. I work in healthcare (including some time-sensitive covid-19 related things) and so I often cannot just leave things until the next day. We are both exhausted. Our daughter is mostly able to work independently, but still needs reminding not to distract herself with social media and the internet. Some days are worse than others. We have had some "bad" days where we have had to tell her off for not putting in an effort, or where she has been feeling down and has had to take a few hours for herself instead of doing school work. This puts her behind a bit, and then it becomes a struggle to catch up. Thankfully between my husband and me, we can help her with most subjects as we are both well-

educated and read very broadly. But even with the resources that we can draw upon, there are a few things that we cannot help her with and so have felt at a bit of a loss. We have also seen our daughter change, both for the worse and for the better. She has matured and has become a bit more disciplined, but she also worries about things she didn't worry about before, like putting on a bit of weight (she was dancing 8 hours a week before lockdown and now can only manage about 3-4 hours), not being able to keep up with friends, and occasionally arguing with friends via text message (this has been upsetting for her and she has actually lost a friend through arguing about covid-19). We support her as best we can emotionally and psychologically, but it is upsetting when we see her struggle with her feelings and relationships at a time when she should be learning to socialise on a more adult level with her peers, and finding other adult role models in addition to her parents.'

904. 'I wanted to add the experience with my older children:(1) it is impossible for working parents to support their children. Online learning is very limited as means of delivering education - it is impossible to ensure children are learning anything as frequently they can log on and then disengage (and play games instead)... as parents it is impossible to work and police this. (2) there is a huge tension and burden on parents to help their children which can cause rows, frustration and stress. As a mother I have been in tears trying to help them and work at the same time. As a working mother it is also damaging and discriminatory for my career as effectively you cannot do both (3) we have 0.5 mbps broadband and it is completely useless for homeschooling - how can government ask us to do this without everyone have broadband connectivity? Stress of constant broadband fails is mentally exhausting. Kids get frustrated and upset they cannot follow lessons and contact their peers (4) kids are isolated and unhappy. Poor broadband prevents even keeping up with peers on social media - although this form of socialising is also unhealthy it would be something at least. They are also less fit from missing their hobbies and less engaged with education. Taking them for walks and exercise is challenging when we are working so hard and trying to catch up on work when not homeschooling. I also worry my teenager will no longer see school as something necessary and will spend the rest of his life in bed!!! (5) clubs like swimming, cricket and rugby have left a huge gap in their lives which has left an aimless existence which is hugely psychologically damaging. It feels like children and parents are forgotten in this crisis in preference to measures such as pubs reopening.'

905. 'School did not open for any year 10 and 12 students. Contacted parents in April, long before updated guidance, and just said they would be closed to pupils until September. Outrageous.'

906. 'Home School has been an incredibly damaging experience for us as a family. I have two children, who loved school and were probably having the best school years until schools were shut. They did not engage with any of the worksheets that I had to download from a school website. They did engage with BBC website but in terms of them learning, I have no idea. They have heard from their teachers 3 times. Everytime time I have experienced concern to the school I have only been offered more worksheets. I am so frustrated by this entire situation.'

907. 'excellent layout, clarity, volume and quality of work available on the school website for parents to follow. Well structured and easy to understand for parents. Weekly letter from head teachers. Occasional video of teachers with a short message. But VERY little personal interaction!'
908. 'School support really pretty poor - especially from our class teacher who seems to have treated lockdown as a kind of paid sabbatical in which she gets to hang out with her own kids (who could have gone to school). We have one son in year 4. Had to fight VERY hard to get them to offer printed materials for children at home. Seemed to be no understanding that parents might not have access to a printer. No expectations being set about reading, picking up a pencil or sending work in to be marked. How could they think it's ok to not mark work or give encouragement to children for 15 weeks?! Were just given worksheets and told to use TT Rockstars and Spelling Shed. No learning points seem to have been taught / introduced or reminded - just lots of pretty dull worksheets - all of this is fine for a couple of weeks but not after then. No phone calls until week 12 (and then only after I'd requested a call 3 times) - most children don't seem to have had a 1:1 call from the teacher. Zooms started around week 12 too - half an hour once a week. Very little learning in it. No encouragement or expectations from class teacher about learning - eg to use online classes - inc Oak Academy and no expectation of the time that children should be learning each day. Some have clearly spent weeks and weeks playing roadblox and doing very little else. No weekly email to encourage the children or motivate them or remind them of particular learning points they should be remembering. NO work has been sent in or marked so no feedback to children the whole time - no feedback means any errors may now be embedded NO support given to parents - or any understanding that parents might be working - we are not teachers - most want the best for their kids but those with multiple children at home have faced incredible pressures. Head - trying his best but clearly struggling in an academy environment with challenging buildings and some teachers! Vulnerable families aren't the usual suspects in lockdown and newly vulnerable children could have gone totally under the radar. Not convinced the school has had eyes on all children regularly - have raised this as a serious safeguarding concern to our MP.'
909. 'I work for DWP and so have been working long hours in the office. My year 6 and year 10 child have been at home the whole period. Dad has been working from garden office so been on hand to feed but no homeschool. My 11 year old has only been set an hours work a day which is not challenging enough for him as he was exceeding in all subjects, we have had one call from his school and he has not been invited back until 20th July for 5 days! My 15 year old has had inconsistent quality in the follow up comments and interaction from teachers. She has been invited in for 2 hours to have a look at the new science block, no actual teaching. Live lectures have ongoing IT problems. Feel completely let down by both schools. Government is advising year 10 and year 6 children have been invited back to school this is not true. Feel extremely frustrated that myself and colleagues are working at pace, extra hours, cancelling leave to support vulnerable citizens and the Dept for Education is letting down our children. Both of my children have had 100% attendance, have always handed in homework, taken additional activities to prepare them for adult life. Daughter was keen to achieve the EBaccalaurate but it appears that the language element is not part of the

core subject support. Every effort is required to provide quality education to our children. 4 months have passed and there are only 7 school days left parents and students need a robust reassuring plan before the summer holidays start. I hope this helps with the voice of parents.'

910. 'The school staff (primary) have been brilliant during lockdown, but are working within extremely constrained physical areas - the school buildings are old, overcrowded and inadequate. Class sizes up to 38. The school is taking as many children as they can with the current guidelines, but less than half the roll. Online work is provided, and printed if needed, but when my kids were at home they did little work as they need a lot of support and I have a job to do (WFH full time) and it is impossible to do both as a single parent. The online work is comprehensive (we never managed more than half of it), and feedback is given via email or Google classroom every few days. The y4 child had online meetups with the class, weekly to start with and then more regular. The y1 child did not - all school interaction relied on me which was hard but inevitable for that age. Now they are both in school (4days pw since mid june) and our lives have improved immeasurably. I fear a repeat - my employer was sympathetic to start but patience wears thin after a while. The children's behaviour was terrible while they were off school, as they never had enough attention. My work productivity was massively reduced. I spent a lot on extra IT equipment and online tutoring to try and make things smoother, fortunately I had the means. It helped a little perhaps. The real problem throughout was my time - there was never enough of it to go round. My youngest, year 1, has struggled with the social distancing at school. It upsets him and makes him less engaged with the class. He is slowly getting used to it. I don't know how the school staff are managing to support online and face to face learning simultaneously - it must be a lot of extra workload. I am so grateful the school staff are so dedicated and caring. I am sure they are going above and beyond right now, with zero extra funding.'
911. 'No support for kids with SEN throughout lockdown. No plan for how to meet their needs IF they go back.'
912. 'Primary school. Year 4. Monday: Reading comprehension. Tuesday: Maths- was sending a written lesson but now two white rose maths lessons, worksheets and two lessons on my maths. Wednesday- science; Earthquakes, teeth, digestion. Kahoot quiz Thursday. English- story writing. Friday - homework. Spelling , arithmetic beat my score tests. A few videos of the teachers to watch. All week- spelling shed and times tables rockstars. Work sent by school ping. Takes 1-2 hours a day We have been supplementing with work books bought on Amazon, additional white rose maths, handwriting practise, BBC bitesize. Just started oak academy lessons. Both parents working full time from home. Mother has had several phone calls with teacher. No contact by phone between teacher and child but there has been some feedback by email in the last month around a written story and a book review.'
913. 'Home schooling has been nothing short of a nightmare. I have three children and I work 4 days a week, currently from home. My husband works full time from home. I have felt during this entire period that I have not done the best by my children, or by my own work perspective. Everyone has been fed up with the monotony of the same structure every day. What the children have missed out on socially has been horrendous. Every day has seen one

of them (or me) reduced to tears. My husband and I have constantly been arguing over whose job is more important, as we try to share the huge parental input needed for home schooling. We are fortunate that we have sufficient IT equipment as schools seem to expect everyone can work individually online - but I'm fully aware that this is not the case for most families. Whilst schools have provided some structure in terms of work, a lot of the burden has fallen on the parents to try and make it engaging. It taken every ounce of strength not to snap at the children who are just asking questions about their school work, or making a noise having fun with each other as they aren't interacting with their classmates. One of my children is lucky enough to be in a year group that went back in the middle of June. This has helped as it means I only have to split myself between my job and 2 children, but has caused upset for the other 2 desperate to go back. Schools have struggled to adapt to the changing guidance put into place by the government regarding reopening and have had to focus on key child childcare so in my opinion, are having to put more responsibility for education on parents. In summary, the government policy over schools during this period has been a national disgrace. It has downplayed the importance of education and no support has been given whatsoever to parents who have had to continue to work but aren't counted as key workers. How can it possibly be right that people in this country can now drink in a pub but our children still can't go to school?'

914. 'With a Y1 and Y2 child at home whilst we both try and work full time has been harder than I could ever imagine. It became clear within the first few weeks that trying to work to a timetable and educate my children whilst trying to work was impossible. As a working parent we already face the guilt of not always being available to our children; you go to work and try to operate as if work was your only priority, when you are at home your children are the only priority. So when these two worlds collide it has torn us. It is not just the academic side that has worried us, but the massive emotional toll it has taken on them with missing friends and learning. We have done our best every day to try and make the day enjoyable whilst also trying to have work meetings and give employees no excuse to think we are not available. I have ended up working longer hours and weekends to just make sure I don't drop the ball. Most days I end it feeling emotionally and physically drained, knowing the next day will just be the same. Our children desperately need the routine of school and a return to their friendship groups. I cannot even contemplate the devastation they will feel if we have to say they do not go back in the autumn. Access to education is a promise we all need to keep for our children. There can be no excuses.'

915. 'We have both been working from home full time while I've been schooling our 4 year old with limited resources from the school (they just printed some stuff from Twinkl and we had to figure it out for ourselves). I had to teach myself & do internet research first, then teach my son, and because he is only 4 I can't leave him to work on his own! I'm usually resilient and have no mental health problems, but the experience resulted in chest tightness due to anxiety, stress and often feeling depressed and overwhelmed. I felt I was failing my son and failing at my job. My son is now in school for 24hrs a week and we've been told normal service (including wraparound care) will return in September, this is a HUGE relief! The thought of a second lockdown terrifies me, I can't do it again!'

916. 'I have 7 year old twins in year 2 and a child in year 6 who went back on the 1st June 4 days per week. From the 20th March to 1st of June we had no work set from school and no contact. We just got links sent out such as bitesize. They didn't even suggest Oak Academy which luckily I discovered myself over Easter and had all 3 doing the lessons each day. Luckily we are in the fortunate position of having 3 kindles and 3 sets of headphones. Since the 1st June school has given a weekly plan of learning but it is becoming harder and harder to engage my twins. I feel at the moment that my relationship with children, in particular with my boys has been destroyed. I have shouted more, they have shouted more, I have cried, they have cried. The stress has been immense. I have given up my job as a curtain maker as I need plenty of space and peace and quiet - all of which have gone. Finally I am very anxious that next term will be much the same as this once colds and other viruses set in. I can see they will all be back after 5 mins !'

917. 'Until recently, we have been managing home schooling of our child who is in EYFS and our younger child who is 21 months old, alongside two full-time jobs at home. We are currently still working full-time with both children on shorter hours than normal and with no extended school support or wraparound care. Home learning has been particularly difficult alongside two full-time, time-consuming and high pressure jobs. Our eldest child was relatively engaged in the learning and the school provided a lot of paper-based resources supplemented by access to an app for reading books and maths and lots of suggestions for other online resources. There was also some reinforcement from the school in terms of weekly emails, some videos from teaching staff, a phone call to see how our child was and a second phone call about them returning to school. We appreciated the efforts that the school has gone to, but it has still been mentally and physically exhausting. My husband and I essentially did shifts looking after our children during the day and then both worked every evening. On an average day, we were lucky if we helped our child to get through 50% of what the school had proposed. I'm not sure whether they have progressed to the level that the school were anticipating before schools closed. Some days they would not want to do anything, other days we would have to abandon activities partway through as they would get frustrated. We also used to have to cram a lot into a short hour in the afternoon whilst our younger child usually had a nap. Often the more creative activities that the school had proposed would never get looked at. We have certainly debated and argued with our older child far more than we would normally. They have both had to get used to us disappearing to work and not being able to put them more clearly first when we are with them. The lack of boundaries between work and home have, I think, had a negative impact on them and are certainly significantly influencing their perception of home. It is better now that we have 5 hours during the working day when both children are at school and nursery. However, we are continuing to try to have our elder child read as it's not clear that the school are able to do much reading as a result of the social distancing restrictions and we are still juggling working in the afternoons once school has finished (3pm four days a week, 12:00 one day). We are concerned for September as we are desperate for the children to be at school and in childcare for their educational, social and personal development as much as enabling us to work as well. The school cannot make any commitments about extended school hours and cannot currently run the provision as they cannot mix the bubbles between years.'

918. 'I have been working all the way through luckily my boy is 14. He was told that it was not a holiday and any work set should be completed. The school used class charts system which they usually list homework on and set some tasks there... They then started live lessons which were a bit of a flop and not much done and teachers just logging on telling them to do certain tasks and thats it.... Calls from school kept asking if my son was doing 5 hours a day and my reply was if you are setting him 5 hours work then he is! But in reality approx 5 hours worth of work each week is probably all they were set... Now they lost live lessons in maths, science and english so they lost 3 hours to be replace with approx 2 hours of actual face to face lessons in a big hall with 1/4 of his year group... I had no feedback about whether he was completing work or whether what he was set was any good, dont think he had much either.. I feel really annoyed as my son is supposed to do GCSEs next year without having studying everything for the course.. I feel GCSEs should be on the same basis as this years an allocated grade based on their class work.... Even though i can help my son he doesnt want me to as he says i am his mum not his teacher!'
919. 'We have had little feedback from teachers, some of the work makes little sense. Some has spelling/grammar mistakes. Some you can't load/access. My daughter yr7 has not spoken directly to any teachers for nearly 4 months. She is unmotivated and has no interest in any sort of leaning/school work. She needs to be in school I am not a teacher, I have my own work to do. If teaching is such an important job how can you expect unqualified parents to do it full time'
920. 'Both the infant and junior school have been very good at setting (a lot) of work each week; junior school has even set topic, PE and music! But all their planning has to be resourced and mediated by ME - the chn cannot do the work independently. I am a very experienced special needs teacher (working p/t; and through lockdown working 6am-9am and 3pm-6pm) so I am experienced in organising resources, sticking to a routine, reward charts, re-mediating material etc. We have all worked very hard! I fear for families where parents are working from home f/t, or where there is not the experience of teaching to support and encourage the chn. Much of the school work relies on tech e.g. a laptop or a printer - we only have one laptop and no working printer so all the learning has had to be on screen for the older child (which has been a very tiring medium) and on paper for the younger - they both can't have the tech at the same time. Schools must not be locked down again. The chn will have missed nearly six months of sch by Sept. They need to be back in a classroom interacting with their peers and beloved teachers. I wholeheartedly agree with the comment in the BBC article that just because parents have not complained does not mean that we do not object - I object very strongly to the current situation and the lack of planning surrounding the phased return. It has been impossible to have my voice heard: I have written to my MP, the DfE, BBC...so I was very pleased to find you today. With only some chn returned to school so many more children are missing out. It is a very unequal situation with different schools managing the phased return very differently. If the social distancing bubbles had been scrapped in school from 1st June then all chn would have had the opportunity to get back to school, but the decision not to do this has created a huge barrier to them coming back in. My youngest is back only x2/wk; the eldest not at all. We are counting down to September!'

921. 'I work from home, I own my own company and have 2 children. Home schooling has been a Nightmare. I feel I cannot concentrate on my my job, ensure our company survives and be a teacher/mentor. My children are not motivated, they cannot apply themselves at home and my younger one has completely lost interest in any sort of leaning. My older child is struggling with mental health issues and is now panicking as to how they can catch up. The added pressure is unfair, they need reassurance that something will be adjusted for 2021 exams.'

922. 'Some aspects of home schooling have been positive: really getting to grips with where children are in their learning/ what they understand or don't understand. We have found in some ways the time away from the classroom and the pressure of where the child sits in relation to their peers to be good for our kids. It's allowed them to work at their own pace and catch up. It makes me so angry that the governments first message back to parents is about fining us if we don't send children back to school in September. And no doubt fines will continue for taking kids out for holidays in the future. How dare they? Parents have shown themselves capable of home schooling their own children and so much of the primary curriculum is best done outside of the classroom (arts / science -particularly natural science/ languages etc) That said, it has taken a huge amount of effort on our part (the parents) to plan work for the kids to do each day. This on top of working too. Work has not stopped during lockdown and this has been hugely stressful. We have generally done as much work as possible after the kids have gone to bed, which has meant some really long days for us over an extended period.'

923. 'It has been the most difficult few months trying to balance working from home full time and care/home school 2 young children. Personally my stress levels have been very high and having no support with child care has not helped. My school shared very little and no structure for instance online sessions, had there been something I could set my kids to do with such support I may have had some time to actually do some work and avoid working evenings and weekends to catch up.'

924. 'I work full time and during COVID I have been home schooling my 4yr old and 6yr old. I and a successful business woman, high achiever and a good mum. Yet this time period has broken me. My workload has increased due to the support my business has needed to help us 'rebound' from COVID. On top of that I have had to educate two different year groups, with work sent home for all subjects for both children. My children are my motivation and my priority however my work is what funds us and keeps a roof over our heads. I have consistently been working 10-12 hour days to keep on top of my workload, on top of that any breaks I have between calls and workload I squeeze in whatever home learning I can. My children's education and wellbeing has been compromised beyond belief. I feel I have sacrificed my own well-being, their education and their wellbeing to ensure I can stay in work. I am disgusted that businesses have not reduced the expectations of working parents, I am disappointed that I have spent my whole career leaning in and in my time of need nothing has been done to support us. I am devastated by the impact this time is having on my family. We need to do something different should we ever face this situation again.'

925. 'Our kids invented a coronaholiday instead of homeschooling. We decided to effectively go along with that, as our efforts at homeschooling were less than effective. Our son has ASD and often has challenging behaviours when faced with any changes to his routines, including our attempts at homeschooling. Due to school not wanting the hassle of additional work to meet my son's needs, he has no Education Healthcare Plan and therefore did not qualify for care during the pandemic, despite being on SEN register. Both myself and my husband are key workers, but the school had refused to offer place, as my husband can work from home and therefore was told to look after the children at the same time. Our efforts concentrated on keeping everyone as happy as possible, however we had to reduce hours at work and therefore reduce our income too. And this in addition to having to pay for own essential PPE, as work has not been sufficiently provided by the government. Oh, I forgot to mention that the homeschooling had to be done during my pneumonia that lasted about 3 months. After about that time I got a very supportive email from school asking how we were doing and if we required a supportive telephone call that could be arranged if needed. Do I think kids should go back to school from September? Yes, but without the sanctions for the parents who decide otherwise.'

926. 'Sure, there has been difficulty, however such an insane amount of people have been dying at this time, and so many other lives debilitated by this awful illness. Yet more devastated by dreadful loss. At this time our priority has been to keep our family alive. With ones in our family who are even more vulnerable, this has meant living in isolation for almost four calendar months. It has definitely been a tricky time in many ways, phenomenally difficult to keep to keep work afloat (some work things have been impossible) whilst keeping our young children as happy and secure-feeling and as educated as possible in this new reality. However we wish to be alive at the end of the pandemic. If we are alive, we can keep building afterwards. For this reason we were absolutely grateful for schools being closed. Even if children might not in general get so seriously ill, some do, fatally so, and also there is a great likelihood of children carrying this disease home from school, everyday having been in contact with children with their own beautiful, complicated networks behind them, full personal choices of what is a safe way to behave at the moment, and thus of potential infection. Don't get me wrong - I grieve for many things my children will have permanently missed out on - especially now with others rushing to schools and nurseries. Some days the guilt is phenomenal for not having been able to offer a fully focused schooling time. Due to other commitments of us adults, some days there has been little schooling, other days a surprisingly wide curriculum has been covered. We have seen this as okay in the circumstances. Above and beyond all has been a focus on happiness and feeling secure and living in love during this time. This has felt most important. Prioritising sanity and love. Children are phenomenally amazing, I deeply believe they will bounce back from this unusual experience. Due to our personal fears due to greater vulnerability in the family, we would prefer to have the choice come September, seeing how safe the world is then, whether we send our children back to the lovely institution of school, or keep juggling at home. We deeply wish for the world to be safe again. In the meanwhile, we would like to keep our right to do what feels right to actually keep everyone alive. We may not be so vocal as those who oppose

keeping safety measures, however this is because we are also phenomenally busy trying to keep our heads above water at this time, staying afloat.'

927. 'In terms of "home learning" provided by our children's school, we received the following: - Reception: Prior to our child's return to school on 15 June, we received a (nearly) weekly list of activities to do with our child, this focused crafts and art work. We were also provided with links to websites. Our son's teacher posted 2 videos on "Tapestry" each under a minute in length. We received 1 phone call from our son's teacher, this was less than 5 minutes in length. This, in addition to a small selection of worksheets provided on the last day of school (20 March), was the entirety of the support provided during the 3 months our son was not in school. - Year 5: The school provides 4 worksheets of White Rose maths each week on its website. It has provided 1 set of slides on each of the following topics: Greece, Greek myths and plant germination. Each year 5 teacher (there are 2) has recorded 1 YouTube video in which they read (no teaching, just reading). We have received 3 phone calls from our son's teacher. There has been zero use of online interfaces to engage with or teach children. We have received three workbooks from the school and a handful of novels. Until we complained and insisted (after 3 months of virtually no engagement), there was absolutely no opportunity to submit work or receive any feedback. In my view the quantity of work is low and its quality has been pathetic. Schools have abandoned their pupils and I simply can't imagine that what has been provided amounts to any more than an honest morning's work once a week for any teacher. Where the schools have not insisted on it, the teachers have not provided any support to their pupils. This became appallingly clear when our son's Year 5 tutor offered us as much online tutoring as we were willing to pay for during school hours because his school did not expect him to do anything more than turn up 1 day a week for key workers' children. As parents who both work full time, the government's policy and the school's absence of support have put us in an impossible situation. Of course, this weighs predictably the hardest on working mothers. Women are presumed by policy makers and schools to be on full-time standby, ready to assume full time childcare, whenever school is out. The government's shockingly biased policy response to covid-19 that means children, who are otherwise the lowest risk, bear the heaviest burden demonstrates a complete failure to make grown-up decisions, valuing real priorities like education over the pathetic popularity contest of opening pubs, cafes, hair dressers and foreign holidays. Our children have been taught a miserable lesson about what is valuable and valued. We are going to reap what this government has sown.'

928. 'It has been incredibly hard and if I thought about the impact on all the children in the country then it makes me want to cry. If schools don't open in September then I don't know how we will cope. I have 2 boys (year 7 and year 5). My husband works long hours and I work 4 days. I have had to focus on my job, but then I feel guilty that I can't support my children with their work. My year 5 is set tasks that need my input, so we have stopped even trying. School have never seemed interested in whether we are doing it or not. We are fortunate to be able to pay for a tutor for him for one hour a week and have decided we will see how behind he is in September and go from there. My son is unmotivated, has been up and down emotionally, but is surviving on the thought that school will restart in September. My year 7 has been struggling to manage the work set by teachers. He has recently had a couple of on-

line lessons, but most has been homework style tasks. He got behind and that affected him as he struggled to then keep going. He is also demoralised. He is definitely not doing enough work, but seems to spend hours looking into space. If I try to get involved we have arguments. I am his mother and he doesn't view me in the same way as a teacher. They have both missed friends and are not doing enough exercise either. Too much time is spent gaming, but that is a way to 'be with' their friends. We have been fortunate that we do not have money worries. I don't know how some families have coped.'

929. 'We have 3 primary school aged stated educated children. My husband and I both work. We have postgraduate qualifications. I (mum) have reduced my hours by 20% to do the home schooling, though my husband has been contributing to 50% of childcare. We realised early on that neither we nor our children could devote more than a morning to any 'learning' set by the school. The school has just been sending us packs of learning materials and activities - no face to face lessons, or even check-ins with the children. From the week of 8th June my youngest (Reception-age) has been going back to school 2 days a week from 8:45-2:45. The biggest challenge has been juggling the demands for 1:1 support from my Reception-aged child, who has enormous difficulties with fine-motor skills, with giving any support or guidance to the other two, who have simply missed out on any kind of teaching. My eldest is very aggressive in his refusal to do things that he doesn't want to do and unstimulated in the home environment, and my middle one is very sensitive to criticism - so all in all this has been a recipe for disaster. Trying to juggle homeschool and work (not to mention running a household - cooking, clearing up, laundry) has been stressful, conflictual and exhausting, and has left me with zero emotional resources to interact with my children in any kind of playful way. This time has had a negative relationship on all our family relationships.'

930. 'It is totally unrealistic to expect parents to home school and work. Both me and my husband are working and it's impossible to support the kids as well. I'm a key worker and could have put my children into school but the schools strongly requested we only did this if we weren't working at home, and the children desperately didn't want to go in. I have subsequently been desperate and requested they go in, but have been asked to continue to support them by home schooling. We are both working from morning until late at night, and pop in to see the kids in-between. I am on back to back conference calls, and barely get a comfort break, it's impossible to support the kids or even get lunch some days. We try to support the kids, but my youngest needs you to sit with him for work, and we don't have this time. The kids are increasingly unmotivated, and depressed. It's really hard to try and keep their mental well-being positive, when you have no time and have 20 hours of weekly school work looming over you that hasn't been done. We end up helping the kids with school work in the evenings and weekends and it dominates any free time we have as the kids have got behind. It's impossible to police what the kids are doing, and they are just watching you tube videos. You can't limit access to technology as that is what they are using for school work. We need to somehow limit access to anything other than school work and links related to work in school hours. Our WiFi is awful and can't manage all 4 of us using it, which means conference calls don't work and work takes a lot longer to download. This is very stressful. We end up working at midnight when no one else is using the WiFi. The kids can't use the PS4 when

we're working as the WiFi can't cope, which is a big source of stress. When we aren't working they want to go on PS4, which makes it very hard to have any quality family time. My son desperately misses his friends and sport and has dark days of depression and anger. The school holidays only mean they have less to do while we work and more arguments about the WiFi. The schools have done a very good job in setting up regular lessons, and worked hard to adapt. But the kids need the structure and enforcement from schools to engage in the lessons. Regular online lessons would be much better, but our WiFi can't handle this. Teenagers do not want to do what their parents say, and definitely don't want to spend every day with them. They need some social interaction, and this has been badly compromised. It's been hell, and I wouldn't wish it on anyone. I feel overwhelmed and my parenting is completely compromised and it's very hard for me to put the kids needs first. My job is such that there isn't flexibility and workload is huge due to Covid, and home schooling is totally unrealistic. I'm now being asked to do work oncall evenings and weekends which is when I do home schooling which i don't see how I can do. Some days I feel like I don't have a minute of free time, and work all the time. I cry at least twice a week due to feeling overwhelmed and stressed, due to too much work and homeschooling. Thank you for the opportunity to share my pain!'

931. 'We have two boys aged 12 and 15. Both struggle at school and (I only say this because it is a factor) both are adopted. I run my own consultancy business from a home office, my wife has a separate business in a unit over the road - we've both been working full time through lockdown. From the outset we faced resistance to school work. Despite the fact that my wife used to be a primary teacher and we have five degrees between us we found it impossible to get them to engage. The school sets work every day via Firefly in line with the established timetable and, because they were both adopted, a TA was assigned to each of them to help them through the tasks. But with communication with the TAs only via email or text (and an occasional phone call) it was all too easy for the boys to avoid communicating and doing the work. And the lessons set are long on the written word (an obstacle when reading is not a strength) and often make use of youtube videos with all the distractions that that platform brings. As a result the older boy did nothing and the younger boy did a bare minimum to a very low standard. I spoke to the Head asking for more engaging lessons and live video teaching but he said they couldn't do that due to broadband capacity, the lack of integration between Firefly and MS Teams and the teaching unions. So we were largely on our own. In mid June I wrote in my lockdown journal "It's impossible getting xxxxx to do school work. He immediately gets very aggressive, shouting, swearing, hitting things, storming around. My stress levels rocket upwards and we're immediately into conflict. Trying to get him to even find a password to login in to whatever the task is becomes a major problem which he will use to march out of the room, slamming doors, hurling abuse and swearing. It's really really horrible and why we so often avoid the homework issue altogether. It's altogether easier and happier to let him play Fortnite or stay in his room watching YouTube. Then of course, when things are calmer, we feel guilty for not managing to help him more, to make sure he gets his work done. We're totally trapped between social pressure that expects every child to do their school work at home, and the stress and effective violence that actually trying to get him to do it entails." In the last week I've managed to get him to sit in my office for 2 hours every morning to do some work. I have to supervise every minute of

this. So not only do I lose those hours of work but I find it incredibly disruptive to my own work pattern and productivity through the rest of the day. I could not have sustained that through lockdown. We need them back in school!’

932. ‘I’m a personal trainer with two young children. I have had to stop working to homeschool them both. They receive 3 tasks from school everyday which we need to make sure they complete and upload as soon as they finish. We hardly get much feedback from the teachers, only saw the teacher on Zoom twice in the space of last two weeks. My kids had lost all motivation for school work is the first couple of months of lockdown so have had to resort to online tutoring: my elder child gets English, Maths and Science tutoring during term time. This has improved his will to study which we are thankful for, but it also means that we have had to spend more on education.’
933. ‘Fantastic! Have enjoyed every second of it. Going ways to engage the children ensuring learning takes ok place at an enhanced standard to over crowded under funded schools. Our relationships are even closer and we will look to maintain home educating in the future. However, as you are only interested in the horror stories you will no doubt totally disregard this because it doesn't fit with your agenda.’
934. ‘Homeschooling has been incredibly difficult. Our school support was very poor. The first two weeks, we were faced with way too much work. In response to parents comments they went the other way, and offered very little material to work with. Once the schools opened for some year groups, the support was almost non existing! There was no follow up on work handed out, no expectations, no interaction, almost no interest! The excuse was teachers very busy with the children at school. As if the years that had to stay at home had less rights that "the chosen ones". I fear for the huge step back my son has taken on this year, but I fear more for his mental health and the consequences of no social interaction over these long six months. School must open in September, whatever it takes!’
935. ‘My daughter has absolutely loved going back to school. The school have been amazing, they’ve considered safety as a priority. They have staggered breaks, start times and finish times which has worked really well. The only challenge is she has only been in 2 days a week because of the rules. She needs to be in 4 or 5 days from September otherwise she will suffer and as working parents we will struggle to too.’
936. ‘Son in year 9, and has become increasingly disinterested in the school work. He has been getting work set for the subjects he would be doing that day, but nothing interactive. A couple of teachers have been recording their voices using Loom but this isn't across all lessons. Feedback from teachers has got less and less as the weeks have gone on, presumably because more have had to go into school for the few children allowed back. Lessons and feedback haven't been great and son is visibly losing interest in learning. Struggle to understand why private schools have been able to get around safeguarding issues and do online lessons throughout lockdown but state schools haven't. Worry for the work being missed and future learning.’

937. 'Frustrating. My kids really don't engage with the online Oak Academy work (they find the videos too long and just worked off the work sheets) and were completely disengaged with them (previously they have loved schooling). We decided to stop these a few weeks ago and work instead on work sheets from Twinkl which they enjoy much more. I feel the school could have engaged with us far more (they started MS Team calls for one week but then had to stop due to 'safeguarding issues'). This is also frustrating as other schools are able to do this. I feel there could - and should - be more consistency between what schools offer. Friends have daily emails sent to them by their schools and weekly MS Team calls whilst we have had none of this. Surely if some schools can offer it then all schools could offer it? If they work/speak together Surely they can share the work needed for this? Found it difficult to complain to the school we appreciate they are going through a lot and trying to manage things, but do feel more could be done (and hopefully will be better by Sept)'
938. '2 children (8&12) has been so difficult to home school. Not being a teacher it takes extra time to try and help on subjects you have little or no knowledge. Partner is a key worker so not about, I've recently returned to work just before lockdown after months of with stress and anxiety. Both kids energy and enthusiasm has slowly disappeared and has become harder each day to motivate them and keep doing a full time job. Mental health for me has gone in reverse after working hard to improve along with the health (mental & physical) of both kids. Being unable for them to socialise and discuss ideas in a classroom has affected their ability to learn. Further lockdown in September would have a massive impact on family members and their health and relationships. Home schooling does not work for extended periods. Parents are not teachers and can't be expected to hold down a job and educate their children.'
939. 'I have three children, aged 7, 5 and 3. The 5 year old has SEN. We were expected to keep him off from school during lockdown despite the fact that my understanding was that children with SEN could still attend. He has 1-to-1 support in school; the best we could do is 3-to-1 at home. He and the 3 year old (nursery class) have mostly followed the same curriculum, but a lot of the 5 year old's work involved writing. Only after struggling to get him to do any writing for 2 months did his teacher tell me he won't write unless he can see his classmates doing it. I was told by his teacher that for him school was largely social and he wouldn't get that because the other children would be off. I don't know what that says about education at the school. The 7 year old was given a full weekly timetable. There is no way this is manageable for any parent with children of different key stages to teach. I am a qualified teacher and I still found it incredibly hard. I am studying for a MA, which very much fell by the wayside and I ended up very behind with my coursework and rushing it. The children's father sees my studies as a hobby and far less important than his paid job, so mostly I have had to sacrifice my work to teach the children. I get that times have been tough for teachers too, but expectations have been far too high and the parental anxiety is enormous. I'm not primary trained, I've not taught for 8 years, and I cannot do my own work and that of three different teachers. We've been told for years that even an afternoon off school is damaging to our children, but we are somehow not supposed to worry about 6 months off. Most resources have been online and we've been encouraged to download 20+ apps for school work. We have one old tablet computer which has no free memory so this has been impossible. When Reception class could return we told the school we wanted our 5 year old to return. I was rung 3 times

by his teacher telling me how the other children would be missing for him, and very much felt like I was being encouraged not to send him back at all. We persisted. We were aware that nurseries were returning but initially the school refused to take our 3 year old (nursery class) back. The whole thing is a shambles. We've sacrificed the future and attainment of our nation's children for the sake of measures that have been ineffective at saving many lives. I'm devastated for my children's education and my own.'

940. 'Myself and my partner are lucky enough that we are both able to work from home. My experience of this prolonged period of us home schooling our 2 primary school children is one of extreme frustration. I feel I am unable to perform at my best in my job and also struggle to teach the children. The children are set work from their school, they also are in contact via zoom for a weekly assembly. The set work cannot be performed independently so requires us to help. On top of the education side of things I am concerned for the social aspect of them not mixing with their peers for this amount of time. Additional concerns are the holiday clubs that are not able to open. Also, when schools open in September there is no guarantee of wrap around care, making a return to the office or a full working day impossible. We are very frustrated that the government are prioritising reopening of pubs, cinemas and gyms ahead of our children's education.'

941. 'Child in year 6. No contact at all with his teacher. Work set on google classroom. Very unimaginative work, no flow and all sitting looking at a sheet on the computer rather than anything interactive. Work was never sent in to school to be marked or commented on, so no motivation. Aware that other schools across the country have managed to do online classes, interactive lessons so struggle to understand why that cant happen at all schools. Son visibly switched off to learning, until we decided to send him back to school. The only time he enjoyed his homeschooling was when he did Maths via,What's app with my Mum.'

942. 'I am a qualified architect, Higher Education teacher and school governor but have felt there have been two huge challenges with regards to homeschooling. 1. Wondering if I'm getting the homeschooling right. Too much? Too little? What are others doing? Is my children's school getting it right? Are my children falling behind? Should their emotional welfare be absolute priority? Should homeschooling be priority over my work etc? 2. Juggling homeschooling with my own work, looking after myself, my marriage, my family, friends etc etc At times this has been utterly overwhelming and definitely reduced me to tears on too many occasions. I feel there has been far too much inconsistency between different schools.'

943. 'I have one child at primary school and 2 at secondary school, the eldest is due to take GCSE's next year. I also am the main breadwinner and work full-time (from home at the moment). Due to my role my workload has massively increased to the extent I am working 50-60 hours a week regularly. My husband works outside, so he is not home during the day. I don't think the government understand the ridiculous amount of pressure this is putting on families. I don't have the time to spend helping my kids with work, because I am so busy with my role - and not doing my job is not an option. Consequently I spend most of my time telling them to Google things, or shushing them because I am on a call, which makes me feel like the worst parent. They are also not learning as much as they would have been at school. My

eldest only goes into school 1 afternoon per week, although they do have 10 hours of online lessons a week now. I worry about the impact on his exams - I am in HR and I know that when he goes for jobs, no employer is going to give him the benefit of the doubt against other applicants from different years who have got better GCSE results because they had the full 2 years of teaching. They will just go for the best results. This could have a big impact on his future and there doesn't seem to be any plan to mitigate this. My middle one in year 8 has had no face to face teaching at all since lockdown started. I have people who work for me with kids, and emotionally and mentally everyone is struggling to cope, so I don't feel it's just me. And I'm lucky, I do have a level of education to be able to help the kids, when I can; and we have been able to afford to buy tech so that they each had a device to work on. For those who don't have this, it must be even harder. They MUST go back to school in September - they cannot leave children adrift for this long. I also know people on furlough, and their experience has been different - they talk about their kids having happy memories of this time together. For those of us working, I think that the memories are likely to be of stressed parents, shouting and battles, which is so sad. We planned to build in time for 'life skills' and teach them other things other than academic subjects, but workload has meant that is impossible. I have got to the point of thinking, I just can't do this anymore. If I'm honest, they are not going to be able to do social distancing in schools - they just have to accept it can't happen and go ahead anyway. I can't see there is any other choice - carrying on like this is more damaging to children and parents than the risk of the virus.'

944. 'I have 2 sons and I work full time. The remote learning experience for us has been a success. The school worked hard to adapt its systems to provide access to materials and work for students. The teachers worked to a daily routine of setting work and then reviewing it once submitted. The school used a combination of pre-set work and a small number of live sessions, they learned and changed this over time and it was effective. There was a focus on maths and English but other subjects were covered, rotating through the week. Teachers were able to use a range of media to teach, from video clips (including recordings they made themselves) to links to online worksheets. Follow up on work was reasonably good - some teachers provided higher quality feedback than others but overall not bad. If we needed to contact any teacher / the school they were very responsive. Our children have actually enjoyed the remote learning. It took them a week or so to settle in. We have been pleased that this has given them the opportunity to learn to work far more independently, and also they have had to learn how to manage and organise their own time and work through tasks efficiently. This is an important skill and they would not have developed it as well / at this stage. Obviously there is a richness to the normal school experience and benefit of them being with other children, and we look forward to normal school. In terms of my ability to manage my job and remote learning, this has gone well. I have clearly communicated to the children what I can / cannot do during the day - and when and I can and cannot be available. I have given them support during the times I am not working (evening) as I would in normal times anyway. We have always taken a very active interest in the children's school work and supported them through homework / reviewing areas they needed to work on. Now is no different. As noted above, they have been forced to learn how to work well more independently and this has been good for them. As a result, I have been able to deal with my (very busy) job. My husband is also busy with his work - between the 2 of us we have found

ways to help the children as required but still get our own work done. My children are aged 10 and 12. I think that they are at a very good age for being able to operate more independently, with the extra 'push' to do so that this situation has delivered. It would be different with far younger children. I want you to have this positive story. This has actually been a good experience for our family and we have thrived as a result, enjoying the extra time we have had together.'

945. 'Homeschooling has been a nightmare. Both working parents, both able to work at home, both capable and intelligent adults. 2 kids (7 and 11) with different needs. Very difficult to get the oldest to do anything, to work out what he can get away with, no proactive input from school (secondary), but have been sent full curriculum of work to do. No marking, support only if specifically request it. only recently started online lessons and even then for 1 or 2 subjects only. For younger child, tiny amounts of work, no proactive contact, newsletters from school about what a wonderful time key stage worker kids etc having, little recognition that there is a whole school full of kids out there who are stuck at home doing nothing, little, something...who knows? no info requested from schools about what kids are doing. There are a whole world of parents like me, too exhausted and confused to complain but who are starting to feel very angry about the poor direction and delivery of home schooling work, and lack of a plan to give to schools about what is going to happen. I am very happy to talk to anyone about our experiences, now that we have basically stopped caring about trying to deliver the curriculum, we have more mental energy to feel angry. reduced to tears...that's not the half of it!!! selected secondary below, but we have kids of both primary and secondary school age.'

946. 'The school have been with responding to email, setting work and responding accordingly. They have kept us well in formed of the process' and procedures and the way forward as best they can. The experience of homeschooling and working has been okay my daughter has been diligent and getting on whilst i have been working -unfortunately my experience is that part time mothers have been the first ones hit by furloughing and discrimination in regards to jobs. Personally the guilt has weighed heavily on me that i should have been able to cope better in the early days however being a single mum i felt further discrimated when i needed to feel supported - there was a total lack of understanding on not only the impact on our children missing theyre friends from colleagues (many of whom dont have children) the two other staff out of 15 that did have children had other partners to rely on to split the homeschooling with. Work for me was a way to focus my energy on helping the business and retaining a wage for myself and my daughter, now its a constant worry being on furlough that i will not go back that discrimination has taken place and that the financial struggle of the last 4 years is et to continue for the foreseeable years and potentially now without a job. My job role in architecture is very specific but still a 'job for the boys' environment unfortunately which doesnt help with confidence.'

947. 'It has been unbearable homeschooling a 5 & 10 year old whilst still working a 40hr week from home, it has been a battle to keep my 2 engaged and motivated, I can physically see they are falling behind which keeps me awake at night. They are further impacted by the lack of social and emotional integrations they get from their peers. My husband is a key

worker who is working 7 days a week whilst I juggle childcare, education, keeping the home/cooking and a full time job. The longer this is going on the less school work is being provided but also completed, no one has ever marked or even checked the school work in which my son will use as a response to why bother doing it?! Whilst I am very worried about the physical impact of Covid we are now venturing into a more worry side effect of it which is all of our mental well-being.'

948. 'As parents, we are always proactive and supportive of our children's education. When lockdown came we were determined to make sure their education continued no matter what happened. However, this has come at an extreme financial cost to us as a family. As parents, we are both self-employed and work from home. Neither of us qualified for much financial support from the government, and therefore chose to accept none. We therefore adapted our business to suit so we could continue earning throughout lockdown. This meant (with school work) we were working 16-17 hour days, 7 days a week for the first 6/7 weeks of lockdown. We knew this wasn't sustainable, but we did our best. After this time we realised we couldn't do both, so we cut down our work (drastically) to support the children, with obvious financial consequences this brought. Our biggest issue is all along has been how the senior school distributes and marks the work, and the lack of consistency between teachers, and their approach. Some teachers were happy to issue little/no work at first. Some emailed it, where as some placed it on an internal drive the children could access. Some teachers marked homework, some didn't. Some wanted it uploading, some didn't. Some used workbooks that were issued before lockdown, some didn't. Some gave individual feedback, some gave class feedback. Some work needed us to have a coloured printer (new printer required!), some didn't. Now feedback lessons are done remotely (why not learning lessons!!), but no visual of the teacher, just a blank screen, which isn't very engaging for the children. Overall, a bit of a nightmare for us as a family I'm afraid. We accept that these have been difficult times for everyone, but with a little more thought, and direction this could have been so much easier. If I were a principal of a senior school, I would have ensured that all the teaching staff communicated to the children via one method only (email). They would return work via one method (email). The work would be marked, and individual feedback given via email. Children and (parents) like consistency. Anyway, we are where we are, and we have survived with our sanity intact.....just!'
949. 'Really tough to engage year 4 boy. Year 6 sister thankfully why back to school for 4 days when able. No timetable until 3 months into the closure, no online lessons offered even when whole school closed. No evidence to say children get, or transmit covid-19.'
950. 'Please share your experience: Support from schools has been patchy depending on the enthusiasm of the teachers involved. Some have clearly worked throughout, but others can take days to respond to e-mails. Our son will sometimes have 4 art tasks to do a day, whereas he had about 3 music tasks in his first two months of homeschooling, Workloads are uneven with some days having a dozen tasks to be completed and days with little or no work at all. Some work has been set for weekends and holidays. There seems to be little discussion between teachers about producing a balanced timetable and curriculum. Contact has been patchy, with teachers depending on the pupils to contact them rather than the teacher taking

the lead. It was understandable in the first few weeks when we were all in a bit of shock, but 14 weeks in and we still have an unbalanced, incomplete timetable with little or no contact from school. It is also not unreasonable to expect that schools should be able to plan to reopen by September.. My wife and I have worked from home full time throughout. I have had to work evenings, weekends and bank holidays to make up for the time I am supervising my son. It has been a very intense period for all of us.'

951. 'My daughter is in year 5 and preparing to sit entry exams for the local grammar schools. As such her learning and skills are continually being tested and revising. The school have been great in setting specific tasks each day , a daily not compulsory Zoom call to do corrections, a lesson plan with all resources and answers. And all this by email every day so i can print out ready for the following day. My wife is a nurse manager so not around and am doing this myself - boy it was so stressful that and work and also managing the year 8 son. not to mention feeding them and generally house stuff! I lasted maybe 3 or 4 weeks doing the marking to some degree of all the work my very dedicated daughter would do. About the same time too for the creative extra-curricular things like painted logs etc (which should really have been the things we ought to have focused on) and then reverted to giving her the answers and her asking if there were any she found difficult. the whole thing has been stressful beyond belief.'

952. 'My husband works in finance for a travel company and I have my own business. We have a 7 year old. Home schooling has been very difficult. We have not had the support from my son's school like other state schools in the area. I have heard that other state primary schools (same year group) and been doing zoom lessons, I have no idea why our state school didn't offer this. Teachers who have been shielding could have run these lessons. My biggest complain is why are we having a summer holiday? ALL sectors have been working hard to keep businesses going and keep people in jobs. Teachers have had sympathy for the hard work they have been doing, but we are all up against it. I think it's completely wrong to have a summer holidays this year, working world shouldn't stop because kids are not at school for even longer. Teachers may not be paid as much as someone in the private sector, but they are more likely to have job security which most people in the private sector have not got. It's swings and roundabouts. Overall, the summer holidays is old fashioned, it was for the days when children needed to help on the fields. Four weeks is enough time off. The education system needs to change completely to keep up with the 21st century. The teacher union need to stop wrapping teachers up in cotton wool. There is no room in the UK for how controlling this union is. The education system is letting children down, parents down, and the economy down all because of the summer holidays.'

953. 'School very well organised and sending work from each subject on Teams. improved over first few weeks as they adapted and all subjects covered. The problem is I have year 7 12 year old boy who is not a self motivated learner. He needed maximum support to work through his emails and prioritise what to do each day and I had to be present to make sure he actually did any work. I got him though half a term of each subject while working both at home and on site in a hospital. Our relationship deteriorated. he became cross and frustrated and verbally and physically aggressive towards me. I feel I had a choice give him maximum

support and get him through the work or leave him to do it meaning he would do nothing (which I did not think was acceptable). I spent many occasions crying in a corner. Eventually as we are both key workers we sent him back to school. BUT they only take him for part of the day and as far as I can tell there is minimal focus on supporting him to get any work done. I don't expect teaching but would expect him to be set up in a quiet room to do what others are expected to do at home. Instead he has playtime for 4 hours which is great for his mental health but it means he now does no work and to be honest I have given up at home as it's not worth the stress.'

954. 'My daughter and I have found home schooling extremely challenging. A usually very quiet and well behaved 5 year old she was easily reduced to tears by the thought of doing school work at home. The provision that was provided by the school was excellent, and she is great whilst at school, but with home schooling her reading and writing has declined rapidly. She could be of a whole generation of children who grow up without a love of learning and enjoyment of reading. This is alongside the stress of trying to fit a whole working day into home schooling, which takes a couple of hours, and entertain a 3 year old at the same time.'

955. 'Quite well supported by school but not enough to last even for a morning so kids are bored and inactive by midday.'

956. 'The government has thrown schools and children to the wolves in their poorly thought out and often contrary approaches to dealing with the virus. We have the upmost sympathy for teachers and schools who had to respond at short notice. We have had basic material from our child's school which has sometimes been less thought through than we expected, though we recognise this is a result of teachers having to juggle many jobs and the result of years of systematic and planned underfunding by governments resulting in overstretched front line professionals who do not have the space capacity to extend appropriate provision at this time as a result. The move to home education seems to depend on a home having good internet access, a printer, a modern networked device (laptop/tablet) and sufficient working space for home education to take place. We fear this extends existing social and economic inequalities. It has been challenging for us as parents to negotiate the roles of both teachers and parents. We are lucky our child is an enthusiastic learner and we are fortunate in some ways that one parent's work has dried up so we can provide teaching/education time while the other parent works from home in a different room, we recognise we are privileged in this situation. Nevertheless this is an extremely tiring situation and will impact on the family's mental health. Our child is relatively self-contained but does mention school so we wonder about the long term mental health effects on them.'

957. 'My wife and I are in our late 30's we have 2 children aged 2 and aged 7. We both work full time, [Name] is usually in full-time nursery and [Name] usually goes to after school club 3 - 4 times a week due to work schedules. We have very limited family help in terms of childcare, my elderly mother helps out occasionally in holidays but is in poor health so is only a last resort, my mother in law helps out once or twice a week depending on her work commitments. There is no one else outside of the school/nursery setting who can help with childcare. When lockdown began my employer asked me to work one day at home and one

day in the office. I work in logistics, its seen as a key role in our company as we cannot stop receiving or shipping goods, however, its IT equipment so not seen as "essential" or "key" by wider society. My wife had no real option to tell her work that she had to alternate opposite to my working hours due to the closure of schools and nurseries. As the lockdown increased my wife's office closed and everyone was told to work from home, the majority of the staff were also put on furlough including 80% of my wife's team. My wife was not put on furlough she was asked to keep working although anyone else within her company who had children were put on furlough. As a result my wife's workload increased dramatically, she started working longer and longer hours, most days 12 hours, until late at night. She has developed a shoulder problem from working at the dining room table for such a long period of time and has had to get prescription medication for it. Working from home is stressful with a 2 year old and a 7 year old. [Name] doesn't understand that you are working, you try and set up activities to keep him busy but it doesn't last long, in the end you put the TV on with his favourite cartoon, not something we feel comfortable with but it's unavoidable.

[Name] wasn't set any work from school in the beginning of lockdown but as time went on more and more work was set, we have tried to school her during the day while we work with [Name] here but it is near impossible. Schooling a 7-year-old at home is full time, it cant be done on the side, you cant give her work and leave her to it she isn't at that stage in school yet. [Name] is a bright girl and i believe in the future she can catch up, however, I'm much more concerned with her mental health. [Name] has struggled with her emotions recently and was receiving support in school which helped and before lockdown she was doing really well. Since lockdown things have reversed, initial boredom has grown to signs of depression, we have extremely bad days where she cries and can't explain why she is sad and doesn't understand why. She misses her friends and teachers. Motivation to do school work is not there and we are struggling to help this, work demands have not gone away if anything we are both working more. We are lucky in the sense that [Name] school (Sandiway Primary) is very good, the headmaster has kept up communication and is very understanding of the issues parents face, [Name] teachers are also very good and they feel the children's pain. The work they set is posted on the school website using a variety of online resources (Oak Academy, White Rose Maths, also BBC Bitesize) We have managed to do some work in the beginning, we were told there isn't much expectation to do the work, just do what we can and that's what we did. In the last month the school have sent a more structured timetable and more work, we are finding this very hard to stick to, [Name] motivation is at an all time low after 3 months at home, her attention span is so short you have to stay with her through every task, most days we try and learn she gets frustrated and cries. [Name] teachers have set up regular Zoom calls with the whole class, sometimes they have a quiz but its nothing more in depth, it helps [Name] to see her friends if only on screen. There is a message board on the school website (Padlet) here parents can upload photos and give updates on what they are doing, this is nice and i can see the benefits, especially for teachers to see what the children are up to. However, we don't really find the time to upload, looking at it there seem to be a lot of parents on furlough that are having a great time with their children and doing lots of work, secretly it's disheartening. You feel guilty and worried that your kids are falling behind when some parents on furlough can put all their energy into homeschooling. Recently [Name] has been able to go into nursery on Monday and Tuesday 9am - 3pm which has been great for him and us. [Name] went into school for 2 hours last week and will go into school for

2 hours this week, mainly outside doing PE as there isn't room inside due to Reception, year 1, year 5 & 6 are back in school full time, socially distanced. Most of the week though its the same as its been since lockdown began, its groundhog day for the kids and us and it's unbearable. Luckily the nursery that [Name] attends is on also provides holiday/after school club and is on the school grounds. They have confirmed they will open holiday club from the end of the school term for the summer holidays, we have managed to get [Name] and [Name] in Monday to Thursday all day. This has been a godsend, without this i don't know what we would have done, although not cheap approx cost of £1000 for both of them for the month of August, luckily we can afford this due to savings earlier in lockdown but I'm all too aware that this would not be an option for a lot of parents who may be in a similar situation to us. My wife's company especially is completely unsympathetic towards any problems we have at home with the children, they see them as a problem not even as children. Any time my wife raises the fact that we are not keeping up with homeschooling or even getting the kids to exercise the company dismiss it and play it down. My company is somewhat more sympathetic and understands, this is because it is a larger more corporate business, however, i keep being told that i work in an "operational" area of the business and my immediate superiors want me back in the office full time now, they understand childcare problems, to an extent. When the weekends come we are so exhausted, we have to catch up with normal life tasks, cleaning, washing, shopping and trying to give the kids some quality time, there is very little rest. The lockdown means there are no places to go, nowhere to take the kids, we are lucky that we live near countryside so can go for walks, but this is all we have and we go as often as possible to tire the kids out. I feel like I've written a lot but only scratched the surface. The lockdown has been hell for us and the kids, we are lucky to have a good school and a level of understanding from our employers (but not much from my wife's) It looks like we have turned the corner and the kids will be back into some sort of normal setting soon, we are however terrified if we have to go into lockdown again, this situation isn't sustainable. The toll this has taken on all of us has been significant and will take us a while to recover. Finally - Seeing the recent easing of lockdown for shops and pubs but not schools is unbelievable, it's clear from the pictures I've seen that social distancing isn't happening in the streets of Soho or in the shopping outlets. It's fine to out shopping with thousands of people or go and get drunk but the kids can't go to school? Ridiculous. This alongside the governments silence over the issue of parents being required to return to work while they have no childcare is disgusting, we feel totally abandoned by the government on this issue, there has been no guidance (of any meaning) to companies or parents when employers tell staff to return to work, the pressure applied to us has been unbearable. We come from a working-class background and are aspirationally working towards middle class we place a lot of importance on our children's education and wellbeing, however we can see through extended family and locally, families who may not have these priorities. The effect this lockdown will have on those families and children, in particular, will be catastrophic.'

958. 'Exhausting . Trying to balance schooling and working from home is impossible. I do neither job very well. When I am not trying to teach or work I am cleaning , cooking , food shopping and doing all the jobs that needs catching up - everything takes longer now . I work 3 days and still struggle. I have taken a lot of annual leave to manage. All the summer holiday clubs have been cancelled too. I am worried that there will be a 2nd wave and they will not go

back in September either . Am also very concerned about the future of wrap around care - I worry that the wraparound care I use will go under and impact my ability to work . And I have not even started on my concern about my child's education and mental health'

959. 'The school has over indulged the years going back and restricted resources to those at home. Reception children are in groups of 6/7. Year 1 children were moved to the junior school, again in 'smaller than 15' groups. Despite the junior school being large with expansive outside space, no children from years 2-5 were invited back. Many struggling at home with signs of depression. The school reduced Homeschool online resources and support as the teachers 'were busy teaching the children at school'. We have not had a single phone call. None of the work is marked. There is a Zoom once a week that is the only teacher interaction. My y5 child finishes their work for the week in less than 3hrs. The school delights in telling the children at home and parents in weekly newsletters what fun the children at school have been having. They have no idea how hard it has been for children at home. The school declined to open in the summer as the football pitch is being resurfaced. It has been an abject failure of leadership.'
960. 'Super impressed with both our primary and secondary schools. Our secondary has a "requires improvement" ofsted and it's been great. The teachers have all been phenomenal. They deserve so much more than they get'
961. 'It is very hard, both my husband and I work full time from home in very busy and stressful jobs and have a 7 year old. There have been a lot of tears from all, it's been the most trying and stressful few months for all. Our 7 year old is extremely lonely and has regressed emotionally. Its heartbreaking.'
962. 'The experience has been a strained one. I have two boys in years 8 and 6. Even though they both have access to online resources and I have been furloughed from work, allowing me to supervise their home education, it has been a very challenging time. My husband has had to work from home full time since lockdown began. My year 8 child has additional needs and has been receiving online support from his school counsellor and CAMHS. He quickly became very disengaged from school work, failed to adopt a routine, acquired poor sleeping habits (going to bed late, getting up late and being tired all day) and (partly due to his condition) has been very reluctant to leave the house and exercise. More recently, he has improved on the amount of school work he has done, but I feel overall he has missed out on a lot. I am concerned at how he will adapt to the 'new normal' in September and any progress made with respect to his additional needs may be set back again. With regards to my year 6 son, my hopes were raised that he would return to school in June and he would not miss out on 'seeing out' his primary years and that he would have a proper transition to secondary school. However, our primary school was unfortunately unable to accommodate year R, year 1 and year 6 returning alongside the key worker / vulnerable children due to lack of space and teachers. Some year R children have returned as they were prioritised over year 6 which still does not make much sense to me. Year 6 children will return to school for the last 2 days of term next week for a 'goodbye'. I am returning to work in August and I fear that if there is not a stable, workable plan to have children in school full

time from September then this will jeopardise my ability to stay in work. I am fed up with hearing so much contradictory opinion on whether it is 'safe' for children to return to school now that so many other areas to life have opened up again. They are probably better off in school in a controlled environment rather than being left to their own devices while parents increasingly have to return to work.'

963. 'Very hard with a 13 year old, a 10 year old and a 7 year old who has ADD. I'm a key worker (ICU) and husband WFH. Not just concerned with academics - more about social interaction, discussions, the structure of school and expert support for my 7 year old. We're not teachers! Also feel incredibly sorry for teachers who seem to be having to juggle soooo much. They deserve a giant pay rise. Managing a covid - ridden ICU was easier than home ed. Can't believe that people actually CHOOSE home schooling ☹'

964. 'I have been trying to home school a reception age pupil, with a preschooler at home whilst fulfilling my full time role and my husband runs his own business. To be able to cope I have had to move to part time hours which is has not been well received at work. My employer understands the situation but I am judged differently to my colleagues who have no children and can work full time. The ongoing uncertainty about the return in September, will wrap around care be available, creates further issues with my employer who will want me to return full time but I don't know yet if I will have the childcare to do this. Working mothers are being unfairly impacted by this crisis. Homeschooling for us was a stressful failure. Our 4 year old doesn't associated learning with being at home and didn't take well to his parents trying to turn into teachers over night. The whole family has been impacted emotionally by the constant juggle and battle over home schooling and work. Constantly asking your children to be quiet as mummy is on another video call is exhausting and not fair on the children. We have been lucky in that our reception age child has been able to return to school for 6 weeks. He has flourished back at school even for this short time. Homeschooling by parents juggling work doesn't work, the children need to be in school!'

965. 'Home schooling a recently turned 7 year old child who has ASD and was in the process of being diagnosed for ADHD has been incredibly difficult especially whilst trying to work full-time as a Head of Department responsible for a team of staff. My daughter has a really short attention span and we were in the process of working with school to try and get her extra one to one support as well as a referral to CAMHS for an ADHD diagnosis. Lockdown threw all of this into disarray and because she doesn't have an EHCP plan she was not able to go into school. We were already struggling to get a referral to CAMHS as they were making us jump through hoops and attend a parenting course (which I did when she got her ASD diagnosis and have since done another specific ADHD one online) and my daughter was already behind in her schoolwork and now I feel that she is further behind her peers, which is very disheartening. She turned 7 in June and is still working on her phase 4 phonics while her peers are confidently reading on their own. She refused to write anything during home schooling as her spelling and handwriting are not very good resulting in me writing most of her English work for her while she dictated it to me! At times I felt that I was doing the work for her but rather than risk a meltdown and complete disengagement from the work, this was the only way I could see the homeschooling working and hoped that some parts of the lesson

were going in. Despite having an ASD diagnosis I feel that she has slipped through the cracks and am just hopeful that because she is still very young she will catch up soon or at least bridge some of the gap between her and her peers.'

966. 'We have been given practically no help by the school in terms of setting work to do. We have been offered a few links to bbc bitesize and that's it. My child has suffered because of not being allowed at school both mentally and physically. If she cannot return in September then I fear the scars of lock down will run much deeper and much longer. The children need to get back to school.'

967. 'My son's school did not send school work for the first 4 weeks of lockdown. Teachers did not call even to say hello. School Put barriers to let key workers kids to attend like 2 working parents and book 2 weeks in advance. At present just sending basic work not challenging activities the children move on. I've been sign off from work for stress as can't work from home and teach my child. Other schools in Ipswich have open to ALL clases but my school, having all the facilities have not offer. They could use 2 churches nearby, a big scouts hall, have big green field where could put 10 markies if needed. With only 200 children they have no make reasonable effort to accommodate the children. SCHOOLD NEED TO OPEN IN SEPTEMBER FULL TIME. There is no need for socially 2 meters distance for children. The play areas are full of children, no distance at all and 99%parents have no issues. Please keep pushing for that.'

968. 'Please share your experience: Both parents working full-time and from home has made it challenging to provide the much-needed routine and attention to home schooling. Our employers have been understanding and supportive but this won't continue forever! We are all working towards the children (y1 and y4) returning to school in September full-time with wrap around care available. If they are not able to return, then we will need to re-think our finances and working hours to manage childcare. The school have unfortunately done the bare minimum to support us and the children. Many teachers seem reluctant to do much at all - largely due to Union guidance.'

969. 'horrendous trying to work and homeschool at the same time -quality of work sent from school poor/ repetitive/ -Seesaw is a rubbish app - minimal to no actual teaching from the school teachers -no availability of online lessons despite many requests to do so. There are online platforms where this could have been done safely'

970. 'We have been issued with learning packs every 2 - 3 weeks and as parents are solely responsible for delivering the lessons. There is communication via seesaw but I don't think it is enough and my daughter has become angry and demotivated as time has gone on. By contrast, I was already paying for private French lessons (which was actually through the school) and the French teacher has delivered weekly half hour sessions on zoom with all the children. My daughter really enjoyed this - both the interaction with the teacher and seeing her French class friends and has remained motivated. It also gives us a break from each other - even just this half hour a week has helped so much. I wish her school had done the same.'

971. 'We have a daily struggle trying to get our 9 year old son to do the bare minimum of work. We feel abandoned by the school system. They have just thrown a load of tasks at us for the week, plus some daily work, with very little direct encouragement/ motivation for the child. Our son soon realised the extra tasks could be avoided and we've just lost the will to argue. We fight with him daily to do the daily tasks. Every day we argue over whether he should do them, then threaten to take the internet away, then he agrees to do the work. Even though we have said we will always make him do the minimum, we still go through this daily fight. This is all while both trying to work as well. It's horrendous. I understand year 6 going back, but just don't understand why reception and year 1 were prioritised. It would have worked so much better for all if each school year shared a day in each week. I worry for September as years 2-5 will have been away for 6 months, which is way too long.'
972. 'Awful awful awful. A son in year 7 going through puberty, bored with work at home, rushing computer based assignments to do more fun stuff on the screen! Nightmare, so many distraction and on a computer. We've argued. We've had enough. Lessons ramped up just as lockdown was ending, so just when they should have been outside catching up on exercise they'd missed, they had to be on an online lesson 2-3pm. It's been bad for all of us and mustn't continue. I cannot wait for term to finish and hide the laptop in the roof!'
973. 'I have two primary aged boys at the same school. We use google classrooms, where work is uploaded every day. The amount set has been achievable, but there has been no teaching. The teachers set tasks and it is up to me to teach my children how to do them. Once completed, the tasks are not marked. One teacher has been willing to give feedback (encouragement), the other teacher has told me not to hand in work because she will not look at it. This has been an incredibly difficult time and damaging for my relationship with my children. I am not a natural teacher. Every day has seen tears and strong feelings. My children have hated it, and I have felt inadequate, guilty and despairing. It feels like the worst of all worlds. I am aware that in many ways my children are incredibly lucky. I am not working so I can help them, and I am educated to a postgraduate level. I am also aware that if I am struggling this much, it must be completely untenable for many families in this country. I cannot understand the arbitrary choice of year groups which were sent back. And the opening of pubs before schools. What is wrong with this country?'
974. 'Both my husband and I work full-time. I have a daughter in Yr 7 and and a son in Yr 10. We have received no live lessons and very little personal interaction with teachers. My daughter is now totally disengaged from education - she is bored with endless pdfs, worksheets and weblinks. Not long out of primary school, she doesn't have the skills to self-learn. I have a very close relationship with her but that is being tested as we argue about her getting her work done. I am now headmistress instead of mum. The school seems to assume that in every household there is at least one parent not in work or furloughed - there doesn't seem to be any recognition that that's not the case for everyone. My school has said (without irony) that support from teachers may be limited as they will need to teach their own children at home too. When I called them and said I was struggling, they suggested that I work Mon-Fri and then teach all day Saturday and Sunday. That's not going to work for me (I am, like most women I imagine, shouldering the burden of juggling home-schooling and work) or my

daughter. At first the school set too much work, now I feel that they are setting too little but it's such a struggle to get my daughter to get even that done that I can't possibly argue for more. She is being set work in every subject but I have decided that she isn't doing PSE or PE or Dance at the moment. I'm focusing my battles with her on the work set for core subjects plus anything I think she will pursue at GCSE. Very little is marked. When I have reached out to teachers for support on individual subjects the response has been mixed. Her Maths teacher told me that my daughter 'just had to get on with it' when I emailed her to say she really didn't understand what she had to do. I have pretty much left my son to his own devices as he is very diligent and I know he'll get the work done but I feel guilty that any spare time I have is spent with my daughter as he, one year away from GCSEs, should be my priority. He has returned to school one day a week for 100 minutes each in English, Maths and Science. In his English lessons they are just reading their set text for the English Lit exam - there doesn't seem to be anything structured. He has been bumped up into the top set for Maths because of the bubble into which he has been placed and told me he has just had to teach himself some of the elements they are learning. As he's 15, it's hard to get any information out of him but from what I understand his teachers have been more responsive on the whole in getting back to him when he has a query and giving feedback. I think the school have asked the teachers to really step up more for this year. Children in state schools have been left behind. My nephews attend a private school and have a fully timetabled week, online from 8.30-3.30. I lay awake a night worrying about how this will affect my children's futures - and they are the lucky ones as they have desks, their own laptops, a printer, broadband and parents who care. They also have a Maths tutor but I can't afford to pay for a tutor (as suggested by our school) in more than one subject. I know there will be children who will be in a far worse position than mine. I am exhausted - physically and emotionally. I don't know who is looking forward to the school holidays more - my children or me.'

975. 'Our Year 1 son went back to school for two days a week, from 22nd June. He'll finish for the summer 21st July, day before his 6th birthday. He started off really well, concentrating on lessons that school had sent home. But by week 8 he was getting bored, needing to use screens for some of the work meant he just wanted to watch YouTube or tv. From week 12ish he started becoming reluctant to read or write anything and we noticed he was making more mistakes than he usually would. He told us he's no good at phonics since the virus, he used to be good at them. He says he just wants to play, is desperate for my partner and I to give him attention all the time. Usually he's happy to create worlds and engage himself with his toys. His behaviour has become a bit challenging at times with frustration turning to anger and impatience. I'm working part time from home, my son isn't used to this so interrupts often. My partner was furloughed, then pressured to work, then threatened with redundancy and eventually resigned as the pressure of trying to juggle childcare And the stress became too much. With two stressed parents our poor son has suffered from not having a calm learning routine and the company of other children and professional teachers in school. The school have been good, sending daily maths, reading, phonics then once a week science, art or music. Plus well being material. Our son loves the weekly email newsletter seeing photos of his own and others work. But he only had direct contact with his teacher via a phone call twice before he returned to school in June. He's loving his two days at school. He's excited before, pays attention and absorbs everything when he's there but the three other days of

the week he's very reluctant to engage with any school work. I can't work my full hours when he's at school as he's only in 0830-1430. My partner is looking for another full time job, I need to increase my hours, to pay the bills. We cannot do this if our son can't go back to school safely, full time in September.'

976. 'I work full time and my husband is a key worker and has been going to work throughout the duration of lock down leaving me solely responsible for home schooling. At the start the material and information we received from the school was considerable and issued via class dojo in a very ad hoc fashion - this made it feel overwhelming and it was difficult to manage. I was printing off reams and reams of material but there was little provided by way of support in terms of how we should manage the learning. Some of the documents wouldn't print out and some of the resources wouldn't render on an ipad which meant we had to buy a laptop. I did contact the teacher on a couple of occasions but was left feeling as if I had been a bit of a nuisance and didn't find the response particular supportive. My job is very demanding and it has been extremely difficult to manage work alongside questions from my 9 year old child which left us both feeling upset and frustrated. I feel as though I have let her down. Several weeks into lockdown the school implemented a weekly google call; this has been beneficial although I don't know why it took so long to arrange and I see no reason why (when I'm working FT from home) this couldn't have been a daily call. A morning call every day would have set the tone for the day and helped maintain some enthusiasm for learning. Four months on I feel stressed and disappointed with the support the school has provided.'

977. 'My Yr9 (average ability) daughter has received one personalised communication from her school since March. That was an email from her form tutor in May, reminding her that 4 pieces of work were still to be submitted - two pieces were 'form time work', and one of those was a general knowledge quiz. Every single maths lesson has been on Maths watch, which marks automatically so no input from the teacher. In Art, my daughter was allocated 5 lessons to decorate a toilet roll tube. PE was links to Joe Wicks. Other subjects rely on BBC Bitesize. Philosophy this week was to watch a Channel 4 programme, which was not age-appropriate. Despite running my own online business, I have been learning how to teach and drawing up lesson plans. Teachers should have been furloughed.'

978. 'My children are 7 and 9 and the school have been very good in providing work for the children .i.e. putting a timetable on their website and learning resources, however I am working from home and trying to juggle homeschooling at the same time and failing at both miserably. I am not a teacher, nor am I paid to be one. I have been lucky in my job as a civil servant as I can work flexibly, but this means I am logging on and working at 6am each day to try and get as much of my hours in as possible before kids wake up and need homeschooled. This is taking its toll on me and they are very long days juggling. I also feel that my children are demotivated and not actually learning anything, and this has at times caused upset, as I am conscious of how much they are missing and trying to make sure they are still keeping their brains ticking over, but I am not equipped with the best methods on how to do this, and end up boring them, or being unable to explain things to them in a way they understand. As time goes on it gets worse too.'

979. 'I have a seven and five year old. I had a stroke in September, which has left me with both physical and cognitive issues. To try and teach my five year old to read, while attempting to support my seven year old, has been impossible. I just don't have the mental strength anymore. Yet, I worry constantly about how this time will affect them long term. I can't wait for schools to reopen.'

980. 'Home schooling has been a complete nightmare. My wife and I trying to manage & keep our demanding jobs and providing adequate schooling for our two daughters, aged 9 (year 4) and 7 (year 2). Initially, during the first 2 months of lockdown, we had very poor support from the school, although this has improved slightly with daily task during May, June & now July. We are very disappointed that the school hasn't tried to run virtual interactive lessons, using Zoom or Webex, at least once per week to align learning, maintain relationships & identify children that need additional learning support. This is happening in many private schools, based on feedback from parents we know with children in private education. A significant gap has opened up, private vs state and within local state schools & even classes, based on the individual level of support & teaching each child received over the last 5 months. This must be assessed and address next school year. I hope schools & education authorities are already planning for this, as it can't be business as usual next term/year. And they are building contingency plans for a second COVID wave & possible further lockdowns.'

981. 'I've only had 1 child to homeschool (year 1) but have a 3 year old and newborn who arrived during lockdown to also look after. It has been awful and I was so grateful when he was able to go back a few weeks ago. My efforts at homeschooling put an enormous strain on my relationship with him. I'm not a teacher, I'm his mum. The dynamic is all wrong and both of us were in tears some days. It's incredibly intense having 1:1 schooling with your own child when you've not had any training and are getting no support. School seems to have used lockdown as an opportunity to try and get through even more work than would have happened at school with a class full of children. My biggest frustration was the total lack of acknowledgement of what parents were going through. We've been given no support or encouragement or tips on how to manage our relationships with our children through homeschooling or how to repair any damage that has been done'

982. 'The school have been providing English and Maths work on a weekly basis. However this is all paper based. We did not have any online learning (via Zoom etc), and we did not have any communication from my child's teacher or TA until about week 14 of lockdown, and even then it is only a short 5 minute phone call with the child, not with the parent to discuss how homeschooling has been, what support can be provided, any extra activities we can do to support our child. I had to provide suggestions on implementing revision to ensure our child remembers what they learnt at the beginning of lockdown. Any suggestions to the school have been met with "we are following government guidelines" and feels like it is more a case of "we are only doing the bare minimum for the keyworker children in our care and that's it" I have been juggling working full time (initially from 6h30am in the morning until 6pm to ensure I do my contracted house), fitting in homeschooling in between for about 2.5 hours a day. This has taken a toll on my mental and physical health as I am exhausted at the

end of each day and have spent weekends recovering which has then meant no time for family time. With my child being an only child, he has had very little social interaction with other children, just the occasional video chat with his best friend. While my child is very sociable and I feel will recover from this, not enough has been done to help his mental health. The school and the government should've done more to ensure that ALL children could've gone back to school at some point before the summer holidays, or the holidays should've been shorter to allow some school time before the new school year.'

983. 'My son is at Secondary School in Year 7. The first half term they were sticking to the timetable with work set via their edu-link app. Teachers were not always readily available to answer questions even though that subject was timetabled. Some lessons they quickly stopped setting work for - Dance, music. I did not see this as a problem. After the easter break, they reduced the timetable to 4 lessons a day (work set via the app still) . Each lesson is 45mins long instead of the usual 1hour long. Teachers are now readily available on MS Teams at the allotted time. Student's engagement is measured with report sent round marked green, yellow, red. When students receive a red, teachers do not follow up with them or their parents to offer support. My son received a red (he had not submitted his work) and I was expecting an email or call but received no word. In terms of communication: The school sends out a weekly text survey RE welfare. You can request a call back but I am not sure what happens when you do. Students do not usually receive feedback on work from all subjects as far as I'm aware. My son's RE and History teacher nearly always responds with positive feedback when work is emailed, this is encouraging for my son. Assemblies are now sent out via powerpoint with a student of the week now being named for each subject and each form class. This serves as encouragement for students. (They don't usually do this.) Sports day was done virtually. Teachers posted videos to facebook to demonstrate the events that pupils had to do. Overall, the school is doing a good job considering the circumstances. But homeschooling whilst on maternity leave and whilst my husband is wfh has been difficult. I worry that I have not been giving my eldest enough support in terms of his schooling. However I do acknowledge that we are lucky to have the technology required to carry out home-schooling as set out by the school.'

984. 'Dear Sept for Schools Thank you for your campaign. I have written to the mayor of tam lets on this issue. My experience - Myself and my partner both work full time and live in a flat in east London. When our 3 year old daughters pre-school closed we were thrown into the experience of both attempting to work and look after our child at the same time. Of course there are the funny / sweet moments where my daughter popped onto the conference call but actually the overall experience was absolutely exhausting and very stressful because of the need to work and properly look after a child. I am lucky that my employer has been pretty understanding but nonetheless work needed to be done - experiences include; Staying up to 2am to finish reports because I could do them during the day The TV turning off by itself because my toddler had been watching tv for such a long time My partner getting in trouble with work as he could not log on because he was actually properly looking after his child Looking after children is a full time job and children cannot just be left by themselves whilst parents work. Schools need to have a can do attitude to get back

to school in September. Social distancing must not be imposed on young children because of the longer term psychological impacts of this. Thanks'

985. 'My husband and I have two children aged 7 and 11. We both work full time. I am working at home as my office has shut. My husband works in IT for a private school and works from home every other day and at work on other days. The primary school has put work on the website for each year group. There is no expectation that this should be sent in and I have not had contact with either class teacher. The expectation is that we homeschool the children. My 11 year old has returned to school as year 6. They have not been doing much actual school work and mostly has involved films and working on their end of year production. My 7 year old has not returned to school, being in year 2. He has been impossible to home school. He simply refuses and we end up in tears. Alongside that we are both working. The day ends up being long and exhausting and we have now given up on homeschooling completely. He now sits in front of a computer playing games most of the day. I feel awful about this but I have a job to do. I was devastated to learn that they will not go back until September and deeply worry about his mental well-being and how much schooling he is missing. I am also on the verge of a breakdown. This is not sustainable and talks of further lock downs fill me with dread. The children do not seem to be the government's priority. They have been forgotten.'

986. 'It has been very stressful for me as a parent to adjust to homeschooling for my teenagers. My husband and I are both working still from home and have an elderly relative with dementia living with us who we have had to keep indoors during lockdown. The quality of teaching has been very poor from my experience - first the workload was too much and too monotonous with no interaction or contact with teachers. When my child did ask for help by messaging his teachers the response was slow and not satisfactory. He was even told off for raising his concerns to his head of year!! The school has improved their provision slightly but live lessons via video conferencing only started a couple weeks ago and they have been of varying quality - some just talking at the children, some had over 120 children in the lesson!! My children constantly worried that they haven't actually learned anything in this time and just been copying and making notes from teachers powerpoint presentations. I have been very concerned about the quality of the teaching/learning and have voiced my concerns to the school but understand how difficult it is for them too with very little guidance from the government/department of education.'

987. 'I have a six year old and a three year old, and work as a senior civil servant in a central Whitehall department. We've been incredibly lucky in that my boss has allowed me to not start work (at home) until after lunch, so I can spend the morning trying to support my eldest to learn, which has been tricky as he has dyslexia and dyspraxia and is not a fan of school at the best of times. The school has likewise been fantastic in sending out great resources every day for the children to do and my son's teacher has worked so hard and been so supportive to all 30 of the children in her class, but I can't just leave a six year old to get on with it - teaching is a skill which takes an enormous amount of effort and enthusiasm at the best of times, let alone under lockdown. But my three year old daughter is pretty much ignored while I'm trying to teach phonics or maths, and so acts up as she feels sad and left

out. And my six year old son feels pressurised and bored. By the time I hand over to my husband (likewise a civil servant) and start work at one I'm exhausted, and because senior officials and Ministers in my department are not home educating any children themselves, and are supported by private offices of likewise unencumbered officials, there has been no let up in terms of the pace with which we are expected to deliver. Everyone in my team who has school-age children is working until late every night in order to deliver their work while trying to ensure our children's life chances are not permanently compromised. I've worked in long-hours jobs before in Whitehall and overseas, but the support mechanisms (IT, HR, etc) are just not there to enable us to deliver this indefinitely - and certainly not with the added pressure of childcare. My husband and I are both permanently exhausted as we try to deliver teaching and our day jobs, and our relationship is suffering as a result. If this becomes a longer term way of living and working, I cannot see us both being able to continue in our jobs - and as the person earning less, having taken time out to have children, I can see the writing on the wall for my career. I love my job and I love being in public service in Whitehall, but I have to prioritise my children's life chances and my marriage. The long-term damage that the Government's policies are doing are incalculable: to children's education most obviously; but to the gains in female employment made in the last 30 years; and to the esteem that my children have had up until now for my career as well as my husband's, and their respective views on women in the workplace. Schools need much more support and funding to deliver home learning. Employers need to recognise that their employees are under untenable stress and make allowances. And schools need to be resourced to deliver learning in bubbles - more teachers, more classrooms and better resources. The long term economic prospects of the country and the education and happiness of a generation of children depend on it.'

988. 'Agree that homeschooling is hell (as per the BBC article). My wife and I have been trying to home school our 10yr old son while working from home. We both want him back at school full time ASAP. The interesting and important angle of our opinion is that my wife is a teacher in a secondary school. She does not want a plan from government. She thinks social distancing measures in schools are unnecessary and will affect education. We both believe that schools should return as normal and let teachers get in with the job of catching up with the lost education. So we are not being hypocrites or expecting others to take risks we are not. On balance we both think that the risk to education of continued home school or even a reduced school set up are much worse than the risks of the virus. We have seen first hand in many children the negative consequences of not attending schools. Not seen any kids suffer from the virus. Finally thank you for organising this campaign. From talking to other parents we are a silent majority and it's great you have created this platform for a sensible, informed contribution to the discussion'

989. 'Very limited contact with teachers - my daughter is in year 1 but the school has not opened to take her class back due to a lack of space. A timetable of home learning has been made available each week focusing on phonics, reading and maths with links to websites for games etc. A DB Primary site has been established to share messages and other activities. The class teacher posts a weekly message to the class to encourage their learning but there is nothing face to face. It is a very dry and dull way for a 6 year old to learn! I really think there should have been a national approach by now which would have provided teachers with

learning resources to select, thus freeing up their time to actually connect with the children. It feels like education has been swept under the carpet and "home learning" has ticked a box to keep the nation's children safe and educated. It is an extremely poor substitute for a normal education over such a long period of time. My bright, eager, enthusiastic daughter has become bored and restless, looking for ways to do the minimum amount of learning possible. I am partly disappointed with the school but more disappointed with Government for a lack of resourcing, creativity and structured response.'

990. 'The last few months have been extremely hard. We are very fortunate, we are comfortable, our jobs are secure, we have a house, a garden, large green spaces nearby and haven't got any major financial or health concerns at the moment. We have access to computers, reading books and other educational resources. Nevertheless, the strain of trying to home school two primary school-age children has been huge for all of us, and I think the impact for them has been very significant. For me, the loss of educational improvement isn't the issue (if this has happened, I'm sure they can catch up), it's everything else, their wellbeing, behaviour etc. Regardless of how much or little the school provides (they are at different schools and the provision has been different), it is pretty much a full time job either doing the work with them or just enforcing the school work/ video lessons etc. It's hard to check what they're doing on their computers when they're on them all day already, they're definitely becoming addicted to some of the games and I can't keep up with what they're doing on there all the time. We've had fights EVERY day to persuade them to work (and they are both naturally good students and enjoy school). It's been totally impossible to keep running my business at the same time and there's no way I'm doing even 30% of the work I would have achieved before. We've all struggled mentally and emotionally. The boys are becoming withdrawn and their behaviour has deteriorated significantly. More meltdowns, tears, not wanting to engage with people etc. All family relationships have been strained. They've both had a bit of time back at school recently and the improvement was immediately noticeable - happiness, spring in their step, better behaviour. I never understood how important school was, so much more than just the education. Without a doubt children need to be at school and there is no excuse for finding a way to open pubs when children across the country are unable to access the safe and positive environment of school. I can't imagine what this must be like for families who don't have our resources, have experienced losses as a result of COVID or are in financial or other difficulties. The impact on these children will be long-lasting and studied for years to come.'

991. 'Both my children have been getting through a reasonable chunk of the work set by their school and I don't feel they are necessarily lacking in academic progress but their emotional and social well-being has definitely been affected. My eldest is becoming more withdrawn and listless and my youngest more argumentative and emotional. They are both really missing the engagement from a teacher rather than a computer and being around other children and the sharing and compromise that goes with it. Supported by the science that children are, in general, relatively unaffected by the virus, they can't go back to school too soon in my opinion.'

992. 'My children's school has been excellent in providing work for them to do. They have been having a full day of lessons via Microsoft Teams every day and the teachers have given us (parents) feedback as to how they are doing. I appreciate that everyone has a different experience and are in different situations. As an extremely vulnerable individual I am at huge risk if my children are back at school if covid numbers start to increase again. Indeed it is only 2 days ago (6.7.20) that the advice changed and I now don't have to socially distance from the rest of my family in our house and currently I am still currently shielding. I am extremely concerned that when the children return to school my risk will increase as for a start there are not enough toilet facilities for them to be cleaned adequately and frequently enough. Despite children being told to wash their hands often I do not believe that this will happen enough. The focus is on primary aged children struggling with this, however with teacher supervision I think that it might be more likely to happen than 12-14 year olds and older, whom you expect would do it, but probably don't, or at least not properly. I appreciate that children are missing education, and not all have access to the internet and computers but schools can send work in the post and do individual lessons where needed. In my experience a couple of one to one lessons help children far more than many group ones. Personally I feel some of the drive to get children back to school is for childcare reasons with parents needing to work. This is not a reason to put vulnerable individuals at risk. This could be overcome by splitting children into smaller groups so social distancing can be maintained at school and some learning done at home. Parents might have to adjust their work patterns to work round this. It is not ideal, it is inconvenient but so is living in 2 rooms with no contact with the rest of your family other than in the garden or via the internet for 4+ months. I feel that the extremely clinically vulnerable are forgotten and because we are in the minority do not have as loud a voice'

993. 'Home schooling has been challenging but as a parent it is a duty! I have spent every weekday morning sitting with my child trying to help him learn and complete all the daily work set by the school. Completed work is submitted this has helped my children to see they have to complete this work. It is draining and time consuming as your children naturally resist. Having four children at home at different stages of school life has taken some juggling to give all the support they need. I'm one person jumping from child to child, subject to subject my partner is working full time. I have had to learn how to do most of the things first myself too. It's all very different to how I was taught. A routine has helped us all! Everyone is up to start work at 9am to finish everything set by lunchtime. I'm worried that my children will be disadvantaged when back at school! I've worked hard at making sure my children understand they are still at school and HAVE to do the work at home. Yet many lazy parents have not bothered, just letting kids do nothing for an easy life. Schooling is hard work not doing it is easy option. When my children go back to school I worry they will have to wait for other children to catch up And be repeating everything we have done at home, potentially getting bored and losing the drive to learn and try hard all because I did the required home schooling. All children should get the same one to one help from teachers/tutors when back at school it should not be for just the kids who's parents have had an easy life by choosing not to do home school for the last 16 weeks. Why should my child see the children who have not completed any work all lockdown get all the attention when back at school. I fear this is what

will happen when back at school as schools will be stretched and will focus on the children who are behind.'

994. 'I have two primary school aged children (Years 6 and 3). We started off home-schooling with enthusiasm but this has significantly dwindled over recent weeks. The dynamic between the parent and child relationship has been severely strained and has eroded most of my patience completely. I am very conscious of my lack of skills to teach subjects using the current prescribed methods, let alone the energy to keep motivating children who are sick of the sound of me and I am equally sick of the sound of me! I am deeply concerned about the impact of lack of peer social interaction, at 7 years old a video chat just doesn't do the job as it is strained and not free-flowing. I really noticed the positive impact, returning to school, had on my Year 6 child. I don't think she noticed in herself how low she had become and how she is feeling so much more relaxed and happier being back at school. The secondary impact of the children not being in school on our family dynamics has been almost to breaking point. My partner works in the medical industry and has not had any leave since Christmas, so he is over-whelmed and unable to help with home-schooling. I have not had the pressure of trying to work, alongside home-schooling, as I have lost my first paid employment in 8 years (it was exam support at a secondary school) and my secondary income has been completely lost for 2020 (not eligible for state support). I need my children to return to school full time for their education and well-being, let alone our own family dynamics and finances.'

995. 'My experience is as a parent that is still working but is not designated as a key worker. Without the financial assistance or additional time released from furloughing or accessing the SEISS, we as a group have been particularly hard hit. I don't know how many people fall into this category of working as before Covid but now also picking up the burden of teaching. Schooling young children (who do not have the capacity for self-directed learning), with limited support from teachers, has been an enormous struggle that has negatively affected my child's education and on occasions our relationship as well as my own performance in my job. We have no time or energy to lobby for better support (in contrast to various organised sectors such as pubs & hospitality or the arts). I believe our experience is not well understood (i.e. through lived experience) by those in power. After all, how many Ministers (and MPs more broadly) have young children AND, of those, how many have taken on full teaching responsibilities because they can neither afford private schooling and have not designated as key workers...? I don't know the answer but imagine there are few - if any - that fall into this category.'

996. 'I have 3 children on in y9, one in y7 and one it's y4. I have been furloughed. I had to trust the oldest was doing his work as the y7 pupil who is extremely unmotivated by school and struggles with school work required constant supervision which then took over most of my time meaning the y4 child don't get much help. The primary schools end very minimum work and I feel copped out a little just referring us the BBC bitesize and white rose maths which were boring. Where as the senior school sent at least 11 plus tasks in maths alone for each child. It felt unobtainable. It's been heartbreaking and has put so much pressure on me. I feel like now if they do bad in exams be it GCSE and says it's my fault. It has damaged my

relationship with the kids and my husband as we have argued over getting the kids to work. I feel guilty and that I have failed at lockdown .’

997. ‘Home schooling is very hard with a sibling at home that is too young to start school.’

998. ‘It has been really difficult. I have a child in reception and a baby who was born a week before the school closed. Even though I am on maternity leave rather than working, I have found home schooling pretty much impossible. The emotional impact on a 5 year old who has lost his usual support networks overnight and has just had a new sibling is enormous. He needed his parents to be supportive and understanding, not to battle with him over writing and phonics. Our school has been wonderful and very supportive, they did their best not to put pressure on parents to home school but rather provided ideas and resources on what we could do. I pretty much gave up on doing any school work with him fairly quickly but I worry about how that affects him academically. The gap between the children whose parents had the time and resources to teach them properly and children whose parents didn’t is now enormous. I am going back to work in September, sooner than I had hoped, partly because I am a key worker and will be able to send him to school in the event of another lockdown. I can’t stand the idea of another lockdown with him at home for weeks - the effects on his and our mental health are too big. I also feel that there have been a lot of positive effects on schools that would be great to preserve. My son has been very lucky to go back to school on the 2nd of June in a bubble of 12-13 children. The small class size has done wonders for him, both emotionally and academically. I wish we could keep children in small classes forever but appreciate that it’s impossible within the existing financial envelope. Also, teachers taking on a caring mental health support role has been wonderful. That is definitely something we could keep and more mental health training for teachers would be immensely helpful. The school is prioritising the children wellbeing over academic pressure at the moment and I think it has a positive effect on children, not just in terms of wellbeing but also in terms of academic achievement. Happy children learn better, pressured children don’t learn very well. If we can take this simple truth with us for after the lockdown, it would be a great achievement.’

999. ‘Firstly I would like to say that our school is fantastic and has done everything they can to support our children. However the very nature of having a whole family working from home is impossible. I have to do three jobs at once. My two children are in different year groups so I am trying to teach two different subjects simultaneously. I also have to try and do my own work. The result is that nobody does their best work. Children at school are motivated. They are actively learning in a variety of engaging ways. At home resources are not available and the work set has to be printed on paper or done on a computer. I do not have the time to construct engaging lessons for them because I have to work too. My children are becoming unhappy because they can only engage with friends or socialize via a screen. They attend school one day each week because I am a key worker. This day is the happiest because they play with other children and I resume the role of mum (rather than teacher-mum). Home schooling may work for some families; but I suspect those parents only have their children’s home schooling to focus on and do not have to juggle work commitments as

well. I also worry about the vulnerable children that I work with - they need the care and safeguarding that school offers them.'

1000. 'The school has been very supportive with a range of work ideas supplied every week and an easy way of contacting the class teacher via an app. The teacher has also been very responsive despite both being on a rota for time in school with key worker children and having 2 young children of her own to school. However, it has been hard to juggle trying to school and occupy my 5 year old whilst also trying to work from home myself with phone calls, online meetings and other demands. I feel my child has made some progress with work but nowhere near as much as she would have in school and after 17 weeks of it we have all had enough. She's also an only child and I am increasingly noticing that she is in desperate need of greater contact with children her own age. It is not realistic to expect that should there be need of further lockdown measures later in the year parents can just continue like this.'

1001. 'The infant school have been fantastic and have provided plenty of home school ideas so you can do as many or as few as you like. Weekly contacts by phone or zoom meetings with school. I've felt really supported. Children should only go back if it is safe for both pupils and teaching staff in September !'

1002. 'Y7 child ok with online learning but does not see any friends and lacking in exercise'

1003. 'I have 2 children- a 17 year old in the first year at college, a 14 year old in a state school year 9 neither have had any semblance of teaching at all. They have been e mailed or set work. The eldest is diligent and focused on a levels so has been self motivated and does work very hard. The youngest is totally disengaged. Despite checking the homework app- I could not see what work was outstanding. It took teachers 3months to e mail me to say he had not Submitted work. 3 months. I am a conscientious single parent who works full time, now from home. I have neither the time nor expertise to teach either child, other than potentially in History. I left school over 30 years ago so cannot teach maths, science, engineering, PE, or economics, nor can I mitigate the terrible impact this has had on my sons mental health. The isolation, lack of stimulation and interest from most teachers has been shocking. Only his form tutor keeps in touch. She deserves a medal. She is the only one to set up a zoom call. Both children engage when there is the opportunity. It is so sad to see the mental, physical and emotional decline and feel powerless to do anything meaningful. The only thing I have been able to do is reduce my hours by a day which is a significant income drop but I felt I had no choice. As for the impact on at risk children, I dread to think. Please please do not leave our children and young people to decline any further. This has been utterly horrendous.'

1004. 'Complete overkill on amount of work set. I've had to buy a new PC to enable my daughter to work on the many different apps school is using, our old one was too slow. Also had to bring and extra printer from work so she could scan, copy and print. Four calls from school since March. I feel she is forgotten as she is perceived to be ok and not in 'need' of extra help. English has been really troubling with the subject matter set, to the point we've

engaged at private tutor at our expense to help her and get her love of reading back. There's a massive lack of communication from school about plans moving forward and I've had to put my plans on hold for my business as I'm it convinced she will be back full time in September'

1005. 'I am a retired single father of 3 adopted children, 2 of whom are at the same primary. The primary school immediately adopted ClassDojo as it's workplace, issuing weekly class timetables and other documents (mainly pages sourced from Twinkl) to work from. Teachers have been sending the answers sheets too, presumably assuming that I would do the marking for them too! I immediately hit the wall of having three completely different curricula to deliver, something not even the professionals are faced with. Very early on I asked the primary that my 2 younger KS2 children attend whether their weekly timetables and topics could be aligned to help me deliver just 2 curricula. I got back a dalek like mantra that the National Curriculum cannot be deviated from. (I was so incensed I took the rare step of writing to my MP!) Live teaching, pastoral care and personal contact with children or parent have been zero as has any considered marking or feedback. A cursory electronic 'well done' for two hours graft by a 9 year old is frankly patronising. The teacher asking my child what mark/score she got for a piece of work after she had submitted to the teacher electronically was worse! No consideration has been made of our IT capabilities. Very little of the work is on line (aside from being directed to on-line maths games) and I would have been in real trouble if I hadn't got a printer. Luckily I was able to print off the assorted Twinkl pages for each child to work with. (My eldest's KS3 school has at least mailed hard copies of work to her.) The bottom line is that I have done ALL of the teaching, the school has done none. But then this is a primary that ticks boxes, it complies, it does the minimum, it does not change, it does not innovate. Nothing about it's home-schooling arrangements has changed since the outset, never bothering to ask parents about the success or otherwise of it's arrangements or how they might be improved. It is a service provider that behaves as though it is the customer, not me or my child. Everything revolves around the needs of the school. In the meantime, I have maintained a rigid home-school routine for my children with uniform plus school hours and break times to maintain their disciplines and keep clarity of school times and their personal free time, but it degrades life at home as the purpose of our home has changed beyond recognition for them, a very difficult balance when already trying to catch-up on the early years nurturing gap with the early years nurturing gap for adopted children. The impact on me is that I have lost four months of my own free time, being unable to pursue any personal interests or domestic projects with my personal stress level 'through the roof'. And now I face six weeks school holiday with them at a time when I would have hoped to have been mentally ready to deal with it..... Rant ends :-))'

1006. 'Child demotivated, depressed, very stressful trying to WFH at the same time'

1007. 'I work full time in a demanding roll which became more demanding with Covid. V little work has come from the school but was has come has not been self explanatory. There have been no zoom type lessons. The guilt of knowing my son is doing v little whilst juggling Work is ridiculous. I've spent over £200 on PCG text to help me as the school have been nothing short of useless (Exc the English teacher who has tried).'

1008. 'Homeschooling two children whilst my husband and I work our contracted hours from home has been beyond difficult. It has taken its toll mentally and physically on all of us. The response from the outside world has been little sympathy, for us to just 'get on with it'- which we have, without complaint, because there has been no alternative. But after 15+ weeks and yet another 6 weeks to get through of school holiday (whilst we still continue to work), the patience of all is wearing thin. Most working parents have little energy left to fight this one-we are still trying to get through each day as best we can. Through all these weeks of lockdown, there have been no news reports that mention the unbelievable stress of families where two parents must continue to work but are not keyworkers so not entitled to send children to school. Today, for the first time, an article appeared on the BBC which finally supported us and highlighted the continuous nightmare situation that we find ourselves in for the foreseeable future. Thank you for finally getting our voice out there when we are too exhausted to do so.'
1009. 'I have 2 children in y10 and 7. The school provided zero virtual classes, they have been set work to complete remotely each week but without any personal 121 contact from their teachers. Y 10 have been back into school for 6 hrs 1 day a week for the last 3 weeks, year 7 have had no contact with teachers, unless I have made contact with the school and requested it.'
1010. 'I have 2 children in year 4&2. I have had to buy a new laptop and software to enable the powerpoint presentations to work. Children have had twinkle worksheets sent online via school websites and also powerpoints to present the work, with hyperlinks to videos/websites. No zoom/google classroom. Kids have not seen their teacher/friends - just messaging over the upload platform J2E/my uso. Disappointing - kids not engaging at all now.'
1011. 'The school (a State Primary) has been proactive and the teachers are very engaged. There is no live VC learning for very sensible reasons but there is a teacher logged on twice a day and work sheets loaded onto the system every morning. There are also videos from teachers throughout the day on a variety of topics and with stories. The reality is our children need constant supervision from parents when logging in and completing work. That supervision means it is not possible to do work at the same time. There is a lot of resistance from our children (year 3 and year 1) to completing the work, and that resistance is increasing. It does not make for a happy home! Overall home schooling is a poor substitute and one that is not sustainable. If we have to home school after the summer we will probably choose to do very little in the hope that it will not be for a protracted period of time.'
1012. 'I have found the homeschooling very difficult. I work freelance and have given up some of my normal work to allow time for homeschooling but have still found it very difficult. My younger daughter is in year 5 and she receives Maths and English work from the school each day and sometimes a foundation subject. The Maths and English can take a variable amount of time but normally say half an hour each. The expectation is that the parent marks them. This marking causes problems as it is a constant battle to get her to correct mistakes and a lot of the English story writing is not possible for a parent to mark so that just gets done and put aside. My daughter is very shy at school and has a couple of close friends. She has not

seen then during the lockdown and id very self conscious and shy talking to them on a video call. She is regressing somewhat in her behaviour too and now plays with her schools house again and has tea parties with her animals etc although she is 11 in October. She has had one video call arranged with her teacher and 5 other pupils (alphabetically chosen not friends) and she listened by refused to have her camera on or speak and ran and hid when this was suggested. There is not offering of another video call. I have another older daughter at secondary school and trying to help the 2 of them with work and do my own work on a daily basis with no end in sight has reduced me to tears often on a weekly basis.'

1013. 'I'm one of the lucky ones, my daughter is in year 1 so returned to school in early June. However I'm left terrified of the prospect of local lockdowns and schools closing again, especially since my just turned 6 year old will likely be in year 2 by then so I'm unlikely to be so lucky next time. Put simply home schooling was a disaster, despite working with my daughter every day (whilst looking after my three year old and attempting to work from home) she appeared to be going backwards and every piece of work was a battle. I feel that my daughters relationship with both me and with education as a whole has been damaged, possibly permanently. Six weeks on and she remains a completely different child from the happy carefree daughter I had in early March, her confidence is massively damaged and she is often highly critical of herself. I'm left wondering whether it's my fault. The school provided weekly sheets setting out 6-7 tasks and a phone call every other week, so fairly limited but I'm not sure what more they could helpfully have done to educate 5-6 year olds remotely. I am utterly disappointed with the lack of acknowledgement of the struggles families have gone through from the government and feel they should have had a national plan in place for home learning from Easter onwards. The fact that most children are still out of school now, whilst they can spend the day in the pub is utterly disgusting. Local lockdowns involving school closures will disproportionately affect deprived areas where a lower proportion of the workforce are able to work from home, the educational attainment of children in these areas is already lower than elsewhere, the government does not seem to have a plan as to how to bridge this gap. Perhaps if they'd implemented a local lockdown in London in February/March none of this would have been necessary elsewhere...'

1014. 'We have 2 children of primary age. For the first 6 weeks of lockdown we had little support from the school, occasional Twinkl worksheets uploaded on the school website to print and some "stay safe" messages from the staff. For the first week or two this was acceptable, as it was a novel situation - but as we realised the school closures would be extended it was not ok!! We had 1 phone call from the school per child to check on us, but didn't want to complain during these calls in case it reflected badly on our kids when they returned. As the weeks went on, we felt abandoned by the school and wondered what on earth the teachers were doing off at home on full salary (sunbathing in their gardens?) whilst other exhausted key workers, myself included worked so hard. The past month or so, the amount of work provided by the school has improved but we still had no requests for any work to be marked, no more teacher phone calls and no video lessons etc. We have felt very let down by the no-can-do attitude of schools on the topic of returning before the summer. My husband had been working from home, so he had to do the home schooling throughout lockdown - which he found very time consuming and impossible at times to juggle with phone

calls for his job. He then was made redundant due to lockdown's impact on his industry. This was a financial nightmare for us, but no doubt a blessing for our kids, as they had a parent's full attention again.'

1015. 'Limited school work sent home, weekly newsletter that initially only had 1 English & 1 Maths task on it, only 1 class zoom call that came 14 weeks into lockdown, emphasis on parents just doing what they could Last two weeks work sent home has suddenly been increasing but right near the end of term'

1016. 'I have three children aged 3, 7 and 9. All of them have been in keyworker care throughout as I work for the NHS part time. My husband is a deputy head and has been in school throughout. Our youngest's Nursery have been outstanding on their care and provision. However on days when he is not at nursery it is impossible to help the others with their school work while he is around so he ends up being put in front of the TV, which I feel incredibly guilty about. Up until half term my 7 year did no learning in school as the school "could not be seen to disadvantage those children not at school". In reality this disadvantaged key worker children. He refused to do work at home because in his eyes he had been at school all day. This caused huge arguments and tension and his learning has gone backwards as a result. Since half term it has been slightly better as they are now teaching the home learning in school however the whole process has been detrimental all round. He is not too young to be motivated to just get on with it on his own. My 10 year old goes to a private school which has provided a much more comprehensive home learning programme and he is more able to work independently. However getting him going at home is still a challenge. It has been really hard.'

1017. 'I'm a single mother working from home. My daughter is in reception, was 4/5 years old during lockdown. Home schooling was supposed to be done one of 4 subjects: maths, reading, literacy and topics, on one theme each. We received a list of things to do every day. It consisted of "watching a video and find materials at home to finish the task" or "watching a YouTube and draw a picture based on the book read out (very poorly by someone obscure- and in any case I had to translate that into our home language as my daughter didn't understand it), etc. We never succeeded in doing all the four things in a day- if I forced she was getting very angry and started to destroy even a tiny bit she has done so far. She is normally a happy, curious, and eager learner. We finally gave up finishing the list, especially as we got no or very little feedback from the teacher for what we've done. I had no second to spare after juggling my own freelance work which I just couldn't manage stopping as I would have lost my job. If I had become sick, nobody would have been able to take care of my daughter, so it was crucial to maintain my own health and well-being, too. The pressure was too high and obviously my daughter felt it, too. Luckily my daughter is back to school now. I'm really sorry that there are still many children who are missing school, while grownups are allowed to gather up and get drunk in a pub. That's not fair. If more disadvantaged children feel neglected by their society, there will be more violence and terrorism in the future.'

1018. 'The primary school my children attend has sent out weekly work via email. It contained specific projects for English, Maths and another subject each week as well as links

to activities for other subjects. There has been city wide support for PE and Music too. I have been able to email my children's teachers whenever I have needed to and they have responded quickly. I am very grateful for all the support they have given us and feel they have done as good a job as they could during this difficult time. My husband has continued to go to work so I have been home educating them whilst working from home. It has been tricky at times but we have managed.'

1019. 'My son is Y9. The school has provided work via MS Teams. It is regular across all his GCSE subjects and feedback from teachers has been swift and useful. In fact I think it is probably better than they would normally manage with all their students handing it at the same time. However he has struggled with motivation as his preferred way of working is as part of a group allowing discussion, sharing ideas and little competition too. However the lack of structure has also been difficult. I am a former teacher but this has not helped, since he has resented my being 'too teachers'. He has preferred to work with my husband, but as we are both working from home managing time to spend with him has been challenging. Initially we trusted that he would engage and organise himself, but this resulted in him not doing so, missing deadlines and getting depressed, anxious and angry (he has had issues with his mental health in the past). I contacted the school for more support and they were very good. His form teacher called him before and after the May half term, sorted out the deadlines with his subject teachers and since then he has been completing work as required. However, getting him to do more than the minimum or push himself has been well-nigh impossible. He is not motivated by class points etc. I think I would have liked that phone contact to have continued, or always to have been there, perhaps once a week as I know some schools have. I think school started to feel unreal to him, he lost the sense of being part of a community and that phone contact made it a little more real again. In the last week of term they are starting live lessons, with one hour, one subject per day. Apparently it has taken them this long to sort out the safeguarding issues. The other odd thing the school has done is that they have provide PE activities and challenges via Facebook. This is not something we have let him use so he has not been able to engage. Not that I think he would anyway. He is extremely self-conscious and has refused to do any on-line workouts, even those sent him from his rugby club. My son would not normally sit on a list of vulnerable students, however this situation means that he has required additional support. I am just glad he is in Y9 and not Y10 as hopefully there will be time enough for him to recover the ground lost. My daughter is in Y11. Her worst days were at the beginning of lockdown before the exams were cancelled. The school were really supportive. The last day of school before lockdown they only brought in the Y7s, Y11s and Y13s so they were able to have space for a leaving 'celebration' and say goodbye to students and staff planning to leave. The school have supplied transition units to prepare to A Level, she's staying at the school for Sixth Form. Personally I have found it hugely frustrating, as I have taught some of his subjects and would have liked to do more with him. But teaching your own child and at home is a vastly different thing. I was able to support my niece with her A Levels via zoom, it's the alteration in the relationship needed that is so problematic. I am now looking at the summer holiday with dread since it will be six weeks when he doesn't even have school work to do and I worry how I am going to keep him in anyway active. Roll on September!'

1020. 'We had Very minimum support, the school send a blanket learning pack for the week containing all subjects and that's it! It's up the parent (and the child) to get on with it, to do as much or as little as you want/can. There is no feedback, no back and forth between home and school. My year 3 daughter has done ALL the work provided by the school, and her teacher hasn't seen any of it, not seen any of her writing or maths or sciences or even heard her read for 16 weeks. My year 1 son had the same set up for 12 weeks, a weekly learning pack sent by the school on Monday and he needed more help with it. So as a stay at home mum, with a working husband, I had to divide my time between both children, managing housework's, food, meals, cleaning and full time homeschooling so my husband could work as best as possible to ensure he would keep his job which is our sole income as a family. I had to manage our own emotions, fear and anxiety, while teaching 2 children who were confused, sad, and lost. After 12 weeks, when the school partially reopened, my year 1 son went back to school. Which made it slightly easier, but now my daughter is even more lonely, and it's even more of a contrast of what she's missing by not being able to go to school. The school has now set 20min Microsoft Team meeting with the teacher and a couple of classmates, which is an informal chat but still no feedback on my daughter's work, where she's at with her learning and still solely rely on me to make sure she does it, on her own, which is very draining and lonely and not conducive of good learning. There hasn't been any effort made by the school to interact with the children, no virtual class, no live class, nothing, a pack emailed to you and that's it. We had to source a printer, a ton of ink, writing books etc... and we were lucky to have a spare laptop. It's assumed that a parent has time to do full time homeschooling. I'm also concerned that as an estimated half of the children haven't done any homeschooling, when they go back to school, they will also go over whatever has been covered in the homelearning again, which will be even more boring for the children who did complete it at home. How is the school planning on narrowing the gap that 6 months of missed education will have created ?'

1021. 'My wife and I are parents of one child in Year 6 (about to transfer to secondary) and one child in Year 9. We have both been working from home full-time whilst trying to home school our children (although thankfully our Year 6 child has been back in school for four days a week since half-term). We have found the whole experience extremely stressful, especially with our Year 9 son. We have simply been unable to work full-time and give the support that has been required - especially during the last half-term when the school decided to conduct year-end assessments remotely and set 6-week long projects alongside this - this effectively meant that we were both working full-time, were now expected to invigilate exams and also to motivate a 14-year old boy to self-plan project work for six weeks. Completely unachievable. In the early days of lockdown, the interaction between his secondary school and home was minimal - a data dump of powerpoint materials online, meaning that we spent a lot of time printing, preparing etc which I think could and should have been driven by the school. We were even self-narrating powerpoints to try to increase engagement. The result was a child overwhelmed by the amount of work set, parents struggling to juggle multiple priorities and a lack of engagement between pupil and the school. Thankfully the engagement level has marginally improved over the latter part of the term as the school have set-up Google meets and face to face calls with the form tutor, but this could have been done much earlier in my view. There is no doubt our son has gone backwards from March to now....the

amount of time and care he is spending on his work has steadily reduced and his engagement has lessened. I guess this is natural in the circumstances. In summary, the last few months has been very difficult for us as a family - relationships in the home have been very strained and much of this is down to the need for home-schooling. We have done the best we can as parents and full-time workers but we are not teachers, and kids (especially boys) need the outside drive of their teachers to get their work done to the best of their ability. I really hope that we can get back to "normal" in September as I am sure that many families are already at breaking point.'

1022. 'My wife and I are parents to two boys, aged 5 and 6. Our youngest son is severely autistic, with learning disabilities, and is non verbal and is registered disabled. He attends a special needs school and has a band 5 EHCP. Our oldest son is undergoing assessment for high functioning autism and has high emotional needs. Both of them are classed as vulnerable. Both schools closed immediately when the lockdown started. Despite the Government and the Media telling everyone that children with EHCPs or vulnerable status would still attend, the special needs school closed and offered us nothing in the way of support. Our entire support structure was taken away overnight. My wife had to close her business, and I was not furloughed so I kept working at home. However the dynamics of our family are very difficult, and it is close to impossible for one parent to look after both of our children for any longer than an hour, because their combo of emotional needs and basic needs (our youngest is still in nappies) are so extreme. For the first few weeks we coped. But the extreme meltdowns and aggressive behaviour from our youngest progressively got worse as he was increasingly confused about his total loss of routine and access to his special school and the activities he enjoyed, to the extent that my wife was often covered in bruises and scratches. For me, balancing working at home in this environment became impossible and unprofessional and I developed crippling panic attacks where I passed out crying more than once a day. I was constantly flitting between my desk and the living room, never focusing on anything for more than 20 mins. The pressure of trying to work, support my wife, and support my eldest son and try and keep him connected to his education whilst also trying to diffuse his brothers behaviour was too much. My GP put me on anti anxiety medication (which my wife has been on herself for 2x years) In the end, we stopped trying to do any school work with our eldest, because it was doing more harm than good for him, and instead focused on trying to protect him and keep him happy. We constantly communicated with the schools, and all we got after the 9th week of lockdown was a 3x hour session once per week at the special needs school for our youngest. When schools re-opened, our eldest sons mainstream opened full time for him (they have been brilliant and very understanding of what he has been through with his brothers behaviour at home, and how deeply he is affected by the lockdown). But the special needs school was only part time, so we still got very little respite. The last few months have been beyond our worst possible nightmare. There is only so much that parents like us can handle without additional support from special needs services and wider family. If they do not go back full time in September and get access to the support and stimulation they need, or if they are closed again, my wife and I honestly do not think we can get through it a second time. As special needs parents, we feel totally let down and forgotten about. Home schooling is a completely unrealistic notion for families like us.'

1023. 'I have twins in year 1, one twin is Neurotypical, the other has high functioning Autism and ADHD. My partner and I both have full time jobs. They have received the same work throughout the school closure, our SEN child hasn't had any special provision. The School SENSCO has emailed us a couple of times to see how he is though. Initially work was received via documents on the school website and later via Google Classroom. Time and motivating the children has been the biggest challenge. We would normally receive lessons the night before and spend an hour or so downloading, printing and familiarising ourselves with what needs to be done the next day. In addition to this we are often catching up on work from our own jobs which are compromised due to homeschooling. In the day, our challenges are motivating the children to do the tasks set. This is challenging enough with our neurotypical child and extremely challenging with our special needs child. Our special needs child requires us to support him in every aspect of his learning which is extremely time consuming and emotionally draining, as he'll often have 'meltdowns' when anxious. Once, lessons are completed, we then need to upload the work to Google Classroom and put it into their 'Lockdown Exercise book'. We have long since given up trying to do all the work set and now concentrate on the core subjects (English, Maths and Science). As mentioned above, we are having to catch up on work for our jobs. The can often mean us working late into the early hours of the morning. Hence, we are getting little or no downtime and our sleep is comprised.'

1024. 'My wife and I (mainly me) have been homeschooling since the lockdown started and its been one of the most stressful experiences of our lives. MY wife has a full-on corporate job involving 8 to 10 hours a day on video calls and team meetings which has been super-stressful. I run my own small business and we have a 7 year old and an 8 year old. There were times when we actually thought we were going mad with trying to juggle everything and the school have been so unbelievably risk-averse because of the alarming and constantly changing government advice to schools. The kids have coped really well bless them, but I know how fed up they are with it all and motivation to learn is now about zero. I actually fear that the whole experience has potentially damaged their joy of learning for life. My greatest fear now is that the Dept of Education over-react again in the future and close schools again. I actually think my wife and I would cry and God knows how the kids would be. Whatever you think about the harm that C-19 causes older people, we are risking damaging an entire generation for something that is very unlikely to cause them any harm. Kids education badly damaged. Jobs lost everywhere. Businesses gone bust. Let's not let the solution be worse than the problem!'

1025. 'The school have been utterly amateur in their approach, and if they could have kept the school shut, and kept full wages, paid for by the council tax I pay, they would have done. They provided the minimum of work on the final day before lock down, just a couple of worksheets and one piece of paper! The rest has been directing us to websites, where our children need fairly constant supervision, which doesn't work when trying to do a full time job as well. Both of us have been working full time, and while work has been very flexible with my needs, my partner is a SEN TA, so work for my partner is in a different school. All of the work "provided" by the school up to about 3 weeks ago has been for us to review, prepare and print at our expense. The school said they would phone weekly, and this didn't happen -

fortnightly at best - and when they did call, we didn't get the class teacher, but instead a waste of space TA on a temporary contract, who has the communication skills of a slug, and has zero knowledge of our children. She has been at the school before, as a teacher, but was useless, so a good fit to be re-employed to cover a TA position - jobs for the girls, certainly, and no dissenting voices allowed. The school has set very babyish "challenges" and asked for pictures of those completed challenges to be emailed to them, so they can display them on Twitter. These challenges have very little to offer to boys. There has been no work sent out to be completed and returned for marking, and no regular interaction with the class teacher. We have been left to sink. The school cannot be challenged on any of this because they are hostile and defensive, the Head is not fit for purpose, and takes a defensive attitude to any concerns raised. Over the last 12 months, several children have already moved schools due to this, and we are intending to follow once our eldest finishes Year 6. Speaking to the most recent leavers' parents, the lock down debacle is the final straw. The school refused to allow families with one key worker to send their children in, you had to be a single parent keyworker, or both had to be keyworkers. They shut the school, and pushed all the key worker children to another local school, making no effort at all to stay open. When it was time to return reception, year 1 and year 6, they delayed it by a week due to "not receiving the PPE they need" - we note all the teachers now have scrubs, no doubt bought with school money. What a waste! There is no need to give staff scrubs, they have their own clothes. Upon reopening, the fifteen Year 6 students are split into 2 groups and only come in 2 days a week. The school could do better, but claims as they are small, they have no other option. We can see alternative options to allow more teaching time, but the hostile nature of the head means we cannot approach them. We did receive a letter from the Head after some complaints must have been made, and this just accused the parents of not following social distancing rules, and therefore they couldn't do any more for our children. The head teacher is busy hiding at home, she is never in the school to greet the children in the morning. In the last few weeks things have improved a little bit - the school must have had their knuckles rapped by someone. A virtual classroom has been set up, just in time for the end of term! 2 children from 15 attended the first session last week for year 3s, which says it all (our child, one other, and the teacher). The school have also dropped off some more work booklets (delivered by a teacher, by car at our home address) for our Year 3 child, but these are generic aged 7-11 work books, so there is a lot our 7 year old is unable to do. It's also entirely expected for us to teach everything; there is no guidance or online classrooms from the school on how to do this, and we still have our full time jobs to do. My work has suffered and my partner's anxiety levels are through the roof. A better effort from the school to just do the basics would have put us both in a better mental state of mind. All in all, a dreadful display from school, but not a surprise, based on our pre-CV19 experiences. They push a lot on to parents most of the time - pre CV19, we were responsible for spellings, times tables and lengthy homework, with children punished for not achieving - only rewarded with certificates in front of the whole school for scoring 100%. I wonder what they do all day in school, as it doesn't seem to be the basics. Amateur, and out of their depth.'

1026. 'Two children, one in primary one in secondary. The Secondary school has provided a programme of materials which is very welcome. I have asked for some form of contact time in order for Child 1 to maintain some sense of connection with the school and other pupils, even

if it was 30 minutes a week. Nothing. He hasn't spoken to anyone from his school friends for 4 months. The Primary school at one point printed out some pdf materials downloaded from Hamilton Trust. Since then nothing. So aside from home-schooling, we are also having to generate the lesson plans and materials ourselves, or locate them online. Occasionally the teachers put some or other challenge on the facebook page (Simon Says; Disney character quiz). Child 2 has had one 10 minute conversation with her teacher. Again, we've asked for some online contact time. But nothing forthcoming. It feels like the school is just willing summer holidays to arrive and they can forget about our kids without feeling any pangs of guilt. The kids have suffered. Our jobs have suffered. Can't believe how lax the schools have been in their responsibility to educate our children.'

1027. 'Very good. Lots of contact. Teacher calls, weekly zoom catch up with peers. Lots of weekly work sent. Great daily Schedule.'
1028. 'Little to no support from school. The first school contact was infact demotivating. Way too much work and most of which was new to the kids. Very worried about what the kids have actually gained in the last 3 months.'
1029. 'My son's school has been pretty good, lots of ideas put online and very responsive to messages (he is in Foundation/reception). However there's no getting around the fact that with myself and my husband both trying to hold down our jobs, and with a 2 year old and 5 year old at home all time time, we simply can't provide the education and stimulus they need (we've kept our children at home for now due to my husband's chronic health condition). It is a full time job looking after young children, how can we do this while doing our jobs as well? (I initially wanted to quit my job to focus on the children during this time, but given we're entering a massive global recession with high unemployment, it's hardly a time to leave a job. Luckily I have kept it, but then childcare/home schooling becomes impossible. We both started new jobs in April so neither eligible for furlough.) The material the school provided has helped, as in the moments I have to do school work with my son, I can go straight to their resources. But for us, it's not so much about what the school provides, as how do we magically have time for childcare and jobs at the same time. We are just exhausted. I don't know how much longer we can cope. I'm also worried about the summer holidays, as there will (understandably) be nothing from the school but I want to keep a bit of my son's education going over the summer. He's missed so much, and already gone backwards in reading/writing, that I don't want to stop for 6 weeks now! His class have had an unusually high rate of return to school, so I'm worried he will be behind those that went back in June.'
1030. 'My son is in year 10. To start with he had loads of homework which overwhelmed him. A while back they decided to reduce this (due to parents concerns) back to 4 x 45 mins a day ie 3 hours - this didn't push him, so not good. Since his 1 day back at school home work has dropped even more. At no point did he have any on line lessons. The reason was they didnt want to dis advantage poor children with no access to IT equipment. Our 2 older children who have been through GCSE's say he has no chance to catch up. The school also cancelled year end exams, so he hasn't experienced any exam conditions. To make this worse

we know of Private schools who have had a full timetable via live online lessons. The gulf between Private schools and this is huge. Certainly not on a level playing field.'

1031. 'Our 2 children are in Reception and Preschool. Homeschooling has been dreadful. At school our kids were very excited and motivated to learn, they had lovely teachers and a rich learning environment with resources that we can't possibly replicate at home. At home our kids were visibly losing skills they had learned at school. They were not at all motivated to learn at home. They have a different relationship with their teachers, who are professionals, and us as their parents, who they just expect to get love and play time from. Fairly early on, for sanity and for the sake of preserving our wellbeing as a family we insisted on half an hour of phonics in the morning and otherwise abandoned the attempt. This has allowed our relationships within the family to remain relatively strong, but at the expense of our children's education. The school were absolutely excellent for setting reasonable/achievable learning goals each week and they kept in touch by phone and on the class blog, but neither of us had the time or expertise to support our child's home learning as we would have wanted. We cannot hold down our jobs and teach our children at the same time. We were disgusted at Brighton & Hove Council refusing to let schools reopen for R, Y1, Y6 when the rest of English schools reopened. Everything has been better since our kids have gone back to school (for the kids and for us). Thank you for letting us have a voice on this.'

1032. 'It's been a fine balance between working and educating. I totally understand why it's happening but the impact on my child's education has been significantly worrying and it's highlighted for us as a family how over crowded classrooms are, funding for schools is lacking, the gap between private and state Schools and the "have and have nots". I want clear guidance and I hoped that we as a nation could re-look at education and how it's delivered (especially in the wake of BLM and climate change) as this will not be the last time this happens and rather than letting a whole generation down, we as the adults surely can come up with a plan while theatres and venues are shut and there is space let's look at these spaces to get groups together to educate and increase well being.'

1033. 'My son is Year 5. He has been out of school since March and has not had the opportunity to return to school. My son's school has set a home learning plan every week, which has usually been interesting but I feel that we have been maintaining his previous learning as opposed to learning new areas of the curriculum. Being a substitute teacher for my son has been detrimental to our parent and child relationship as he needs me to be his mum not his substitute teacher. Each week of homeschooling has reduced my son to tears which is not good for his mental health. My son's social development is being impaired by not having the opportunity to mix with his peers. I am very fortunate to not have to work as homeschooling is a full time job in itself. It shows the governments priority if non essential shops have opened before schools. My son needs to be in school full time being taught by professional teachers.'

1034. 'A disaster on the part of the school and LEA. 2 parents trying to work full time from home and home school two primary school boys. No support or contact from school for first 8 weeks, then some links to websites. First personal contact this week with a new teacher

email to class. Disgraceful, no desire to find a way to make education happen. No use of Zoom or Teams for class learning. We can fly a head office of 3000 people remotely - why not a medium sized primary school. No furlough for teachers - what have they been doing? At pandemic peak there were 4 key worker children in school !! Our kids have suffered and so have we. Disgraceful.'

1035. 'My husband is working from home, I am a full time healthcare university student also working from home. I have 2 boys aged 8 and 13. They are both unhappy being stuck at home. They want to see their friends. They want to have their routine back. My eldest moans at me every single day about the work he has to do. It is affecting his mental health - he appears low in mood. My youngest has missed out quite a few days of school work as I couldn't juggle two things. I had important assessments to complete within deadlines and I tried to do the school work also but in the end it was making me stressed resulting in snapping at everyone, feeling tearful and low in mood. My youngest and I would often fall out over the work. It didn't work well between us, and all the time I'm thinking I'm not a teacher, this is unfair. The longer it goes on the more negative it all feels. Now we are in lockdown again and we are thoroughly fed up and it feels there is no end in sight. We all need to know that the kids will be back in September for definite and full time. I will be going on placement in October so I really need to know that the schooling situation will be sorted. If people can flock to the beaches and go to the pub then surely our children can go back to school and try and resume some kind of normal life, before their mental health is really affected.'
1036. 'All set work has been passive, no interactive teaching. No examples of correct answers. No support for subjects in which parents are not experts.'
1037. 'The work that they have set is fine and is well laid out but I'm not a teacher and I have a 2 year old as well. So it's not been too bad but he needs the social aspect of it too.'
1038. 'Secondary school experience dreadful. The school did 0 online lessons so my son was left to manage his own workload with no structure. Both parents are working from home so cannot cope! No clarity of what the teachers have been doing all this time!!!! Primary was slightly better however as my daughter is in yr 6 she is back at school which has greatly improved her life.'
1039. 'Home schooling has been fabulous and has brought me and my 3 children closer together! I feel so much more part of their education and have built a closer rapport with their class teachers albeit by distance! The children have all definitely benefited from the past few months. The school has been very supportive with the work at home and the quality of the homework being sent home has been challenging and whilst not being too difficult and discouraging. Could not praise the staff at their school enough, overall this has been an extremely positive experience.'
1040. 'My daughter's school has been excellent with lots of support and three 10 minute live lessons per week (she is in reception), alongside direction to Phonics resources and 10 home-schooling activities per week based on a text used across the school, differentiated to a certain extent either by task or outcome. I have been able to contact the form tutor about my

daughter's anxiety about getting things wrong and she has responded with some really helpful advice. She has also phoned home 3 times. However, I am a secondary school teacher myself (at an independent school) and also have a younger child (age 3). My husband is an NHS keyworker so is out of the house during the day. Managing my younger child, my own lessons which have often had to be live and helping my older daughter has been very challenging. She hasn't taken well to me as a replacement teacher (seeing home life as separate from school) and all three of us have regularly been reduced to screaming or tears. In February, my daughter was towards the top of her cohort academically but has, if anything, regressed over this period whilst her friends who have been working well with furloughed or non-working parents have overtaken her considerably.'

1041. 'Home schooling has been really difficult! 2 boys aged 8 and 10. I've been working full time from home and trying to help my boys do school work. My husband is working full time at his workplace and can't do his work at home. It's put a strain on all of us. The work set by the school was difficult to use and follow so I quickly gave up on that - thank goodness for Oak National Academy- a life saver! We need this to continue to be available in case of future local lockdowns and I hope there can be funding to support it.'

1042. 'I am a key worker and worked throughout lockdown with no leave at all. School would not take my child because his father isn't a key worker. I have been working full time, having to pay for childcare and also sort all of the home schooling so my finances have been hit, my life has been none stop work, school work, housework. My son, although initially cooperative doing work has become increasingly difficult to get do work and more and more negative, he has recently taken to crying and saying he can't do any of it and has recently been telling me he hates his life. He is normally one of the top in the class in most subjects. I really want him to go back, he needs to'

1043. 'It's been so stressful. I have 2 children, year 2 and 5. My child in year 2 has had virtually no interaction from the school or tasks set or guidance. I've alone and struggled to know what to teach him! BBC nite size is ok, but there's no reputation so the information isn't retained. I'm working full time in a financial management position trying to maintain the feasibility of 3 companies and retain staff in this unprecedented situation. I have cried and cried and cried again! I feel like I have let my children down and the school has definitely let my son down. The experience for my daughter is a little different, her school has set her daily tasks and she has uploaded these for her teacher. Her teacher comments and the is good communication. My son starts moves to the junior school in September. Being an August child, with 6 months of no schooling will lead to lots of tears, fretting and anxiety.'

1044. 'I have two primary school children in my household, 10 and 6, each go to different schools. My partner has been unwell and I have worked from home throughout. The pressures on all 4 of us have at times been significant. My 10 year old has missed school terribly and found it hard to engage with online learning, I have had to at times give up on trying to work to try and support both kids with wildly disparate learning objectives, with the 10 year old struggling to engage with the sudden shift to entirely digital work and the 6 year old wanting to play (she has treated it like an extended holiday). I have great respect for the

teachers at my older daughters school, they've tried really hard but it's a very small rural school with limited staff, space and funding. Despite the fact that my daughter has been back in school 2 days a week for the last month I cannot see how the school will reopen fully in September without extensive immediate investment in temporary classroom space. Parents are not trained teachers, we often don't have a clear understanding of syllabus or contemporary teaching techniques. The stress of trying to give our daughters adequate learning has impacted on us as parents, complicated my partners' recovery from Covid-19 and created a 'no-win' situation where doing the best we can (despite real worries over whether its enough) is literally all we can do. I am deeply concerned that a return to school as 'normal' in September is dangerous without a reliable vaccine program. I would not trust that a school that is physically and staffing-wise small can eradicate infection risks and that cases will increase, and I worry deeply for the health of my family and the community we live in if no responsible and viable government-led solution is forthcoming.'

1045. 'All work has been passive, no interaction with teachers. Quality of set work has reduced as time has gone on. No answers have been provided or examples of correct work'
1046. 'Although work sent home weekly there has been very little new learning. There hasn't been any virtual teaching or control of what students do. It has been very much 'if you can be bothered' attitude. Overall I have been disappointed by the support and expectations.'
1047. 'Our nine year old son is quite self-motivated and has largely got on with the school work that has been set, spending about four hours a day working by himself. This has proved sufficient to keep up with the work set. His teacher has posted comments on some of the work that has been scanned and uploaded. His teacher rings every couple of weeks to check how things are getting on. However clearly he has been unable to develop his social skills while in lockdown. (It's not just the school that is closed, so are all clubs.) While he doesn't particularly enjoy interacting with other children his own age, this is clearly important, especially since we suspect he suffers from mild Asperger's (currently awaiting assessment). With our seven year old daughter however it's like pulling teeth to get her to do schoolwork. We're probably averaging about an hour and a half a day, accompanied by a lot of tantrums. She's not having a good lockdown and has become aggressive and very clingy to my wife and more often than not ends up sleeping in our bed. The school is setting work and responds to what is posted. We have also discussed with her teacher the problems getting her to work and agreed to focus on the core of mental maths, spelling, literacy and reading and ignore the rest. This clearly isn't a viable longterm solution but is the least bad option at the moment.'
1048. 'Child with additional needs who attend special school. No direct support provided by school except 1 phone call pw & work set once a week. Tried to home school a few weeks, but as a solo working parent it didnt work so had to stop.'
1049. 'We have 2 children in our house who both require home schooling, 1 is 5 and 1 is 7. I work full time as a contractor so have to be in the "office" for the entire day from 7 until 4 else I don't get paid so am unable to realistically do any of the home schooling. My wife has depression which has always been in the background to our lives but has been manageable

with the ability to take her out of the home environment and for a walk around town etc, unfortunately the lock-down has taken this away. As such my wife's depression has stopped her from being able to do any meaningful home schooling, she feels she is failing her children when she cant help or build up the motivation to start the school work with them. Due to this both of my children have done minimal school work at home as she has no patience and will start snapping at them and I have no time due to working!'

1050. 'I have been home-schooling my two children (year 2 and reception) since 17th March - they finished school slightly earlier than schools were closed due to both of them having a cold. To say it has been hell is an understatement. I have lost most of my work as a freelancer and trying to continue with the little I have whilst home-schooling two children of different ages has been beyond difficult. Initially I had to find things to teach them as our school left us floundering with no set tasks. Once the year groups allowed to return went back, school started sending daily tasks which I am struggling to keep on top of with reluctant children and a husband who has to shut himself away in an office to get his job done (TV sound engineer) Home schooling is damaging my relationship with my children. Combine that with them missing their friends and feeling isolated, our children are gong to be badly affected by this situation long term'

1051. 'My experience has been mixed. At the "tactical" level, individual teachers have generally been ok. However, inattention to detail - eg incorrect naming of online documents, Documents in the wrong place, etc - has led to frustration and wasted time. Additionally, the pastoral support has been extremely poor in my particular case; the form tutor has never been in touch. I know this is not the case across the school as some tutors are regularly in touch with their pupils. I have mentioned this to the Head of Year but to no avail. I also believe the reluctance to embrace technology to support learning has been poor. There are too many people who are running scared of using what industry and government have been using for years. The teaching profession also has to be more proactive and not rely on being spoon fed by government in situations like this. This is supposedly a national crisis and unionised views are simply a brake on resolving issues. Finally, there was clearly a lack of a business continuity plan at the school and a very slow response to the possible impact of the virus. When asked what he was doing about the virus - shortly before the shutdown - he responded "well, we've had a couple of chats about it but that's all". Distinct lack of leadership, strategic thinking and planning. There is also no lessons identified process being run, a process that should involve parents.'

1052. 'While work and health were ok, we managed ok with a bit of school work to keep going. However when I felt the pressure, with no support and the relentless of no escape, anxiety soon took over affecting myself and my children. A viscous cycle as I can't get help and am trying to appear all is normal to not impact the children which is just getting worse every day.'

1053. 'Both my wife and I have been working during lockdown which has made childcare and home schooling horrendously difficult. I feel betrayed by the 'system'. We are are not key workers but at the same time it is key for economy that people like ourselves continue to

work but with zero support. The consequences are numerous: 1) children are falling behind as we simply cannot fulfil both roles. 2) they have become much more reliant on computers than we are happy with but we cannot police this adequately 3) I heard the description 'feral' and I think that is accurate 4) there are knock on emotional effects on us as parents seeing the impact on our children whilst trying to manage stressful jobs when medium term job security is at its lowest for a long time 5) in terms of school support - unfortunately I do not think it has been very helpful. Individual teachers are doing their best but for us it is all 'bitty'. Every day there were new releases of some exercises. In my opinion it would be so much easier if there was a workbook that we could see what they would be working on over a prolonged period. We also got very unhelpful and unsympathetic emails saying work was not handed in where some acknowledgement of the difficulties of the situation would have been appreciated. I just can't emphasise enough how important it is to have our children back in school. The gap between children whose parents have had to work and cannot possibly provide the appropriate level of home schooling and maybe those who can is unfair. That is not to say it is easy for any parent to homeschool for various reasons, but the longer children go without school the more desperate and potentially irreparable the situation will become. Kind regards.'

1054. 'Home schooling is horrifically stressful. Myself and my husband are both working from home with three children. I cannot believe pubs are open but my children are still at home. My husband and I are both stressed trying to manage (and keep) our jobs. The kids are missing friends, sport and normal life. It is causing irreparable damage with tantrums, tears and misery and we are not in any way a vulnerable family. All families are struggling.'

1055. 'It has been impossible to teach my two primary school children and do my own work at the same time. Luckily my employer is understanding so I have been able to put schooling first. I have a child with dyslexia who needs extra support and I am very concerned that she will not be able to catch up which is why I had to put teaching her a priority so she doesn't fall behind. With the help of a very dedicated teacher I have been able to teach her what she should have been learning in school since March. I think it is a disgrace that children with SEN (but no EHCP) have not been supported during this crisis as other groups have because they will be the ones who find it hardest to catch up on lost learning.'

1056. 'We have 2 children, Yr 1 and Yr 4. We are both Key workers for the MOD, my husband worked in his office (his aircraft) full time throughout lockdown. I had to teach as well as doing my own job, sometimes at home, sometimes with the children at work with me. Our son went back to school on 1st June, his elder sister 2 weeks later having been full time at work with me since 1st. Our daughter received all work through Microsoft Teams, with weekly live chats. Lessons were opened with videos from the teacher, then documents and tasks. She received the usual range of subjects but fewer lessons per week of some. There was far too much time scheduled for PE and music, with a reduction in provision of academics. Given the limited time and resources available, priority should have been on academic subjects with a 'play in the garden at lunchtime' for PE. We received lesson plans for our son through OneDrive, that we taught. He too received a 'morning movie' video message from his teacher everyday. His teacher has since told us that he didn't slip one bit

during lockdown and is exactly where he would have been had he stayed in school. I don't dispute this was hard, we both worked 14-16 hours a day to teach 2 children and do our own work. Aside from bank holidays neither of us has had a day off since February half term. We're exhausted, but education is not negotiable, and tackling the tasks in front of you, managing your time, and prioritising those tasks, without bursting into tears (or resorting to alcohol) is one of the examples parents need to set their children.'

1057. 'Home schooling has been a challenging experience! Both of us have been working full time the whole time and having to firstly home school 5 days a week. This is now down to 3 day's a week. Been hard making sure giving work and our son the time. He is an only child so getting very bored with us both working. I only hope schools open properly from September to allow some form of normality'

1058. 'How wonderful to teach and learn together, to produce beautiful work, to see my child Learn and improve before our eyes, to share his excitement at it all. What a blessing of time it has been!'

1059. 'Exhausting. Working and home schooling is not possible. Children are suffering. Appalled that the government has kept schools closed for so long and that there was no national plan. It had been terrible for both their education and also socialisation.'

1060. 'Without exaggeration, this has been the most challenging period of our family life. We have two young children (year 3 and Reception Class) and and we are working from home on a full time basis. What we have been asked to do, in terms of working from home, parenting and home schooling, has been an impossible ask and I am convinced the Government has not appreciated the immense strain this has placed on people's lives. Engaging our children in home schooling has been a daily battle and they simply do not want to be taught by their parents. Our school provided no support throught the whole lockdown period. We feel immensley let down by them. Home learning packs were provided by the school but there was NO contact (by phone or other) between the school, parents and pupils. Lockdown and home-schooling again from September is not a sustainable option for us. We worry for our Children's an our own wellbeing and the impact this will have on their long-term learning. We're In danager of total burn-out trying to sustain all this.'

1061. 'I found homeschooling whilst working incredibly challenging and draining - doing two jobs simultaneously was exhausting (actually it's 5 jobs - my work, year 4 teacher, year 6 teacher, dinner person & playground attendant) and I felt I did none of them as well as required. I'm fortunate that as my wife is an NHS Key Worker who has been working throughout so my children returned to school 4.5 days per week from 22 June. As a leader of major multi-million pound engineering projects I'm a pretty robust character but over many weeks this experience brought me to the point where I breaking down in tears in the evenings. The only support from the school was some material and links on their website and some material they e-mailed out. The mentality was 'here is some stuff you may find useful when home schooling your children' which equates to a near complete abdication of responsibility. It could be read as 'parents set you exhaustion to one side having worked and

taught all day and spend your evenings sifting through lots of information then develop your own lesson plan for the next day'. The teachers never contacted or spoke to my children in all their time of homeschooling. For many lessons I had to go through all the material and prepare the night before. I even prepared templates for the children to complete, so they could be guided through the lesson whilst I was in work video conference meetings. The children had some limited online work, which I had to just trust they were doing. Over the weeks the schools offer reduced down to just saying go and do BBC Bitesize Maths and English plus some other very limited activities. The breadth of their curriculum reduced significantly as we focused on Maths and English, activities such as art that required time to set up we too much effort. I'm a school governor and asked the school for a shift in mindset from 'how can we support parents home schooling' to 'how are we going to deliver lessons remotely, making best use of the limited parental support available'. This resulted in some very limited improvements. Many teachers are well trained and skilled (they remind me of this at our Governors meetings - they tell me teaching is not a job that anyone can do) but the education sector needs to demonstrate far more adaptability and agility. They need to find a new way that works practically rather than back-heeling the work onto parents who are busy at work (i.e. who are already going through the demanding & stressful experience of reinventing how to deliver their own work). The answer cannot be to send the children home at the first indication of a case of Covid-19 in a school and put the responsibility back on parents again. The mindset needs to be not one of making schools as safe as POSSIBLE, but to making schools as safe as PRACTICABLE within the constraints of the building and staffing available. The emphasis of the government strategy needs to shift from lock-down of the general population to shielding and protecting the minority of vulnerable people. Sorry, but let a few suffer not the majority. What I observe is the more vulnerable older people out and about as usual (taking little responsibility for their own welfare), whilst the children who don't seem to be affected by this disease are being forced to stay away from school or have hugely disrupted schooling. This is having a major emotional impact on children not seeing their friends, the impact on the children's learning will be life-long, the impact on working parents is devastating, the impact on family well-being is considerable, the impact on the economy is massive and will be felt for many years. All of this to protect a minority (mostly pensioners who visibly don't care, and why should as they have their triple lock pension arrangement!) This is all the wrong way round.'

1062. 'Our school has provided an excellent standard of lessons for year 7. Upper 6th - zero contact. My Year 7 boy is an A* student, we have plenty of space at home, good internet and PCs etc. I am a university educated professional who is furloughed and so I have plenty of time. We have the ideal set up. However it is still hard. My son gets bored during lessons, is tired of staring at a screen all day and misses his friends. I have to sit with him full time to keep his attention, this causes tensions. It has been a tough time, but I am one of the lucky ones: If I'm finding it difficult with all the many advantages I have, how on earth have others coped? Parents working as well as home schooling, sharing their one computer (if they're lucky), perhaps no garden, those who don't feel able to support their children academically. My child will be fine, but I fear for those who don't have the support he has.'

1063. 'I have 3 primary school children in Years 5,4 & 1 who attend Junior and Infant schools respectively. Given they are relatively small schools, it has not been possible for them to take any of my children back. The Y1 child has received 2.5 hours back in school, once a week for the past 2 weeks. Attempting to home school 3 children has been near on impossible and driven us all to the brink of our sanity. The youngest 2 have suffered greatly with their mental health during this time and I am extremely concerned about the long term impact of this time on them. Given the rates of the virus in our area are extremely low at present, the schools should have had all children back before the end of term. All 3 of my children will have had 6 months out of the school setting by the time they go back in September. The impact on their educational development as well as their social development, will be devastating. It is not the schools' fault, they are following the Government guidance. However this guidance has been too slow, and too generic. I find it staggering that I could go to a pub, restaurant, or shopping centre and yet my children cannot go back to school. This Government has failed my children.'
1064. 'Minimal support or contact with school and very little opportunity to communicate what is working and what is not. When we do communicate Concerns are shut down. Feels like parents do not have a voice, despite being best placed to advocate for their children's needs and also being tasked with meeting all needs - mental health, behavioural and learning. Main focus appears to be 'what we can't or won't do' rather than being responsive or innovative about what we can do. Parents not considered resources in delivering or achieving this. I work in an organisation that is cqc assessed and if the school were it would not achieve the standards'
1065. 'We have 2 children in primary school, both my wife and I work full time and I was on furlough for 3 weeks. The school made contact to my youngest daughter once (others I believe had regular calls and these were parents who had not shared work) The school work that is sent over is worksheets to print out, some online work that is not tablet friendly, you tube videos and Twinkl powerpoints. We get a sheet with it all on (though links dont work), we have to use work computers to show powerpoints, spend time searching for the you tube videos on tablets and it is frustrating. The work that we are sent is minimal and can be normally finished by Wednesday and therefore we are left to our own devices to find work. All school coms are via class dojo and there is no other comms with the school. Our school have not done any online teaching so it is very much left to the parents to sort out. When you are juggling working and home schooling it is hard and there is no support for the parent.'
1066. 'I think it has been poorly managed and they have been very behind the curve.'
1067. 'I am a senior leader in an independent school. I am also a mother of 3 small children, 2, 6, 8. My children do not attend the school I work at. We developed an incredibly supportive and effective remote learning programme for my school. But I was left solo at home with my 3 children - their father is a dairy worker and has worked for the duration of this time outside the home. I am grateful we both have been able to keep our jobs BUT I am exhausted! My own children have had no input bar a few random session on doodle Maths because I felt guilty. All my time was taken on screen supporting my work children remotely

and parents. My own children were left to hours of TV and wild playing. I am a teacher and I could not teach my own children. I was devastated and embarrassed by the response from teachers and unions who repeatedly blocked and resisted the government proposals to return to school for children. I can't even make a straight and coherent sentence about how I think it should and could be done and I have had to fight my own anger on a daily basis both towards my 'unknown' peers in the same profession and the government lack of input and facilitation to ensure that larger groups of children could safely return to work/school. The longer term consequences on working parents and the family dynamic and career prospects for the parent who absorbed the majority of childcare/homeschooling will have far further reaching consequences than the lack of pubs, off licenses and hairdressers! The three pillars of British society have always been NHS, education and public transport. I feel the education pillar has been given the least support, although I think the NHS has been thrown under a few buses too! The issue is less about a specific school - I know of numerous schools that did nothing and others that did something - the issue is the guidance and support did not match to a degree that more/most children could return to school in some form.'

1068. 'I have not been working at the same time as homeschooling but have found it one of the hardest things I have ever done. I am not a teacher, I do not naturally have patience and the school did not tell us we didn't have to correct every spelling as we went along so as a result my younger son (who was behind anyway) has not become completely demoralised and pretends to punch himself in the head when he gets something wrong. He has become more and more resistant to learning and trying to get through the two hours of work set by the school each day has often taken us five hours. I try and coax, cajole, use humour and then eventually I snap. I am in tears every day and because he is behind in the year feel intense pressure to keep trying. He hates how intense the lessons are compared to school where they see their friends and the learning is rarely just with the teacher, he hates the change in routine and this frustration comes out through either refusing to work/lying on the floor/running away/doing the work intentionally wrong or telling me how much he hates me. Every time he gets something wrong or doesn't remember something from the day before I take it personally. My mental health has been affected terribly. I wake up full of dread about the day ahead and am frequently crying in front of the kids. I have been prescribed anti depressants'

1069. 't's not been great at all, no online, no contact. Negative communications, worksheets sent at the start of the term which we had to arrange and organise, whilst trying to keep a business going and a husband on the front line. Not impressed, too much extra expected in an already difficult situation .'

1070. ': My son desperately needs to be in school full time. He is Year 7 and only had half a school year in secondary before lockdown. Since March he has been juggling the demands of 15 subjects setting work via Googleclass rooms. Recently school have started to use GoogleMeet for some lessons which has been brilliant to have human to human interaction. The school workload has been so heavy most days he has to work beyond 3.30pm and has also had to work during weekends and school holidays. The pressure he has been under from school has reduced him to tears at least once a week. Homeschooling is seriously impacting

on his mental health and development. He needs to be with his peers for his social development. My relationship with my son has also been adversely affected as he needs me to be his mum NOT his substitute teacher. Fortunately I have not had to juggle work with homeschooling, as homeschooling has been a full time job in itself. It really shows the governments priority if non essential shops opened before schools. Put children's needs first and ensure that all children have the opportunity for a full time education IN school.'

1071. 'It's been very difficult. We have continued working full time from home while trying to homeschool a 9 year old. My daughter has had to rely on oak academy and bbc bite size and as a consequence has spent most days in her room teaching herself. It is not possible to juggle work and homeschool and a better plan must be put in place on the event of future lockdowns. I am also concerned that primary school kids will be made to do next years SAT exam while having missed half a year of education. The stress and mental impact of this will be a heavy burden for these children who have already missed out on so much. A better solution is needed.'

1072. 'The pure guilt has been completely overwhelming. You feel you're not doing enough home schooling, you feel you've made your child less intelligent now, you feel an awful parent because you're also trying to juggle work, house work whilst trying to be their teacher, and when the day isn't going well so you decide to 'sack off' home schooling you feel guilty for that. It has been horrendous and the lack of interaction with their peers I believe is going to have a lasting affect on their mental health. This must never happen again and schools remaining open during a crisis must be an absolute priority.'

1073. 'We've loved every minute. My husband has been working from home. I've elected to stop working when this crisis began. We don't have a high income and are renters, so we've had to make some sacrifices, but our son's education has actually kept forwards during this. He's lived learning, and it's been a special time together in an otherwise scary time.'

1074. 'The headmaster has tried his hardest but I feel he has been let down by his staff. They seem unwilling to support any of his ideas. Until the end of June there was no contact from the teachers, they have reluctantly now implemented daily class zoom calls to talk about the work that has been set for the day, which have made such a difference to motivation. No work has been marked and there are no consequences if work is not done. I feel at the beginning they didn't want to pressure the children, which would have been fine for a couple of weeks, but for a term and a half is not an acceptable attitude. Also the work is at a very low level with very little to challenge the children. I also worry about the return to school - the amount of work done will vary so much in the class, that I fear next year will be 'dumbed down' to get those who didn't do much home schooling to catch up, with the more able kids being ignored and becoming disillusioned and losing their love of learning.'

1075. 'As an ethnic minority mother of 9 year old boy, I suffer anxiety stress and isolation of struggling looking for work for years. I am not eligible for any job seeking allowance. I pay every penny council tax and it increases all the time. We scare to spend and live a minimum living. Now I have to fulfill the duty of formal education that our tax money pays for. How can

a child thrive in this kind of life? Should the central or local government ask their conscience the misery this has put to certain household like us? Or we are never part of concern of this government!'

1076. 'Extremely poor - Head Teacher put an embargo on child-teacher interaction from the start of lockdown and provided little in the way of education materials. Since partial reopening, School was opened to Year 6 pupils only then be promptly closed 2 weeks after. Parents who have continued to work throughout the crisis who have not been furloughed or are key workers have effectively been completely abandoned.'
1077. 'Max two hours work supplied a day, 3 lessons - maths, english and topic Via online platform Seesaw - which is good, but has limitations Very little interaction between child and teacher No class interaction Both parents are working full time - we try to help if our children get stuck but 1. don't have time; 2. don't have the skills to teach. School and MAT have very little empathy about the fact that working parents are really struggling and frankly unable to do two jobs, but are very quick to point out how incredibly busy they've been. Children are coping, they're doing their best and they're happy, but they're not learning or progressing. Children are definitely being affected by lack of social interaction as well. Infection rates in our area are currently very low - we need an honest and frank conversation of the actual risk of getting the children back to school, compared to the wider impact on their education and mental wellbeing. If the situation isn't resolved in September we will seriously consider moving our children to a private school who seem to have somehow managed to deliver full online and interactive teaching.'
1078. 'This has been, quite frankly, the most stressful and unpleasant 3 months of my life. Trying to homeschool my children has been a horrible experience which results in daily fights try to get them to do anything. Our school has been putting worksheets and ideas up on the website, which we diligently went through at first but our work rate has been dwindling and I have reached the point now of no longer being pathetically grateful for a single, weekly update and no other help. I feel on the one hand very unkind for thinking this but on the other, when only around half of kids are in the school but they have the pretty much the full compliment of staff, how have they not done any zoom lessons or more interactive learning at all? There has been more than enough time now for innovation to occur, if not from the schools themselves, then certainly from within the local authorities or centrally from Westminster. Parents and families who are not key workers have been completely abandoned during this period and been given the very bare minimum of support. I appreciate the same is pretty much true of the schools as well but I really feel there has been very little impetus to change the original direction and as we are now so close to the end of term, the clock is simply being run down until the education sector can shrug their shoulders and say that we wouldn't have had any help over the summer holidays anyway. The children HAVE to go back in September, full time and all classes. We have done our bit now, it is time for the state to honour their promise to educate our children.'
1079. 'I was heavily pregnant from the start of lockdown and had a 2-3 year old and a 6 year old at home. My husband was in the office working and I'm self employed so had to

work around homeschooling as well. The main issues were managing the school work for a 6 year old who had zero interest, concentration span or self discipline whilst entertaining the 2-3 year old. My eldest daughter quickly became very emotional and would often cry when asked to do any school work. Her attention to detail became very poor meaning I often grew frustrated with her making simple mistakes in spelling and reading when I knew she could do. I found that I was also reduced to tears and regrettably got so cross with her that I used words like 'stupid'. This in turn made me feel so terrible for losing my temper, I was emotionally drained, disappointed with myself and increasingly worried about her regression. I had the baby at the beginning of June and finally reached out to one set of grandparents for online support which has taken the stress and pressure off me to a certain degree. My biggest concern is that she has learnt nothing and the homeschooling has done more harm than good.'

1080. 'I am a retired single dad with 3 adopted children to home school. My eldest KS3 child has had zero live teaching and was tasked via the 'Show My Homework' app but has severely delayed reading skills and has been unable to read, let alone comprehend, the work being sent, as no consideration was made of her capabilities. Nor indeed has any consideration been made of our IT capabilities with 3 children to work online. Keeping her on-task has been an endless battle and she has been severely disruptive to her 2 younger KS2 siblings leading to big deteriorations to her emotional state and our relationship. Pastoral care kicked-in very quickly with a nominated point of contact to phone or email at any time and he has been superb, eventually facilitating a 3 days per week placement in school from June. Some attempt has been made by the class tutor to run on-line class meetings but the chosen technology is not available on our I pads. The impact on me is that I have lost four months of my own time, being unable to pursue any personal interests or domestic projects with my personal stress level 'through the roof'. And now I face six weeks school holiday with them at a time when I would have hoped to have been mentally ready to deal with it.....'

1081. 'It's been very difficult for both of my boys to adapt to learning at home. Our school has provided mostly live online lessons with teachers. As time goes on it has got more difficult for my children as they miss all the normal interactions with their peers. One of my children will sit GCSE's next summer and being out of school for so long is a huge source of anxiety for him and me as we wonder how much of a negative impact this will have for these exams which will be on a CV for life.'

1082. 'My child's school and nursery refused my children a place despite both my husband and myself being keyworkers. Some schools were taking children with one parent a key worker, others would only take them if both were. At first we weren't sure if my husband was a key worker so applied based on my job as a care assistant. The school sent out forms or apply for places and all places were given prior to the governments clarification of which jobs were keyworkers. The school refused my children a place. I went to the local MP who managed to secure my children places after contacting the head of the school partnership. My children attended 3 weeks at school 2 days a week so I could work. I only asked for 2 days, the days that I worked. After the 3 weeks the school then rejected my children again because they had been "looking into our positions" from this they had looked on my husbands

employers website and they had found some sort of statement saying about office staff working from home, my husband was working from home, he had set up an office inside our garage which is an outbuilding due to lack of room within our home. He was also on call 24 hours a day and in the event of a failure still had to attend his workplace to fix anything that couldn't be fixed remotely. The school said that as my husband was at home then he must look after the children. I questioned how he could supervise a 4 and 6 year old homeschooling and also work IN THE GARAGE. The school said he must look after them or change his shifts to suit while I am at work. My husband contacted his work who said they would write to the school we received no reply from this. Meanwhile I had to give up my shifts 2 days a week so I could supervise the children, we couldn't let my husbands job be affected as he earns far more and it wouldn't make financial sense for us as a family. So I had to give up my work despite my work being a frontline role and of greater importance to the covid effort than my husbands role within a postal service. We had to choose between our family finances or the covid effort. We had to look after our own finances due to my husband being the breadwinner. I felt bullied by the school, I considered going back to the MP but decided against it as I felt my constant arguing with the school would make me unpopular with the headteacher and office staff and I didn't want to get in that position when I had to deal with these people for years to come. I continued to homeschool my eldest until schools reopened for his year group in June. I found homeschool very difficult as all the work was online and I have always tried to limit the amount of screens my children use. If my eldest was doing homeschool using a tablet, my younger child wanted to use a tablet as well. I also found I was not paying enough attention to my youngest child and he started regressing and wetting himself for attention. The work set was mainly online or required a printer to print it out. Some of the platforms were not easy to use and my child could not do them without help. I decided to buy workbooks for my children and we concentrated more on those as I prefer them to use pen and paper rather than watch YouTube videos. The school teachers phoned twice towards the end of the closure, I said that I wasn't keen on all the screen time they were encouraging. Luckily my eldest child was quite ahead in terms of reading and maths before the schools closed which meant I didn't need to worry too much about him falling behind. Towards the end of the closure less and less work was being done as his motivation waned. I was very happy when the government announced that both of my children year 1 and preschool would return in June. My mental health has suffered from the stress of the situation I do not feel I would be able to cope if there are further school closures I am particularly worried as my youngest is due to start school in September and I do not want this to be disrupted as he transitions and gets used to a routine and then there are further closures. I think it is terrible that not all keyworkers children were allowed a place when they needed one leading to me having to give up my work which was essential at the time!! I think the schools should remain open from September regardless of if there is a second surge in cases.'

1083. 'We have 2 sons, one in year 5 and one in year 8. Since lockdown began we've juggled homeschooling with working full time, my husband works shifts so I've changed my hours to work around his. We've shared the home schooling between us but at best have managed a couple of hours a day. There have been huge challenges in doing this and like many parents we've struggled. The biggest concern for me is the effect this is having on our

family and on our mental health - the burden of responsibility for their education weighs very heavily on our shoulders, our home doesn't feel like home anymore - it has become a place of conflict on occasion, tempers have frayed as resistance to school work has increased, and all in the midst of a situation that we can't control. Trying to encourage our sons to work whilst juggling our own work deadlines has not been fun. We feel that we are trying to do it all and achieving very little. Our family cannot continue in this way, no family could, so an assurance that our children can return safely to school in September is essential, in the meantime just knowing that we have a voice through this forum is helping.'

1084. 'Home schooling has been so tough for everyone. With two small kids both needing and deserving full time attention and support both my husband and I have been faced with trying to save two companies and countless jobs as well as trying to be good parents and good educators. It has been next level hard! We had been sent home learning packs by the school which have mostly been great in terms of content but require printing of around 70 pages at huge expense every week and exclusively rely on parents to deliver. A 6 year old cannot structure their own learning plans so the only way to do this has been to fit in some learning where possible and we have sadly had to rely on TV and ipads to get through the day which has led to behavioural issues and made that learning process harder. The battles and stress has come to the forefront for both parents and kids with blazing rows, tears and mean words spoken that would never usually enter the home. That alongside family arguments about who has helped the kids more, versus worked harder when in reality everyone is drowning. We start work at 6am and finish at midnight and everyone is exhausted, no one is doing anything well and the impact personally, professionally and educationally is huge. Not just that but we are all damaged by this with another two months to go. I desperately wish the schools had done online or virtual classes or some sort of virtual support. Where business has had to pivot why on earth has education not? A phone call every two weeks left us all isolated and drowning and I worry about the long term impact and the relationship shift for the family as a result of this. It has been very frustrating that we have not been able to get either back into school (nursery and year 1) due to lack of space as the further damage caused by being left out when many friends have been back has caused a lot of upset and enhanced the feeling of isolation for the kids. 1 - schools should be offering summer catch up - 7 weeks holiday right now is a farce 2 - more effort to introduce more kids now 2 meter distancing is relaxed should be a priority - even 2 weeks of school would help but nothing has been done and there is a refusal to acknowledge that many many kids are being de-prioritised over others! 3 - online contact for kids of all ages not just printed learning packs should have been mandated for all schools - even an hour a day would have created a very much needed social connections.'

1085. 'Awful, stressful and worrying. I am so concerned of the impact that this has had on my sons mental health. He feels lonely and isolated and sees no point in submitting work that in his words 'will only get a tick' or an email that it wasn't completed. He has missed out on support from his peers and teachers and at a vulnerable age now feels lost and is refusing to return to school in September. The work that has been set is repetitive and without approaching it in the classroom context it is seen as a punishment by my son. The impact of not being at school is having a huge impact on his personal, educational, emotional growth

and intelligence and arrangements must be made available for students to return in September. This has also impacted on my own ability to perform at work and my personal stress has increased. Our safe and comfortable home has no barriers between work, school work and home life and has become a tangle without boundaries. It is simply damaging to our children to continue in this way and damaging to our relationships with our children. My children are unable to comprehend why I am able to attend work and they are not allowed to go to school. They understand that the risk of covid19 to children is minimal and as a secondary school child they would be able to practice social distancing and wearing of masks etc. Schools should now be a priority with clear and robust cleaning schedules. It is simply not good enough that preparations for their return to school did not commence in a March. Plastic screens, PPE and education for the teachers, cleaning programs and a time table for classroom use and the identification of 'bubbles' should have been considered sooner and have been in place and ready to run as soon as declared safe to do so. Instead schools are now going to be impacted by children who require additional resources to catch up and resources to support the impact on their mental health.'

1086. 'Very limited support from school and very very little communication about what to expect so unable to prepare children. For example no regular contact (video calls of telephone calls) and the couple of telephone calls weve had from her teacher were out of the blue so were either missed or child not orepared so too shy to speak. Quite frankly I have no idea what the teachers in the school have been doing for the past 4 months. In the absence of any other information I have to assume very little.'

1087. 'My husband and I are exhausted by simultaneously working from home and home schooling. My son (an only child) is bored and missing his friends. School have been sending weekly work, but most is on the computer which is difficult when either my husband and I are using it for work.'

1088. 'I have loved having the children at home. We have done 3 hrs a day of home school in the morning. 9 am until 12pm and then hone out for a walk or play in the afternoon. I am lucky that I have been furloughed so am able to be at home with the children and have not had to work. I don't know how on earth people who work have coped at I have found it stressful and challenging enough, even though I enjoy it.'

1089. 'As a grandparent who has been doing the homeschooling of my two primary age grandsons while the parents work I find that schools seem to have mystified teaching of basic things. Maths and English are now Literacy and Numeracy, and methods of teaching different topics have been given a whole new range of jargon e.g. $6 + 4 = 10$ is not a sum, it is a number sentence or number bonds. Current / former teachers may know how to effectively tackle the work provided but much of the terminology is not intuitive for me and I didn't feel confident helping the boys to learn with school materials. Additionally, one of my grandsons attends a Special School, which again approaches teaching in a different way. I'm not a natural teacher and I certainly don't have the additional skills needed for SEN teaching, although the Special School did supply my grandson's log-in for some of the software he uses in school which has been a god-send. Apart from the Special School supplied software, I've given up on the

materials provided by either school and just gone to basic Reading and Maths, the way I learnt in my primary school days, trying to adjust for the different levels of ability. It may not keep them up to date with all the areas they would cover in school with proper teachers, but hopefully it will keep their brains active for when they get back to school.'

1090. 'Absolute pain, both my wife and I work full time, fortunately my wife is a key worker in public health so we were able to send our 7 year old to school 4 days a week. WE didn't initially but both our employers acknowledged children were at home but still of course went on as if work was normal. First few weeks my manage threatened me with furlough because he couldn't see me doing enough work even though I was doing all I can. Now we hit a cliff edge with the summer hols, most summer camps are cancelled but we still need help!'

1091. 'I work for the local government so have no option to be furloughed. After the first 2 weeks I realised that working, home schooling my 6yr old and looking after my 2yr old was unsustainable. I contacted my HR dept to ask for some support. I was even happy to take unpaid leave if required as I felt bad not being able to work effectively. My relationships with my colleagues has suffered and I feel totally isolated from them and not part of the team anymore. So much so that I handed in my resignation last week because the stress of it all has made me ill. They are only now working with me to offer me 18 weeks unpaid leave. Its a joke! The school has been supportive in my sons learning but they didn't have the space for him to return in June. All the information has been so last minute so I've not risked telling him he will be back in September in case he doesn't return. Home schooling has now become a case of bribing my son with games to do some work. He's definitely regressed and I have no idea if he's where he needs to be academically. Thank heavens for BBC Bitesize for their resources, they have been excellent!!'

1092. 'I was so happy to read reports about this survey. I have a 2 and 5 year old (year 1). The country went in to lockdown and working in finance I was busier than ever. All of a sudden my husband and I were both working and had two children at home. All the reports have been about how well schools have handled the situation but it's a postcode lottery. My daughters school sends one page of home learning a week with ideas for activities we can set up. When schools did finally reopen to take children they offered 5 hours per week on one day and said they wouldn't do any more than the online document. Compare that to other parents in my City who's children go to a different school and got to return full time. Communication from the school has said things like 'if you child doesn't stay 2 m apart they will be expelled' make sure they know. We have also had 'research shows children fall behind if they don't have regular learning, please make sure you do all the home learning over the summer'. The unbelievable pressure of this when you are both working and don't have a 6 week summer holiday is overwhelming. My daughter always loved learning but trying to do it at home is different. I couldn't feel like a worse mother, like I've failed my child and this will affect her for the rest of her life. Our school is also openly calling key worker children 'dirty children' and separating from 'clean children'. I don't have a problem with the principal of this but the terminology and how that makes parents feel is just wrong.'

1093. 'As a parent of a child in infant school, homeschooling has been a full time job. As parents who are also working and with two other children this has been a challenging time. At this age children cannot learn independently. Our child is back to school now and they are loving every minute of being back in the school environment, interacting with their friends and learning. Education should never be taken for granted but I think this has shown both parents and children what a privilege it is to go to school. However, as of today, most children are not back at school including my eldest child. I cannot understand how it is ok to take my child to a theme park but my eldest son is still not able to be taught at school after five months. Education is a priority and yet whilst children are not in school their education is suffering. I think it is disappointing that getting kids back to school is taking so long and it is imperative that firm plans are put in place to resume school in September. Homeschooling is a last resort and not a solution. For younger children there are only limited ways a school can support home learning and it relies almost entirely on a parent sitting down and teaching their child. This is challenging enough in the short term but as a working parent it is stressful trying to manage the competing priorities of trying to ensure that my child's education is progressing and working.'
1094. 'It has been a wonderful experience! My daughter has really benefited from the one to one learning. Her school has been fantastic making sure work is set, marked and they leave helpful comments if the work needs improving or something was wrong. It has been really relaxed, my daughter has not been stressed by the pressure of the school day.'
1095. 'Both myself and my husband have been required to work full time throughout the whole of lockdown, sometimes working longer hours because we are in critical business roles (but not key workers). Whilst we appreciate the time we can all spend together, trying to balance school work, a school routine and the inevitable expectation of unlimited attention from our 8 year old and 3 year old have been incredibly stressful. We've had tears, we've had walk-outs (both parents and our kids!) and we've not been able to lean on families or friends for support outside our house. We are wracked with guilt about the increased screen time, our children fending for themselves whilst we cannot avoid 6-8 hours solid meetings via Zoom/Teams and lots of work calls outside normal hours from other working parents. Our working lives have merged with our personal home lives. Knowing that our children's teachers have had 4 months paid leave to refurbish their house and garden and lavish their kids with attention (because not all teachers were required to be in school looking after key worker kids), has not helped our mental wellbeing. In addition, whilst our school and preschool have provided online resources for us to teach with, they've given no feedback or guidance to our children. Our children did not see their friends on screen and my 8 year old in particular worries that she is missing what others are learning. I don't honestly think we can cope with another lockdown if home schooling is involved unless we are furloughed - and that's a risk of losing our jobs permanently. Our kids are now back at school 2 days a week and the difference in their wellbeing is overwhelmingly positive. I think online classes and a firm directive that every teacher needs to take at least 1-2 hours out of their home life to 'school' their class remotely, would be a huge improvement.'

1096. 'I think it has been really hard and stressful combining home schooling with working. Alongside this I have had 2 children to home school and a toddler and so we were jumping from one thing to another. Trying to keep their attention was really tough. The work for the infants son was too easy and so I had to find other work for him. Both required parental guidance though (discuss with an adult!?) And so I was under a lot of undue stress trying to work and ensure my children didnt fall behind. Also we were jumping from book to tablet to paper. A single workbook that I could say to them - work through this in your own time - would have been a massive improvement on all the paper and printing. We have gone through 3 sets of cartridges and this is me printing 4 to a page. This is expensive and not everyone has access to a printer or electronic devices. The govt promised some children would be given access to electronic devices but our school said this funding hadn't come through and this is at the end of the term. We are lucky to have a device but I feel for those who dont.. One son is yr 1 and was told he would be going back by the govt but then was told he wasnt going back by the school. Such an unclear message. My children's mental health has suffered and i can see it daily in their behaviours and mood. Their home environment has become sometimes a pressure cooker trying to achieve everything we need to enable their education to continue as well as trying to sustain and deliver work. We have had no interaction from the infant school whatsoever, no phone call or email (only the sharing of a recording of teachers reading stories). For junior we had 1 email before easter. No check up. It took a week for them to respond to concerns I had raised regarding my child learning and actually was followed up by a phone call which dismissed my concerns and didnt offer any help. We recently had a reduced class zoom (after 100 days at home!) But again relies on those with technology. I think the class communion has been poor and feel my children have been very let down by their education settings. Esp when I head from other parents that other state schools are doing so much more. The subject breadth has been pretty consistent of English maths with the odd other subject thrown in. We have done very limited science. Quite a lot of art esp for my yr 1 child. I have been trying to supplement this by teaching other subjects but I am stretched for time with work. The schools tell us that every child counts but this is clearly not the case. I understand that teachers have their own circumstances but I think something could have been sorted.'

1097. 'My 2 children in Reception and Year 3 have not been able to return at all except to say goodbye to their teacher for an hour. Online learning has not been sufficient and they are only now providing a weekly zoom call for 30 minutes. The provision has not been good enough.'

1098. 'My child is 5 years old, year 1. We have a tiny home with not enough room for dedicated learning/writing area. Her school has sent a list each week of home learning tasks but I cannot read the file on my phone. They have only listed bbc bite size for each day but we don't have a tv. Because of this they have kindly printed out worksheets and delivered them to us each fortnight which has been great. Communication has not been great as the school are too busy working with key worker's children. My child doesn't feel connected or loyal to the school anymore, and neither do I. It feels very unfair with unequal access to education and social contact for children.'

1099. 'Good communication from school on the whole. Initially work set - daily maths and English, plus weekly history or science and French. Spellings and timetables expected to be learnt still. Daily feedback on work. Support and set work tailed off once reception, yr1 and yr 6 back. Priority has been for those back in school, teachers have limited time for those at home.'
1100. 'I have three children aged 7,9 and 13 (none of whom fell into the year groups that were seemingly randomly selected to return to school). Besides the trauma of being isolated from their peers and happy school lives they have struggled to stay on top of home schooling despite having previously excelled at school! Both myself and their father have been working from home throughout the lockdown and so have not been in a position to support them emotionally, never mind academically. It is harrowing as a parent to watch as your children suffer and not be able to do anything about it! My bright, sociable and active 7 year was given nothing to do by her school until just a few weeks ago! She has frequent meltdowns has been rocking and exhibiting many signs of emotional trauma My 13 year old (who is mildly autistic) was slipping into a deep depression and has gained a LOT of weight not even bothering to get out of bed most days -I have had to neglect my work at the risk of losing my job (which was already in the balance) to give her more emotional support. It seems children (the least affected by this illness) have been forgotten and punished for the inadequacies of this woeful and uncaring Tory government and their chronic underfunding of the NHS which is the reason we went into 'lockdown' to protect the Tory party not the vulnerable and NHS (that was their job and they failed)'
1101. '2 parents both working from home, 2 young children both being home schooled, finding space for us all has been impossible, therefore the standard of work & schooling has been hindered dramatically. The kids struggle to maintain any sort of focus, too young to self discipline or really understand the importance of keeping up with the work. The standard of support has varied dramatically between classes, as much as the school is doing what it can, some teachers are more engaging than others, noticeably those teachers with younger children are less engaging, presumably they are too struggling balancing work/child balance. Should there be more support from the govt.? probably. Working out a way for grandparents to get involved in the 'bubble' and help with child care & home schooling would be great, but getting the schools opened safely would be best, even if it means outdoor classes! Its not desirable to feed back to the school directly, as I don't want to be seen as a grumbling parent, which may affect the teachers view of my children, there doesn't appear to be any way to feedback anonymously. Thanks you for what you are doing, it's reassuring(?) to know that there are many others feeling the same and that you are doing what you can to draw attention to it.'
1102. 'My son is in year 9, he has just started work on his GCSE subjects this term. I am very fearful for his remaining time at school. He goes to a large school with over 240 pupils per year group - the stated number that secondary school pupils can have in a year group bubble. As yet there is no detail on how the school will operated in September, how subjects will be taught and what changes will be made. If pupils have to stay in the same classroom and teachers move around the school, what does this mean for science subjects and science

experiments? What does this mean for teaching with regards to setting groups according to ability? Pupils have picked different GCSE options but will they get to study the options they chose or will the curriculum be reduced? My fear is that the lockdown will have a detrimental impact on education for years to come and that this will have a very large impact on my son's year group. He should be sitting his GCSEs in 2022 but has had no teaching at school yet for them (options are taken at year 9 in his school not year 8 like some others). Will he get to study the full syllabus for each subject? Will he actually get back to school? What will school be like? Will it close again? From February half term to the start of the lockdown, there were very high teacher absences and school for those weeks was little more than babysitting. People talk about school lockdown starting towards the end of March but in actual fact our children's education has suffered from February 2020.'

1103. 'My husband and I are both working from home (I work 4 days a week and husband is full time). We have a daughter in year 1 and a daughter in 3. We have found it impossible to cover all of the work on the school website. It became an area of friction between us and our elder daughter in particular, with both us ending up in tears over it. We quickly abandoned the work the school had set because it requires lots of printing and supervision and was a source of upset. Instead we started doing CGP workbooks for English, maths and timetables. We also have been doing reading with the girls. Each child has only had 3 phone calls from their teacher in over 3 months which in my view has been very poor. Our daughter in year 1 had her first day in school on Monday (6th July). She has been allowed back for 2 days this week and will be doing 2 days next week. That will be 4 days since 1st June when year 1 children should have returned to school. There has been a real issue around "key worker" children "filling" the space in school where some parents have abused the system to get their kids back into school, at the expense of everybody else. I know of recruitment consultants who have written to school saying that they are key workers and that has been taken on face value. There needs to be a more robust system in place with tiers of key worker status as it is too broad at the moment and too easy to be taken advantage of. We certainly weren't clapping for recruitment consultants on those Thursday nights!! There are other examples where people have taken advantage of this system at the expense of the rest of the school which has created huge levels of resentment. The online resources need to be significantly better for September with online lessons being run with teachers that our kids know. Weblinks just aren't enough!!!'

1104. 'My son is in year 10 so first year of GCSE. While we have supported him where we can, he has had to adapt to self-learning very quickly, a skill you don't usually start to learn until A-levels or university. His school for weeks just sent vague work tasks or even just the syllabus for the subject or links to external websites and told them to get on with it - with no support. Following complaints, they did provide a minimal amount of structure and some limited email contact with teachers, but at no point has there been any attempt to provide a structured school day or any form of online educating. The last point is really frustrating when you hear all the local private schools and some state schools are providing daily lessons via Zoom and even those that are not going that far are offering a mixture of video lessons (not live) or providing targeted tasks to align to what would have been a normal school day. My fear is, no matter what my son does, there is no way he can catch up on the kids at other

schools who have offered so much more support and any GCSE results will be just a worthless piece of paper. I feel so strongly on the subject I am considering starting a campaign to boycott exams next year, whatever format they take kids taking them are not starting from a level playing field. I think individual schools have to be assessed as to how much or little support they provided during lockdown and grades awarded based on the kids ability to learn in the situation they found themselves. An example I would use is if 2 year 10s were on track for a Grade 6 in a subject prior to lockdown. Student A is at a school where they have continued to provide online lessons so they maintain their grade 6 in the exam, but student B has missed a lot of work so ends up with a grade 5 through no fault of their own. The exam board decided to adjust grades because of lockdown so decided that grades should be increased by 1, so student B is back to a grade 6, but student A is still better off as they will be given a grade 7. It is so frustrating, as this is going to impact the future of my son in so many ways.'

1105. 'Dear Sept. For Schools, First thank you for the opportunity to feedback our experience, as parents, of homeschooling; I think on both a national and local level it's something that has been missing from conversations about Covid-19, especially given that homeschooling represented one of the biggest changes in social norms of the crisis. To give some context, we live in a small 2 bedroomed house; my partner is a keyworker who has been able to work from home and we also have 2 small private businesses running from our home. So most of the time, space and time are tight. Our son is on the school's SEN list and is currently being referred to CAMHS to begin assessment for possible ADHD and dyslexia. I really, really appreciate that we are very lucky in our financial and social circumstances, however it has at times been a (I want to put an expletive here) nightmare. I would also like to say that these times are unprecedented and we really didn't expect the school's response to be perfect; in fairness to Ed's school, they have been responsive and supportive to our issues to a greater and lesser extent. My issue is with what seems to be a lack of formal interface at both a national and local level to elicit subjective feedback to ensure that children and parents are properly supported in very difficult circumstances. For example although the school refined their packages to include an auditory element and include more realistic timeframes, they seem aimed at pupils who can work independently. During the first half of the lockdown, we received a deluge of work with stipulations that evidence of work had to be submitted every two weeks; there seemed to an assumption that parents could or would just take up the reigns of professional teaching, with little thought for not just the lack of specialised knowledge but that teachers are taught to teach. We've tried our best but its impossible. I don't want to play blame games towards the school, they're unproductive, but some sort of broader formal evidence gathering to elicit ways to move forward is imperative to effectiveness. Nor were social circumstances taken into account, including access to technology that would allow ease of access to the material. We had to buy a new printer and have used huge amounts of ink; we're lucky enough to be able to absorb this cost but it again goes unacknowledged and unaccounted for. There was some acknowledgement of my son's SEN but this needed to be elicited from the school; after numerous emails explaining that we were unable to access the specialised SEN online work, we reached no conclusion and just didn't bother in the end. It was the same for some subjects that didn't reign in the work they were issuing and on application didn't offer advice to help; in the end we agreed as a family

to just not do it. Above all of this, is the level of stress that this has placed on us as a family. Our house became an not only an office and school but a place where as a family we were spending an unprecedented amount of time together. On more than one occasion both my son and I were reduced to tears. He's unable to work independently and needs constant help to refocus and concentrate and above all else the skills teacher possess to impart information effectively. And I don't think this was acknowledged. I've experienced awful anxiety at the amount of work we were supposed to complete. Over the last month we've put the brakes on and prioritised our mental health but this has left me with feelings of guilt associated with him getting further behind. I was drinking more than I normally would. Ed is resentful at having to work at home; he hates the academic side of school life and having that in his home and a major focus of recent home life has been awful. Moreover the possible prospect of a second lockdown without these issues at least being acknowledged is very anxiety provoking; I think my son, in those circumstances, might be joining the 2 million children who have not done any schoolwork at all. To be clear, I'm not laying this at the door of the school but there has been a general lack of enquiry that takes into account the above, with what seems like shoddy guidance at a national level. Again, it is so good to have a forum to express this. Thank you.'

1106. 'We have had little to no communication with the teachers besides them sending out a daily email with many things that need to be done (Phonics/spellings, Reading literacy/English, maths/mental maths, RE, PE, Independent Projec) and attained by the end of the week and emailed back to them as I'm assuming some is a sort of grading policy. My husband is a full time front line worker so caring and teaching the children has now fallen to me as my work has completely stopped due to Co-Vid. Trying to balance this between a child in reception and one in year 3 has been exhausting and emotionally draining. Now, I don't have a background in teaching and feel like I have had a huge burden keeping them on top of it all with lack of advice and communication from the school. Especially my child in year 3 who hasn't even seen another classmate or his teacher since March. Luckily a group of mothers have rallied together to do some zoom science sessions and reading some books aloud, but for it to get to that and fall on us to make it work is astounding. I don't understand it and the melt downs (crying, screaming, staring off into space, claiming they don't know anything..etc.) daily over doing tasks has just been the worst of it all. I feel lucky I can probably devote more time to them, but also feel guilty if I don't do enough or all of the work set by the school. I'm just a bit infuriated that the teacher couldn't post a video to explain any of these tasks or back up the learning or even a short zoom session maybe once a day? This would have been much more helpful and not made my entire existence unbearable as now I've taken on every role in my child's life. The repercussions the schools will face in September will be a huge gap in the learning of all the children within each year group. They will have a monumental time bridging that gap so I truly hope they prepare for this undeniable truth and maybe should've thought about better ways to make the learning more accessible to children in all capacities during this unprecedented time.'

1107. 'It's been a brilliant time homeschooling. We have learnt about things with my son that he wouldn't have accessed in school as well as the work set by school. Who have been supportive and helpful.'

1108. 'This has been very hard. The school has been absolutely fantastic with with setting work and marking what my daughter has done. My daughter's teacher has done daily videos for phonics and maths which really help. But as the weeks have gone on educating my daughter at home has become harder and harder as she has little to no interest in doing her school work for me. We have daily battles and arguments about her work. Home schooling is not making for a happy home.'

1109. 'Little communication. Poor variety. Zero checking in even though I have SEN child & two other younger children.'

1110. 'I am a lecturer at a local college and have taught my full time table online throughout lock down with my 9yr and 5yr olds at home. Despite being a key worker and my husband working full time I was not entitled to a school space for my children as in St Agnes there are so many hospital staff they would only take children of 2 key workers. I found it absolutely horrendous and I reached breaking point trying to teach with the kids at home. Whilst I was teaching my students their usual timetable, and providing pastoral care online my children had nothing from school except some really poorly presented links and tasks slapped into a class page. It was difficult to navigate and required research and preparation which I didn't have time to do. My child in year 1's teacher then started to contact parents regularly via what's app and eventually they had a 30 min zoom lesson each day from another member of staff. My child in year 5 however didn't hear from his teacher until week 11 after I complained and each child in the class had a phone call. Three weeks ago she started a zoom chat at 5pm on Thursdays however as it's such an awkward time for families there is less than a quarter attendance. I feel my child in year 5 has been abandoned and I feel awful that I have been stressed and not given my children any attention or support with their education or well being. I feel so resentful that I have worked so hard when a minority of teachers at my children's school have done the bare minimum and have offered no support. It was a great relief when year 1 finally returned to school (2 weeks later than the government suggested) as my 5yr old's behaviour has really deteriorated at home - he has been angry and frustrated and lashes out. I wasn't able to take them outside for some exercise some days until my lecturing finished at 4.15pm - 2 lively and energetic boys cooped up inside with screens all day just doesn't work. The inconsistency from different teachers in the same school is incredibly frustrating and I feel hugely let down. My children have really suffered from having a grumpy stressed mother who was constantly telling them to be quiet, saying no when they asked me to help them and being left on screens all day watching bbc bitesize whilst I taught my students. I have had to take the difficult decision to take a pay cut and reduce my hours from sept as I cannot cope if we have another lockdown and unfortunately it's likely after the influx of tourists we have had in Cornwall. I sincerely hope schools do not ever close to this extend again - or if they do they provide online lessons like I have had to. Even just for an hour a day. If I think about it too much I feel exhausted, emotional and angry.'

1111. 'We have 2 children aged 8 and 6, my husband is a key worker and I have been working full time at home. The whole situation has been very stressful to try to manage, and I feel like I am failing at everything as I'm unable to give to give home schooling or my job the

level of attention they need. The school has been very good at providing online tasks but that has also added pressure when you see the volume of uncompleted tasks rolling up. For me, also seeing other parents apparently able to fulfil their child's learning via the class messaging has left me in tears at my inability to do the same. My children aren't old enough to be able to work unsupervised and I have found it impossible to support them simultaneously, so have to have separate 1:1 time with them which takes even more time and juggling. The battles with them to sit down to do their work have become more frequent, and have damaged our relationships - I'm their mum not their prime educator. We're now at the point where I have effectively given-up for the sake of my relationship with them; but I am extremely worried about how much education they have lost and how far they have fallen behind.'

1112. 'Although I am a TA and used to schooling having the 2 kids in differing years needing many differing devices has been hard, add a 2 year old who needs lot of attention into the mix and a husband who works from home plus myself trying to teach special needs kids over the phone and it's been very challenging.'

1113. 'We have two children both in primary school. They are well behaved children and both quite intelligent but we have all really struggled. My husband has been working from home but full time, 7am - 7pm and I am trying to keep my small business going, again working from home. Trying to them motivate the children to work and give them all the support they need all whilst maintaining good mental health for us all has been almost impossible. I really felt the schools could have done more to get children back to school after 1st June, even if only for 1 day a week just to keep them motivated and on track. If they don't go back to school in some form or another in September I don't think we would manage to educate them at all and both work'

1114. 'No support from the school - children not motivated - stress levels high - absolute nightmare !'

1115. 'Lockdown has been very challenging for me, my husband and two boys (8 and 4). We both work so being expected to educate our children and meet work expectations has been very hard. With it also comes a huge guilt that by not dedicating our time to home schooling is going to affect our children's future. There's lots of reports about how children are disadvantaged because they have a lack of internet access or devices, but children who have parents that are working as also disadvantaged, because they don't get given the time they need and deserve. We've been in tears numerous times, with my eldest now moody, disengaged, teary and argumentative. Before he loved school and was very sociable. Now even if his friends video call him, he doesn't want to speak to them. Now with the summer holidays looming, i'm glad that we don't have the pressure of home schooling, but me and my husband still have to work so now i'm worried about them being bored and stuck in the house. I really hope that things go back to normal in September. All this said, there have been some positive aspects of the lockdown, including being made to spend more time together and thinking differently about how we spend our time. But enough is enough now.'

1116. 'The school is really well set up, all pupils have a chromebook they brought home, and the learning continued with a full timetable of lessons. My kids were supposed to log in every morning at 8:50am and do all 6 lessons in real time, taking the normal breaks etc. We didn't even manage one full day. I was trying to work full time whilst getting 2 confused and often difficult teenagers out of bed, fed and working. They didn't want to and it was a daily struggle. Quite quickly we slimmed it down to english, maths and science and even wrote out a timetable for them to follow. It all went semi ok until May half term and the week off totally threw us. It's never been the same since. The kids are listless, demotivated, hard to get out of bed. I had to decide between maintaining my relationship with them or bullying and threatening them to do their work. The 12 year old can't work alone so needs me with him when he works. Sounds doable except I have 3 kids and a full time job to try and maintain. Homeschooling has almost killed me. I've been in tears regularly and have really struggled to sleep. I managed to get the 10 year old back to school as I'm a key worker and she is loving it. She sees her friends, does a bit of work and runs around a lot so that's been a total win. It's been better now the older two can see their friends, they regularly go out and swim in the river, mess around on bikes etc. It's like an extended summer holiday for them whilst I try and keep everything going at home. I can't wait for this to end and the kids to get back into the classroom where they can learn properly again.'

1117. 'It has been very difficult to juggle working full time from home and education 2 primary school children at different key stages. My husband works for the police so he had to go into work all throughout lockdown so I have been trying to manage it alone. For the first 3 months I had no very little interaction with the teachers other than them responding to emails of the work that I sent over. I have had a single telephone conversation with my older son's teacher (year 5) and only one with my younger son's (Year 2). They have only carried out Zoom lessons in the last 2 weeks. I've seen multiple photos of school teachers on facebook out of 6 mile bike rides during the summer months. It is just not acceptable. They are receiving full pay and should be carrying out lessons with the children throughout every day, as they would in school. I cannot see why this would cause a heavier workload than if they were working in school as the work we produce each day gets marked by myself. I'm very lucky that my children are very well behaved and work hard but I have found myself being irrationally irritable and snappy with them throughout this period as I have been trying to juggle the job of 2 teachers and my own very stressful role as a global marketing director. I have colleagues who have children that attend private school and the support they have received has been worlds apart.'

1118. 'Homeschooling is really hard. I work almost fulltime and hubby is fulltime and giving the kids the time they need and deserve has been almost impossible. I've concentrated on the basics of maths / timestables and spellings but beyond these the kids have done little. I have felt incredibly anxious and like I'm doing a bad job of parenting as well as my work. Thankfully the kids have been mostly happy although they are a bit worried about leaving the house now after hearing we should stay home on the news. The kids are year 6 and year 2 and I fear they have lost lots of input and child-centric teaching methods the schools do naturally on a daily basis.'

1119. 'The past few months have been hell, mostly due to the strain of juggling home schooling & both my husband & I have full time jobs working from home. We have 3 children (12, 10 & 4) & very often all 5 of us are around the same kitchen table trying to work. There have been huge arguments just trying to get the children to do any kind of work - even getting them out of bed in the morning is a challenge. We are educated parents with decent jobs & our children have done well at school in the past, but they have hardly done any work. All 3 are desperate to go back to school, but I don't even know when this will be allowed as my eldest & youngest both have asthma. The emotional impact on all of us is horrendous. My eldest has been very depressed & almost daily says what's the point in continuing & that he wants to leave this world. I cannot begin to tell you how that makes me feel as his mother. To have to juggle everything day in, day out for months on end, along with looking after an ill & frail mother in law 20 minutes away, has certainly taken its toll on myself & the rest of the family, & our marriage. I can see no light at the end of this dark & long tunnel & the lack of certainty as to a proper school education in September fills me with despair. Thank you for asking parents about this - it's nice to think that someone's listening, as it's obvious that our governments aren't.'

1120. 'In the first two months of lockdown, my son who is in Yr 8 was set a huge amount of homework. The teachers were putting everything on the homework app with instructions such as "this work will take approx 6 weeks to complete". How can a child time manage when the work is set in this way? He was totally overwhelmed by it and so was I. I couldn't sleep at night, I would trawl through all the work he had been set, trying to work out how and when he should do each piece and which ones I felt he would need help with. I had to be at work as I work for the NHS and my husband had to work from home. My children's schools were only taking the children if BOTH parents were keyworkers, so our children had to stay at home. My husband needed peace and quiet so couldn't help much with the homework but had to find the time amongst conference calls and training other members of staff to keep the kids fed and entertained. When I had finished work and come home, it was straight into teaching mode and three months down the line I am totally exhausted. My son has been amazing with coping with it all but had days when he would just have a complete meltdown, mainly because of the homework. He has done pretty much everything that was set that needed to be submitted back to the school for marking but there have been occasions where he has been 1 of only 4 children who have submitted the work set, out of a class of 30, with the teacher messaging the rest of the kids as to why she had not received any homework from them at all during the entire time. My 9 year old had work set for her every day via purple mash and this was totally manageable and she could get on with most of it herself. Then for some unknown reason, her school moved the creative writing to google classroom 4 weeks ago, which we had trouble accessing. I then got a call from the school to say my daughter hadn't done her creative writing, which she had done all of when it was on purple mash. Really frustrating. Us parents are doing two jobs at once, we've taken no leave since February, are exhausted and feel quite aggrieved that we are still expected to hold down two jobs at once whilst teachers are still just doing the one job they were meant to do.'

1121. 'We have 3 children (State schools years 3, 9 and 10). My partner and I are both working from home full time and the experiences described by others about the pressure of

juggling really resonate. It has been hard. There doesn't feel to have been any progression in how home schooling works in the state sector over the 3 months. We have a routine of work being put on line for us to access and make the best of. Feedback has been variable. I naively thought by now we'd essentially have a full time timetable delivered face to face on line. We have nothing like that but the market has driven that in the private sector so it is possible. I thought the school would take responsibility for directing time more during the usual school day, we'd support that as needed but schools would lead on delivering an education remotely during the school day. They don't. Responsibility has been passed to parents. There is a fixation on getting children physically back to school which would be great if possible but it might not be. If we go back into lockdown then there has to be pressure to ensure all schools deliver real time lessons on line and that all children have the kit and support to access this. Our year 10 son has had 3 hour 2 sessions in school since year 10 'returned' which feels like a token gesture to feed into the stats. Some individual teachers have been brilliant. Thank you for doing this.'

1122. 'My daughter is in secondary school and fairly well self motivated. There have been no zoom lessons or pre-recorded lessons (which I know other schools have done) which my daughter has frequently says she wishes they had.... Even if just a few rather than the norm... And on particular subjects. The have sent out some YouTube videos with content they have made but I think some more interactive video call... Even for 30 mins would be useful in done of the core subjects. Nevertheless she has been completing work (unlike some of her friends) and her end of year review (10 min slot in school with teacher) was good. It's not been a terrible experience, not always easy, and there are things I think could have been improved on, but under the circumstances it's been ok.'

1123. 'Our home schooling experience has been extremely positive overall, in spite of one parent's (freelance) income dropping to almost zero within two weeks of lockdown, that parent having to work late into the night almost daily (work had to continue in spite of not earning) to accommodate home schooling and the other parent working full-time throughout (longer hours than usual required because of many complications stemming from the lockdown). We decided from the start that our son's schooling would be prioritised before anything else, in spite of the huge financial impact, and have all very much enjoyed the home schooling experience. Taking that decision clearly upfront, with careful consideration of the impact of all of the factors, enabled a positive mindset to be maintained throughout lockdown so that home schooling could be, and has been, fun and rewarding for all. It removed almost all the pressure and we have grown so much as a family during this time, developing new interests and becoming so much closer. Our son, aged nine, has responded very well to home schooling, enjoying in particular and benefiting from the extra contact with his father and consistently achieving much better results than in school with the many additional skills which he has learnt from a different form of teaching not possible at school. We ensured that extra subjects and life skills were introduced around the curriculum, encouraged discussion and creativity, and took plenty of exercise with our son. He frequently asks to continue when the school day is finished! In fact, our experience of home schooling has been so beneficial for all of us that we are now looking into the possibility of home schooling full-time in spite of the sacrifices required.'

1124. 'To begin with home schooling wasn't too bad. I had to write out all the work sheets as we do not have a laptop or printer but this was manageable at 36 weeks pregnant. Once the teachers went back to school, they offered to print my sons schoolwork out and I would collect it every week. It's been hardwork as I have a 3 year old to entertain and then gave birth at the beginning of June. Trying to juggle the younger ones and homeschooling a child who doesn't have the same motivation as he would do at school isn't easy and has been very stressful. I'm just grateful I'm on maternity leave as it would be impossible. We may not get all the school work done but we at least get the English and Maths done.'

1125. 'Our school has been great. They have been sending out appropriate work, giving encouragement and feedback to my children when necessary and not hassling us to complete work by a certain time in deadline. Luckily, I am not working so I have been able to give the time and attention needed for my children to complete their work. In addition to set school work, we have studied subjects and topics that interested my children. We always sent these mini-projects in to teachers via the app, and they were received with more encouragement and enthusiasm. I even had a phone call from the headmaster to compliment my eldest for the amount and quality of work she had done. More recently, I believe that our school has done everything within the Welsh government guidelines to get the school partially opened in July, which I am grateful for. We went on long walks and bike rides in our local area. However, worksheets and youtube videos cannot replace the real-life learning experiences that school (and a true home school environment) can offer. I am still deeply shocked that the school closures have continued for as long as they have with no clear guide to re-opening. I thought that the two weeks leading up to Easter would be the 'emergency measures' stage and that from April a more formalised approach would have been taken. Could marquees and tents been put up in school playing fields and car parks to allow teachers to teach with social distancing? (There would have been plenty available with the cancellation of so many weddings and other events.) Could closed churches, sports stadiums, museums and art galleries have been utilised to ensure that our children continued to receive an education in this uncertain time? My children have missed their teachers, friends and the routine. Schools need to be open fully in September with no exceptions.'

1126. 'The experience was very bad. Although the school set up a platform it was impossible to keep up being a full time parent. The expectation that 7 years old child will do the tasks from the app and not go into youtube etc was unrealistic. Having to post the photos/recordings of the homework done was very time-consuming. Therefore, as a parent I have opted for a paper notebook which was shared with the teacher as a proof of work performed. Also the teachers shared a number of links and various apps to practice reading and maths, this was very impractical. It would have been much better to get the books from the library or a list of books for parents to read with the child. I don't think reading from the screen is good for primary school kids.'

1127. 'Fantastic! Support from school has been great. Work is provided daily, and a structure to the day has been suggested. There are great clear resources provided their Google classroom, and good opportunity for extension work. Most especially there is always

engagement- not just with staff but between pupils. Seeing how caring and supportive the kids are of each other is very touching. Our school have made school at home sustainable. We would be happy to continue well into the future if there is No other virus peak across the UK, or if a local lockdown happens, it's actually been believe to connect more with my daughters education.'

1128. 'Our experience has been completely different with each child. Our youngest, 6.5 started well but after about 6 weeks it descended into screaming matches, tears and generally a horrible experience. We knew it had to end when one day she got as far as starting to write an "f" for her name, and it resulted in a 4 hour tantrum. This behavior could be a badly timed transition stage for her but she never behaved like this before. It made us feel like failures as parents when we asked the school if she had a place for her in year 1 again. Since her return, we have not had one tantrum...not one. Our older child, 9.5 has been amazing throughout but has found it hard to stay motivated and now that she knows no one is checking her work is not doing the quality work that I know she can provide. Our school, has been amazing. The amount of support and quality of work has been amazing. They have created hours and hours of youtube content and the work has been varied and interesting for our eldest. It was a little more repetitive for our youngest but thats understandable at that age. I think they have been amazing, easy to contact and generally continued to be a school in the only way they can.'

1129. 'My child has been off secondary school since March. During this time my child has received a couple of hours of work a day. He has received no online lessons and no opportunity to learn interactively. During this time he has received one call with his school. As parents we want to help our children's learning while at home but despite requests for more direction or resources - we have received a response that this is all that can be given in the circumstances. I am so surprised that the school is not providing at least pre recorded PowerPoint presentations of the work that should have been taught over the last five months. We also have requested a report but were told these would not be provided this year. I don't understand why my child's progress cannot be monitored sufficiently even while working from home. This is in stark contrast to the provision that is being put in place in the private sector where full school days, video conferencing and a full curriculum taught remotely are the norm. As a parent there is no clear guidance to suggest what should be covered during this time at home. If work is set by the school my child is motivated to do this but the quality and quantity of home work is poor. Many private sector jobs are performing their work from home using the technology available often for reduced pay and while homeschooling during this difficult time. I do not understand how schools are not adapting to remote working and teaching our children remotely their full curriculum. My child's education has suffered and I am concerned about how this will affect children's long term prospects. I think it is crucial that schools open in September and I think work should be set over the summer that is clearly directed at catching up our children's lost education.'

1130. 'I was furloughed for three months as a single parent father. I must say that this time has been incredible and I've developed my relationship with my daughter. I was able to spend quality, one to one, time with her that she never got at school and she has progressed

amazingly. My appreciation of what she is doing at school has increased dramatically and so I will be able to help more once she does return in September, assuming it's safe to do so. It also showed me the amazing job our teachers do for little recognition. We scheduled 3 hours each morning and then went out in the afternoon. The main loss was the interaction with her friends, but social media allowed her to stay in touch and it also highlighted the amount of time in school she was socialising at school, rather than learning. I am now back, working from home and my day starts at 7.30am, then home-schooling from 9-12. I have the afternoon to work whilst my daughter can go out and see her friends if she wants.'

1131. 'Homeschooling is a nightmare. My youngest is given badly thought out written activities despite being dyslexic. Contact with the school takes days to get a response and makes no difference. We've been sent videos compiled by the teachers saying how much they miss the kids and how they're enjoying long walks with their pets. All while I'm trying to hold down a full time job and teach at the same time. It seems that some teachers are doing nothing and getting paid for it while I do their job and mine. My daughter is finding the situation so hard she has now gone back to completely lacking in confidence about school work and having regular nightmare about not coping when she goes to secondary school in Sept. her school choose to 'prioritise my their Year 1 students to return to school and have refused to allow year 6. Its a nightmare! They school seems to be about to do what it's likes while parents pick up the pieces.'
1132. 'Homeschooling has, for us, been a wonderful experience. I know that is not everyone's view, but it has been a real joy to spend this bonus time with our kids and feel that we are hands-on parenting instead of outsourcing most of their development to their school. In this time, we've been able to nudge up standards, build confidence and encourage autonomous working. We would happily resume homeschooling if a second lockdown required it.'
1133. 'One of my son's is in infants the other in juniors... They are run as two different schools. My experience with infants has been great. My son has done well, he has been happy to do his work and the communication and feedback with school and teachers has been very good. They have set plenty of work and provided lots of resources to use. As for my junior school experience.... That hasn't been so great. Work has been set online, but communication has been poor I feel.... They have sent stuff out, but when I do send work in I have received no feedback so stopped bothering. The teachers tried calling, i'd have a conversation, then get a call back 30 secs later starting the conversation again as is she had never spoken to me. I feel for this age child, more effort should have been made to provide some online lessons either via zoom, or YouTube which could then be accessed at families convenience. A letter was sent out a week ago about why they didn't do this and it was just full of excuses.... None of which were fully valid I don't think. Overall I haven't been impressed with the experience with the junior school age child.'
1134. 'Limited communication from school, maybe had a call from class teacher about once per month. Seesaw app used to share activities but these seemed random and not always engaging for my child. Onus really has been on us as parents to encourage child to work and

do daily learning activities. Often we would look for resources ourselves that we know child will engage in. Oak Academy resources have been useful to use on occasion. Doesnt feel that the school have given much thought to how parents who are working from home will manage their child's schooling and keep their day job going with lots of activities and tasks being set that require a lot of supervision or help/guidance.'

1135. 'Incredibly stressful, my wife and I are both able to work at home but balancing working and teaching is incredibly difficult. My daughter gets maybe two hours of schooling a day and the work set my the school typically takes 30 minutes if that. Our work has been very understanding but undoubtedly there has been friction, we have both been unable to fulfil all of our work commitments and as such are both feeling constantly pulled between the two. My wife's relationship with our 5 year old has been damaged.'

1136. 'Would prefer online classes for kids'

1137. 'We have been abandoned to home school our child with no consideration of our circumstances or technology resources. We feel distanced from the school and little thought has been given to our daughters' welfare or needs. The school has used the flex or lack of govt guidelines to provide the bare minimum of homeschooling and did not undertake any checks on whether we have internet, computers or printing. After complaining to the governors, our daughter has now had two 5 minute conversations with her teacher in 12 weeks. We are regularly printing out 30 pages of worksheets a day for our 10-year-old to work through, which required preparation by us the night before. We asked the school for some short teaching classes of an hour or two a week to introduce topics to no avail. it has been highly stressful for both our daughter and us, as we balance our jobs with our daughter's schooling needs - I work for 3 hours from 6am until 9 am and then homeschool and keep our daughter occupied until 2 pm, using my work laptop. When my wife takes over looking after our daughter and I work until 4.30pm. My wife catches up on her work until 7pm. It's exhausting. The schools Head is leaving next April to become the President of the Headteachers union and we feel our daughter has been caught in a political trap between the govt and union demands. There has been none of the initiative and motivation to care for the childrens educational and emotional needs that we expected from an ofsted outstanding school and we know of two families with no computers or printing.'

1138. 'The most challenging experience I've had as a parent. Schools haven't been supportive in my opinion especially at the beginning - they were absent. No contact for weeks and weeks and all we had was topic grids. Assumptions that we were all fine. We weren't fine. My children needed to see a face that wasn't mine, they needed to talk to their teacher. No online lessons were offered. The only reason I eventually had contact was when I contacted them in desperation. When I had to utilise the key worker place it was both criticised and judged - making me feel that I should compromise my husbands job in the police force and his safety whilst working very long arduous night shifts in a specialist role that school are aware of. My children normally enjoy school but they gain their confidence from their friends of which they had limited contact with. Family aren't local to us which made it more difficult and my husband was sent away for work for 7 weeks. To start with I

wanted to make it positive - I put far too much pressure on myself and every night went to bed utterly exhausted and overwhelmed. School work became so challenging that I paid for a tutor which marginally helped. My youngest however struggled to engage with anything apart from cooking. Once I took the pressure off things improved but at what impact? My children now going into a new academic year behind from their peers who have managed home schooling more successfully than us? Furloughed workers have at least had the time to spend with their children. We haven't. Now I've realised that since the restrictions have eased what a difference people make. Simple interactions with friends and family. I now will prioritise that over anything else and apart from basic reading and anything my children choose to do we won't be doing any formal school work. Their emotional health is far more important. I was saddened to read reports that children in poverty will be the hardest hit from this - I don't believe this to be the case. I can financially provide for my children but one thing they didn't get which is the one thing they needed the most...our time. There has been some lovely moments but they are massively overshadowed by fear, pressure, stress and anxiety. September absolutely needs to be positive for both of my children. I'm furious that the government chose not to prioritise Year Two children. My son now goes to a new school in September with zero transition time. Poor decisions have been made and millions of children will suffer because of it. I urge the government and schools to be realistic and to think about the impact that measures have on children. I want it to be safe but I however do not see the need in children hand washing over 9 times a day, I do not want them to fear the most instinctive of play interactions with friends and be restricted, they need to interact and play and be normal. Don't take their childhoods away. Children have been the least affected by the virus yet their worlds have been affected the most. It needs to now change. Let them be children.'

1139. 'My wife and I both worked full time whilst looking after our 2 children aged 5 and 18months throughout lockdown. Our days started at 7am and finished 10pm each weekday working in shifts juggling childcare with work. I would look after the kids from 7am until 1pm before working from 1pm until 10pm, whilst my wife would work from 7am until 1pm before logging back on at 8pm until 10pm. The experience was completely exhausting and incredibly stressful as we constantly felt we were failing both our children and employers. We tried to home school our 5year but with our 18month learning to walk just as lockdown began she would get the majority of our attention. Both my wife and I suffered with stress and anxiety due to being exhausted and constantly feeling guilty. The government's statements around work life balance no longer being a problem for parents were both infuriating and depressing, we felt completely forgotten about. We realise we have been extremely lucky to both keep our jobs and salaries throughout lockdown but we're really worried about how we can balance things in the event of another lockdown, along with the impact the stress and worry is having on us and our children coupled with our 5year olds widening educational gap.'

1140. 'Home school work was not sufficient. First 2 weeks of program can be excused, but delivered a full days program. After Easter program was changed to much better full day of work. Then 2 weeks later changed again with work being completed in 15 mins.'

1141. 'The school (a private one) did make efforts to put in place a programme of leaning which occupied my son for perhaps 4 hours. The problem was that the work was virtually all revision of what had been done previously - i.e. there was very little teaching of new work. he's 10 and in Year 5. In the end I decided to home-school him myself (i'm retired) so he can learn more difficult work. The main problem is that the motivation is not the same for the child where the parent is doing the teaching rather than a school, so my son, if he doesn't feel like it, says 'I'll do it later', which he couldn't do (really) with the online work. Frustrating for me, but I am very concerned about catching Covid-19 if he returns in September.'
1142. 'Lockdown and home learning have been a nightmare for my 10 year old daughter (year 5). The home learning provided by the school up to 22 June was a bunch of web links of stuff to do eg choose an English game on espresso, choose a Maths game on nrich. From the 22 June they have provided work and short videos of class teachers explaining stuff so this is a big improvement but brought in way too late. The school has provided no other support for pupils and parents. I contacted my daughter's class teacher several times to say we were finding home learning difficult (impossible) but she could not offer any support other than the advice of planning a timetable!!! None of my daughters work has been marked, I am able to send photos of the work but the only comments are things like "good job and a smiley face" - fine for a couple of weeks away from school, not fine for months away from school. My daughter has no motivation for home learning, she was struggling at school before lockdown happened and now she is struggling even more academically and socially. She has become very withdrawn and has lost all confidence in her abilities. Our routine despite our best efforts has disappeared, she is going to bed way too late, not getting to sleep for ages and getting up late the next morning, the whole thing is a vicious circle. Her class has over 30 children in it, so I don't know what will happen in September when class sizes can be up to 30 children. I am worried that school will not be back in September as promised and if it is, it will be in a reduced form. We need things to improve now for my daughter's mental health, we need social activities she can take part in now, I am filled with dread at the thought of a long "summer holiday" ahead of us and no detailed plan as to an end in sight.'
1143. 'In the early stages of lockdown my eldest (age 7) was motivated to do her work and completed her homework online. The slight difficulty being she has to share the laptop I also work on. After a few weeks she really lost interest and her homework was not being marked with no teacher feedback. I also have a 4 year old and 2 year old at home. I have tried my best but probably only averaged one hour per day school work. We have had a lot of trips outdoors to keep the children healthy and busy. Many walks and bike rides in our local area. When I do my work from home unfortunately the children watch tv as I am not able to do work or crafts with them at the same down as keeping a job going. My mental health has really suffered and I have been exhausted and very low at times as I am working or taking care of the children with no outside support that we would normally have from grandparents.'
1144. 'Both my children are at different secondary schools in Grantham. Son is year 7 daughter is year 10. I have worked from home through the whole of lockdown as has my husband. My 12 year old has found this the hardest having only been in Y7 for 6 months. Like

many of his peers he has gone from a small rural primary school to a huge all boys grammar school. He is very outgoing but had not yet made very secure friendships with his new classmates. I hear this repeatedly from other parents. Y8 is going to be like the start of Y7 all over again in terms of emotional stress for these boys. With 4 of us in the house I am sharing the kitchen table with him. Trying to do my work whilst answering questions on the 1st Crusade, the boy in the striped pyjamas, algebra, French and the geography of Sudan has been nightmarish. I am educated to postgraduate level but it is almost impossible to work and school at the same time. We have got into a good pattern now, but it is still incredibly hard. My Y10 daughter on the other hand has been more or less able to organise herself - but we have had no feedback from school so I have no idea whether what she is doing is OK. I have had to assume it is. She is taking art, drama and music all of which are hugely coursework based. Music in particular has been difficult because school could not secure licences for the software the kids need to do composition. These are £100s so not something parents can just purchase. We have not had a single phone call from either school since lockdown began. I assume that's because they believe both my children are doing OK. My son's school is now doing some teaching on Teams which is great but has caused additional unexpected tension at home. As my son has now arranged his timetable to suit him he is usually finished by 1.00pm. Lessons in the afternoon have scuppered this arrangement (not school's fault!) but has led to arguments about why he has to do them. The other issue I have not heard anyone mention is school transport when they do go back. I live in rural Lincolnshire. We are 8 miles from school and my kids like everyone else's got the bus (in our case public bus) to school. We cannot get our kids to walk or cycle as it's too far and the roads are dangerous rural roads. The buses don't look like they will be running a full timetable. This means that parents are going to have to drive their kids to school (again fitting in with work) and making traffic worse. Also if school decides to stagger start/finish times and you have children at multiple schools this is going to cause more problems. The stress of not knowing what is going to happen is horrendous. I think the government has thrown these kids' education under a bus. I just keep telling my daughter her and her peers will be old enough to vote in the next election and she needs to remember how this government treated the'

1145. 'I have been working from home as an NHS CBT therapist over the phone. I found very quickly the initial battles to retain normal school hours at home futile. My Y7 son's school day has mostly started at 2 or 3pm depending when I've finished phone calls. He's the type of kid that doesn't take initiative if I'm around. His attitude to school work is no different to home work it's just the stress of it on a mostly daily basis - he plays stupid, plays games to wind me up, lets me take 15 mins to explain something & say he already knows that. Every other day I can be in tears trying to get my admin done. He's sprayed deodorant in my face (messing about to get me out of his room), scraped knives across work surfaces before using them to do a school project, pushed the door against me hurting me to keep me out of his room. He eventually apologises for how he speaks to me but says he can't help it. His remotes & PS4 have been confiscated countless times. His work has sometimes been worse than his efforts as a 6 year old. He does as little as he can get away with. Occasionally he has done a tremendous piece of work & I can see the intelligent boy again. It's a battle to get him to get dressed brush his teeth. Exercise outdoors is hit & miss because of periods of hot weather, severe hay fever. He loves his drums & guitar but hasn't touched them until his lessons

started again. He won't socialise face to face with his mates now he has the opportunity. He only chats over PS4. He's self conscious of his appearance (well & truly in puberty with pimples facial hair voice broken) so won't video chat. He ran up a £400 bill on the PS4 that we couldn't get back. Whilst I love my husband his Dad I feel for the most part alone with this. Dad does what he normally does dips in and out on his terms with discipline. Dad mostly doesn't do school work with him unless I delegate it. My best support has been from other mums who have given up but they have more kids. I worry about his teeth his orthodontist appointment keeps getting put back now it's August. His Dad has fed him sweets fizzy drinks & he's not brushing his teeth properly. Ive poured bottles of pop down the sink. I try to remind myself keeping a sense of humour that even his most pathetic work is a break from the screen time & he's sat in a chair not lying down. I've been giving him multi vitamins again because of my worry about his lack of vit D although he eats a mostly healthy diet. I do think he'll bounce back once back at school & he can go swimming/to gym again. I try to see this as working and schooling from home in a not just national but global crisis. It is not 'home schooling'. His form tutor has been mostly supportive & realistic about the obstacles. Bring on September!

1146. 'It has been very stressful. The school sent out lots of worksheets but refused to do online learning as it "isn't in their ethos". Utterly ridiculous. 60 out of 72 schools in the borough use purple mash. When I suggested that the school should make use of this, they refused. Very short sighted of the school. This tool would have made life a lot easier for all. No work has been marked during this time but had the school used purple mash, work would have been set and marked and continuity of education the priority. The school were woeful in their communication with the children. Only 2 emails and a post card throughout the whole time and this was only after I had complained that the children felt isolated.'

1147. 'I fully understand that schools needed to lockdown when they did, but from the second the doors were closed the government should have been working hand-in-hand with teachers, unions and parents to establish the quickest and safest way to get the children back. The notion that children have been home-schooled during this time is a complete nonsense. Children cannot receive an adequate education from their parents. Our children do not see us in this role and they have enough to deal with emotionally during lockdown without having to re-evaluate their relationship with their own parents. My husband is a primary school teacher, and during the times he had available to home school (which wasn't much) even he struggled to get our five-year-old daughter to concentrate. Our daughter LOVES school, she loves learning, and my husband is a very experienced primary teacher, but even in those circumstances home schooling has been impossible. We also have a two-year-old daughter, and I feel that the parents of toddlers have been completely ignored during the lockdown. I work full-time from home, my husband worked the majority of time at home when not in the classroom, which combined with trying to educate our five-year-old has meant that our youngest has spent most of the last few months sat in front of the TV. I hate doing it, but we've literally had no choice. The guilt is overwhelming - trying to balance all these things and feeling like you succeed at none, day after day after day, is soul-destroying. I worry that the government may think that parents are OK with this, that we're all coping because we're not banging their door down. But the truth is parents are broken - we are

exhausted and have to use the energy we've got just getting through each week. I'm very glad to have seen your campaign as an outlet for my feelings and an opportunity for our voices to be heard.'

1148. 'Home schooling with a full time job and a toddler to look after has been a nightmare. I had to put my 10 year old on English and Maths tuition to keep her engaged and willing to learn. On the top of that, I signed her up for multiple online classes. We are in a fortunate position as we can afford to pay but what about all families who can't? The school only provided a bunch of homework every fortnight with hardly any interaction with the teachers.'

1149. 'Being a mum supporting with homework and being a full time teacher is two completely different thing. I feel more stressed in this lockdown than ever before as my relationship with my kids have become erratic. I am always working and teaching my kids, not to mention keeping up with home cooking cleaning and shopping! Trying to make time to have fun with kids has been a great struggle. I have two kids, one in reception and the other in year 3. They both have different lessons set by school and they both need to have one to one! My husband and I both work from home, but I had to reduce my hours to be able to accommodate home schooling. Kids don't want to see me as their teacher, they want their mum! What might be of great help, if we were to have school closure in future, due to lockdown is a live tuition every working day of the week for each subject being taught by their teacher. And kids cannot do 9-3.30, a full day as if at school, at home! That just is not possible. Being with their friends in school does not make them realise the 6hrs learning they do each day but being stuck with parents in a house often with no outdoor access, that 6 hours can be a nightmare! School providing live tuition would take strain off from me and I can then support my kids as a parent and not as teacher. I feel that kids listen to their teacher more than me when it comes to academic learning. Looking forward to September when I can kiss my kids off to school and look forward to go back and pick them up at 3.30, cuddle them as their nurturing mum!'

1150. 'The school support has been great however teaching your child at home when you have to work just doesn't work. There's too many distractions for the child no routine or socialisation, my youngest in reception has regressed immensely and my middle child my eldest Autistic son has seemed to forgotten about school and without specialist help he isn't learning at all!'

1151. '1 single worksheet sent home before Easter. Not enough to occupy a 9 year old while mum and dad working and secondary ge brother getting on with school work. After Easter better as work put on google classrooms each week to cover each day. However very hard to navigate as not set out clearly and complex instructions. Child needed a lot of support to access the work. She is self motivated but at age 9 not totally independent. It was extremely stressful trying to support her and my unmotivated year 7 as well as working. The behaviour of my daughter deteriorated hugely and she became very stressed and frustrated. she would hit, bite and throw stones and shoes at us. an absolute nightmare with me often ending up in a corner crying. Fortunately myself and partner are key workers and we then

sent her to school 4 days a week. her behaviour improved and so did our relationship but I cannot face the idea of ever having to home school her again.'

1152. 'I have a daughter in each of yr 3 and yr 6. Their state junior school closed Fri 20th March. There was no systematic provision from the school (yr 6 came back with 6 printed SAT papers) until 20th April. Parents were initially very gung ho and shared tips and hints. I am a single mum working c 26hrs a week, their dad lives very nearby and works full time. Yr 6 went back 2.5hrs a day 4 days a week from 2 June. I was anxious about the COVID impact of the return but on the first morning I saw what a positive difference it made having something to get up for. Until May I just pushed on and kept trying my best. From June it has become increasingly hellish. This is an affluent area, the parents have offered all kinds of support and ideas to enable more classes and year groups to go back. But I think the school is overwhelmed by the situation. My yr6 was able to manage her online work quite well, and is able. My yr3 is too young. I either sit beside her for 3 hours a day just to get maths and english ticked off, or nothing happens. She LOVED school before, now she says she hates it. We shout at each other most days. In mid June they had their first school arranged zoom call for 30mins. She was v apprehensive about joining it. I literally feel like I am going mad. I am her parent, not her teacher. Ironically I am a lecturer, but that doesn't equip me to be my daughter's one-on-one tutor. I have tried combining the schooling with her best friend at my house, anything to try and make it better for all of us. She spends one day a week at her dad's and he leaves her to her online tasks while juggling work calls of his own. I pleaded with the school to try and do something, even if one half day a week. They are unable to. The headmistress gave her a 30min private zoom call. So that ticked off 30mins of one day. I have signed her up to 2 outdoor gym camp days next week just to give us both a break. The school is advertising paid tuition from a 3rd party to catch them up. I could cry and have done several times in the last few weeks over this. I am trying to look after my own mental health, that of my two daughters, while working, homeschooling, parenting, running a house. I have very limited opportunities for time to look after myself, or exercise outside of the house being a single parent. The idea of no change or watered down school in September makes me give up all hope. Friends are all in the same boat. No one has anything left to give. The social zoom calls are dying out. No one can do this anymore. School and education needs to be prioritised over pubs and sport. Mums are carrying the country, and the burden is becoming too great.'

1153. 'The boys primary school have been brilliant. They have provided a wide range of activities and learning experiences and have made regular contact through HWB the online learning platform. The headteacher has set weekly challenges and done weekly assemblies. They have also supported wellbeing and readiness for a return to school. However, the practicalities of teaching two boys in a small house with room for one small table have not been so straightforward. I am a teacher myself and my husband runs his own business. He has essentially had to 'hibernate' his business so that he can homeschool the children while I am at work. Trying to work, prepare online learning, homeschool 2 boys and run a business and make weekly parental welfare contact while also caring for vulnerable shielding relatives has been extremely stressful and has taken a toll on us all. The added uncertainty surrounding the Welsh governments plans for September have only worsened the situation. This situation is not workable for any longer if we all want to preserve our mental health and support our

children's wellbeing. It is frustrating that the news portrays homeschooling as a positive experience where children living in vast houses with enormous kitchen tables benefit from parents who are always readily available to assist them with their learning. This is a reflection of the privileged few, not the many. I am very supportive of a full return for schools in Wales in September. The risk to health is low but the repercussions of delaying a return on families, education and mental health of parents and children will be enormous.'

1154. 'Stressful, upsetting, a struggle. We have 2 primary school children and a 2 year old, and we're both trying to work from home. Trying to home-school effectively and work from home has been impossible. One of our children was previously a very keen and able learner - she now has daily tears and tantrums over school work and refuses to engage. Whilst the school has provided work, the lack of personal contact, visible teaching, sense of belonging to the school and lack of socialising with peers has had a significant impact on her in particular. I am massively stressed by the responsibility of home educating, feeling like I'm failing my children because I'm also trying to work and can't devote the time they need to schooling, and very anxious at the growing divide between children.'

1155. 'While we have clapped for the NHS we should raspberry for teachers. No segment of society has sacrificed less and demanded more than teachers. Is there any other profession where someone could say, "I refuse to return to work until it's completely safe (the virus is eliminated in totality)." and not be fired. Instead they remain fully paid and left to decide for themselves if they should bother to do any work. I am disgusted by their privileged and naive world view. Much higher risk segments of society have reopened because they otherwise risk financial ruin, but teachers feel zero responsibility to support society. How can teachers justify that the pubs open and department stores open, but schools which are deemed much lower risk of spreading the virus are still closed? My child's school has provided: 1) a single 20 minute video call with the teacher, 2.5 months into this crisis, and 2) the first google link you'll find when you search "homeschooling material". They have made zero effort to provide video lessons, recorded or live, participate in class video calls organised and taught by the parents, or to assign material and provide any engagement on the performance of a child's efforts to complete the material.'

1156. 'School 1: Y10. Online PowerPoints, some with narration, following normal school timetable. Work sent via online system and marked by teachers. Zoom small group tutorial (pastoral) every couple of weeks. Zoom oral practice for modern languages. End of year exams in school, going in two full days before 17th July for one masterclass per subject. Summary: very good, structured provision, but son still struggled to keep motivation and feel connected to school community. Plus lack of any sport has severely affected his mental health, being used to hours of team/individual sport every week. School 2: Y12. Online PowerPoints but no structured timetable. Google classrooms for communicating with teachers, no online lessons. Some marking of work by teachers, other tasks self-marked (all sciences so this is easy). Academically was fine but very little communication with teachers so felt isolated and disconnected from school community. Going into school one morning for UCAS meetings, two other half days for lessons in 3 of her 4 A level subjects. Had end of year exams online to aid A level predictions. Summary: mixed quality of provision, mainly due to

lack of opportunities to communicate with teachers. Provision greatly improved last three weeks of term. Daughter mainly affected psychologically (isolation, anxiety) rather than academically.'

1157. 'My daughter is 6. We live in Scotland but I was born and grew up in Chester. My daughter is Autistic, she's high functioning (would previously have been Asbergers) she is the oldest in her class and she is a very bright little girl but emotionally she is still quite immature. She was late talking and coming out of nappies. She is also prone to meltdowns, she still has some 'tics' but they are less noticeable. She is an only child but prior to lockdown she attended a number of different groups, rainbows, ballet etc and she had formed a few really nice friendships with her classmates. We had initially accepted the idea of homeschooling, this is her first year in primary school and she has loved it. The first few days of homeschooling went well. The teachers hadn't set much work at that stage so we made up activities and read. At the end of the *desconfianza* week it was the Easter holidays and the teachers felt that the children should still have the time off. Unfortunately this seemed to make things much harder. When homeschooling resumed it was extremely difficult to resume the enthusiasm for homeschooling. Autistic children (Like most children) thrive on routine. We have some very complicated routines involving not only when and how we do things but also the route we take, the clothes we wear and who can and can't go. In the space of two weeks it felt as though 3 years (she was about 3 when we first started the diagnosis process) of hard work on her part and ours had been undone. We tried making up a timetable and planning a mixture of different activities interspersed with learning but our issue is that home is her 'safe space' this is really important for autistic children, especially girls as they have a coping mechanism which allows them to deal with everyday life by using 'copying' of social skills to handle different scenarios. This can be quite exhausting for an autistic child as they can find it hard to continually mimic the behaviours of others and try to figure out the complex rules of society. Since starting school our daughter has coped Pretty well with the social skills required for the classroom but often comes home and has a meltdown. Her teacher (who is very good with autistic children) reassured us that this is a good thing as she is choosing to meltdown in a safe space, free from judgement and where she feels able to let out her emotions freely. For our daughter to have the place where she learns and where her safe space is suddenly combined has become a massive issue. Her home is the place where she disconnects from the day, prior to lockdown she might do a small amount of homework, but ultimately it's where she plays and she rests. As we don't have a garden it had been really difficult to give her the space she needs to make this transition from one activity to another. The other issue we have experienced is that it has fundamentally changed her relationship with us. Her teacher is excellent, she brings the education to life with creative activities and makes learning fun. She also has rules which apply specifically to the classroom (no toys, no food, sitting in a particular place etc) these probably seem like very minor things but to an autistic child this is very important. If another child has broken a rule or she has had to sit in a different place it can be a challenge for days. Lockdown has meant that learning needs to now be done at the kitchen table, using the pens and pencils normally used for colouring in at home. It has meant doing maths before lunch (apparently this NEVER happens at school) it has meant that we can't have PE in the school hall and the pencils we are using to write out our work are wrong. Arguably this was a good opportunity to teach new ways of doing things

and that school doesn't have to look like school but when you are 6 and you have been excited to go to the 'big school ' for as long as you can remember and highly trained adults have spent years creating a safe learning environment for you, where you feel happy and nurtured; having that interrupted by a virus you can't see, touch or smell is heartbreaking. Our happy home with our content daughter is now home to a child who now has meltdowns outside, in public places (where it isn't safe, or private) she is now anxious of being near people and her social skills have deteriorated to the point where she is reluctant to talk to family and friends on the phone or zoom. When we meet other children she is withdrawn and has found it really hard to interact. She has lost her excitement for learning, she doesn't want to bake or read (things she always loved doing at home) her behaviour has changed a great deal and despite our best efforts we are finding it really hard to keep her occupied and content. Prior to lockdown she was a happy 6 year old with some quirky behaviour but coped well with school. If school doesn't go back or if she can only go in for limited hours I worry that it will start to really impact on her mental wellbeing as well as her education. The longer she is out of school the harder it will be for her to relearn all of those important social skills which she will need in the future. Skills which as a one child household we cannot teach. If she can go back to school in 6 weeks and if it looks like her school and allows her to interact with other children I am hopeful that in a few months she will be back to her old self.'

1158. 'My children (Y4&Y6) are totally disengaged from learning of any kind. Until this term there have been no zoom calls with the class or teacher (Y4 now has a short "hello" once a week). Why could Zoom lessons not have been a regular thing last term? I may have helped my 2 feel more connected to their class and less isolated socially, and educationally. There have been weekly letters from the teachers but the children have felt very isolated and uninterested. Last term the work was mainly worksheets which were dry and repetitive and very uninspiring. This term its BBC bitesize which seems rather boring. Getting my 2 to do any work is a daily battle and has caused a lot of conflict in our house. They are intelligent children I hope they can catch up with education, however their engagement and the mental health affects have been much more of a concern.'

1159. 'Terrible! I have 2 children, 5/7/10, so all at different levels of learning. I work for the NHS, initially in A&E and now in a GP surgery full time. My husband has to work from home. I initially put them in to Educare but my husband pulled them out as he was unsure of how the virus would transmit so on the days I didn't work I attempted the homeschooling. Pressure from the school, pressure from comparison of other families and the amount of work we needed to get though meant that it was always a pressure cooker ready to blow. I tried to sit down and teach all together setting them on their way with their provided work and I would concentrate when each had a question and help them through. I only managed 3 hours a day. My husband did a different way of doing an hour each individually which would have been better but I found trying to get them away from the TV/screen hard and arguments about who would be first/second/last even harder! It all became a bit disjointed, we live in Devon so took opportunities to go to the beaches/ on the moor. I would then attempt to get each child to fulfil at least on piece of work which had been set but argument after argument ensued until I refused to fall out with my children any more. I worry about my 10 year old as she doesn't pick things up quickly and I know and see that she has gone backwards in her

learning. She is year 6 in Sept! They now attend Educare again as my job requires more structured days during the week so I feel less guilty of not doing anything on the Thursdays I have off.'

1160. 'It has been incredibly challenging having three children under 10 at home during lockdown and with the school and nursery closures. I've got a nine-year-old, a seven-year-old and a four-year-old. I found it really challenging knowing what tone to take with the children's education time: am I their mother or their teacher?! We started off lockdown in quite good shape enthusiastic and enjoying the change. But especially after the summer half term holiday, when we were told that my boys in year four and year two wouldn't be returning at all, the enthusiasm for any sort of 'table top learning' has evaporated. In the last few weeks the boys have essentially played Lego all day every day. I think it's helped them get on with each other much more, and I'm telling myself that it's really improving their imagination skills, but it's not helping their handwriting at all! My four-year-old hadn't been to preschool during the lockdown at all, and since the June half term she's been in two days a week which has made a huge difference on those days. Unfortunately today is her last day at nursery because it's a term time nursery and they're closing for the summer. On top of all this, I run a food distribution charity which up till the lockdown was a one morning a week voluntary role. From the middle of March, it very quickly turned into a four or five hours a day, six days a week job, still voluntary, but with everything else at home needing to be done on top of that: homeschooling, washing, cooking, cleaning, tidying up, and everything else as well! And of course, with having all of the children at home all of the time there was absolutely zero time to get anything done without one or other child needing you or fighting or arguing or needing their bottom wiped or making more mess or needing to eat something or asking a really difficult question or wanting to go on a bike ride or wanting me to play with them etc etc etc. Their school have been very supportive in the approach they took, which was to essentially trust parents to work through whatever education they could manage within their own family capacity. This meant that we weren't under a lot of pressure by school to submit work that the children had been doing each week, and I felt that that trust they showed in us as parents really took a lot of potential pressure away and really helped ease the mental burden of lockdown. However, 14 weeks in I did ring the school and told them that I simply could not carry on with educating them anymore! The deputy head that I spoke to was very understanding, having got children of his own, and reassured me that it was the school's job to help them catch up in any areas necessary in September and that I should make the most of the time to do with the children things we don't normally have time to do together. I am fortunate in some ways in that both of my school age children are reasonably bright and capable, and we read a lot at home or listen to audio stories. However, afternoons have turned into one long TV marathon, although it is a mixture of documentaries, Fireman Sam, Thomas and Go Jetters! We have got a computer at home, and School did provide lots of logins to different websites which would allow the children to do maths or English or other work; however only one child can use a computer once and it has been incredibly tricky juggling each child's time on the computer. We are really fortunate to have a garden and a country park very close to us and without these two things lockdown would have been very very much harder. We are really fortunate to have a garden and a country park very close to us and without these two things lockdown would have been very very much harder. My

middle child has started having paediatric assessment for autism during the time of lockdown, and so we've had quite a lot of telephone appointments with medical teams and Health Visitors. Paragraph this has had its benefits and drawbacks: it's meant that we can have discussions with the doctor without my son overhearing us talking about him which I think has been positive, but also it's really tricky to have a private hour-long conversation with the paediatrician whilst the three children are running feral... I've developed a coffee and crisps habit but haven't yet turned to alcohol... not sure if I'd be able to stop if I started!!!! In summary, we have really valued the time together as a family with my husband at home and around at mealtimes, able to come for walks with us and taking slightly longer lunch so I can get a little bit of work done, but the word I would use for the last four months is relentless.'

1161. 'I work set days as a nursing sister, so I'm one of the lucky ones able to help tutor my 9 year old daughter. I also have an 11 year old daughter. Both need a computer to complete their school work online. We own one laptop, a not so great tablet and don't have a printer. We've had to juggle the limited devices between 3 when their Dad took time off during school closures and he attempted to work from home. Impossible to do and teach your children. Online learning has not been an engaging experience for both children. Not one Zoom call. Not one single phone call to check on the children during the peak months. All the lessons are pre-generated from websites that have been functioning for homeschooling prior to lockdown it appears. Therefore teachers have not, as some reports suggest, been working really hard. Teachers have made a few comments on the work submitted and perhaps a paragraph or 2 once a week, which is never read by a 9 year old. My major concerns is more about the lack of socialising with friends. My girls have themselves but there are many only children or those with older or younger siblings who are lonely. Keyworker children are in school without their year group teacher and therefore these days at school are more like a lesson in social distancing and indoctrination in terms of how scary the virus is, because this is the message being projected by enforcement of social distancing. There's a wealth of evidence now that children don't get covid seriously. There's no evidence that they transmit it to others. Supermarkets stayed open without PPE and half the salary of teachers. We need schools to return in full without the potential closures which will be not only disastrous to the wellbeing and education of children, but for the economic recovery. Children need routines and confidence in schools and teachers to support them through their education. Not scared and unhelpful role models.'

1162. 'I have homeschooled 3 children(I also have a 3 year old at home) in classes reception, year 3 and year 6. My daughter in year 6 had been back in school for 6 weeks and my son in reception is back in school 2 days a week. It has been a very challenging time as my husband has worked long hours as a key worker throughout but it's also been a rewarding experience. The support given by my children's school has been excellent with a full weeks work being sent every Friday afternoon for the following week giving me time to prepare their learning for the week. My youngest child's work is submitted via evidence me for feedback and my 2 older children's work can be sent via email for teacher feedback and to be shared on class blogs. All marking has been done by me not by teaching staff with answer sheets being provided with set work. Whilst I am not a teacher the children have benefitted

from my attention in areas where they needed support and I'm confident that by completing all the work that's been set by the school they haven't been disadvantaged.'

1163. 'Home schooling has been fantastic - the school have been super supportive. My daughter Y9 says it is better than being in school as there are fewer distractions. Her results have been fantastic including in subjects she usually struggles with. We would like full online education to continue for all until after all pupils and teachers have been vaccinated.'
1164. 'I have 2 children, I am an emergency service worker working shifts, my husband is a teacher, who was expected by his employer to teach his full timetable on Microsoft Teams within the first few weeks of Lockdown. My youngest is in Yr 5 at primary, her school quickly adapted and used an online platform called Seesaw, not the easiest online system to use but our daughter really did well and stuck with it, though I know others have struggled. It worked well she had the 1 teacher setting work, which was just daily English and Maths, manageable, the head was kind and supportive of parents efforts in her newsletters. In contrast our son is in Yr 7, having only been at secondary school for 6 months he and I found the online learning confusing, 13 different teachers setting different work, it's felt overwhelming. There have been tears, my son's and mine as I came off a night shift at 0700hrs to requests of help. We have seen some poor teaching, told to research a local church by an RS teacher and create a booklet which should be 3 hrs work, is not teaching in my view, no interaction from the teacher. Fed up with the lack of support I did write to his school, they have since done some online lessons which have helped, the teachers actually do the teaching! But it was a long time coming, only set up for the last 4 weeks of term. Instead of our house being a home, it's become stressful, with lots of rows cajoling children to work online for hours, getting frustrated with technology, little recognition for their efforts by some teachers. We spent 4hrs on an English work set, no feedback, no keep up the good work, it could be lost in cyberspace for all we know. Why didn't I send them to school as key worker kids? Because the schools were just putting them on a computer to try and do the same work alone with any teacher babysitting. My son has dyslexia at least at home I could read the work set for him, before he tries the work then battles with the technology to send it in. I gave up yesterday, we went fossil hunting at a nearby coastline, we spoke about the rock cycle and geology, we felt like a family for the first time in weeks, until we got home, logged on and tried to figure out how to do the mountain of work set by the secondary school teachers this week. We haven't done a lot of the work set, we have simply been overwhelmed. We chose to concentrate on English, Maths, Sciences, with some History, Geography and Art, we had to give up on the rest. I work long shifts, in an emergency service control room, I speak to the public each shift, they are struggling with their mental health, I am compassionate and professional, but I am exhausted. This can't carry on, shutting the schools was an emergency measure but now we must prioritise children returning to school to be taught by teachers, or we are failing a generation. Those that are frail or particularly vulnerable may still need to self isolate, but the vast majority of school children who are low risk to COVID 19, need to return to school. Thank you for giving an exhausted parent a voice, take care.'
1165. 'Horrific. Daily battles trying to understand the work sent by the school before I even attempt to explain it to my child. Battles to get my child to do the work whilst I work myself -

especially hard when they have younger siblings who don't have school work and just get to play. The days are usually full of arguments and end in tears - both myself and the children. Whilst my eldest has been set work from her school, I had nothing for my youngest (starting reception in September) to work on, so have had to find things myself. But finding the time to work with him in between schooling my eldest, doing my own 9-5 Monday to Friday job and running the home has been almost impossible and as such I don't think he is anywhere near ready for school now.'

1166. 'I have 2 children with learning disabilities who both attend a SEND school. I am their parent but also a registered carer for them. From the start of lockdown we were left at home with a pack of worksheets. Our children who are 9 and 7, cannot read or write or work anywhere near independently. There are many things they can't do independently which includes play, personal hygiene and toileting. They have demanding and often challenging behaviour, sometimes violence towards us if demands and their anxiety become too much. My son refuses to do schoolwork at home, saying I'm not his teacher. My daughter had done a bit but needs a huge amount of input from me which means that my sons demands and behaviour become more challenging due to sibling rivalry so in the end it becomes impossible for me to help my daughter so her work. Throughout lockdown my husband has had to continue to work in our spare bedroom, he often works from 8am until 10pm as he has a high pressured job that had just carried on as normal, except that he would usually go into his office and not be working at home. The burden of childcare has been my domain and the situation has greatly increased my own chronic depression and stress. I have been very close to having a mental breakdown. The school didn't communicate with us or the children until May, and only after May half term did they start doing a few Zoom lessons every week. Since June the children have been going back to school 2 days a week each, on different days each which still meant that I had no respite as I always had 1 child at home. Last week I ended up crying in front of their teacher from stress and exhaustion. Often the children don't sleep well either and can wake up at 4am in the morning. For the last 2 weeks of term the children are going to school together on 2 days a week, because their teacher could see how much I was struggling. I am dreading the summer holidays when I have been offered 2 days of childcare respite from their Mencap holiday scheme throughout the whole 6 weeks. If school doesn't start full time in September I will be beside myself and really don't know how much more I can mentally and physically cope with. We don't have any support, we have no-one to make a support bubble with. I feel I am living in a version of Groundhog day, but a hellish version. This is crushing me.'

1167. 'Impossible. I have a SEN child, but he's not 'bad enough' to have an EHCP so school gets no extra funding for him.. He takes a lot of my time and needs a lot of my support. He has actually made progress in lockdown due to the 121 support he's received but my home work and studies have suffered (I went back to college in 2019).. Due to the time he takes up and him being very demanding on my time, my other child has really suffered. She has fallen behind and is very frustrated and demotivated!.. for a virus that fatally affects less 2% of us why are our children suffering!'

1168. 'Very stressful, very difficult, I feel depressed most days. I have 1 child aged 10 (year 5). I have also been working from home. My partner has his own business so has not helped with home schooling. Very hard trying to do both my work and schooling, if I don't sit with my daughter she does very little. She gets angry and upset if she doesn't understand, I have limited resources (mainly just google searches) to help her. Had a massive impact on our mental health, we argue and I cry. My daughter has also been very lonely'
1169. 'I have one child in year 7 who had homework/courses to follow, set on a Monday and to be completed by Friday. Usually 2 to 3 subjects a day and just tutor calls and the odd call with another teacher. And I have one child in year 10 studying for her GCSEs who had online lessons and homework but not enough structure. The year 7 child is organised so I did not have to help much and she was fully supported but the year 10 is disorganised and struggled, having said that feedback from her school on her work was positive. She went into school for just 1 day to meet her teachers which was not enough. Both my husband and I are self employed and work from home anyway but not usually with the kids at home. Fortunately the kids are old enough to look after themselves during the day but motivation was an issue. They definitely need structure and routine again.'
1170. 'My son is in year 6 but couldn't go back to school as there was no room for him. About half of year 6 went back. We have had one phone call since lockdown. The school has sent homework home but nobody is checking it. Some of the TAs have been painting spare classrooms and tidying up. No proper leaving day just a 45 min catch up planned with the teacher to give out reports. Very sad for our kids going on to secondary school. My other son should have done his GCSEs. He has had no contact with the school. Hasn't even received his leavers hoody or book. Did get some brownies delivered by a teacher, who didn't want to see him, to say bye. I feel my boys have just been abandoned by the schools.'
1171. 'The school has been brilliant providing so much home learning and support daily. We were told by the school after a few weeks of video lessons with the teacher that these were no longer allowed. This was a blow for our daughter as she has really enjoyed seeing and interacting with her teacher and classmates. The teacher sets tasks and gives great feedback daily. I think the school has done as much as they could under the circumstances. We both work full-time from home so it has been an absolute nightmare trying to juggle work and teaching and childcare. We try to do half a day work each and half a day with the kids. Inevitably we are also trying to keep up with video calls and emails all day. The kids feel neglected and angry. We feel guilty and just that we are doing everything badly. The kids lack motivation and we all get cross with each other. I find I have very little patience and I don't know how to explain things in a way that they can understand. They miss the school environment where they learned in groups, by experimenting and by watching other kids. They miss socialising with children their own age. I feel miserable and depressed constantly knowing each day that I have to do it all again. I cannot bear the idea that this will go on for more months. They are not learning enough and life is pretty awful for all of us. They have been going in one day for the last few weeks which has been great for them. They need to go back to school full-time in September.'

1172. 'Children in years 3 & 5, both out of school since lockdown started. Younger child has ADHD and other as yet undiagnosed learning differences. Additional interventions in school to help him have been non-existent - he has lost 6 months of progress and regressed to the point where he refuse to engage in learning activities. I have a full time job which has never been busier. The stresses of trying to 'home school' 2 children with very different abilities and attitudes has been extremely stressful for us as a family. My son's anxiety and ODD have intensified with more meltdowns, and we have little help in managing this. Seeking private assessments and waiting for NHS appointments . Direct appeal to the school to allow him to return to school in a keyworker bubble, even just one day a week, was denied due to social distancing guidelines. I have significant concerns for his return to school and mental health. That said, the provision of online work for the children has been very good - just entirely inappropriate for my son out of the context of school. My daughter has worked well with what's been provided - the novelty has very much won off now - although its impossible to spend time with her doing some of the more fun things. Guilt at being unable to spend the necessary time has been a big factor in our experience. Weekly class Zoom calls are the only "face to face" contact. Email contact has been good and responsive to work sent in.'

1173. 'We have found it hard. I have 3 children at primary, and trying to teach 3 different levels around our kitchen table, whilst my husband tries to work (he works from home) is a real struggle. My eldest is starting secondary in September but has missed out on visits, which has made her very anxious about it. My younger girls can start off OK but be arguing by lunchtime. Some of the work is new to me, so I spend time looking online for answers. My eldest lacks motivation to apply herself out of school. All this plus I work 30 hrs a week as a nurse, so when I'm working my husband can get none of his own work done.'

1174. 'I am a Mum of 3 children in reception, year 2 and year 5. My husband and I are both full-time university lecturers and have been trying to balance both of our jobs with home-schooling all 3 of our children. We have never worked so hard in our lives. I have been getting up at 5 every morning to answer emails, plan online teaching and support students and I work extra hours every evening. The daytime hours we take in shifts so we can work a minimum of 3 hours with each child and keep our meetings and other appointments. We have no family locally that we could link up with in a support bubble to help with childcare/home schooling. We have felt utterly and completely abandoned by the government in terms of childcare and education. The junior school which our son attends has been great in terms of setting home learning and he is self-motivated and does all the work. Our infant school has been much less helpful, offering what seem like activities which have not been altered or adapted at all to a home-learning context. Consequently we have developed our own learning activities for our youngest 2 children. We are exhausted and frustrated. Our relationship is suffering and both of our jobs are at risk due to the impact of covid-19 on universities. We are frightened, fractured and feeling increasingly hopeless as we find it hard to believe that our children will go back to school full-time in September. We would be grateful for increased clarity and quite frankly recognition of the huge effort that working parents have been putting in over the past 4 months to teach their children. Thank you.'

1175. 'From 20th March until May half-term holidays, contact from school was virtually zero. There was just a list of work for the pupils to do on the school website. (But no-one from school ever checked or asked if anything was getting done, literally no communication from teachers). From beg June Teams was set up. Things have now improved with some teachers setting weekly tasks they ask to be handed in, so at least there is some expectation, though feedback is still minimal (& this is from one of the top comps in the country!). I would describe our daughter as quite motivated, but when there was no expectation on her, her motivation dwindled! Both my husband and I work, luckily he has been able to work from home (I work for the NHS). There are almost daily arguments about school work.'
1176. 'Although work was set, the quality in which it was set out was poor. I felt that they could have presented it in a way that made life easier for parents to deliver. Instead I found myself spending at least one hour each day preparing, cutting and pasting, sticking and laying out the work to ensure that my son could be self sufficient whilst I worked on the same table as him. I also felt the work was not streamlined enough, the maths was too easy and only took him minutes to finish! Before the schools went back in June I had weekly contact with the school. My son had no interaction except for speaking on the phone occasionally. I understand this was more than most other schools. I asked if I could walk his books into school so they could mark them (it is a few doors from us) but I was told this would not be appropriate. Instead I had to photograph his work in order for them to look at it. The school seemed to be reluctant to open in June but at the same time had no long term planning in place. After this date they were now more focused on the children within the school and the contact was nil. I wrote a letter to the school sharing my concerns for the way the work was presented and the lack of contact. Things were taken on board however the school were now sending out 32 pages of work. How is a child who is working off a smart phone supposed to work from that. I now receive the work in word format, which I still have to organise to the point where I have given up and I now use the Collins and CGP work books to keep up with his writing and math skills. My main concern is the social interaction. I have an only child but a very sociable one and have noticed since we have started to ease, his relationships with other children has declined. He has become very self centred, over excitable, frustrated and lashing out. I feel I have gone back to when he was in preschool.'
1177. 'This has been without doubt the most challenging time in our lives and I am really encouraged to see this group and your request for feedback - thank you! We have two children, one 16 months at the beginning of lockdown and the other 5 and in Reception year at school. We both work full time and our daughter (a very 'spirited' toddler) started walking the week before lockdown. I started a new full time job the week before lockdown and my husband works from home permanently for a US advertising company on US hours; we were both able to work from home so furlough was never discussed by our employers. Our children are simply too young for us to both work while looking after them at the same time. Children in EYFS are hugely different to older school children and I feel this was completely missed by the Government, society etc. You can't just sit nicely at a table with them and all work together all day. We took the decision to work in shifts; I would work from 8am - 1pm while my husband had the kids, we'd then swap at 1pm and we'd both work in the evenings once they were in bed. As you can imagine, this coupled with the stress of the pandemic was

exhausting. I feel we're only just this week physically and emotionally recovering from it, and that is purely because we've had confirmation of our childcare plans for the rest of the year. We felt (and were) totally alone with the kids entirely dependent on us holding it together. There were a lot of tears and shouting, it's the worst parenting we've ever done and we had several moments where we admitted to each other that we couldn't cope but didn't know what to do. If I'd have thought that there was anywhere to turn to for help I would have done it, I spent hours when I should have been working desperately googling government advice websites, the NSPCC etc all without any advice for working parents - we felt totally forgotten. For us homeschooling wasn't even an option. The school (a state primary school) have been phenomenal in the materials they have set, class zoom calls and general care and support... but fundamentally we have been on our own throughout lockdown and there simply are not enough hours in the day for two adults to both work full time while supervising a toddler (you can't take your eyes off them for a moment at that age) and looking after us all (things like shopping, cooking, tidying and cleaning became massively time consuming compared to normal life of school meals and online deliveries). To add homeschooling to the demands we were already facing would have been impossible so we took the decision early on to protect our mental health and not add to our stresses by trying to fit it into the working week. We did do some work with him, approx 30 mins every Saturday using the Seesaw app when we weren't working, but being 5 he just wants to play and I'd rather he fell behind a bit at school than we risked damaging our relationship with him and making home a stressful environment for him (considering the stress and anxiety we were already facing how could we possibly add to it?!). When nurseries re-opened we were lucky to get our daughters space back straight away which was a huge relief. She is now back at nursery (a private day nursery) full time and just having the contact with the staff there has provided some of the sense of support and community we were missing. It really does take a village, especially when they are a little whirlwind of a child! School was totally different. We had some communication but they were incredibly nervous with reports of the Head in tears on more than one occasion and a lot of stress from the changing goalposts from the government. When they did eventually re-open it was only for 7 children out of 31 in Reception, and only for two short days a week. Again this was a huge relief and we felt like we'd won the lottery being one of the 7. The kids (particularly our toddler) being back in childcare meant we could go back to normal working hours which made a huge difference physically; I'm now able to sleep at night again and get some downtime for exercise/ rest etc. However we're approaching the end of term and our son is still only at school for 8 hours a day so the expectation is that we should be homeschooling the rest of the time. I've lost count of how many times I've reminded the school that we both work full time. I haven't said this to them but I am starting to feel discriminated again as a working mother - many of the other Mum's don't work or only work part time and they seem to have little awareness of families where both parents work full time - what example are we setting as a society for young girls? Part of the reason I work full time in a career I love is to be a role model to my kids, this feels like a step back in time where society just assumes that Mums are at home and can handle all the childcare. It's as outdated a concept as the long school holidays! After a very bad week recently where our son refused to go to school (he genuinely thought it was optional now) we took the decision to hire a babysitter for some of the days he is not at school. This feels like a ridiculous luxury but has made a huge difference to our mental health, I can physically feel my blood pressure

dropping. It's expensive but the best solution for us right now. If I was on furlough right now home-schooling would be a completely different experience, but I'm not, and given the economic fallout from COVID-19 I'm proud of myself for managing to keep my job all this time (there have been many moments when I thought I might have to resign as I couldn't cope with juggling the kids and work). Trying to work at 10pm at night when you've been 'on it' since 8am with a 5yr old (who is still not asleep because he's not doing enough during the day) interrupting is not a situation I would wish on anyone! Going forward if we have another lockdown my recommendations would be: - when both parents work full time the children should either be allowed to continue to go to school/ nursery (in the same way as key children and vulnerable children) or one parent should automatically be given the option of being placed on furlough. - recognise that children in Reception and Year One are not capable of being homeschooled in the same way as older children (they can't even read the instructions on the work properly without adult supervision) and there should be no expectation for homeschooling as the demands on the parents and children are too great.'

1178. 'Home schooling has been very challenging and the school seem content to provide parents with minimum homeschooling provision. I contacted the head teacher and was told that the school are doing what the government have told them to do which is to stay open for key worker and vulnerable children. I contacted the class teacher by email, received no response and then the headteacher sent a note out asking parents not to contact teachers directly. We've had no phone calls from teachers checking on my daughters well being. The school are now sending out a fortnightly learning pack but there is not much content and I am left to find things that she can do on her own while me and my husband try and do our jobs. The headteacher sends out newsletter telling us how much she is enjoying spending time with her family and how many books she had read. I bumped into a teacher on my daily walk and she raved about what a wonderful time she was having on lockdown. There is no appreciation that me and my husband are both trying to do our paid jobs and do home schooling with very little support from the school. My 10 year old daughter is more than capable of working independently but the school seem to think we have got all the time in the world to spend with her baking cakes and playing in the garden. The only saviour has been BBC bitesize and other online sources which I desperately use each day but it is challenging to find material my daughter will engage with. One of the class teachers will some days send out fun quizzes and similar quick challenges on dojo and my daughter jumps at the opportunity to engage with her teacher. She is far more motivated working on things her teacher sets than work set by me and it just disappointing that we have so little engagement from the school.'

1179. 'Our school have tried their best. We were provided with worksheets and our Son's teacher (Reception) spent a lot of time and effort doing daily and weekly videos. Also they prepared a weekly suggested task sheet with links to video resources and sheets. I work best if I have a worksheet to work through with him. I also used resources such as twinkl to download some more free work sheets. However the problem has come not with what the school provided but the time I had to actually sit with my Reception age child and support him whilst he does the work. I have been working from home the entire time throughout the school closure. And it has been busy. To the detriment of my Son's education work has taken

a priority. I am stressed and worn out. Beyond the 1st 6 weeks we have done almost no home learning. I fear for his reading skills but economically I didn't have a choice. Also he is an only child so need's that interaction with other children. Now he has returned to school 2 days a week I feel he is at least getting some form of education. But the juggle is still on going. I cannot continue in this way beyond July. I would like to give our head teacher credit. Her communication throughout has been spot on. And she has now got to a point where every child in the school is being offered 2 days a week. My overwhelming experience of home schooling is stress, guilt and worry.'

1180. 'It's been incredibly hard to balance the requirements of work and some sort of home schooling. The pressure to keep up with both has been unbearable at times, plus the guilt when trying to do work and knowing you need to do some sort of schooling - even if it's 30mins. Employers say they are empathetic to working parents but this is not a reality when deadlines /work is expected ASAP, the sentiment is hollow in reality.'

1181. 'As a Governor of the school, I feel conflicted in completing this survey. However, I am doing so to recognise the impact it has had upon my 8 year old daughter (entering into Y4 in September) and also myself. Just prior to lockdown I had an interview for a role with my current employer, which I was appointed to six weeks into lockdown. However, the situation meant that the other role that was advertised alongside mine was delayed in being appointed as was the back fill for my role. This left me not only responsible for all tasks associated with that role but also for the new tasks associated with the two new roles, and for preparing a substantial handover as well as an induction for two roles on top of this workload. I cannot say that my employer was not understanding, but there was a significant amount of work to be undertaken. Alongside this I had the significant responsibilities associated with being a school Governor in preparing and monitoring the situation as it progressed. All of this was obviously undertaken remotely, and this is something that had not been done before and so added to the strain. This was in addition to my husband working full days as a key worker. Having completed a PGCE in 2018 I have qualified teaching status and know the importance of establishing a routine, preparing and allocating activities as well as providing a reward/acknowledgement scheme. Although I was able to establish this, it was impossible to keep the momentum of setting and then monitoring it because of the time and attention demanded in my role at work... a role that I must be certain to perform in as mine is the main source of income for the family. As the routine fell apart piece by piece it has resulted in no school work being undertaken for the vast majority of the lockdown period. I have been completely transparent with the school, (something I suspect many parents have not) and when doing the compulsory weekly check in I state that my daughter is not doing homework but she is happy. I am 100% certain she is happy and she is extremely resilient as this is something we as parents have focused on instilling. Being human, the required weekly check in to say that my daughter is still unable to do any home schooling (but is happy) sometimes slips from my mind and this has previously resulted in a stern round-robin email from the Headteacher. The communications assert that they are aware that people are in different positions but the actions suggest otherwise. Likewise, I feel that parents were discouraged from returning their child to school to 'catch up, check in, prepare for summer and September', which may have placed further guilt on parents that needed to do so. For me, I

feel a lot of parent guilt about working full time (and having done so since my daughter was only 5-month-old) under normal circumstances but this has been significantly exacerbated during lockdown. I try to not let the impression of lives that social media show have an impact on me, but when I am constantly seeing parents undertaking overzealous home schooling activities and adventures to the woods etc I do feel guilt... but most of all it highlights just how much my own daughter is missing out on. This is further increased again as she is an only child, and so I have reluctantly purchased a sim card for her to use an old mobile phone so that she can call the couple of her close friends that also have a mobile phone as well as her grandmother. Under normal circumstances I would never have allowed her to have a mobile phone at this age, and so again it adds to the guilt. I honestly think that parents in families with one homeworker parent and one keyworker parent (along with one single and unsupported homeworker parent) are in the most difficult circumstances, and consequently are likely to be just as disadvantaged as children from homes where parents do not have the ability (or perhaps desire) to home school their child. In June I took a few days of annual leave as I actually think I was on the verge of some kind of breakdown with the combination of work and family pressure. Whilst I would have loved nothing more than to spend this time with my daughter and advancing her skills and learning, this time had to be taken to preserve what little sanity I had remaining and unfortunately my daughter was unwell and so it actually resulted in a trip to the emergency doctors and then A&E. There is a lot more I could reflect on lockdown, but the important thing to do is to look to the future. With Wales anticipating a blended learning approach it is imperative that the guidance and details are released to school immediately so that preparations can be made to ensure that a robust and face to face learning provision is available.'

1182. 'My child is in year 6 and attends the local comprehensive school. This was the first year and my child was just settling in when the lockdown started. So began the homeschooling. After an initial tricky start with an overwhelming amount of work given to do at home, on a huge variety of online platforms, the school settled into a simpler more structured, more achievable, timetable for homeschooling with a 2 week plan of 5 lessons a day, including PE. Although this covers the whole curriculum, we have focussed on core subjects when we can. I do find the teachers setting the work still completely underestimate how long it will take to do the tasks set. Maybe a focussed and highly driven child with experienced teaching support can do them in 30 minutes. But not in our case (even though my child is too streamered for everything). I also find having everything computer based is a bit taxing for me and my child. Ends up more and more screen time. However, my child is an only child and struggles with severe anxiety. I work three different jobs, self-employed, running mine & my husbands own businesses. I usually work from home whilst my child is at school. Add to that I have a chronic illness which limits my stamina & physical health. At the beginning of lockdown - faced with complete closure of our business, and being put into a shielding group as vulnerable to this deadly pandemic, I suffered a mental breakdown. I've never been like this before, but the situation just broke me. Work was very pressured, with no income due to lockdown but both parents still having to work full time from home. And all this time the school kept bombarding us with reams of schoolwork, but no online support for classes, no calls from tutors. Eventually, after several concerned emails to the SENCO team, they gave us a lifeline with my child's support worker who has helped with weekly support

telephone calls & guidance. My child's mental well-being has been an enormous concern as anxiety has rocketed to severe levels and my child had lots of fear and paranoia. My child will not leave the house & garden - too scared and convinced they will die from coronavirus. My child has suffered major panic attacks, emotional breakdowns, social anxiety, and cut off from friends & family. My child has talked about suicide a few times and repeatedly completely broken down saying "I just cannot cope". Tackling this has been a priority & pressuring both my child and me (as "teacher") with trying to complete a lot of schoolwork is completely unrealistic. It has, at times, been severely detrimental to our family relationship. The SENCO support has been brilliant, really helpful. With a slightly different perspective, and some small steps to tackle the isolation and anxiety, we are starting to get my child feeling better and have slowly improved my child's mental well-being. I have had to take a step back & say we will try & do 2 hours of school work, just 4 days a week. Sometimes we have achieved a lot, sometimes it has been unproductive (due to underlying mental/emotional issues) & we have had to give up. In just the last few weeks of term, they have started doing online tutorials - 2 x 30 min sessions a week via google classroom. Although these have been challenging at first, and my child won't have the camera or mike on (can type questions) they have been really useful. I wish they had started these way earlier and also done much more of them. I also wish they had provided better tutor support from the start. There has only been one generic email a week and an offer of a phone call which I had declined as my child had shut off so much as it was too stressful. Recently, as we try to reopen our businesses, and get everything COVID-19 secure, I have been working flat out, some days right through until midnight, which is really dangerous to my health with my chronic illness, and we have had to abandon home-schooling completely. The school are being supportive about trying to integrate my child back into school in September and are being considerate about doing this gently with visits without other students being there. It will be a significant challenge to get my child back. But my child needs it, misses friends and the routine, my child needs the structure and the PE/exercise as it is very difficult to get exercising and active at home. My child is struggling with social contact and social distancing and fear of dying from coronavirus and this will be a massive mental challenge.'

1183. 'Disappointing, too many unfocused resources provided that made it difficult to sift through. Lack of feedback from school or marking or any constructive comments. Lack of contacts and links with the school. Not interactive. All learning basically shifted to overstretched parents. That is for state primary school. Private schools have been much better with home learning provision'

1184. 'Home schooling has been an enjoyable experience. Both my wife and I work full time and are designated as key workers, but we find time to undertake five hours of teaching between us each day for our 4 and 8 year olds. The school provides work on a weekly basis, which is principally made up of core numeracy and literacy activities. On completion these are returned to the teacher who marks them and provides prompt written feedback. In addition to core subjects there is a weekly theme (Under the Sea this week) and we build activities around this. Mornings are spent on maths and literacy whilst the afternoons are spent doing art, geography, history, science or computer coding/IT skills. They also take part in physical activities everyday and also undertake practical activities, such as baking, sausage

making and building birdhouses. We engage directly with the teacher on a weekly basis and the teacher holds a Zoom meeting for the children every week. Even our daughter, who is not due to start in reception until September, has a weekly meeting with her future teacher to listen to a story and to have a general chat with her friends and teachers. The children's education has not suffered. Our daughter is due to start reception in September and she is currently working through KS1 for maths and reading. The school is doing an excellent job of continuing the children's education.'

1185. 'I work four days a week, my husband 5. I was in an office but am currently working from home. We have three children, one in Year 2, one in Reception and preschooler aged 2. I am exhausted. My eldest is very energetic and has gone from being at school and going to sports clubs every day to being withdrawn, frustrated and unable to sleep. We have struggled to do any homeschooling with him. Our middle child has been at school again for a month and is due to finish in a week. This has helped with the childcare burden but has left his big brother feeling very lonely. My youngest returns to nursery next week. She has spent most of her time sitting at my feet watching a phone whilst I handle zoom calls and one or both of the boys watch TV downstairs. I am full of dread at the prospect of the school holidays and the continuing daily childcare and work juggle. My days start at 5am and ends at midnight to fit everything in. I am very worried about the prospect of the school and the nursery not being open in September and my ability to keep my job (and quite frankly my sanity) if that happens. This is the hardest thing I've ever had to do.'

1186. 'The school has set a continuous stream of work for my daughters in Years 10 and 8 but there has been very little attempt to interact with students and feedback has been minimal with virtually no constructive criticism of the work they have submitted. My kids have been diligent about their work but they are utterly bored by it and can't wait to be taught by teachers again. I think it is less important whether this is in class or online, but they must be taught by their teachers. As a single parent with a full-time job working from home, juggling is a daily challenge.'

1187. 'Absolutely wonderful. Well supported by both my children's schools and it has been a joy to be able to spend more time with them - even when juggling my own (and my wife's) full time occupations.'

1188. 'This has been a great challenge! I have two children in Y4 and Y1 so we have been homeschooling since March as there hasn't been space for the children at school as there are a high number of key worker parents at our school. I work 4 days a week and my husband 5 days a week. We both give the children 1.5 hours each day to work on lessons. However this doesn't always go to plan sometimes we're called into work meetings or I worry they are not getting enough time outside so sometimes my time with them is spent outside then I feel guilty that they haven't done enough learning. The kids are too young to be left to it -they just wouldn't do the work unsupervised. My youngest has been very anxious during this period and struggled greatly. He has clearly absorbed the fear around the virus and has regressed. He won't go to sleep without someone with him now and he wakes up a couple of times a night every night since lockdown started. My husband and I are completely exhausted. The

school have been supportive about this aspect and have referred him to the school nursing team, which has been good. Other than that the school have posted work on their website every week which has been a useful guide but on the whole we used BBC bitesized as they're well set out lessons. I would have liked some more contact from the school -if the kid's teachers could have sent out a weekly video message that would have been great -the kids are quite attached to their teachers and they've heard nothing from either of them. We're both very lucky to work in supportive organisations (a university and the civil service). I have not worked for more than 5 hours in a day but my manager has said it's not about hours, more about outputs which has been good. I do worry about longer term job security so we are saving as much as we can in case of redundancy. We were lucky at the begging of lockdown to be able to buy each child a tablet which has helped enormously with the school work.'

1189. 'My three children are at primary school, my husband is working successfully from home and I have focused on home-schooling whilst furloughed. We have thrived on home-schooling. I found the largely online work set by their teachers to be uninspiring in the extreme, of limited learning benefit and unachievable in full with three children and limited devices. The school has been trying to secure us a reconditioned laptop but we haven't received it yet. Instead, I have cherry-picked a small selection of work set by the teachers for each child which they have completed and returned as the Head teacher insisted on it so that the school could still do all their assessments of the children (there was no mention of learning benefit). We have had very limited feedback from the staff on this and no 'marking'. We have had one phone call from the head during lockdown - focused on our difficulties on undertaking all school-set work on limited devices, and one teacher phoned and spoke to my son to ask how he was getting on - she received grunts and one-words answers in response during their ~<2 min call. In addition to the school-set work, I have taken the opportunity to really focus on each child's weak areas (numeracy for one, literacy for the other two) on a one-to-one basis; to focus on out-door, screen-free learning; to utilise my own and husbands skills - science, German, wood-working etc; and, to do activities that will strengthen skills and provide learning opportunities that simply aren't possible in a classroom situation with one teacher to 20+ children. I strongly believe my children's overall education has benefited enormously from this. However, lock-down has not been without its challenges. It has been relentless and exhausting, the children have missed interaction with their friends and it has left me very little time for anything else to name the biggest drawbacks. I fully appreciate that most families have been in a very different situation to ourselves and agree that it is imperative that the schools open as soon and as fully as they are able whilst minimising risk, both to staff and the wider community. However, I simply don't see how a full return to school, for all children, can be safe at this time, particularly given emerging evidence of airborne transmission. Whilst undoubtedly simpler, I think a one-approach fits all will be damaging. The fewer the children in school, the lower the risk from corona virus for all. School places should be prioritised for those that need them most, for whatever reason, but similarly those who can manage some/all education from home, or who feel the risk of sending their children to school outweighs the benefits (either for themselves or perhaps for family members who are at high risk) should be encouraged/allowed to keep away. This MUST lessen the risks from corona for all. I think the focus should be on finding out how

home-schooling can be more effective and how schools/families can be best supported so that blended learning can be as successful as it can be (whether that is blending from an individual perspective or from a class perspective). There will undoubtedly be local flare ups, need for localised lockdowns and irregular, extended absences from classes as children/families need to isolate for periods due to symptoms. Schools will have to plan for disruptions to education, why not make this a focus to allow maximum flexibility and give families a say in how they would like their own children's education to continue for the foreseeable future?'

1190. 'really bad experience trying to home school my 9yo ADHD son. First two weeks were not bad, he tried and studied well with me. However, after the Easter Holidays, teaching him became a nightmare. He refused to listen, to concentrate, to do anything school related. Only listened to his teachers on zoom and did some work he was confident with. I was lucky that my team understood that i struggled and let me be very flexible while working from home. So my full time job turned into a very small part-time one, which isn't really good for my career as i couldnt cope in this difficult situation. Meanwhile, my son got tourettes, aggression and anger issues, so i hired a psychiatrist, who is trying to figure out what went wrong.'

1191. 'Our School has been great, offering detailed work each day. But the reality of juggling work and two young children, whilst attempting to teach a wide range of subjects has been difficult and stressful. Children have many distractions in the home and do not have the order and peer pressure that school offers in order for children to work. It has placed stress on our families relationships and brought my wife to tears. Our children do not see my wife as trying to help them, but as someone working against their wishes to force them to do work. My wife is a teaching assistant, who is employed to teach young children. I think it's fair to say teaching your own children is very different than teaching in a class. I think for many, the thought of school holidays approaching where schoolwork won't be a factor, is the only thing keeping them going. The thought of our children not returning in September would be devastating.'

1192. 'I've quite enjoyed homeschooling and I feel that the kids have got a lot from it. They are still quite young so as long as their minds are stimulated they're learning about the world. The main reason I send them to school is the social aspect and this has been missing, but there is nothing to be done about that. Additionally my daughter especially learns better from an outsider so that has added a level of tension which we could do without.'

1193. 'The work set has been comprehensive but it solely reliant on the parents to teach it and mark it. It has been a difficult challenge and at times extremely overwhelming for the parents and the children feel forgotten with no online interaction at all or telephone calls only emails'

1194. 'It's been stressful, especially given trying to work full time too. Cannot give either work or school work attention needed. The support from the primary school in terms of putting in place things to help with the 'heavy lifting' been very poor. All school did was dump things on their website - left to parents to log on, print off, get kids to do it and then mark it

too - it's worse position than the usual homework! So much time demanded - not clear what teachers actually doing if parents doing all of that'

1195. 'This whole experience has been incredibly stressful and is unsustainable going forward from September. I have been having to home school two primary children (reception and Yr 4) along with caring for a 9 month old baby who still wakes 4 times a night. My son in Yr 4 is incredibly gifted, with an IQ of at least 147 and I cannot keep him stimulated with the work being set from school, which is frankly pathetic. He has had NO contact from his teachers via phone or webchat AT ALL this whole time since March. The only thing they do is email a one to two sentence response when I send copies of his work in to them. They set work for the entire week that is so basic he gets it done by Monday lunchtime. It is ALL BBC Bitesize exercises, so everything needs to be done on a computer (we only have one in our household, so how can they both work on it at the same time, even when I need to do my own work from home on it, too?!) And I worry for the amount of screen time they are now being exposed to. My daughter in reception needs constant help with work. Not because she isn't bright - she very much is - but because she's just too young to be set a task to do on her own. I have to sit with her to go through everything, which then leaves my son and baby feeling left out at the same time. And again, for her, the work set by school is far too basic. There has been no differentiation in work depending on ability. They both find it really, really difficult to focus at home (even my son who is normally incredibly motivated to learn), particularly because their 9 month old sister screams whenever I put her down - ever since the older two have been off school she has been unable to nap during the day, so she is utterly exhausted (as am I) 24/7 as this is affecting her (and therefore mine, too) night time sleep. I just cannot split myself between the baby, and the other two, plus my own work that I am having to do at home. My husband is working full time at home, too, so this is just adding to the stress because I have to get the children to be quiet every time he takes a phone call. Plus I have to do more work around the house - I'm cooking more meals, cleaning more because the place is getting dirtier and messier quicker, having to shop for more food etc, etc. At times, with increasing frequency, I feel like I just can't cope. I've had to just walk out the door at times to escape my own family and I worry about what this message this is sending to my children and I am seriously worried about my own mental health, let alone my childrens'. It has, absolutely, changed our relationship between parent and child detrimentally. They now see me as a nagging teacher who has cracked so many times under stress, and not as the fun and loving parent they're used to. I don't know how we're going to come back from this, and I feel utterly let down by both the Government on a wider level, but also by the school who have basically washed their hands of all responsibility to my children for the past 4 months. They have done NOTHING to support us and have frankly, done the least amount of work they could get away with - but there's just nowhere to turn to to get this changed or improved. The school Governing body are useless, too. The chairman is a parent who has decided to withdraw his son from the school for next academic year (sending him to private school), rather than actually doing anything to help improve the leadership of the school. I just don't know where to turn to support my children's learning and our mental health. This is another epidemic waiting to happen and it's about time the Government woke up before it's too late, and a generation of children - who are this country's future, after all - have been scarred for life.'

1196. 'My wife and I both have executive level jobs and lead teams. There is a clearly-expressed expectation that we can work from home without a reduction in output. We also have a boisterous and intelligent 4.5 year old boy who is used to spending 5 days a week in nursery. The school and the teachers showed no understanding that we were having to work. These have been some of the most difficult weeks of my life as I have grown increasingly fatigued while watching my son's loneliness intensify. I cannot be at work, my son's teacher and his best and only friends all at the same time. Fortunately my wife has been fantastic and between us we got through it until we could take some time off to recover. I too have been in tears about the situation. Whereas my son's teacher has been at home decorating her lounge questioning my wife as to why we wanted the school to reopen. Everyone has knuckled down to get the country through this EXCEPT the teaching profession and their unions. They have let their pupils down, they have let parents down and they have let the country down.'

1197. 'Difficult to home school 2 kids and complete 7.5hrs a day doing your own work is an understatement. Myself and wife both have senior jobs and trying to home school and do our own jobs is impossible. To actually complete 7.5hrs work accounts for at least 11hrs of your day as stopping to help the kids with work just prolongs the day. In essence we start at 8 and finish at 7 to start dinner. When the kids finish their school work they are then watching TV / playing Xbox as we can't keep them entertained due to finishing our work. I wish one of us could have been furloughed to allow one of us to home school probably and look after the kids take them out for walks etc. I know the kids education has been impacted by this and I'm worried how they are going to catch up. They haven't seen or spoken to their teacher since 23rd March. There has been no interaction between our children and teachers. The teachers set the work and load it onto the school website. Why can't zoom classes be completed we have to do it for our work? I think the government have under estimated the affect home schooling will have on children and parents and focused more on this will be over in 2months and the children will be back in school. They haven't had a thorough thought out plan. They have been quick to build nightingale hospitals but have not put the infrastructure in to educate children remotely.'

1198. 'It's very challenging to get the child to do things at home. Plus we parents aren't formally trained to do so. Schools shouldn't have sent the curriculum the way they do at school. Understanding the school has different set up altogether.'

1199. 'As a single, full time working Mum with a high pressure job, the past few months have been hell on earth. We lost my Step Dad to Covid 19 at Easter so we've had a family tragedy to deal with during lockdown. My work has been intensely busy, leaving my 8 year old son abandoned and neglected for hours and hours at a time - up to 9/10 hours a day. When I've tried to set time aside to home school him, work have considered it as if they were 'doing me a favour' and that I should drop everything to attend a last minute meeting or take calls. I have very grave concerns about the impact on my son, educationally and psychologically. Our relationship has suffered, and he has developed a host of bad habits he has never had in the past - addictions to tablet, TV shows etc. I feel like I am failing at everything.'

1200. 'Myself and my husband have 3 primary aged children and also both work. The juggling act of working from home and home schooling has been impossible. There aren't enough hours in the day to get 8 hours work done and support the children in their work. Children have become more and more reluctant to do any work becoming angry and sad at the situation, isolation and monotony of it all. Individual teachers have gone above and beyond with providing work for the children but there hasn't been a whole school approach or any consistency so as a parent trying to keep on top of each child's work hasn't been possible. They're each set completely different schemes of work and it changes from one week to the next so we never get in to a pattern of what the work looks like. There's also been very little pastoral support from our school and the head teacher and leadership team have been lacking in any communication from day one. My employer has been supportive in giving me exceptional leave when I reached breaking point a couple of weeks ago. When I was away from work for 2 weeks the home schooling became my full time job. Now I'm back at work and once again neither my work or the home schooling is being done to a satisfactory level. The thought of them not being able to go back to school in September is a bleak one. For all of us.'

1201. 'I have 2 children, 1 in year 4 and 1 in reception. Both my partner and I are working from home and trying to homeschool. Recently my youngest has gone back 2 days per week. At first all school sent us was links to things like Twinkl and Bitesize saying here we're some sites that had useful resources. We had to spend our evenings trying to understand what they should both be learning and how we could best support their learning and generally making it up as we went. After Easter the school started to provide more direction and we get a weekly plan with specific links to specific resources. It's quite repetitive and the kids are getting bored of it. It's good to have the structure now but the kids need help and support in doing the work so we struggle to do our actual jobs. We tend to split our days so one of us works the morning and the other takes the kids, then we swap at lunchtime. We still have work/meetings to juggle when we're with the kids but we find having a dedicated section of the day to work and be productive helps. We often work evenings to catch up. Personally I feel like I'm not doing a good enough job of anything right now. Not enough support for the kids, not working enough, not managing to keep on top of the cleaning, washing, tidying, and I'm so fed up of cooking and planning meals and feeding people. I find that even though we're both working and juggling, I'm doing the majority of housework, all the food planning and all the prep for the kids school work. I'm exhausted and I just want the kids to go back to school. I've cried so many tears over the stress but also over them and what they've been missing out on and how this will affect them for the rest of their lives. They are struggling with motivation, and they are very up and down in their behaviour. Their sleep is affected. Their health is affect because they are indoors a lot, because we have to work. We try to get out once a day for a walk or bike ride but fitting it in with work is tough. If we go into lockdown again after they start back in September, I don't know how I will cope. We are all exhausted and stressed and we need normality and space from each other.'

1202. 'This whole experience has been incredibly stressful and is unsustainable going forward from September. I have been having to home school two primary children (reception

and Yr 4) along with caring for a 9 month old baby who still wakes 4 times a night. My son in Yr 4 is incredibly gifted, with an IQ of at least 147 and I cannot keep him stimulated with the work being set from school, which is frankly pathetic. He has had NO contact from his teachers via phone or webchat AT ALL this whole time since March. The only thing they do is email a one to two sentence response when I send copies of his work in to them. They set work for the entire week that is so basic he gets it done by Monday lunchtime. It is ALL BBC Bitesize exercises, so everything needs to be done on a computer (we only have one in our household, so how can they both work on it at the same time, even when I need to do my own work from home on it, too?!) And I worry for the amount of screen time they are now being exposed to. My daughter in reception needs constant help with work. Not because she isn't bright - she very much is - but because she's just too young to be set a task to do on her own. I have to sit with her to go through everything, which then leaves my son and baby feeling left out at the same time. And again, for her, the work set by school is far too basic. There has been no differentiation in work depending on ability. They both find it really, really difficult to focus at home (even my son who is normally incredibly motivated to learn), particularly because their 9 month old sister screams whenever I put her down - ever since the older two have been off school she has been unable to nap during the day, so she is utterly exhausted (as am I) 24/7 as this is affecting her (and therefore mine, too) night time sleep. I just cannot split myself between the baby, and the other two, plus my own work that I am having to do at home. My husband is working full time at home, too, so this is just adding to the stress because I have to get the children to be quiet every time he takes a phone call. Plus I have to do more work around the house - I'm cooking more meals, cleaning more because the place is getting dirtier and messier quicker, having to shop for more food etc, etc. At times, with increasing frequency, I feel like I just can't cope. I've had to just walk out the door at times to escape my own family and I worry about what this message this is sending to my children and I am seriously worried about my own mental health, let alone my children's. It has, absolutely, changed our relationship between parent and child detrimentally. They now see me as a nagging teacher who has cracked so many times under stress, and not as the fun and loving parent they're used to. I don't know how we're going to come back from this, and I feel utterly let down by both the Government on a wider level, but also by the school who have basically washed their hands of all responsibility to my children for the past 4 months. They have done NOTHING to support us and have frankly, done the least amount of work they could get away with - but there's just nowhere to turn to to get this changed or improved. The school Governing body are useless, too. The chairman is a parent who has decided to withdraw his son from the school for next academic year (sending him to private school), rather than actually doing anything to help improve the leadership of the school. I just don't know where to turn to support my children's learning and our mental health. This is another epidemic waiting to happen and it's about time the Government woke up before it's too late, and a generation of children - who are this country's future, after all - have been scarred for life.'

1203. 'I have three children, one at nursery, one in Reception and one in Year 3. I have always been a huge admirer of the school my two older children attend and would have expected them to be excellent in a crisis. In practice, I think they've proven acceptable in a crisis. I take this as an indicator of just how intense that crisis has been, and of how poor

official guidance for schools has been, with too-often unrealistic measures announced belatedly and without consistency. The school has sent weekly emails specifying work for the children. This is about as much as I expect them to be able to do, and the work specified has seemed appropriate and interesting. The Reception teachers in particular have put a huge amount of effort into producing funny, well-crafted videos to make the curriculum content fun. Getting the children to engage with it, while attempting to work and care for a baby under one, has been my problem -- though scarcely one I would expect a school to be able to help with. I have nonetheless been slightly disappointed that the tone of emails from school leadership has been defensive and has shown little sympathy for the difficulties parents are experiencing, or enthusiasm for the children's return. The accommodation schools have been able to offer to struggling families like mine has been to let our children off completing any of the work. This is appreciated, but leaves me with huge concerns about the learning loss I have not managed to prevent. To imagine home learning could compensate for the loss of school would be to pretend that professional teaching has no value. Home schooling has meant, after an exhausting struggle, having to shut down the business I have been running for seven years. This has contributed to a collapse in my own mental health. None of that has been great news for my children.'

1204. 'We've had very little formal communication from the school on their plans for my son who is currently in year 8. Work is set online for him to complete but he only receives feedback for a handful of pieces he completes, usually only multiple choice quizzes. My son struggles to motivate himself so myself or my husband have to check on him regularly or preferably sit with him and discuss each piece of work. At times this is incredibly frustrating as some of the work set doesn't make sense or isn't feasible (some science work, English for texts we haven't been provided with, DT etc.) Sometimes activities say they should take an hour but take much less than that. Some days it's easier but it has been a real struggle and that's exacerbated by my sons lack of contact with his teachers and friends. We have employed the services of a private tutor, who works via video conference, to try to make sure my son doesn't fall behind and alleviate some of the pressure on the family. My son desperately wants to go back to school, and we would be supportive of any measures put in place to protect him, his teachers and classmates if the school bothered to share their thoughts or plans with us! We are lucky to not have been physically affected by the virus but the mental and emotional toll is significant.'

1205. 'We have a 13 and 8 year old. I work permanently at home. My work and both schools have been very supportive however home schooling my 8 year old has been a real struggle. She has missed the other children and her teacher and lack of physical activity has not helped. I am so glad this survey is being done to give a voice to parents like me for whom home-schooling whilst working at home has been probably the toughest thing they have ever had to do.'

1206. 'Home schooling and working a full time finance role at home has been an extremely stressful and challenging time for us at home. My husband has been working full time the whole time as usual at his office so I've had to deal with the schoolwork alone. Most days we've been in tears. My daughter is 6 so unable to Work on her own. She's made it difficult

for my older son to concentrate on his own schoolwork. We've had almost daily meltdowns from her plus the juggling of conference calls and holding down a job. This situation has pushed us all to our limits. Roll on September. I certainly won't miss the home schooling!!'

1207. 'While our school has been excellent compared to most others I've heard about from friends around the country, in terms of pre-emptying closure and making sure all pupils knew how to use and had access to Google Classrooms, juggling full time work and homeschooling my children in years 2 and 5 has been extremely wearing. My husband and I have both been attempting to work full time from home. Early on, he was heavily involved in Covid response work, meaning all the home schooling and domestic stuff fell to me, on top of trying to manage my team at work - most of whom had their own distresses and challenges arising from lockdown and so needed additional support, and I needed to deal with redeployments etc. I felt under enormous pressure to school and care for my children, protect them from the changes going on in the world, make sure they got out for exercise, look after their mental well-being, try to buy even basic groceries for the family (very tricky at that time!!) and keep them fed, keep a decent level of tidiness and hygiene in the home AND work. As a busy working mum I'm very used to juggling, but I'll freely admit that I have been tearing my hair out through this time and reduced to tears more than once. This is all in the context of me being lucky enough to have a flexible and understanding employer. However, that did not diminish the amount of things I needed to do and the lack of time to do it! Frankly I'm shattered - and September is still a long way off. I really feel for people who have been facing this with a less-understanding employer, or who do not have the right equipment to work effectively from home. The children have persevered but are really missing the social structure of school and interacting with their friends. My youngest, in particular, is becoming withdrawn at times.'

1208. 'Homeschooling has been a very tough, challenging and negative experience. I have 3 young children and a full time job with no help and the amount of pressure I have been put under is, I believe, unacceptable. Two of my children cannot read nor use a computer while the third one was just starting to read and was able to navigate slowly and with help on a computer but still required constant help and attention. It is simply not conceivable to imagine that a human being could be dealing with homeschooling three young children at the same time while being patient and providing the appropriate level of care while continuing their full time job. To deal with the situation I had to be up at 5 in the morning, take care of my children all day and do most of my work when the children were in bed between 8pm and 1am. This gave me very little rest. I lost 30pounds and started having white hair. I had a nervous breakdown almost every day and it created a very negative relationship with my children. I hit bottom many times and it has been a very stressful experience for everyone. Expecting that children could be sitting in front of a screen all day long and have "virtual" relationships is simply unacceptable. This is without accounting for the technical difficulties which made the whole situation even more stressful.'

1209. 'Home learning has been set throughout the lockdown but this has been ridiculous parent-intensive style work. One week there was 24 attachments to the set worksheet for parents to read through that explained how to get the work done. It is clearly catering to stay

at home parents that have the time to prepare and teach themselves the curriculum. There has been no video learning at all. I work and I have a 3 year old and my 6 year old son is very very reluctant to do any school work no matter how much choice we give him or the reward systems we set up. It has caused many horrible arguments at home. I constantly worry about him missing out compared to others with stay at home parents. My husband is working flat out so has no time to help. We have no confidence that the school will open full time in September. I feel they are already making excuses.'

1210. 'At the very start of lockdown in March ,home schooling seemed very very daunting but as time went on and having some sort of routine in place , which i think is very important after all it is a "school day " not a holiday things are coming together well !! . The teachers have worked extremely hard in being constant with supplying work ,giving feedback whether it be negative or positive and giving support to students who are struggling . My experience with home schooling which has been hard going and stressful with plenty of tears on my part , I have been able to give my Grandaughter 1 to 1 for the past 3 months and fingers crossed it is paying off with her learning .only one week to go "Yippie " and a well earn't rest from school work .We are both looking forward to September when she can return to school hopefully in a safe environmentMy support and thank you goes out to all the teachers at my granddaughters High School for their commitment ,emails feedback and support to the students and families ,when they had their own families to care for at such an uncertain time Thank you'

1211. 'I thought homeschooling would be ok for my 3 children (year 7, 10, 12). I was wrong. We are lucky enough at home to have space, enough technology and myself and my husband who 'know' our way around the online world and are engaged in learning. But even with all that in place, all our enthusiasm and with all our effort, it has been a daily, anxiety fuelled struggle to motivate, to monitor work and to take the role of teacher (my respect for this skilled role has risen to all time high). Online delivery of school work comes in from various forms - some micro detailed, others minimal in detail and from various routes: email, Google Classroom, Edulink, MyMaths.... and the inbox fills up. As a parent this scattergun delivery has been the hardest thing to grasp. Since March my children have had just a few Zoom chats with their tutor base but no Zoom teaching. Two of my children are taking their GCSE and A Levels next year and are not 'back to school' as the Government would have the public believe. My year 10 child attends for 3 hours on a Monday and my year 12 child (who is studying 3 A levels) attends 2 lessons every other week. That is not back to school and their motivation and learning is dropping. My year 7 child needs guidance, time and motivation to understand and approach each piece of set work, this requires energy and focus from us as parents, learning the subject matter 'on the hoof' and I am often feeling physically and emotionally anxious, which has huge affects on our homelife - a place which should - during this awful pandemic - be a sanctuary for children. I feel so let down by our government who I honestly thought would set up summer catch-up camps for our children, but nothing. Instead they are more focussed on getting the pubs back open. It is shameful and I am heartbroken for all the children who don't have home space, technology, parents or carers to help or difficult home lives. This is a crisis and action is needed NOW.'

1212. 'With both parents working full time it has been very difficult and I would not use the term home-school when we don't have time to actually teach them anything for more than 10 mins grabbed here or there when they really need help, and if we don't have meetings at that point in the day. We have 2 boys - Year 6 and Year 4 and have different experiences. Our Year 6 son was old enough to self-manage and was then lucky enough to go back to school for 4.5 days a week since 1st June to 17th July. The school were amazing at communicating the return-to-school plan and it has been a lovely experience for him and surprise surprise not one case of Covid-19 as far as I am aware. Our Year 4 son, who is a different character anyway, has found it much more difficult and needs our support which generally we can only give for 5 or 10 grabbed minutes here and there. I feel so guilty and have even thought that if this happens again I might have to leave my job so that I can properly home-school. I don't know if he has actually learnt anything - he's just been ticking along. He is lonely and has missed his friends so we are now arranging play-dates anyway with a select few. Luckily he is a bright boy and will recover from this loss of learning I'm sure. I worry so much about the children who may find maths difficult and also have parents busy doing their own jobs. His best friend is dyslexic and both parents work full time and as far as I know he's barely done any home-schooling. The whole thing is a travesty.'

1213. 'Trying to motivate and assist a 15 yr old in year 10 wuth imminent gcse exams has been a nightmare. School work set has been inconsistent in different subjects,some not bothering,very little feedback or hekp if struggling in a specific subject or topic. work is just set,no interactive lessons or zoom lessons etc.just have to complwte work qnd email back.struggled with lap top not supporting some work but unable to afford to buy another one. husband and I both work so at times have to leave son home alone,get back 5/6pm to discover hes still got wrk outstanding as either didn't understand or lacked motivayion to get it done by himself.school has now started offering 1 day a week to year 10 in small bubbles of 4/5 children, son hated it as sat in same room all day on the computer doing same work as set at home,stillbdidnt get to see any of his teachers or get any input or interaction.travelled on double devker bus bu himself,saw none of his friends,had to stay in classrooom for break,came home completely miserable.grades have fallen,motivation gone down and im sick of having to nag him to do school work and assist with subjects I hace little knowledge of. I think schools could do more,lot of teachers been lazy and that they could have kept year 10 in school with proper teaching. unless he's back in school full time with proper timetable he will fail gcses,also need catch up lessons,they should cancel the 10 inset days they have a year too!'

1214. 'Initially home schooling was a disaster. The two weeks before the Easter holidays work was being thrown at my son without any thought. Work was being set via a variety of different methods and had to be delivered in different ways some of which required a high level of IT skill. It was pressurised and chaotic. At the same time I had to keep my business running and cater to a raft of desperate clients. Things did improve after Easter. The school gathered a coordinated approach and set and managed work in a way that built the skills of the children. Giving ownership in a managed way actually added value to my sons online schooling experience. Even so, IMO there was a continued lack of appreciation of the

pressures that some of the children were under and I had to step in when I overheard children being pressurised by teaching staff.'

1215. 'Dreadful. Barely any guidance or contact time. No feedback on the children's work other than clicking a little heart shape to show that it has been seen and 'liked' as if it were Facebook. No guidance where the child has got the work wrong. No Zoom classes until w/c 6 July The work set is often provided with broken links and incomplete photocopies. The work, particularly for my son with SEN, cannot be done without me sitting with him and guiding him every step of the way. (I am meant to be working full time....) The school SEN dept initially called every week to check in on his wellbeing but we haven't heard from them since Easter. No information at all about how my daughter in Y5 should be preparing for secondary transfer in Y6.'

1216. 'Awful! My year 4 son has been set work to complete but the school is relying almost entirely on parents teaching anything new, apart from the occasional YouTube video. The method of sharing, uploading and marking work is pretty useless. We have to tell the teacher each time work is uploaded and it isn't always marked. In the whole lockdown we have had one phone call from the teacher which was 2 weeks ago. No lessons are taught online. The online reward system is based on how much work and extra work you complete so it's heavily biased towards those kids who have extra help at home. I'm a single parent who has had to work more hours than ever during lockdown. I have to have 2-3 hour work calls, fit in caring for my sons Primary needs like at least making sure he is fed whilst being unavailable for him most of the day. What a joke. I have employed a tutor for him at the cost of £180 per month for 3 hours a week and these are the most engaged hours he has.'

1217. 'The school have kept up levels of communication with emails to parents weekly or more frequently but are excessively, but understandably given their past, concerned about safeguarding. So the work has been set on an app. The students in the non GCSE or A level years receive work on an app. The students have to submit in theory by the date stated but little seems to be reviewed and there is not much if any feedback to the students. until the last 2 weeks there has been very little interaction with direct teachers in the school and even now it is more a weekly social catch up for the tutor groups. Trying to motivate a 13 year old to keep going in essentially a vacuum has been hugely difficult. We have had to review constantly what work has been set, when it is due, if it has been submitted while also trying to work and manage a younger primary school aged daughter who is preparing for entry exams (11+) while my wife is a nurse manager and working extra long hours . Given my son is in second year secondary school (year 8) we very soon realised it was an impossible juggling act so resorted to getting him to build an excel sheet of projects and due dates which given it is not a hugely important year I then only needed to review weekly. Lack of peer:peer contact though has been very tough'

1218. 'Home schooling for the most part has been a nightmare. I have a 10 year old who we found as the weeks went on refused to work and became aggressive and upset over the smallest thing. He is now back in school and thriving although he is upset at the lack of support for transition to secondary school and missing out on all the fun year 6 leavers

activities. My 8 year old daughter is desperate to return to school but they say they don't have the room. She gets 1-2 hours of work everyday and is no longer keen to participate. I have struggled to continue to keep everything going while dealing with being a teacher.'

1219. 'The children need to all go back full time at school in September. Look in other countries and see that the reopening of school did not create an increase in contamination. Stop the politics and ask the teacher unions to be REASONABLE! Thank you'

1220. 'Totally inadequate support based on the assumption that all children have a parent who can free up all time to home school (eg not working or furloughed). My children are y2 and y4 and my husband runs his own business (accountancy so critical to supporting other small businesses during the pandemic) and I work for a roadside breakdown company that employs key workers although being in their finance function I am not one myself. We have had to work the whole time and our children have had to cope on their own - school has done nothing and we could do little without risk of losing our livelihood or home'

1221. 'Great - parents are a child's first educator and groups like this just encourage the whiners and those who want to opt out of caring for their child. Describing spending time with your children as 'hell' as in the newspaper reports, is shameful.'

1222. '2 children in senior school both with EHCP's. 1 in a Special School. 1 in mainstream with additional support. Both not been in school since March despite the EHCP's. Both schools have made it clear that our sons should stay at home. Both sons receive absolute minimal contact with school. The Special School does a video call once a week that lasts approx 10 minutes and consists of "what have you done this week and what are you doing next week". The send us work sheets to do with our son. Probably about 1 hours work a day. The mainstream school has approx 4 hours of work set per day for our son. No additional support. My wife & I run our own business from home. I'm doing approx 11 hours a day doing all the business work whilst my wife does the best that she can with our 2 autistic sons. We feel that all the state support that our disabled sons were having and were entitled to has simply been withdrawn and we have been left isolated. Thankfully there are some tremendous charities that are far more organised and proactive that we are interacting with. Of course we understand that sending children, especially children with learning difficulties carries a risk. This needs to be balanced against the absolute certain damage that staying at home for months has caused and the additional risk. My son in the special school has, in my opinion, been the subject of a social media grooming attempt which has been reported to the police. We cant monitor them 24 hours a day.'

1223. 'I like many others have had to work from home full time and home school my 12 year old. The extent of support from school has been a terms worth of work in the form of pdf documents put on the school website at the start of the term. These were split into weekly tasks but there was no clear method shown of how to actually teach the work. There was additionally 4 maths lessons a week being emailed. There has been no contact from any of the subject teachers and no online zoom etc lessons. The form tutor has done some welfare calls to my daughter but we have been left to our own devices as regards the

teaching. I am not a teacher and I find the experience of trying to teach my daughter very stressful. I have been reduced to tears and shouting at some points. I do feel if this were a long term situation it would be very damaging to our relationship and to my career. I don't even want to think about the damage to her education. My daughter is at a middle school in year 7.'

1224. 'Our son attends a reputable private school in Northwich that caters for all years from 4 to 18. In spite of the resources of the school it has not 'over achieved' in the recent period. Immediately after the lockdown began parents began lobbying the school for fee reductions. The Head and the governors were caught extremely flat footed and misunderstood the mood and the financial situation of the parents. A number of e-mails were sent with typical 'public sector' mumbo jumbo rather than the direct language one expects of a private school. The school's policy was to provide materials for each working day through its existing online portal. This has worked reasonably well. There has been one live 'catch up' session a week. A lot has also hinged on the quality of individual class teachers, which even in a private school is variable. The biggest problem is that an 8 year old cannot work unsupervised, and there has been little consideration to this. Rather than working steadily through a textbook, for example, Maths and English tasks have all been bespoke and have involved multiple print outs, videos etc, many of which require active assistance. As a consequence, my wife and I have really struggled to find the time to work from home (we both work) and to supervise the work. We also have a three year old which has been very burdensome during lockdown. Some tasks requiring a ridiculous amount of assistance, we abandoned. My wife has been in tears many times and it has put strain on our relationship. My feeling is that the school is trying to stick to pre lockdown methods when what is needed for effective remote learning is simplicity and ease of use. Trying to make the tasks 'fun' doesn't work if it results in an argument. When it came to reopening, the school was clearly struggling again. The apparent lack of a 'can do' attitude from the Head meant that the school failed to push for reopening aggressively enough and repeatedly cited lack of clear advice from the Independent Schools Association as an excuse. Ultimately efforts to reopen were curtailed by the shorter summer term. Only two days open were possible. Continued home learning in September would be a disaster for us as a family, as in fact we have not had to work so hard during the pandemic. Now that workload is building again, it would be impossible.'

1225. 'Poor- work set has relied upon a lot of setting up by parent/carer, frequent screenshots of examples from Pinterest as suggestions for creative activities. One task set per day, always requiring close guidance from parent. Other suggestions of online resources have been made. Work set and suggested would be fine, (although I am aware it is much less than other schools have been setting for the same year group) if not having to juggle other things like caring for very young baby.'

1226. 'Since 20 March we have not left the house. I have had to shield 3 extremely vulnerable people including my 2 children with SEN. Both attend different special schools. I have been required to do the job of approx 14 people inc physio, speech therapy just to physically care for their needs. I've also had to homeschool the children both of whom need 1-1 support. We had to take the early decision to divide the household to protect husbands

job, cancel carers and respite to keep everyone safe. One school has been amazingly supportive of our situation, the other has been horrendous, putting pressure to complete a weekly timetable, with sometimes up to 9 phone calls a week. At its worst they put everyone in my home at risk of serious harm on one occasion. They refuse to take any responsibility. I have had no advise or official guidance. I have had to compete to buy my own PPE, although I was sent a mindfulness colouring book by a social work person ffs! I have found this whole experience exhausting and dehumanising.'

1227. 'Home schooling with two children of different ages, that both need my attention and support and prompting to achieve anything, whilst also trying to get the other one to do something, and do my own work has been extremely hard work. We have been expected to print multiple worksheets out and resources and I am fortunate to have a printer and be able to afford ink but many others are not. (we have been through 3 ink cartridges through lock down). The work set has been ok - other local schools have been much better with specific maths and english tasks each day and Assemblys, where are our school hasn't. Tho it has been such a battle to get my oldest to do any work I haven't been able to finish everything set anyway. Our relationship has suffered by trying to get him to do some work for so many months. I am also a teacher but my husband is not and my childrens school made it clear that they were not accepting key worker children with only 1 key worker at the beginning of lock down. Juggling work has been impossible. My husband has been able to lock himself away and been working 11 hour days as his boss is very unsympathetic and expected me to deal with childcare and work. Of the people I know it is all the women who have had to bare the brunt of the home schooling and cutting back of their jobs. My boys have suffered socially and are really missing interaction with other children. Since lockdown eased the have been attending school a few days a week which they have loved. I am very fortunate that they are able to attend school. My friends have all lost the will!'

1228. 'I have really struggled along with many other parents working full time from home and homeschooling my 9 year old son at the same time. He has become more and more defiant when it comes to doing his work as the days go on, most of the time resulting in tears and frustration from him and me as well. I feel our relationship has drastically suffered as well as I've had no help with doing his schooling as I'm a single parent family and it's been really hard. The only contact I've had from his school has been the odd phone call from SENCO to see he we are doing which to be honest has been no help. There's been no video classes and no contact from his teachers so he hasn't seen any of his classmates since lockdown. I am on the verge of breaking point most days and absolutely dread doing his schoolwork with him now. In all honesty, it's been horrendous and I don't think I could do it again if we have another lockdown.'

1229. 'Whilst the school has provided work for children there is zero support for us as parents trying to teach our children. Both adults in our house work full time. The school has refused to take the full quota of Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children. They have failed to communicate with parents that have asked for their child to be given a place. They have failed to provide places for key worker children. I fear our relationship with our children has been significantly damaged.'

1230. 'The school have not provided any support, they have simply uploaded some word documents and pdf's onto Google classroom. My children (7 and 10) are not capable of doing this work by themselves and I do not have time to help them, as I am working from home full time, while my partner works full time in the local hospital. My own career has suffered and I have had to pass up applying for a promotion opportunity (which I would have applied for under normal circumstances), due to having no childcare and not enough time to do my job properly. My children have watched more TV during this period than ever before. In addition, they have gradually lost interest in the things they used to enjoy, and they no longer want to play outside or play Lego or any of the things they used to do'

1231. 'This has, as for many others, been an incredibly challenging time. My husband and I both work - we are fortunate enough to be able to work from home, but juggling homeschooling our six-year-old in Y2 and entertaining our preschooler together with work and running the household has been a massive headache. Arguments are frequent and our eldest resists working even 15 weeks in. We have been diligent in ensuring he completes all the work set by the school and he has advanced in both English and maths, but it has been at the expense of the time we spent at our jobs and our own mental health.'

1232. 'Complete nightmare. I am a full time lawyer for a non-governmental organisation and have been working from home, including remote court hearings; my partner works with people with learning disabilities and is out at work most days and several nights a week. I have Y6 and Y8 children. My Y6 daughter gets her school work done by 9am (self motivating herself to start at 7am) and then has little to do all day because I'm tied to my computer in my bedroom and she can't understand why I am in the house but unable to give her attention leading to various emotional outbursts. With the easing of lockdown, she's started going out to a park near us and will be up there the whole afternoon and I'm just having to trust that she's not mixing with the wrong crowd because there's a deadline on a court submission to get out so I can't go and see what she's up to. My Y8 son has more schoolwork set which becomes an issue in itself - how does anybody expect children of 12 or 13 to sit at a computer for several hours a day 5 days a week, motivating themselves to read through powerpoints/visual presentations and then answer questions/do research which is submitted into a big black hole which provides limited, if no, feedback. Since the May half-term some on-line lessons have started which have helped but the quality is real hit and miss. When he's not doing school work, he inevitably spends more time on digital devices than I would usually allow because (a) I'm not able to engage with him to distract him because of my own work; (b) the cycling clubs and RAF cadets where he would go are closed. I don't think anybody in a national leadership position understands the strain 4 months of 24/7 with your children while managing work commitments has nor appreciates the importance to children of physical/direct interaction with other children and with adults who are not their parents and with whom they relate in a different and hopefully healthier way which is not simply about constantly pushing the boundaries. That we can reopen pubs but haven't yet got children back into school is a real indictment of our society and its leadership (or lack of). All that said, I know that I am one of the lucky ones. We have a house with a garden rather than a flat with no outside space, don't have financial stresses of having lost our jobs/hours been reduced,

are not having to share laptops and I only have two children. And thank you for providing this space to express myself.'

1233. 'There have been significant difficulties particularly with my 9 year and I think both his mental health and academic performance have suffered. As an example. - nothing provided by the school initially. Both me and my partner were working from home and my eldest had some work from her senior school. He made a timetable to be like his sister but when it came to the time he was supposed to do English or maths he didn't know what to do! With everyone in the house busy he wondered around lost with no structure or direction - age means he didn't have a mobile phone to contact friends and the school provided no contact until a one off phone call in June. He took to writing a list of things he remembered about school above his bed. He clearly struggled with the complete and sudden removal of any connection to a place he used to go to five days a week. He got Lonely and lethargic and struggled hugely with a complete lack of purpose to his days. - the school finally began setting some work ideas on the website in May these were things like "write a poem" "write a newspaper report". But there was no teaching content and he could not access them independently. This meant that it was left to me to design a range of supporting material on what is a poem while trying to complete my job. Our relationship has got fraught as the support he gets is given in short ten minutes chunks between zoom calls before he is abandoned to his own devices again. The school allowed work to be emailed but only 20 percent is acknowledged and none marked. He became very despondent with the lack of feedback. - looking at the work he does produce it is clear that he has made significant steps backwards despite beginning "on track" before he left school.'

1234. 'Terrible. I have a full time job. It's impossible to do both. Guilt on both ends and everything/everyone is suffering.'

1235. 'I was trying to homeschool my 6 year old while working from home and having a 3 year old to entertain. Luckily he has gone back for a small period of time as he is in year 1. To say that's it's been hell is an understatement, I was crying 3 + times a day with stress from work as they had furloughed a lot of other staff so I was having to do their jobs as well as my own. The boys would constantly argue, scream and shout and trying to actually teach him at all was beyond stressful. He finishes again now on 9th July and minus the home school factor I am again at home working with 2 young boys to entertain as I have no one that can help as there shielding. I feel like I'm drowning'

1236. 'My kids love school and are all quite bright so have missed having the range of opportunity and challenge that their school normally provides. Our school has provided printable work and pointed us to Oak National Academy, but both older children have started refusing to do the Oak lessons, finding them boring, and too easy. And we've been concerned that all their learning has been screen based some days where we usually limit screen time to a short time a few times a week. For us as parents it has been the worst 3 months, as we have had a difficult time getting our normally compliant 8yr old to even do any writing, and the overwhelming emotions about school are enough to throw the whole day of learning out the window before we've even started some days. Combining this with both us parents trying to

work at home, and reducin our work to part time to juggle the situation, our stress levels have really not been good. I cant imagine how much harder it must be for those where both parents are working full time or where they don't have enough devices for all the kids to work on, or no printer to print sheets.'

1237. 'Its been great, son has come on leaps and bounds with home learning, understanding the work and really engaged when choosing topics that he wants to learn, however this is because I have purchased books and set him work every day. School initially put all maths until July on homework site - quite daunting for many, most other subjects didn't provide work until after May half term- very little feed back on any work submitted but school has a no marking policy normally and rely on self marking.'

1238. 'I'm the grandma of an 8 yr old grandson and have been responsible for home learning during lockdown, his mum working full time from home. Although mum is a front line worker in the care sector. Not only have I worked with my grandson I have prepared the lessons sent by the school which takes up most of the day. I get the weekends off! We have laughed and cried, been happy and sad, angry and frustrated. We perhaps have not done some of the learning the school provided but we have dine. Kitchen science read poetry, learned some french (not sure about the pronunciation of some of the words) but we had a go. The experience has by no means been easy for either myself or my grandson (learning on both sides). As well as preparing for the days homework there was finding the resources to support learning. A full time job. I will not call the last few months home schooling, it was homework, home schooling is something completely different, something that was decided by parents to teach their children outside the school setting. The closure of schools closed through the pandemic put parents in a very different position! On the whole I hope I've given my grandson a positive experience, though he did yell at me I'm the worst teacher ever, though being an only child he has missed his friends. It's been hell at times but also fun at times I think we have muddled through. Though I'm not sure how much learning has been done. All I can say we have done our best.'

1239. 'I am so pleased to have a forum to share experiences and have a voice. I could write pages but will keep it brief. I have 15 year old girl and 8 year old boy in state school. I am frustrated by the inconsistent approach of state schools to home schooling. A few have tried with video classes setting work which is marked and stayed in touch with pupils. My primary has done nothing. It is shameful. My husband and I are both working from home and have tried really hard to keep school work going for my son. We are proud of what we achieved but at a huge cost. Since had half term my son is sad, spoken about all the things he is missing, he is scared and mostly angry. Violently so. I feel abused and a nervous wreck. I can't sleep. I have contacted school counsellor and had no support. Realistically kids are not going to be back to school with any regularly in September. A nationwide consistent and different approach to schooling is needed - parents can not do it all - we r in our knees. The offer for teaching from home needs to be stepped up or alternative solutions sought - perhaps recruiting newly retired teachers or teaching students to work with kids in small bubbles - perhaps utilising other spaces that r empty. The mental health issues are Huge for kids and parents. Thank u for raising the profile of the issue - I am really grateful.'

1240. 'Home schooling has been incredibly hard to juggle with work and soul destroying at times. I worry that it is damaging my relationship with my son. The work set seems to come with an expectation that parents aren't working. We do as much as we can during the week around work and catch up at the weekend so I feel like I don't get a break. It's either work or home schooling.'

1241. 'My 3 children (y4,y2 and nursery) have been at home for the whole period. My nursery child returned to school on 15 June for a reduced day (2.5 hours). There has been little interaction with teachers; since late April each child has had a weekly 5 minute phone call with their teacher. Since last week this finally moved to a zoom call for 30 mins with their class per week- but this replaced the individual interaction. The work provided by the school has been fairly comprehensive but not at the level of what they would do at school- for instance no challenging questions. The online platform seesaw has allowed my children to send completed work which they enjoy. However, the feedback on the work varies greatly by teacher. So one child gets no feedback at all, or a "like" once a week; the other gets feedback every day and on almost all his work. This has been seen across various parents at the school and it becomes difficult to motivate the one not getting feedback. The communication from the school had been fairly poor and very negative which has not helped. I think there will be a huge gap in September as the work has not been compulsory and with the lack of feedback completion within the school varies massively. The school has an anti streaming policy; but unless they do this in September those children who have been learning will be very unchallenged by the school in September.'

1242. 'Home-schooling has been very challenging to say the least. Both my wife and I work full time and have the luxury of a reasonable degree of job security in the current climate which is reassuring. But working and trying to keep the children on track has been extremely difficult. We are very fortunate in that our children are bright, engaged and have all necessary equipment/technology to facilitate home-learning. They go to a school considered 'outstanding' by Ofsted but it is a small VA school, with limited resources that are obviously stretched during this recent period of lockdown. All this considered, we still feel a little let-down by the school in terms of the way home-learning has been delivered. The vast majority of schoolwork set has been in the form of worksheets and interactive websites through Google Classroom, with little to no interaction from the teachers. In fact it wasn't until a number of parents complained that the school started weekly Google Meet sessions with the kids in each class. This is an hour each week where all the children join a video call to talk about what they have done this week - no teaching, no focus on a particular subject. Whilst we appreciate the teachers also have responsibility for looking after children at home, that is no different to the parents trying to work and home-school and we feel a little let down that the school haven't insisted on more (virtual) face-to-face time with the children to check-in, check they understand the work set, check their progress etc. Even using the hours' session to teaching a lesson would be an improvement on what has been offered up until now. Half an hour with each child once a week or fortnight does not seem like an unreasonable expectation. In terms of the relationships in our household, things have been put under strain. Trying to juggle meetings and time with the children has meant the working day has

simply extended way into the evening, leaving little time for rest and relaxation, sleepless nights thinking about the work building up and lots of feelings of burnout. Our relationships with our children, whilst strengthened due to the time we are currently spending together, have also been put under additional strain due to the fact we simply can't give them the attention and interaction they need with their schooling. We are not teachers, we have not been taught the best way to deliver lessons or keep the children focused and sometimes the work takes significantly longer for the children to complete, as we are not immediately on hand to answer questions and keep them on track. This leads to stress for the children who have not completed the work set. Our school, whilst fortunate to have a number of stay at home parents who maybe can offer the time needed to complete the work and assist the children, do not seem to have taken working parents into account, often setting large chunks of work requiring significant interaction ('play a game of X with your parents'), or trips to the woods/countryside to count bees/insects etc. Whilst I appreciate these types of activities are great for engaging and teaching the children, for parents who can't do these things on a daily basis due to work pressures, this leads to guilt, the kids feeling let-down when they see their classmates having done things, and often means that the school week blurs into the weekend, meaning we don't even get to switch off on Saturdays and Sundays! In summary, it feels like we are trying to do two jobs and failing to do a good job of either of them. Home-schooling in this way simply isn't sustainable for working parents and a greater degree of interaction (live lessons, regular catch-ups/check-ins etc) is necessary to lighten the load. With the greatest respect, working parents are all working from home, and it feels like the teachers aren't having to!

1243. 'It was not difficult. My son had to get used to using computer better. I just need to ask him to do and he would let me know if it's done. He had difficulty solving a problem and even I couldn't solve it. Also, as I am working I couldn't help with activities that need to be done with adult help. Apart from that no complaints.'

1244. 'We feel very unsupported in homeschooling, having received educational worksheets with which to educate our children the role of acting as a whole school support network cannot be achieved at home. We've watched our children's academic ability and mental health slide before our eyes. It has been the most soul destroying period of parenting we've ever had to walk through.'

1245. 'I am a single parent that works full time with a 7yr old who struggles to concentrate and is not motivated to study. At the beginning it was a bit of novelty and we both were managing to do a couple of hours of home schooling. By week 6 this had deteriorated to screaming and crying because he did not want to engage and my work was suffering. It was at this point that i made the choice to allow him to have an extended summer break. Occasionally we will pick up his SATS revision books to make sure he does not forget stuff. If the government is not interested in getting him back to school why should i damage my relationship with my son. He has plenty of time to catch up. I wasn't learning half the stuff he needs to know at this age and it has not done me any harm!'

1246. 'Home learning has mainly consisted of BBC bitesize which has been random in terms of subjects with no progression through a topic. It has been a real struggle and the longer it goes on the less motivation my son has to do his work. He has always been academically bright and keen at school but I am finding I have to 'hold his hand' through his work every day. It has been a total battleground with daily arguments and it has really affected our relationship. It has also meant that his preschooler sister is often sidelined. All he wants to do is get back to school. I have never felt so stressed as I do right now.'

1247. 'I have 3 children: 2 in primary (year 1 & 4) and one in preschool who will be starting Reception in September. Although I am a stay at home mum schooling 2 children in 2 separate years and entertaining a 4 year old has frequently had me in tears of frustration and anger knowing I am doing all of it badly as I am spread too thin. The school merely send out a 'pack' and it is down to me to teach it. There is generally no explanation or introduction of new topics and the school only just started doing online 'meetings' which generally have very little actual teaching. My children are definitely suffering both academically and emotionally: my oldest is very frustrated and can lash out aggressively as he feels confused over the blurring of my role as care-giver/nurturer and now 'teacher' and he feels disjointed from his friends and teacher. I sent a complaint to the school and only then did his teacher call him to check in on 24 June - this was the first one-to-one contact either if my children has had. In the end we have signed him up to an online school so he gets 1 hour of learning with a teacher and some peers. I would never have believed he would be so enthusiastic about it but he loves this time of actual teacher/student interaction. I am aware this option is not available to many parents financially. My middle child also feels isolated and bored by the work sent through. The online 'teaching' twice a weeks is a tedious affair where children mostly do show and tell, there is very little actual teaching. My youngest child is frequently ignored and put in front of CBeebies all morning while I concentrate on the older 2. She acts out to get attention and is very clingy where she used to be a very independent outgoing child. I have lost all faith in the state education system and will definitely pay for my children to attend an online school in the event if future lockdown even though it will involve considerable cost and financial hardship as my husband's job is now under threat because of Covid. I am painfully aware that all teachers are still on full pay whether they are teaching or not. Children need to be in school; parents need support; schools need clear direction as this hodge-podge approach of leaving it to schools is a disaster.'

1248. 'Bit disappointed to be honest. We've not had 1 phone call throughout the whole Of the closure. A couple of emails exchanged through my own initiations. The school communications improved over time but it took significantly longer to get to that point. The information everywhere and availability of resources were very overwhelming. We personally had to shut off to it all and create our own path. We have since now had to pay for a private tutor a week just to get some interaction for my son. Very difficult to educate children at home following curriculum online with children of different ages. We dont mix age groups at school yet parents are expected to do it at home whilst working. I feel the schools have to go back into full time education as soon as possible.'

1249. 'My daughters school has been very relaxed in their approach to learning at home. They have set work but not checked if it has been completed which has taken the pressure off. We were lucky that my children attend nursery and year 1 so they were both allowed to go back, and full time. If not, I'm not sure how we would be doing now. Two parents working from home with two young children in a small house has been difficult for everyone. Homeschooling started well, but after a few weeks became very difficult and my daughter refused to take part in anything I suggested. She became withdrawn and just wanted to watch tv. I am so grateful she was able to go back to school and has been really happy since. I feel the schools relaxed approach helped me not to worry as much when we couldn't do any learning. I knew if I needed support I could email for help and ideas but their expectations were realistic given the circumstances.'
1250. 'School have been great but combining home learning with two parents WFH FT has been simply horrendous. Can't do both effectively. I (female) have dropped hours to cope but if this continues into Sep I don't know what we will do; I'll probably have to give up work which will be disastrous for us financially. My Yr 3 only child is also suffering from lack of interaction with her peers'
1251. 'Incredibly stressful for parents and child. We (mother and father) both work, and every day face the impossible task of trying to home educate and work from home - we can't do both properly and the result is neglect of one or the other, guilt, stress and arguments. We have an only child who looks to us for company we cannot provide all the time, and so we resort to screens which we hate but there's only so long they can play on their own for. Our child is visibly going backwards educationally - reduced concentration levels, lack of motivation, missing social contact with other children. Work from school in English and Maths has been adequate, but because it's one size fits all there is no stretch for our son who is particularly able in maths, so he gets his maths done in 5 minutes and is bored with it. At the start of lockdown we got good materials and lessons in history, geography and STEM but as time has gone on and teachers have been increasingly focussed on the year groups back in school, this has been reduced to a few optional websites to look at, no instructions of what they should be learning and most parents have given up on this so the curriculum is now incredibly narrow (just maths and English).'
1252. 'I am a home working mother to a 6 year old boy. His father is a key worker so the bulk of the home schooling responsibilities fall to me. The more distant his memory of school, the more difficult it is to motivate our son. This is a shame as, before lockdown, he was thriving in his year 2 class thanks to the hard work of his teacher in identifying the things that really inspire and interest him. I cannot devote that same level of attention to his learning and, as a result, he is spending a lot of time watching Cbeebies! I can start him on an activity but he needs constant support and so, while I'm on conference calls, he'll sneak off to do what he wants to do. As an only child, he has become accustomed to adult company during this time and, slightly worryingly, doesn't even miss the company of his friends. It has become normal for him, which is not good! It looks like I will be home working at least until 2021, and I am relying on schools reopening in September for my own sanity but also for my son's

emotional development and wellbeing! School is more than just learning; it is the structure, sense of community, and the opportunity to mix with friends.'

1253. 'Year 4 and year 2 children. Both attempting to work from home. Year 4 has ADHD, year 2 august baby so has missed out on opportunity of being back at school by 2 weeks. Both struggling emotionally being away from their friends and structure. Support from the school has been minimal and not collaborative. Two phone calls and 4 packs of boring work and told to look on bbc bitesized. Nothing marked and no feedback. School only has 49 pupils and 36 have been accessing the school in some format. They have refused to support opening for the ones missing out. I've had to google a lot - English terminology, names for triangles etc. Year 2 has definitely regressed and will go into juniors in a worse position than she started year 2. Whole thing is heartbreaking. I'm hugely concerned we will get to September and the school then have to plan how they're going to open and we'll be forced for them to be in part time late September. This will mean I will lose my job along with many others as they want me back in the office. Flexibility can only go so far. The government seem to have forgotten that for people to get back to work and the economy to be started people need available childcare. Honestly we need help.'

1254. 'Horrendous - we both work full-time and don't have time to educate our two children. This is not about lack of IT equipment, its lack of time. I am sick of the argument about disadvantage and not having access to IT. Children, regardless of income etc., need supervision, even if this is an online/Zoom/Teams lesson - you need to sit with them to ensure they concentrate. I have tried to keep on top of the constant messages about 'your child has more homework, homework overdue' from school. This has been incredibly stressful as I as a women have somehow been forced back to home front and have ownership of this. Work set has gradually improved from worksheets but now 3 months in, we're finished - mentally exhausted. I think this is serious now, its about inequality of time - those that are furloughed and have all the time in the day to do homework and take their kids to the beach etc., have an advantage. For those who work it is grossly unfair. Remote learning could cover a 14 day self isolation (max) if needed in September and I would support this. I gather Bristol LA is adding an extra 2 inset days and proposing a staggered start for first week back!!) this is terrible, yet another week off school (with now 5 insets PLUS staggered start). Schools have 8 weeks to prepare - why on earth do they need more time, this the Unions disrupting again. I have had just one phone call from class teacher.'

1255. 'Generally positive. Full timetable every day with individual responses/feedback from class teacher, though this has tailed off recently as he was deployed to teach Year 5 who the school got back in full time. As a result school combined the home learning for Ys 3&4 which wasn't great for my Y3 and definitely added to the stress of home learning for us all'

1256. 'While my Husband now works from home, as I do not work I am able to provide full-time parenting to my daughter, but it has been extremely difficult on both Parents and Child. Our usually very mature seven year old daughter has become volatile and experiencing abnormal behavioural issues for the first time ever. Our school has, (moreso in recent weeks), provided a good range of support materials for her academic growth (and I have

supplemented with a more play-based approach to some subjects to attempt to engage better), but lack of structured social time, and interaction with a variety of authority figures is an important component which is contributing to the distress we are all experiencing. The emotional toll of full-time parenting, and the expectation to keep up her studies has been extremely difficult. As parents, and spouses, my Husband and I are at our wit's end, have had several fights (very unusual for us), and I can tell that my mental health is deteriorating - becoming less engaged, less motivated and less capable of providing a positive environment for my family. It's not just difficult for working parents - it's overwhelming and unmanageable for everyone. Having ANY in-person support on a regular basis (play groups, childcare, study groups, weekly teacher meetings) would have gone a long way to support children AND parents during this time. I fear the long-term effects of being off school for several months will be with us all for the rest of our lives.'

1257. 'Both parents trying to work from home with 6 and 2 yr old. Trying to manage both while being professional has been incredibly difficult and stressful. Almost impossible to maintain focus with constant questions and need to interaction. Lots of arguments, tantrums, tears and in some case walk outs to get away from it all.'

1258. 'I feel we have had a great deal of support from school. We have had fortnightly lesson plans sent home which included a detailed breakdown of what the children would have been doing had they been in school. We have been encouraged to complete what we can but with the emphasis on the child's and parents wellbeing. School have signed up for online maths lessons which follow their curriculum and have also used a messaging platform whereby we can submit completed work, get feedback, get help if needed and generally stay in daily contact with their teachers. My eldest has also accessed google classroom where his work is set, handed in and marked.'

1259. 'Negative as working full time and very challenging to find the time to follow my child learning when u work 5 days a week 8hrs a day'

1260. 'The past four months have been challenging. Trying to juggle work/home schooling has had it's ups and downs. My child has seriously lost motivation with the work which has been the same since April. No communication from the teachers until the Whit term. No communication with my child at all. I feel the school has been negative in their approach and my child is suffering mentally and socially. He needs the social interaction which he is not getting. I am surprised that the school did not do better with communication - a postcard through the post / set up small Zoom meeting (with parents consent) I feel that I have been left my on my own without much support.'

1261. 'Online learning has been no trouble at all. It took a couple of days for my daughter to adapt to working on her own and managing her own deadlines, but the school has done a great job of setting work, providing feedback, and keeping in touch. While my daughter has missed seeing her friends, she is able to keep in touch using social media tools like WhatsApp, Zoom, and Teams and she does not appear to have felt any particular anxiety or upset about the situation. It has been a small challenge for us as parents to work and also support my

daughter in her schoolwork, but as our colleagues and employers have been understanding and supportive, this has all been manageable. I appreciate that we are lucky in our arrangements and that other people have been having a more difficult time, but for us this has been easy, and I would much prefer NOT to return to school in September unless it is absolutely safe to do so. I would not want to pressure the government, which has handled the entire situation fairly ineptly throughout, into making an untimely decision that results in the virus continuing to spread, and especially not if it results in my child becoming ill. I feel that a campaign like this is unnecessary and potentially dangerous.'

1262. 'My daughter is in year 10. Her school has done the best they can but it is very hard looking after teenagers in lockdown. She has lost any motivation and lacks the desire to socialise with her peers. Often she won't get out of bed until midday, this ongoing battle when we're trying to work full time from home is an absolute nightmare and has caused endless stress for the entire family. Our children need to be in school. Heaven knows how she will pass any GCSEs next summer. To be clear this isn't the schools fault. They have tried to deliver what they can. I can not tell you how concerned I am about the long term damage the lockdown has caused children in the U.K. The government need to get them back to school as a priority.'

1263. 'I'm a part time single parent to two teenagers. Whilst many people say it's much easier when you have teens during lockdown, friends & I have agreed it's just a different type of awful. My eldest is year 12 - and there's been no clarity on how universities will account for the differences in education received. He's had almost no online lessons / support - versus others who have had full lessons. He feels abandoned, and other than listen there is nothing I can do. My 13 year old has really struggled with no structure and almost no online lessons. Homework is done in an hour (max) each day, leaving a free day. I try to create structure but with working full time, with hours of online meetings each day, it's impossible. I end up working early morning / late nights, whilst also recovering from Covid, and am exhausted. Yesterday i believe he played 5 hours of Minecraft whilst I had 5 hours of meetings straight (hollering to please come off when i could mute my mic every now and then). Most of the kids I know gave up weeks ago, as did their working parents. I dread the inevitable 14 day quarantines and future lockdowns as we'll be back here. My youngest in particular feels neglected, but I know I'm lucky to have a job! Carer's leave is great, if your job can be reduced. That isn't realistic for most people. Whilst i worry about school, I also worry about everyone's mental health.'

1264. 'Initially my concern had been about them not being educated but that has now changed to concern about my 3 children's mental well being from lack of contact with other people. My children attend one primary and one senior school. We have had written contact but not specific for my children apart from one report(no teachers comments only numbers). None of my children have heard or seen a teacher since they left school. They have been getting work via teams - only written comments, no live talks, lessons or any verbal contact. It is not that I think the staff are being lazy or not working but there needs to be more guidance about the contact, feedback children are getting. There is such a variation between schools especially public ones. The schools doing well need to teach the ones struggling. One of my

children (10)cries every Sunday because he is dreading home schooling. He is usually a happy smiley boy who makes other people laugh and rarely cries.'

1265. 'Online learning has been no trouble at all. It took a couple of days for my daughter to adapt to working on her own and managing her own deadlines, but the school has done a great job of setting work, providing feedback, and keeping in touch. While my daughter has missed seeing her friends, she is able to keep in touch using social media tools like WhatsApp, Zoom, and Teams and she does not appear to have felt any particular anxiety or upset about the situation. It has been a small challenge for us as parents to work and also support my daughter in her schoolwork, but as our colleagues and employers have been understanding and supportive, this has all been manageable. I appreciate that we are lucky in our arrangements and that other people have been having a more difficult time, but for us this has been easy, and I would much prefer NOT to return to school in September unless it is absolutely safe to do so. I would not want to pressure the government, which has handled the entire situation fairly ineptly throughout, into making an untimely decision that results in the virus continuing to spread, and especially not if it results in my child becoming ill. I feel that a campaign like this is unnecessary and potentially dangerous.'

1266. 'It's been an awful experience! The school decided that due to 'safeguarding' they couldn't run any online lessons so contact with the teacher has been entirely down to email. The work set has been mostly downloadable worksheets from an external website and some of it has been pretty complex, requiring a high level of support from us. At 8, she is too young to work independently and so she has relied on our intervention, which has caused considerable stress and strain on our relationship with her, with each other, with our younger son (who mercifully we got back into nursery on June 1st) and with our work lives. I feel totally abandoned and left to deal with it as best I can. Awful. And now it's "summer holidays" whatever that means so no more work set. I'm terrified of a second lockdown.'

1267. 'Online learning has been no trouble at all. It took a couple of days for my daughter to adapt to working on her own and managing her own deadlines, but the school has done a great job of setting work, providing feedback, and keeping in touch. While my daughter has missed seeing her friends, she is able to keep in touch using social media tools like WhatsApp, Zoom, and Teams and she does not appear to have felt any particular anxiety or upset about the situation. It has been a small challenge for us as parents to work and also support my daughter in her schoolwork, but as our colleagues and employers have been understanding and supportive, this has all been manageable. I appreciate that we are lucky in our arrangements and that other people have been having a more difficult time, but for us this has been easy, and I would much prefer NOT to return to school in September unless it is absolutely safe to do so. I would not want to pressure the government, which has handled the entire situation fairly ineptly throughout, into making an untimely decision that results in the virus continuing to spread, and especially not if it results in my child becoming ill. I feel that a campaign like this is unnecessary and potentially dangerous.'

1268. 'Very little contact with our state primary school. They do set work on the internet but there is no feedback on this (and a lot of it has just been linking to worksheets). Very little

work for year 2 (but a bit more for our year 4 child). Have had 3 phone calls over the whole lock down period none until May; no other contact with teachers. My youngest daughter has been struggling being out of school (and I told the school that) but no extra support offered. No feedback or follow on from work and very little interaction with teachers and the school. Have felt a bit abandoned by school (and for my youngest, it essentially no longer exists). I am glad schools restart in September but very worried that schools /classes will be closed often or individual kids sent home (my youngest coughs a lot due to allergies probably...). Their mental health would be severely damaged if this kept happening, especially for my youngest who dislikes changes of routine. She has already regressed and is not sleeping well. As a parent I am also shattered. I work full time from home (and have been busier than ever due to helping with the COVID-19 response) but have also been trying to look after and teach 2 kids. I could not get a school place as I can work from home. I am good at my job and my work generates employment for others but I really could not go on much longer like this, if the situation continues in the winter. I cannot get a break or any holiday time and not sure when I will again.'

1269. 'In a house hold where both parents have worked from home through the lockdown period, home schooling has been a challenge, with a child in Reception and Y4. The school has provided home learning sheets on a daily basis, which for the first couple of weeks re-capped topics already covered by school but quickly turned to new subjects that we were expected to teach our children. The standard of home learning sent home was inconsistent and often had errors. Comments from teachers where only made on work that the child found easily, no support was given on work submitted where the child had struggled. Comments seemed to be generic rather specific to the piece of work. Since June the school has only offered 4 hours twice a week to my child in reception which has not significantly helped to ease the WFH/home schooling balance. There has been no attempt at virtual teaching and the only contact my Y4 child has is a google classroom stream which is opened for comments twice a week for an hour. Both children are disengaging from learning and are feeling isolated from their friends. The school is focusing on the keyworker/SEND children that they have in school as well as the year groups they have had back since half term, the remaining years seem to have been forgotten. We have had two parent council meetings where parents have raised concerns and all have been put in the 'too hard /safeguarding/limited staff resources' box and we have been told dont worry we have plans in place for September when the children return, however the plans have not been shared. At a time where businesses have encouraged innovation during lockdown, schools seemed to have focused on what they cant do rather than what could be done to make this time as productive as possible and support families during the lockdown period. To sum up I feel the school has failed to deliver a robust home learning program.'

1270. 'This is an extract of the email I eventually sent to my MP because the government wasn't doing anything to help working parents. "My partner and I both work full time, neither have been furloughed. I work in Pharmaceuticals, which as you can imagine is very busy at the moment. I had enquired about my children attending school as I work in pharma and should be classed as a key worker but didn't even get a response. We have 3 primary school age children, twins in Year 2 and a daughter in Year 4. Our usual childcare is covered by

breakfast and afterschool clubs at school, which is currently unavailable to us and their grandparents, who are both shielding to protect my 98 year old grandmother, as they are currently her sole carers. This means all three children are at home, while we both try and work from home. Over the course of the lockdown the school have been uploading worksheets for our children to work through. There have been no online lessons provided. The 6 year old twins are not yet competent readers, the younger of the two has special support with this at school. This means they cannot read the worksheets set without adult help. Due to the pressures of work we rarely have time to work through these with them, as much as we would like to. This means they have had very little education since lock down. Our elder child has behavioural issues which have led to her seeing an emotion management specialist at school. Lockdown has been very detrimental to her mental health and as a result she has refused to do any school work. She needs to get back to the routine of school life. I'm in and out of conference calls all day so can't even supervise my children safely for much of the day let alone educate them too. I've found out today that the children's school will not be opening to any other year groups this term. This is very disappointing news for us. The education that has been offered by our school isn't in a format that we can easily deal with in our current reality at home. The school haven't entered into any dialogue with parents during their recent review of how work is set and have decided to keep it as it is. Why are the government trying to get pubs open so that people can drink but not find a way to open schools? I feel like working families are not getting any support. I know we're lucky that we both still have jobs and that neither work on the front line. But that doesn't mean we don't need some sort of help and support. The government seems to have forgotten that there are families with both parents still working that aren't key workers and therefore have no access to childcare. I don't know how we're supposed to be constructive members of the workforce, parents and educators at the same time." This eventually led to our school taking the children one day a week for 3 weeks. Up until December last year I was working in Media so wouldn't have been classed as a key worker, my former colleagues are all still working though so I would have been left with no access to childcare at all if I were still working in my old industry. Since this email my work now holds off booking in any meetings with me until 11 to allow me two hours a day for education. Two hours a day for 3 children is not a lot though. They have one piece of English and Maths a day, plus one other subject a day. We've taken to bribing them to get them to do work. If they do four pieces of work a day for 10 days (they are about 4 weeks behind, we're currently working through the work set in the first week of June) then they get a special prize of their choosing. I've been sending in their books when they go to school on Tuesdays but so far no-one has looked through them. A letter was sent out from the school to say that teachers were going to be looking at their home learning books. During lockdown the children have had one phone conversation each with their teachers, they all refused to speak to their teachers so was pretty pointless. In the last couple of weeks emails for each class have been set up so children can email their teachers anything they've done which they're proud of and the teacher will reply. As nice as this is, the children themselves aren't going to be doing the emailing so it's another task on my ever increasing workload. I sent in a picture of the bug hotel the girls built one weekend but the children showed very little interest in the replies they received. They would have been more engaged if it had been a face to face conversation in school. I do not understand why the school can't organise zoom check-in's with all the class once a week so they can all see each other and

chat about what's been happening. We've managed to do it outside of school as parents for birthdays.'

1271. 'Working from home and home schooling has been difficult. Luckily my partner and I have supportive jobs to be able to work round things. I work for the NHS so could have used school but for safety reasons didn't. The school has been amazing at keeping in contact we use Class Dojo and Tapestry to show work done. Every two weeks we were given a learning pool of things to be getting on with. We did a mix of this and exercise books we had brought. I have felt guilty at times working from home and not giving my daughter full attention for school work so mentally it has been hard for me but our daughter isn't lagging behind and is doing well. I'd rather her be safe than in school potentially catching something unless school were able to have the right precautions in place.'
1272. 'As a single parent working full time with 2 kids (year 4 and 7) the last 16 weeks have been incredibly trying. Neither the kids' school work or my professional work have had even half the time allocated to them which they need. My Year 7 son's report has multiple issues being raised, despite having received NO feedback that he was struggling. My daughter has lost momentum on all subjects and we have daily battles to get her tasks done. Their relationship has deteriorated dramatically and my son has stopped connecting with his new friends at his new school. My son also has a SEN that seems to have been totally ignored in the last 4 months and it has clearly impacted his attainment. I spend my days juggling everything and in the highest state of stress I can ever recall. I am fortunate to work at a senior level (VP) in a major company as that has protected my position, when frankly I am barely keeping my head above water. Having the kids at home and managing everything is having a major toll. I have massive sympathy for those less fortunate as this home educating and working has been incredibly difficult for all of us. Children must get back to school ASAP and the government seems to completely underestimate the time and toll this situation is taking on families. It is also vital to adolescents to build social connections and this Lockdown has limited their ability to connect dramatically. My kids are now totally dependent on the devices we limited successfully beforehand and I worry for their long term health and mental wellbeing as a result.'
1273. 'I've already submitted a form but wanted to say, more guidance to reopen would help. The school my child is attending has not complied with the guidance issued since March on the amount and quality of work provided to kids remotely, the contact with kids and most tellingly the guidance for reopening. They have ignored the 15 bubbles requirement, instead they have imposed a 360 degree 2 metre which is not in the guidance and has meant there are only 5 kids in each classroom. And they are providing in class for the 3 years only 2 days a week - again not following the guidance which says part time is not adequate. Schools need to be told to fully reopen. Don't pay them if they don't. And get Ofsted doing quick paper inspections.....spend next 12 months rating what each school did during lockdown.'
1274. 'My children have been home with me-a single mum, since March. Before lockdown, they both enjoyed school and school work. The first few weeks of home schooling was ok, despite the enormous pressure I felt to provide for them in all areas, all day and night. The

work provided by the schools has been of a reasonable level, although often a little easy for my infant school child. Work provided for my junior school child has regularly been fairly uninspiring. Definitely the As the weeks have gone on, our enthusiasm for the work has definitely wained and at this point, beginning of July, we are down to a couple of hours a week at best. I think if there was more interaction between teachers and my children, they would realise that someone is tracking their progress and therefore be a bit more motivated. So far, we have had one zoom meeting for my junior school child and that's all. My infant school child has a day with his new teacher coming up and my older child has an hours picnic with her new teacher. I'm really grateful that theyve been able to accommodate this but I do feel the children would have benefitted from being "checked up on" on a regular basis throughout. The children desperately miss their friends and socialising. They also need some sort of routine and structure. As a result of having had such a long period of time off, their development has definitely suffered as has their mental health. They have both become far more emotional and also more withdrawn. As have I in all honesty! I'm very concerned about their wellbeing when returning in September after such a long period away. I think separation anxiety is going to be a big issue for us.'

1275. 'My husband and I we are key workers. I'm working 4 days a week 45 hours. As a child of keyworkers my 7 years old daughter is allowed to go to school 3 days a week. School is not proving any education at the moment, it's just a child care. We do math and topics on my days off and reading and writing after school. Sounds like we are well organised in theory, but in practice we don't get any day off, we don't spend much time on fun things. We still need to do shopping, cleaning cooking all the house chores. As English is our second language we are not feeling very confident in teaching my daughter gramma so she will have to catch that up after returning to school. As at school the just play and do very basic computer exercises. It's difficult for 7 years old to understand that all the school work she need to do at home. This is turning her world upside down which is causing a lot of tensions, tears..from both of us. We are not a teachers, we are tired, stressed, work is bussier than ever. I had to look for a professional mental health help and now I'm on medication to cope with anxiety.'

1276. 'My daughter who is in primary school on the SEN reg has had nothing set. I emailed school for relevant work for her other than what was sent one line. Spelling Maths at her level and got an email back telling me to make maths up for her!!! The work set was pretty much a lesson plan that we had to research before we could support them, nothing set was independent working. When the teacher did ring to speak with my daughter. My daughter said that something was hard and could it be made easier and she was told just not to do it. There had been 2 Zoom quizzes that I was unable to let my daughter do, due to my own work commitments. With the off of 5 Zoom tutorials but it was all too little too late but was with TAs not teachers. What are the teachers doing during lockdown they are never in school and not supporting the kids. It like the school assumed that at least of the parent was going to be furloughed and have the time to support the children when this isn't the case.'

1277. 'Work provided has been one PowerPoint sent on a Monday with slides of all the work. English, maths and one other topic. No follow up on whether it has been done, just encouraged to share the work on the Class Dojo app. One two minute video each morning of

teacher saying hello. Mentions in the message for the children sending stuff in - utterly demoralising if you're a parent who can't get their child to do anything and leaves you feeling like a complete failure and resentful of other parents and children. We have had one phone call from the class teacher in three months. I don't think my eldest son has any connection to his old teacher or class any more. I am a keyworker so my children are in school mon-Weds. On a thurs I was trying to pick up where they were which was challenging because I had no idea how much they were doing at school - nothing ever came home. About two weeks ago I stopped home school altogether because I decided the amount of negative emotional and behavioural interactions outweighed any benefit from the small bit of learning they might be doing. We are all much happier since. I feel more comfortable about that knowing that they are in school three days - I cannot imagine how it must feel for people struggling with it five days a week. Part of my job is teaching undergraduate midwives. I understand how adults learn. I know nothing about how primary age children learn or what it is reasonable to expect them to understand. It is a fallacy in most cases to expect that parents are equipped to teach a school curriculum effectively, or that children who are used to learning in a school environment can switch to being taught at home. I have been so concerned that the discussion of risk around Covid has paid lip service to the risks of children not being in school. No voices have been shouting loudly about this. Thank you for organising this survey.'

1278. 'Home schooling and working from home has been destructive to all our well being. I cannot do my job and school an 8 and 10 year old effectively. I am not a teacher, and my children are used to me parenting them, not teaching them. My relationship with them has suffered, as has theirs with eachother. I know that I cannot do this any longer.'

1279. 'We have had only one phone call from the school. The work set from the school has been very poor and my son has been bored and disinterested. We have been told by the school that they have not had time to train the teachers on Microsoft teams until now! Quite frankly the whole thing is shocking my son has lost half a year of school and I have to leave him to entertain himself whilst myself and husband work full time from home. I'm very dissatisfied with the education system of this country.'

1280. 'There has been no suitable home schooling for Y5 or Y6 (North Heath). Y5 work has been boring, uninspiring and inappropriate. The school has done the bare minimum to tick the government box. They have shown no interest in the children. The completed work is not marked, there is no teacher involvement. We were sent a word document with schooling ideas. There is no motivation to complete the work as there is no teacher feedback. The school do not reply to telephone calls or emails. We were sent a parentmail requesting we do not to contact the school as they were too busy to reply. My Y6 was unable to return to school due to health reasons, the home schooling stopped. We have not been provided with any work since their Y6 peers returned to school. They has been completely overlooked and forgotten. Secondary education (Forest school and Millais) has been fantastic. Y9 & Y10 have had good quality work with real teacher involvement. There has been a mixture of independent learning and video lessons. There has been regular head teacher communication. Both schools really care about the children's welfare and education. Amazing.'

1281. 'Was a bit hit and miss to start, but he now has four lessons per day, all online and a half hour tutor session'
1282. 'It has been a real struggle for the family. I am concerned about the mental health of my child as a result of the last few months. My wife has been signed off work for weeks due to stress of trying to juggle the home schooling and her job. I have helped as much as I can, but it has not been enough due to the demands of my job. We agreed that if it came to it, my job would be more damaging to lose than hers, which is why she's picked up most of the home schooling. Some days have been brilliant, others terrible, and I might as well not have worked. My boss (who has only grown up step children living away from home), just doesn't understand and I still fear for losing my job despite the hours put in. After explaining the situation, the final comment was "I need a decision on 'x' urgently, please can I have it in the next day or so.". I had already provided a clear honest decision on 'x', but they didn't like it as it would create a difficult conversation for them with their boss. Instead of acknowledging that I have no thinking space to rephrase things to a way they like, and consequently damage my team's welfare (many of whom are also home schooling) they just tried to keep it off their plate. This has been very typical at work for the last few months, with those that have no families or grown up children able to stay generally well organised and excel at their jobs without the noise from half of the workforce struggling with home schooling, or home distractions. It is clear who the employer would want to retain when they need to make cuts, but without future generations, they will not have a workforce! As a family, we need a 2 week holiday (nothing special, just time at home off school and work together), but we have used most of it up trying to juggle the home schooling and cannot afford to take unpaid parental leave, financially or through fear of job security. My company could do a better job of acknowledging the strains and being realistic in expectations.'
1283. 'Homeschooling my kids has been the most hard and stress work I've ever experienced. I'm a teacher/teaching assistant working with children with many needs. The amount of work the school has been sending as a homework was absolutely ridiculous. The support from the school staff I would say was very small. I can not name it as a teaching. My child suffer from mental problems and homeschooling was a big struggle for her. She became aggressive, very emotional. She loved school and all of her subjects but at the moment she struggle with everything. The lack of social interactions is a destruction for my children. It's most devastating what I'm experiencing. My child has a brain tumour but after studying many researchers, doctors, professionals the risk for our kids is nearly none I'm more than happy for her to join back the school asap. I can't see the situation that she will be home schooled anymore. To add she has eyesight problems and I will not let her do anymore work for school online as I will not out her on risk to loose her vision. So we will end up in a very hard situation as for her mental health she will not be joining in any of the online lesson (read doing the crazy amount of work by herself with no help from any school staff) I hope all head teachers and school staff are aware we are responsible for our kids future for their future life and if we will let this happen we will be responsible for ruining their future and lifes! I as a parent have responsibility to take care of my kids and I have to go back to work to earn money to provide the bread for them. The situation is more than stresfull for us all, has a

massive impact on all off the family. To end of this writing I have to apologise for loads of errors been made but writing this brought my to tears. When I look at my kids I know how other children feels how their parents/careers/guardians feel. I struggle so much my heart is breaking when I see how the home schooling, lockdown, lack of social interactions, lack of physical exercises and the list is endless is distroing my children. I hope the government will take the responsibility and open our schools in September with no further delay. We need our kids at school they need their education and their friends.'

1284. 'We are a two parent household with two jobs. We both have flexible working situations and supportive employers. My husband and are split the day in two and share the home school 50/50. I work morning and he works afternoons. The kids (age 4 in reception and age 7 in yr 2) get lots of attention and support. But we are exhausted. We work every evening 7 days a week to make up the working hours. Our employers may be supportive but the work has to get done. And we work the weekends too. It is not sustainable. If post September this continues significantly i will have to give up my job so that my husband can concentrate on his more highly payed career. The school has provided suggestions of work, some work books and they interact via text on the work we upload. The comments are nothing more than well done unless we ask a specific question. The school has not been able to open to others because it has been full with key worker children and shielding staff and its an old small building. We expected our reception child to return but was told she could not. The communication from the school has sometimes been 'harsh' and is sent by text message. My reception child doesn't understand why her friends at another school can go but she can not. It feels like my children are being discriminated against because their parents do not have a specific 'job'. It feels like our jobs (at the University, professional support and professor) are not important. The school say keyworker children are only doing the same activities that we are given to make it 'fair'. But they are being taught by a teacher in small groups of less than 15. Better teaching than ever provided by a school in the past! Where as my kids get their parents. We are scientists and very equipped to teach them (i have worked in science outreach at schools) but it is not the same. My youngest is on the waiting list for speech therapy and without a doubt her speech has suffered not being at school. She is an august baby so the jump to yr 1 will be massive for her anyway never mind having missed the full last term of school. They both miss their friends hugely. Every day they ask about school. I am not so worried about my kids maths and English. I am worried about my job, my husbands mental health. My kids will be fine. We are equipped and in a fortunate position to put them first but its at the expense of ourselves. And we are the lucky ones.'

1285. 'My son is in year 2. The school provided a mini white board and paper. They have an online learning system called Tapestry. The work set on this platform / videos of stories etc, is aimed at all 3 school years (Reception to year 2). The work has been no way age appropriate. It's been 'project based' - the first 3 weeks were princess troll kingdom craft based....really aimed young girls? My 7 year old son had zero interest. The stories read over video are babyish in the extreme! The only communication I've had with the school is a receptionist (no idea who they were) called a few months ago to ask how my son was getting on. I said I didn't think the work set was age appropriate for year 2 boys, to which she replied "well we can't tailor work to individual children". That is the only communication I've had with my sons

school in 4 months. I feel like I've been thrown under a bus. I'm a single parent with an only child who has not played with another child for 4 months now. All his friends are children of essential workers, who not only are able to go to school and play with other children, but have been told they can't play with children 'outside their bubble'. It seems children have been separated into the haves and the have-nots. My son refuses to engage in the work set by the school. He never wants to leave the house, and frankly lockdown has totally messed with his mental health. We don't have a garden or car, so going anywhere is impossible. My son has put on weight during lockdown and is now overweight. All he wants to do is eat and watch television. Getting him to do anything is a battle that reduces both of us to tears on a daily basis.'

1286. 'My two children got to two different schools. I worry about my daughter in yr 10 who has had no support from school. Not one call, she's done most of her work on her phone. My son has ASD and can't work independently. My husband and I have worked throughout this pandemic due to being key workers. Work have been great and I've been able to juggle hours but there is still that expectation that I do my hours and then school as well so I can be doing 10hour days (that's not including being a mum). My son has completely shut down regards school work. I worry about getting him back into school as his routine (which he needs) has totally disappeared. We've had lots of tears (not just the kids). I found the school not really helpful, we've been mostly ignored. I tried my hardest to keep him on timetable but they would post extra work! As a family we are at the end of our capacity to deal with school work.'

1287. 'My poor kids in high school have been dumped with work and told to email a teacher with there problems. Got no feedback from the work submitted. This would be fine but at 12 and 13 they don't have email accounts, so queue me getting asked to send emails and then dealing with the reply. They have both had computing as a lesson but yet have not to be taught how to send an email or given an address to use from school. I have the odd phone call asking how they are doing but nothing that I would say was true support. My daughter is on the SEN register and could have been in school this whole time. I found this out last week!!!! But I also found out that it been TA support in school, not teachers. If the TA can do the job of a teacher why are we paying the teachers the big money and the TAs minimum wage? As a mature student, I have had to balance support my children and trying to complete my 3rd year of uni with the change I could have been returning to an NHS hospital on placement, with Husband that has had work more than full time and has been unable to support me with the children's school work I want to see the evidence that closing the schools made a difference to the outcome as I don't believe it has.'

1288. 'Homeschooling a seven year old whilst working full time in a stressful, C-19 related job, with my husband self employed so wanting to take any and all work that was offered, has been incredibly difficult. Whilst I appreciate that schools and teachers have been stretched, we've had relatively little support or contact from school. the format in which work was set (via an app) assumes owning a spare computer in the home (which we don't have) and either unfettered internet access for children (which we won't approve of) or a parent who can sit with the child throughout all learning (which we can't provide). This has been impossible. We are lucky that our daughter is bright and has strong reading skills, that we have the

wherewithal to buy additional study aids and she understands how to use them. But what this has meant is that despite being at home, she has spent a huge amount of time on her own; and any tiny gaps we have had between meetings and deadlines have been spent helping her. This means we are all exhausted, and our relationships have suffered. Given the incredibly low risk to children from the virus and the huge risks to their prospects and mental health from lockdown, I am astounded at the government's position. I can't understand why the right to an education has been totally forgotten for the last four months. Why are our children suddenly not a priority? It is baffling.'

1289. 'My children's school provided lots of recorded lessons and materials, and I am not working. So you'd think I was in the ideal position to home school. However, in fact we all found home schooling very stressful and not very effective. One of my children has mild SN and both are young (5 and 7). They work well at school, surrounded by their peers, but not at home. There were countless arguments in order to get the work done, it was horrible for everyone. I gave up on all but the core subjects. Even then there were arguments, and the work was often "treading water" rather than progressing. I cannot imagine how difficult it must have been for people trying to work as well and/or where schools had not provided much. Also, my children, especially my eldest, have been utterly miserable without school. She loves school and regularly asked when she could go back to school. I was planning to go back to work in September, but that will need to be abandoned if there is any suggestion of home schooling continuing. Home schooling should not be regarded as a viable alternative to school. It isn't.'

1290. 'Very disappointed in the work set and contact from the school. In year 1, hamilton trust maths and english set monwed on seesaw. Took hour tops to complete. No marking from the teacher or feedback. Thursday maths and english spag mats from twinkl. Friday a few mathletics tasks and spellingframe. Mathletics done in 20 minutes. No individual contact from the teacher despite me raising concerns that handwriting was getting worse. Two class zoom calls scheduled. I am starting work at 5 am to get something done before my boys get up. Juggling work and activities for the two of them is difficult. I spend most evenings searching the internet for activities for the follwoing day and feel i have hit a wall in coming up with things. Free access to Twinkl, oxford owl and the daily Lets go live with Maddie and Greg were really useful and more help than the school.'

1291. 'I have 4 sons. Year 12 year 11 year 7 and year 2. Three of my sons are SEN. Home school has been a nightmare. My year 11 son was pretty much dropped from the school life in March and left to his own devises. Thats a long time be doing nothing. So i tried to encourage him to help with the home learning. Its his brothers who are SEN. It didn't work. My year 11 son ended up as stressed as I was. Trying to plan and implement 3 different levels of understanding was impossible. Every child needed almost one to one support all the time. Whilst one was trying to learn about the Spanish armada, another was still trying to work out his ABCs. All 3 children who were learning resisted any kind of help from their brother and all wanted my help all the time. As soon as I had helped one child I would turn around and another had stopped working completely and had lost focus. None of my children have an EHCP because the schools have always done a great job of supporting them. Now I have

applied for EHCPs so if this ever happens again my children can stay in school as much as possible. 4 weeks ago we made the decision to stop home learning. My year 12 son has returned to school part time and has enough 1:1 tutor time that he does not require my help at home anymore. My year 7 and year 2 children are now much happier not doing the work. Stress levels have dropped. Family time has returned and we now spend time exploring the outdoors and doing messy silly things. I have to add also that at one point a few years ago I was home educating my year 7 son voluntarily. That was much easier as it was less planned and more child led. This current situation is not home educating. It is just surviving.'

1292. 'We have received enough work mainly via teams but this is usually in the form of power points. Sometimes the teachers have provided videos alongside. My children are doing the work but this has frequently involved battles especially with my year 7. Not a single live type zoom lesson has been provided. My daughter is going into year 10 and we are very worried about the quality of education for her GCSEs if this continues. Our added issue is that they are in Welsh medium education. We as parents don't speak it well enough to support them enough. Also the children have hardly spoken the language since March. Both children's mental health is suffering. I think children are being made to suffer when there is now little evidence that they are at risk. We and they want to be back in school full time in September.'

1293. 'My husband and I are key workers (NHS finance and Banking), school wouldn't take the children as we were both working from home. We have 3 children aged 6, 8 and 10. The youngest two have special educational needs. We've received 2 sides of A4 with ideas for learning every fortnight, huge sections are repeated each time, there's some online learning but 2 of the children have not been able to work independently on it so when I finish work at 5.30 I've then to start on line learning for up to 2 hours with tired kids. I often spend an hour plus each night planning worksheets for them to complete and organising their work for the next day. Home is no longer a happy place, it's a high stress environment with lots of shouting, frustration and tears. Whilst I'm trying to make up for our schools incredibly poor support it's very, very hard to teach 3 year groups and work full time. What I'm most disappointed about is school haven't contacted us once to offer support for 2 children with SEN.'

1294. 'I have enjoyed every minute of home educating my three children. It has been tricky juggling my career (I'm a key worker) but with the school providing very little work I have had to resort to following the curriculum independently. Using online resources, such as science museums/art galleries/Oak National Academy/White Rose Maths and BBC Bitesize has meant that the children have had varied lessons which have been fun. I think schools should reopen in September for those who require it, but with flexibility to those that are happy to continue home educating (even if only on a part time basis). I have enjoyed every minute of home educating my three children. It has been tricky juggling my career (I'm a key worker) but with the school providing very little work I have had to resort to following the curriculum independently. Using online resources, such as science museums/art galleries/Oak National Academy/White Rose Maths and BBC Bitesize has meant that the children have had varied lessons which have been fun. I think schools should reopen in September for those who require it, but with flexibility to those that are happy to continue home educating (even if only on a part time basis).'

1295. 'It has been extremely difficult to home school during the last 16 weeks. Neither my husband nor I are teachers and both work full time. I have had to essentially give up doing my work for the majority of the day in order to dedicate myself to teaching two daughters in Years 3 and 4. Every day there are temper tantrums and we seem to get through so little. I have asked the school to provide online zoom lessons but they have said they cannot do that. We get a load of documents sent every 3 weeks and then it is up to us parents to work out what the work is about and then deliver it to our children. We have had no phone calls from the school and I have written to the Head and the teacher many times but never got a satisfactory response because they are following the government advice. The key worker children are now back in formal lessons and are getting the work taught by the teacher in Year 3 and 4 but there is no such support for the rest of us. We are being discriminated against for having 'non-key worker' jobs. It doesn't mean we can give up those jobs or just do them on the side. The jobs still have to be done, and on a full time basis. We cannot and will not go on like that. We are the forgotten parents and forgotten children. There has been so much praise for teachers and NHS but what about the rest of us with jobs and are trying to teach at the same time. We are not qualified for this and neither should we be the sole provider of education to our children. The teachers are the ones being paid for this but we are the unpaid teachers doing their jobs. We are very fed up. It has been extremely difficult to home school during the last 16 weeks. Neither my husband nor I are teachers and both work full time. I have had to essentially give up doing my work for the majority of the day in order to dedicate myself to teaching two daughters in Years 3 and 4. Every day there are temper tantrums and we seem to get through so little. I have asked the school to provide online zoom lessons but they have said they cannot do that. We get a load of documents sent every 3 weeks and then it is up to us parents to work out what the work is about and then deliver it to our children. We have had no phone calls from the school and I have written to the Head and the teacher many times but never got a satisfactory response because they are following the government advice. The key worker children are now back in formal lessons and are getting the work taught by the teacher in Year 3 and 4 but there is no such support for the rest of us. We are being discriminated against for having 'non-key worker' jobs. It doesn't mean we can give up those jobs or just do them on the side. The jobs still have to be done, and on a full time basis. We cannot and will not go on like that. We are the forgotten parents and forgotten children. There has been so much praise for teachers and NHS but what about the rest of us with jobs and are trying to teach at the same time. We are not qualified for this and neither should we be the sole provider of education to our children. The teachers are the ones being paid for this but we are the unpaid teachers doing their jobs. We are very fed up.'

1296. 'Trying to home school my children has been one of the most difficult and stressful things I have ever done. Achieving anything positive with 2 kids while also working full time is impossible. I'm not providing a decent education, my work has suffered and as a mother I feel I'm not giving the level of home care, love or support my children deserve. Simply put it's trying to hold down two full time jobs, one of which I am vastly undertrained for, whilst also being a mum without the normal support from friends and family.'

1297. 'Personally both my wife And I have had to work from home since march and our two children have been home as well. One at high school the other in year 6 (sats). Whilst my

children have been awesome with a routine that we set out on day 1, the support from the school's has been appalling. The quality of the work provided, especially to the youngest has been at best average. A volume of web links to you tube videos and then web links to questions . I could have done this myself. Hardly any Comms from the teachers with the children. In fact my eldest has not had one verbal conversation with a teacher since schools closed? How can this be right? What have the teachers been doing? I'm told they are working hard at their jobs. Well we as a family have not seen it. Infact it's appeared lazy and at times farcical. I have been able to conduct my own 9-5 , my wife the same whilst still supporting our children with their work and providing additional work. The primary school for the last 8 week's have offered a once a week web meeting. Once a week! I don't understand why this couldn't have been at least once a day or every other day, even for 30 mins. And why not even one personal phone call to speak directly to a child . We are left thinking that lockdown has provided some teachers with a bit of break.'

1298. 'As a headteacher, I completely respect the hardship and toil parents have been in through this situation and the hapless plan by the government hasn't helped schools one bit - they'd failed plan to get the children back into school has fallen flat and we're left to pick up the pieces rather than the government. Everyone needs fully funded help in this situation and devices need to be made available to bucketloads to support this.'

1299. 'My son is a very sociable only child, who enjoys being part of a team in school sports and the interaction with friends in lessons and at break times. In his words "all the best bits of school were taken away from me, I was just left with the lessons" Despite a comprehensive offering from my son's school, he spent an inordinate amount of time on Social Media during his lessons. This led to numerous arguments between us on a daily basis. The added screen time gaming with his friends (the only time they spoke to each other) meant he spent 10+ hours a day on screens, which coincided/resulted in a marked increase in backchat and aggression. As a disorganised teenager, he lacked motivation, and did the minimum amount of work possible. Schools need to understand their importance in the wider role of camaraderie and social interaction between children: this is as important as education itself.'

1300. 'Two children 7 and 10 at 2 different schools. The 10 year olds school has sent home 1-2 hours work a day that has been great. My child can do most of it independently and gets regular academic feedback. The 7 year olds book is appalling. One sheet of A4 sent if we're lucky on a Monday but sometimes not til a Tuesday that gives high level sentence or two on subjects to cover and then kind to BBC Bitesize, White Rose Maths etc. I have spent hours and hours trying to find and print worksheets and plan lessons. Neither child has received any pastoral care at all. This I am very disappointed with. Hearing or seeing their teacher would make a huge difference. All of the above whilst my husband and I are both trying to work full time from home. I'm now exhausted and running out of motivation for educating my children which I feel terrible about. I'm dreading the 6 weeks holiday when normally I'd look forward to time with them. They miss their friends, their teachers and the reassurance that school provides immensely.'

1301. 'My child had become totally disengaged. We have continued to homeschool every day and have topped this up by paying for a face to face lesson once per week. Most of the resources have been pulled off a teaching website and maths have followed the same format of a video followed by a worksheet for weeks. Despite homeschooling we have watched her academic level deteriorate and she no longer reads for pleasure. One of the biggest problems is the lack of face to face contact. The school took the decision not to do online teaching and has relied purely on google classrooms to post work. My daughter has had one phone call from her teacher and thats only because I wrote to the Head. My Husband and I have been supporting our daughter with homeschooling everyday as well as juggling work. There has been a lack of individual support for the children and the attitude has been to try to keep the children engaged. This hasn't helped my child's mental health who has been stuck at home with her parents juggling work, missing her friends and older siblings. We have had no option but to turn to electronic devices for her to communicate and TV to babysit while we work in the next room, which is also not healthy. The work has become monotonous, as soon as she sees a large piece of writing that needs doing, she switches off. I'm left very disappointed and frustrated in the system. She wasn't in a year lucky enough to be invited back to school June and as such we feel forgotten about. School have set daily tasks for maths English SPAG plus either art history or geography . Spellings have been set plus a book to read and complete follow up work. We have no problem with the volume of work, it's more the lack of face to face contact. At 8 my daughter is not able to get on with this without support, it relies on parents to help.'
1302. 'I've been furloughed since March. My 7 year old loves school and has struggled at home with the isolation and lack of contact with friends and school. Her teacher rang once in the first month, then only again after I contacted her saying my child was struggling. Work has been available to download from school website but I've not felt it has been enough so I've padded it out with work sources elsewhere or created myself. My child's behaviour deteriorated significantly after the first few weeks and left me at breaking point. Things have improved but are not ideal. She's desperate to return to school and often talks about it.'
1303. 'shocking - not a single online lesson provided, facebook updates only, we have no printer so couldn't print things and I have a work laptop that my children aren't allowed to access. My children are 4 and 6 so need constant supervision yet I had to continue working for 3 months on full hours so I got paid - I could not home school my children at all. My 6 year old had additional needs and there was no support at all. It was a shambles and the return to school plan has been delayed based on latest Gov guidelines - we don't even have a date for our children to return! I'm disgusted at the Gov, the unions, the schools, and the press for forgetting out children and painting an untrue picture'
1304. 'I consider ourselves to be very lucky as we both still had our jobs however this has been an extremely stressful situation for all. I am a crisis communications manager for an international education not for profit -we had over 5000 schools closed world wide. In the first days of lockdown I was working 10+hr days for 20days straight. There has been little let up and I am still regularly having to work into the night and on weekends. My partner is a broadband engineer who works 12 hr days out of the home (shift pattern) This has left me at

home managing our organisations crisis response and caring for a 4 yr old and 9yr old. I did access the hub school for 2 weeks to give us some respite however all of the guidance said if one key worker is working from home then the children should stay at home-and each time I applied the wording got stronger around this. When the hub moved back to our school they said they would refuse anyone they felt could keep children at home so I didn't even bother to apply. We have had no online learning and limited online activities posted on the digital platforms-our nursery teacher recently returned from maternity and has hand delivered some activities for my youngest which was greatly appreciated. The last activity posted for my 9yr old was over a month ago. A 4 year old needs constant help and attention to be able to do most things -but particularly learning activity which should be done through play. My children have spent more hours than I care to think on screens and doing nothing. My sons anxiety and behaviour has deteriorated and at time's I feel like I am trapped in my house with an abuser-he's frustration and anger is heavily directed at me as he sees me as ignoring him due to the fact I am the one at home but constantly working. We live in a small 3 bed terrace , I have no space such as an office or even spare room, no desk and no dining room table so I work in the kitchen and my son often works on his bedroom floor. We have one working tablet and a laptop that does not function and so both our physical space and technological resources are also heavily impacting what we are able to do and adding to our stress. I cannot put into words the stress and emotional strain I feel under. The guilt is a heavy burden. Not helped by societal expectations around mothers and childcare etc. We are fortunate that we can afford private tutoring my son has been able to have an online 1-2-1 with a private tutor each week and is also part of a online creative writing group. As well as doing scouts and guitar lessons on zoom. We are also fortunate to have this week been able to place our daughter back into private nursery for 2 days a week throughout the summer. This gives her at least 2 days a week of fun and play with those her own age. I am so grateful that financially I have been able to do the above to provide my children with some support,normality and most importantly social and emotional support. I however am getting none of that as I am alone juggling from 7am-9pm most days unable to leave the house, unable to see friends and unable to have a break from all of my duties. My employers are very understanding and no one including the most senior leaders bats an eyelid when my children join video calls.'

1305. 'I have 3 children aged 9, 12 &14. My 9 year old has been well supported by her primary school and the educational expectations have been in line with what she and I can achieve whilst trying to work at the same time. Obviously it's all worn a bit thin over time but she's going into school for 4 days next week which she's very excited about. The school have done an amazing job given the constraints. My 12 year old has PDA and it is difficult to encourage her to do homework never mind school work at home. She believes learning happens in school not at home. It is her first year at secondary. We had a fraught start with work being set via sharepoint, teams and email depending on subject teacher and their preference. It felt like a scattergun approach and utterly overwhelming. The upshot is that my daughter became more and more anxious, aggressive and has shut down from all of her learning. We have a meeting at school this week but she's reluctant to engage and I'm really worried about how I'll get her back into school and back on track in September. It's been a disaster. My 14 year old has the maturity to get on with her work independently but the quality is far below that which she would have achieved within school and undoubtedly she'll

have much ground to make up. She starts her GCSEs in September. I have struggled to work full time for a small business in the food manufacturing sector and provide the level of input needed there alongside supporting a wide age and emotional range of children in their learning. I have battled through but have stepped back to allow a replacement to be brought in at work so that I am not impacting negatively there and can try to focus on the children. I am now working just 1 day per week - with no end in sight - and am unclear as to my future at work once the children do return to school. We have received minimal contact from either schools - surprisingly as my 12 year old is statemented and I would have expected more engagement given her complexities. I am aware this is a new situation for all of us and the schools are doing their best but there is no coherent approach and the erosion of the children's education, emotions and social skills will be one we will have to deal with for many years.'

1306. 'I have two children at the same school. My year 11 child, at first, felt that they had been abandoned. The follow-up on children who were supposed to sit exams was not even considered, nor was their continuing educational needs. This has since changed when their tutor asked about their welfare (via email) and finally some transition into sixth form interactions have taken place. My second child is in year 8. At first there were tears as there was a lot of confusion over work. This has now settled down and they, most mornings, do one-two hours work independently. They have had a variety of tasks in all subjects, which, depending on the requirements, have been straightforward or a challenge due to poorly explained activities or technology, (we have had a couple of issues with computer technology being incompatible. My child has often have found themselves frustrated due to incompatible files or software). There has been mixed feedback from their teachers on any work submitted, and from some there has been nothing at all. In English, a key subject, they have not been required to submit any work, the teachers have said hand it in when you come back to school..... whenever that might be! Surely this is not right? Up until this week, there has been no direct contact with my child other than via online chat messaging. My child feels that they would be much more motivated if online teaching was being offered. They hate the lack of interaction with other children and their tutors, home learning is not in their best interests. There was a 30 minute tutor session organised this week, a little too late. The tutor offered their support and help if they needed it, why was this not happening from the start of lock down? When I queried the school about the lack of interaction, they have said it is a safe guarding issue and not all children have access to technology. Safeguarding, I know is extremely important, but there are ways to make online activities safe, otherwise the government would not have given schools access to the software required. The technology issue is another debatable area, one that needs, to be addressed centrally. It has been great that computers have been supplied to the most vulnerable learners to support them, but there are many households that do not fall into that category, there are those who cannot afford to buy the equipment to support each one of their children's needs or who live in areas where internet connection is poor. However, it is not a reason to justify zero contact at all. Many children can use mobile technology to attend virtual sessions. Sessions can be recorded and made available online (in a safe environment) so children can access them at different times. Finally, I want to say that I have worked full-time throughout and offered very little teaching support to my younger child. I decided that sanity and peace at home was the wiser

option. Had they been in year 10 or 12 I would have seen this differently, but my job would not have allowed for me to support my child during normal working hours and as a single parent with a mortgage, cannot afford to lose my job.'

1307. 'We found it tough at first having to check the school website for the weeks learning, printing out lots of paper with all the work sheets and trying to support our year 2 with his learning while both parents working from home full time and a 2 year old in tow! But since the school moved to online learning on see saw we have found it much easier to stay on top of, our son has enjoyed seeing his teacher giving the instructions and he's felt much more connected. Each day is a rollercoaster and exhausting but I also feel lucky to be able to spend this much time with my kids.'

1308. 'For me it has been a nightmare and it has left me feeling like the worst parent in the world, trying to manage full time work and home schooling it has been a failure, to the point that if I was able to do 30 minutes a week of homeschooling that was a success, instead I bought educational books on Maths and writing (I told her to do 2 pages per day)and I let her watch the TV all day, so I could deal with my work, video conferences, etc. Because being a payroll manager for 15 companies was not easy, specially when suddenly also my worked doubled because of the pandemic . My day started at 6am and finish at 7pm, almost 7 days a week. I was truly stressed and depressed not only for my work but also for being a failure to my daughter. The school sent us over 10 activites every week, and we had to post a picture a week doing an activity, that is the only thing we did, one activity to cover for the picture. The also gave us access to online books, which mi daughter log in a few times to read.'

1309. 'Our sons are in years 10 and 12 and were previously engaged and positive about working towards their GCSEa and A levels next year. In the first few weeks they were reasonably motivated to continue working and our younger son linked with his friends on face time so they could study together- not brilliant for concentration but it keot him on hist task to a reasonable degree. My husband and I both work full time and I have my own business, so we largely let them get on with it. After a few weeks it became clear their motivation was sliding down and our younger son bacame emotional, angry, depressed and withdrew from education, despite me spending increasing amounts of the day and evening trying to get him back on track. Our older son has become quite withdrawn and says there's no point thinking about University choices any more. He is anxious and doesn't want to leave the house, his physical fitness has gone and he has little social contact. Our younger son was very fit and into sport, and doing GCSE PE. He does still go out on his bike and plays a bit of football but his fitness is declining every week that goes by without the team sports (and breaktime football) that he used to get at school. He has gone from someone who talked about tying to get good GCSEs to someone who gets into rages and says he thinks education is pointless. Their schools are always emailing me and seem obsessed with trying to cover every risk before kids can go in. Our younger son (CCSEs next year) has been offered a total of 2 hours in school to study science. It hasn't happened yet. Where he really needs help is maths where he says he doesn't understand any of the new topics. No maths contact has been offered, even on zoom or teams, just videos of lessons where there's no scope to ask questions. Our older son was offered an hour and ten minutes in school on one of his A levels,

nothing for the other two. The school says the teachers in those subjects are shielding- what, the whole geography department? Both schools divided the week up into multiple small sessions with a half days cleaning in between each., and only two groups in school at any one time. Seems a strange an inefficient way of doing things compared to how other schools are approaching it. We have heard nothing from our older son;s school about plans for September, which I am thinking is good news as our younger son's school, the local boys grammar, sent a long email about the reasons why they didn't think all kids would be able to return in September. They have offered he can miss the first three days, come in for one week, miss the next week, and then after that they will see what they can do. It all seems to be overly focused on trying to close off every possible risk, not so much energy going in to finding practical solutions or thinking creatively. In the meantime, our boys are becoming increasingly detached from learning, anxious and no longer engaged about their education and to some extent, even their futures.'

1310. 'We've found home school really quite rewarding and hugely effective. I've been off work for a little while (not entirely through choice), and my wife has been home-working since March, something we previously thought impossible. Our child is quite bright, and we'd had issues with the school this year. Home schooling, particularly the ability to "split shifts" and give LO 1:1 attention, has brought out the best in them, and they're responding excellently. Social issues and peer-interaction aside, it will almost be a shame for them to go back to 15:1 attention in September. I appreciate this level of teaching is not sustainable, but to tar everyone with the "we're not coping" brush is unfair & inaccurate.'

1311. 'I am exhausted trying to home school and work full time at home. The children (7 and 10) do not want to do any school work at all or even learning games. It is a daily battle and I lay awake at night worrying how far behind they are at school. I feel so guilty that they don't want to learn and I haven't got enough time, energy or resources to help them properly'

1312. 'My son has struggled being at home is emotional and over sensitive. Doing home work is getting harder and harder and my relationship with my son through this has been strained. The dynamics with my four year old and having to work too has been hard. My son misses school, misses having other children to play with and other adults to share things with and to positively encourage him'

1313. 'The experience we have had has been horrendous. At first it was great to have time as a family but the lack of contact from the school and online learning was poor. When schools started to go back this got even less. Schools up and down the country opened up to all years on a part time basis or offered lessons via Teams or zoom - our school have done none of these things and we've had just one phone call in 14 weeks. The lack of creativity from the school, the lack of government guidelines and pressure from the unions are all to blame!!'

1314. 'Our school's contribution has been hugely disappointing. We've had worksheets sent on a Sunday which held my son's interest for about 2 weeks, and lists of "activities" which

required significant parental input to facilitate. We both work full time and have been trying hard to hold down our jobs with several hours a day of virtual meetings each. Our son does not have siblings and has been incredibly lonely, bored, demotivated and at times angry. Our local scout group holds weekly zoom calls which are the highlight of his week - we can't understand why online lessons were never offered through school even for 1 hour a day, given very few staff were actually working. Our school has had next to no contact and on the rare 30 minute video calls (3 in total all lockdown) the teacher asks if they are enjoying their "time off". We have loved having meals together so there are some benefits. My parents now run virtual meetings each day with our son and the one resource which has been a saviour for them to use is Oak Academy - our son has almost bonded with the regular English and Maths teachers and on the whole does enjoy the lessons. Without that resource it would have been quite frankly a nightmare. We feel such overwhelming pressure between work and job security worries, our son's wellbeing and the uncertainty of everything that we feel we are constantly on edge with no real end in sight. We do not feel the school has any appreciation for how hard it has been and continues to be for the children - we understand there are health and safety concerns but that didn't need to prevent more active involvement earlier on in this in a virtual way.'

1315. 'Truly awful. The school was excellent at providing work, but our son is easily distracted and would have needed us to be with him throughout the school day to supervise. The nature of my work means I have to work in an office in the garden. We had lost my husband's income, and neither of us qualified for any government support whatsoever. With my son in the house, and me in the garden, and my husband trying to find work, it was a total disaster. Constantly being interrupted, or having to go and check on progress. Arguments. Shouting. Tears. Frustration. 60 hour+ working weeks for me. Exhaustion. Despair. I got to the point where I wanted to catch Covid-19. Being in an induced coma in hospital sounded like heaven. And if I never came out of it at the other end, well, so be it. Stop the world, I want to get off. In the end, the school agreed to take my son back towards the end of term. They were very supportive once I had managed to get them to understand that I'd lost the plot! But now term is nearly over and we have 2 months of summer to get through with no childcare support or summer clubs. I guess it will be the electronic babysitter. I feel very guilty and like I am letting my family down.'

1316. 'Thank you for letting parents have the opportunity to share their voices: I have felt no one has wanted to listen to the voices of parents home schooling and working full time. My experience has brought me to the lowest I have ever felt in my life, I feel like I am failing as a parent and employee trying to balance home schooling 3 children under 11 and working full time as a manager with a team to manage in lockdown. I have worked for the same company for 16 years but had to signed off work for a month in April as I have felt I was having a breakdown, emotionally I could not share this with my children as I did not want them to worry. Their school has not once called home to check on their emotional well being, instead every Sunday we get emails to inform us of all the work we need to print off and submit. The end result is I have prioritised their social and mental well being, we do the minimum home schooling and I let them play. Government, unions and schools need to work together to share how we get our children back to school in September, children need stability, continuity and support with transition.'

1317. 'I agree that it has not been a good experience. During the 3 months that reception aged children were out of school I could see a negative impact on my daughters mental health due to lack of interaction with her peers. I work fulltime and I am the main wage earner in our house so it was not possible for me to home school my daughter. My work was based on the Covid-19 response in a local authority (another overlooked area) which required me to turn around work as quickly as possible and attend many meetings. My husband took on the responsibility of home schooling as he is not currently working. However, he did not take to this well and it ended up in arguments which disrupted my work and everyone's emotional wellbeing. I found that the expectation of home schooling was based on a 1950s model of a nuclear family where the man was working and the wife was a fulltime house wife expected to pick up all the childcare responsibilities. The government need to wake up and realise that this is the 21st century where women go out to work with roles that have lots of responsibilities. If you look at the percentage of women versus men as key workers you will find that it consists of a higher percentage of women. Women that were keeping the country going during the pandemic. Unfortunately not all men are good and taking on all the domestic and childcare responsibilities in the home. This says a lot about gender inequalities (and abilities) in this country that still have not been addressed in the 21st century.'
1318. 'Working as a lecturer from home has given me very little opportunity to give my Y4 daughter a quality education. Some days I've been so busy, she's sat alone in her room all day. This is not what I have wanted for her and have tried to give her approximately 3 hours education a day. I worry though as she has additional support in school and I'm anxious she's fallen even further behind.'
1319. 'My child's secondary school has no appetite whatsoever for getting the students back in to school as soon as they are safely able to. Hugely disappointed with their lack of interest in this. Regarding the work sent out for home schooling, it's been a scattergun approach, not well organised and they were late to introduce a web application. Home schooling for our 15 year old son has been hell, no other way to describe it. It's not the right setting and parents do not make good teachers - it's never going to be the case, and stress/anger levels are through the roof for both parents and kids at home. Our 9 year old's primary school, have meanwhile been excellent in terms of communicating, organising home schooling and making some effort to get the kids back in. The home schooling itself though even for our non-SEN 9 year old daughter has still been tantrum and temper ridden and very stressful - again the parent being teacher just doesn't work. On top of all this, we are still working and being paid and expected to be productive! The bubble will surely burst if something is not done quickly and I fear for our mental wellbeing in the longer term.'
1320. 'My husband is a part time GP and part time researcher. At the beginning of lockdown his academic job reduced so he could work more on the frontline which meant he was working more - often at home, taking confidential patient calls. I am a veterinary surgeon with my own business. We have 3 children age 11 (year 6), 9 (year 4) and 4 3/4 (preschool). Trying to keep my business afloat by offering remote advice and building my website and marketing, while providing 3 different levels of education and keeping the children quiet so as

not to disturb my husband's GP work has been a huge burden. School has changed their online structure multiple times in response to the voiciferous few opposing what they were doing, which means once we'd found a routine with one thing, we had to start all over again the next week. All five of us have been on an emotional rollercoaster. Amongst this trying to feed the children when supermarkets limit deliveries to 3 of one item and 80 items total when everyone was eating all their meals at home - becomes its own logistical nightmare, which required energy and thought. We have also lost 2 family members, attended zoom funeral and had 3 elderly relatives seriously ill during this time and been powerless to help. I feel at every turn families have been forgotten by the government, by supermarkets, by society. I want to protest but don't have time or energy to. Why when such energy was put into the NHS, with nightingale hospitals built in record time, why was education not prioritised in the same way? Why not requisition Primark buildings to use as classrooms and employ the young unemployed to read to our children? I'm so grateful for you collecting this information and becoming a force - let's get our children back in school safely. In September.'

1321. 'I've just seen your report on the BBC, it's the opportunity I've been looking for to voice my concerns without sounding like a mum who likes to have a moan. I'm a mum of a 15 daughter at the local grammar school (year 10) and 11 year old son at the new free school (year 7) and I'm at my wits end and feel like giving up on the homeschooling. My kids are good kids and I am a good parent but working from home and trying to get them up in the morning let alone do some school work is real struggle. My daughter doesn't go to bed much before 1 in the morning so trying to get her up before 10 is me spending 2 hours opening curtains, putting lights on, calling and shouting asking her to get up and that's all before trying to get her and our son to do school work. I am struggling to understand how I am expected to work (my husband is now out of the house at work) and to homeschool, especially with having to support GCSE learning. My daughters school have not contacted me once to make sure everything is ok and to provide me with an update on how the homeschooling is going, apart from the generic emails telling parents to be patient as teachers can't reply to students and parents as they are at home homeschooling their own children. When I did contact the school to voice my concerns, I did not receive a response. My sons school did call me to say he'd fallen behind on some English work, unfortunately she phoned at a bad time in between conference call and I told her what I thought of the situation. I was so angry that someone had called to criticise my ability to homeschool, she didn't, but that's how it made me feel. I'm not a teacher and I fully respect teachers for teaching my children because I clearly can't, but how and why am I expected to work full time and teach, where is my support? Fortunately my children only have to listen to me shouting at them to get up in the morning and to get on with their work, there are so many vulnerable children who are living in terrible situations, what about them. I know people will say they will be the ones in school now, but not all of them, what will happen to them? will they slip through the net never going back to school? I know these are unprecedented times but I feel the schools could have provided more support but ultimately our children have been let down by the government or should I say the unions who are holding all the power here. Thank you so much for letting me have a rant on a rainy Wednesday morning'

1322. 'Horrible, stressful, full of arguments and tears. My child is 7 and cannot concentrate on schoolwork for literally more than 1 minute. So doing 1 Simple worksheet Can take an hour. This exasperates, frustrates and angers me and I spend most of my time shouting at her for just not getting on with it. She now hates schoolwork and we gave up teaching at home after 3 weeks. She's had no schooling from me since then and I don't want to do it. I decided 15 years ago to leave teaching after qualifying because I did not have the patience to teach children and now I'm being forced to do something I specifically chose not to do. I am not a stay at home mum type person. Plus my child is now hardly getting any exercise and she is gaining fat when she was skinny before. I'm at the point where I do not care what the dangers are, she's suffering more harm, physically, mentally and emotionally being at home.'

1323. 'It has been very challenging to home school our 8 year old son. He is usually a very motivated and enthusiastic learner but this has changed over lockdown. Myself and my husband both work full time and also have a 3 year old. Trying to ensure our own work is done and that our eldest has support and help whilst still trying to entertain a 3 year old means we are still having to work at 10pm at night. It truly is exhausting. Although the school has provided work to download and complete this is only maths and English in the main. There has been very little communication from the school and any communication received is in the form of emails. They have not offered any virtual lessons or communication between teacher and pupils like some other schools and have also not asked for work to be submitted. This has left my son feeling there is no point to carry on doing the work. He has received a call from his teacher but this was because I emailed them my concerns and how unmotivated he had become. I feel that the school should have been in contact with parents and students to see if there was anything further they could do to help and to offer encouragement. It seems every school has handled home schooling different with some schools doing better than others. My concern is that this has left many pupils at a disadvantage. There should have been some universal guidelines on how home schooling work should be carried out. It seems the education of our children has been very much forgotten during this time.'

1324. 'Home schooling has been incredibly tough. I have twins and they have handled this disruption to their education in different ways. My son in particular finds it very difficult to focus on work at home and is not motivated to complete the tasks set. His emotions are all over the place, demonstrating anger and frustration when he doesn't understand a concept and feels he doesn't have the support to complete the work. As a result, we are all treading on eggshells and on the verge of tears most days. Both children are also suffering from a lack of interaction with other children, becoming withdrawn at times and losing confidence to engage with online communication such as class Zoom calls.'

1325. 'My boys school did an amazing job of providing a broad and balanced curriculum for them to follow at home, broken down into weekly chunks, in spite of no guidance from central government about what this should look like. There were supporting resources to access and a very no pressured approach. The boys had regular phone calls from their teachers from mid May and we have regular, informative and supportive communication from the head teacher. I was incredibly saddened by the aggressive nature of the criticisms some other parents levelled at the school about their offering, simply because it was different

to other schools in the area or from what their older children were receiving from secondary schools when it should have been led by central government.'

1326. 'I was working from home and my 2 children waited till I was free to ask questions. They seemed to work through the packs independently and quickly - I think because they ere easy for them and I did on occasion give them extra to do. But then I was put on furlough and have since been made redundant so can help them more but interest and novelty value has waned badly. The youngest 7 year old) is hardest to do the work and her pack format changed after the half term, which would have helped initially but she is just not interested in me helping her turning aggressive and verbally disrespectful to me. Initially the teachers were calling once a week and there were a few weeks where the teaching assistants called to listen to them read but once reception, year 1 and 6 were back in school that stopped. We do have an app we can use to communicate with their teachers but varies across teachers on any and speed of response. I have found it incredibly hard even though most of the time I have not been working - it has turned our home and thought of schooling into a battle ground - not healthy. Needless to say I am looking forward to summer holidays and then need a proper return in September for them before I can even look for new job!'

1327. 'With lockdown parents scrabbled for some kind of home schooling structure. We frantically shared what limited resource knowledge we had. Pure terror. It was left to my eldest (as the School didn't) to tell me about in classroom working practices (worksheets) and maths ability grading (1, 2 or 3) after many stressful weeks. I had no idea what they should be learning or where I needed to focus my efforts for each child. By the time School started sending email work home we had signed up to 2 different online providers. So we try to do everything however due to work we only can study 3 hours a day and much gets 'parked'. Mainly English and Maths focus. Other subjects has suggestions. School work supplied - majority of work is by email so everything has to be printed out. Well into lockdown school set up year email addresses so parents could email teachers for help. Before then we were politely asked not to contact the school. We are only allowed to use Purplemash to submit online work however what the school let us do is very basic. No recorded videos of tutors talking to the class. Seems antiquated and old fashioned. However risk, to School, of Safeguarding breaches is 0% this way so nothing will change to provide better support to pupils and parents. Parentmails have always set the tone of no hope for your child going into school unless you have a keyworker or vulnerable magic card to play. Then when extra years taken in it was made clear if more magic cards were played children (who had returned early June) would have their education removed. The absence of hope has made me weep for weeks. By now we keep going but we, myself and my children, HATE HOME SCHOOLING. I have wept on the phone to my children's teachers telling them how badly the situation is affecting my children's mental health. I would rather resign my job and take a massive pay cut to get a keyworker place for my children. Or private, academy or church school not dictated to by the hidden agenda of our LEA.'

1328. 'Absolutely fine. The school sent materials home digitally (and physically for families with no internet devices), we gave our kids some simple expectations (schoolwork has priority over play inside school hours, make sure you take time away from the screen as well), and

they've got on and done it. My son's friend can't do screens very long because of epilepsy, the school posts the work to him, and goes to collect it back once a week (I think they split it up & post it to the teachers, or email photos of it). The big thing for us was realising that we're not home schooling, we're remote learning. You should make that clear yourselves.'

1329. 'It's been awful trying to home school my 6 year old while also trying to hold down my job. His school has been setting daily work which recently we've only been able to get 1 or 2 pieces completed before he had a meltdown and refused to do anymore. I feel sorry for him because this should be his safe place, where he gets to play and relax and those lines have been blurred for over 100 days now. He's missing out on the social interactions he'd have with his friends and he's definitely going down academically. I feel an immense amount of guilt knowing that I'm not able to give him all of my attention and that I feel like I'll be partly to blame for him being behind his schooling which makes me feel like an awful mum. Our relationship has suffered too, with daily arguments as to why he needs to do his work. I have cried because of it on quite a few occasions and I've had bouts of anxiety when I know I need to try and get him to work.'

1330. '3 adopted children-2 special needs boys and a very scared needy little girl. Also a birth child in the mist. Teachers laugh and say they are your children you can look after them! There has been very little support from the 2 different schools my children go to. I am not a qualified teacher yet thus have along with my own full time key work job has been thrust upon me. Schools aren't keen on having my children back to school and they make me feel guilty for even asking. As parents we want to keep our children safe yet I am out in the community facing patients everyday doing my job. Any other business would have had to open in the summer to allow the children to catch up and allow the parents to do the job they need to. Very frustrated that schools haven't offered this. Why do they get 7 weeks summer break when they have already had 14 weeks off! After the summer schools are planning to open part time again. They are under too much pressure. Again, we have been working days and nights trying to make ends meet and support the community. We are doing our bit its time the schools took responsibility and do theirs!!!!'

1331. 'I have a six year old and a 15yr old stepson with ADD and learning difficulties (although fairly mild). My six year old cannot sit and learn independently. He previously loved learning and would be enthusiastic about sharing his reading and writing with us (creating comics almost daily). The constant strain of trying to encourage home learning has resulted in me spending well over £300 in supplies, books, tools and equipment. My stepsons relationship with us has been destroyed. His mother decided that it was too stressful for him to home school (she is a nurse and therefore cannot provide the daily input myself and my husband were providing) and so removed him from our care offering him the option to remain with her and not study. Utter shambles. I am exhausted, my patience frayed and my mental health destroyed. Monday to Friday is a series of battles and juggling work and fights with my young son. He is also suffering. He is clingy and anxious and his relationship with us is certainly different.'

1332. 'We have really struggled with both parents working and homeschooling our child. Lockdown has definitely had an adverse affect on his behaviour hence motivating him to go work has been draining, exhausting, I feel stressed a lot of the time, my hair has started to fall out. School worksheets are not great and we only got regular lessons very late into Lockdown from June onwards.'

1333. 'The school themselves have been fantastic in what they have sent out and the weekly calls with the children to keep them in touch with their friends. I have absolutely no complaints about their efforts during the outbreak. The packs they sent us home with on the last day before they closed has been very helpful and their ongoing suggested resources have definitely given a good variety of work. Home schooling, however, has been a hard slog. It started great, I was able to bash through my own work in my day job and spend the afternoon teaching my son and I really enjoyed it. However, 3 weeks into lockdown, everything kicked off at my work and I had to pick up a LOT more work, meaning I couldn't do the teaching. My partner was also unable to do any teaching as her workload was too heavy to manage home schooling, so on occasion our son has been left to find things to do, or given suggestions on what to do. Thank goodness for the good weather at the start. It has definitely taken a toll on my mental health. I don't want to have to tell my son off, but my work quality has gone down due to juggling both it and my son's welfare, and this in turn has made me more stressed and, coupled with his resistance to do tasks, it has put a strain on how we interact. Other colleagues of mine have alternative childcare (partners that aren't working or are separated and share custody) or have lower workloads and are able to spend quality time with their children, but we have had absolutely none of that and instead have had to watch them talk about how easy it has been whilst I'm tearing my hair out and having a quiet breakdown in a back room somewhere out of everyone's way. It was our choice to not return our son to school when they reopened, and I don't want to feel like I should be penalised for choosing our son's health and wellbeing over work, but on occasion it feels like it is going that way. September returns would be a welcome break, a little peace and quiet at work, to finally get a grasp on everything, but I don't want it to be too little too late. For our son, an environment where he is able to play with other children and experience school in as close to normal as possible would likely help with his mental health too, I know he has missed it and he has been very guarded and argumentative when asked to undertake school work. What would be a 1 request event in school has turned into a 10-15 minute conversation at home explaining why he needs to do certain work rather than watch tv or play a game. We are fortunate that certain parts of his knowledge are quite advanced on others, but he is definitely lacking in other areas that are hard to improve in the current environment, and that also adds stress to us that we are failing him. He has an older brother who lives in Scotland, so for the most part he is an only child in the house, so independent learning or entertainment is a challenge. It is an unprecedented time, but I don't think I could do this again if there is a second lockdown. I think it would be too much'

1334. 'We received numerous calls from school enquiring if we really did require a place at school under the Key Worker scheme. It was almost like an interview and only when my employer produced a letter confirming my Key Worker status as an Emergency Worker did they eventually allow a place for the two mornings a week that we had requested. After the

first morning's attendance, my wife collected our child from school only to find her sat in the playground with another child. When asked what she had done that morning, she said a painting. When pressed for what else? She replied nothing. One painting and then we have sat outside on our own talking. No staff member was present. We took the decision to take her out of the key Worker school position after my wife managed to persuade her employer to allow her to work from home on the days that I was on duty at work. We planned to manage around my night shift work. From the outset, the school, in our view, has been abysmal in relation to setting work, guidance and both parent and child contact in comparison with neighbouring primary schools. Their idea of setting homework was an email advising us to visit numerous websites and for us to select some work from there. Neither of us are teachers. Nor are we the student. At times, we have had to research a topic in order for us to explain it so that it could be understood to our child. Writing a poem or an essay about a subject when your child is still learning to read and write has been a challenge and has been boring for our child. Only after 12 weeks did the school decide to telephone every pupil and to enquire about how we, the parents are getting along? 12 weeks! The school has since set up an interactive homework system whereby the teacher now sets the homework, we download it, our child completes it before we upload it for the teacher to view. Neighbouring schools had similar systems in place since the word go. It was then announced that schools could accept years 1 & 6 back, but we were instructed that they had no room for key workers children. We thought that was odd but vowed to continue with our home schooling efforts. Two weeks later, we received an email advising that the school was now full as no more key workers children would be permitted a place this term. (We had discussed that as our child had near zero contact with children of her age group for 14 weeks that if allowed under the key Worker ruling, we would send her back to school - just for the social interaction with others). A week later, the school fully closed due to a roof safety issue. Balancing home schooling for us has been a nightmare. Compounded by very little support from the school. We got to the stage where we were spending more time looking at what work to give than our child doing the actual work. If we do not sit with our child whilst doing the work, the work does not get completed. My wife has struggled to balance working from home with home schooling because of this. I spend up to 3 hours each morning trying my best with schooling. I feel it's 3 hours that I shall never get back. It's so frustrating. Even more so to think that the school furloughed some of its staff from the outset, who, with a little more management, could have set work from home and provided a better support network whilst they were not on rota to staff the key workers children. The school has since set up a Google Classroom session whereby a class can log in and interact with the teacher and other class mates. A shame that again, it has taken 3 months to organise. I don't know whether I am more frustrated with how home schooling has gone/is going or with how the school has acted in its lack of support.'

1335. 'I have n't worked for years(primary teacher) my husband has his own business and worked from home. My issues have been the following: my Y5 child has no independence due to what appears to be poor teaching. 1. He could n't answer simple comprehension questions, he made vaguely relevant statement s around the question. 2. Both children had very weak multiplication knowledge. So in both maths and English they needed constant support. 3. School was focused on the tiny % of critical workers children in school and we may

as well have dropped off the face of the earth! For the first month we had nothing more than an email with links to websites on and a weekly phonecall from the class teacher. Every school communication was about 'in school' homeschoolers did n't really get a mention until around end of May after my husband and I wrote to the head a carefully worded but honest email about this introspective approach. This whole event has made us feel unsupported and I have serious concerns about sending my children back to a school which has such an appalling lack of overview and inability to prioritise and plan.'

1336. 'After Easter the school initially set work to a timetable, with up to 8 activities a day. Immediately it was obvious this wouldn't work with our work calls and schedule, and as we're both on short term contracts, maintaining employment is really important to us for financial stability. Neither my 7yo or 5yo have been motivated to do any school work unsupervised. My 5yo is now back in 4 days a week but my 7yo isn't back at all and she's getting very low with lack of interaction. Thankfully our local holiday club is opening up this week so she'll have some time with friends. If this continues into September our only option is really for one of us (most likely me) to reduce hours significantly or give up work...'

1337. 'Awful, just awful. Two children aged 8 and 10. I feel their learning has gone backwards and we have all suffered mentally. I worry irreparable damage has been done to their education.'

1338. 'My daughter is in Reception, my son is in nursery. I work full-time in a senior position in an engineering consultancy. My wife works part time as a specialist speech and language therapist for the NHS. Attempting to achieve a balance of working productively versus providing our children with educational, emotional and general parenting and supervisory support since the start of lockdown has been exhausting and is without doubt unsustainable. The anxiety and mental strain that is triggered by the feeling of underperforming in each of your roles of responsibility (parent, husband/wife, son/daughter, sibling, employer, employee) is real. Until schools and nurseries are fully open, this stress is going to remain and has the potential to have a longer term effect. School and nursery have both opened 2 days per week for our children (conveniently the same two days) - this has been transformative for both us parents and the children; however, the reality is that on those days, we commit all of our child-free hours to our employers! Again, this is unsustainable! A plan to get ALL children back to school and/or nursery FULL TIME is critical to mitigate against a large-scale social and economic ticking time bomb. The schools and nurseries are doing their best under extremely difficult circumstances. Employers are doing their best too. However, many many parents are in a psychological rut and need clarity from the government to enable them to formulate their own personal household strategies for working through this.'

1339. 'I have a 12 year old & 14 year old girls. I consider we have had an easier time compared to many, however it has not been easy. My husband and I both work and have remained working throughout lockdown. My oldest daughter has coped amazingly well, she's got on with the work set & just says 'life is rubbish' at the moment. However our youngest, in Yr 7, has found it very hard. Her mental health suffered during lockdown. She was not engaging in school work and we just got abuse if we tried to help. It was very stressful as a family. It is very difficult to get secondary kids to do anything if they really don't want to. We

felt we had nothing positive to offer as parents, as we weren't allowed to do anything due to restrictions. Of course we understood her frustrations & anger, and tried to remain patient. Both girls struggled when their schools changed how things were being run (trying to find a model to suit all - which of course is impossible with home learning). Both also had to be practically forced to go meet friends once they were allowed. They had lost confidence & were worried about doing the wrong thing. They still both get stressed about possibly breaking the rules and conversely being seen as the only person keeping to the rules. If schools are not open to ALL students in September, my oldest daughter & I have agreed to protest on Parliment Square. It's not an option. Families can't be expected to continue like this. Parents are not teachers (i actually used to be one) it is not our role in our childrens eyes. Just like the fact kids dont actually see teachers as real people with their own lives. We both have very different clearly separate roles in our childrens minds. I could go on, but I'll stop there. Thank you for running this survey.'

1340. 'I am struggling mentally and emotionally. I have been working from home (I work 30 hours across 4 days) and trying to motivate my children who are 8 and 10. I cannot give them the attention and support they deserve to help with their work. I am not managing to do much of my own work as I am too distracted and anxious. In all both my work and my children are suffering and I see no end or way out. I feel like the forgotten group: all the financial support, get people back to work, do this/do that, sent by the government and none of it benefits me as a working parent, probably middle class if taking those definitions. I realise others are in really bad situations so then feel even more guilt when I say this. I want the government to acknowledge us more and employers to not rush us back to places of employment or compare us to others without the same responsibilities whose work rate will remain at the normal level.'

1341. 'Our school uploads materials to a portal which then needs to be printed - we had to buy a printer which we were able to do but many won't be able to. The work is taken from a site called 'Twinkle' my son complains that it's not what they do in school. He has a zoom call once a week with his teacher and class which he doesn't want to do, he sees his friends in the class who are key workers children and doesn't understand why he can't be there and puts him in a bad mood for the rest of the morning. The zoom calls only started last month. My son is 7 and an only child and the impact of not being at school since March is heart breaking, his mood and behaviour have changed, he is angry and frustrated and has no interest in doing school work at home, despite getting on quite well at school. Both me and my husband work, we have changed our work patterns so that one of us can be with our son whilst the other works. It's totally exhausting and not sustainable. All of our mental health has suffered.. I have been in tears in front of my son many times. We are fortunate that we have flexible and understanding jobs but that can only last so long. If school doesn't return to normal in September we will have to consider one of us giving up work as we cannot live and work like this long term.'

1342. 'Along with many other parents, we find ourselves in limbo as our children are not in the age groups to return. I work part time, my husband full time & neither of us have been furloughed (which feels like a mixed blessing). We have a 9 and 7 year old who attend

different schools - infant and junior. They have different sets of school work, varying hugely in how it's presented (the junior school is slightly better). We are expected to sift through a mountain of print outs/ppts/pdfs and attempt to deliver lessons. Both of them are fed up, my eldest is usually an exemplary student at school who works really hard (his teachers comment, not mine) but has been reduced to tears over some of his lessons as he doesn't understand, and we can't explain it in a way that he can process it. His math is at times beyond my comprehension as they use different methods now - how can I teach a lesson if I don't understand it? It is not workable, home should be a place where they can relax, have fun and play. This cannot continue, they must return in Sept come what may. My work saw I was on the verge of a breakdown over it and, thankfully, offered reduced hours for now until they go back.'

1343. 'The school use Google Classroom. English & maths is never challenging enough so my children get bored. Teachers write comments but there is no marking. We mark it ourselves. I asked a teacher to categorize work in to subjects so we could find the work easier, like for my other child's Google classroom where they do sort it in to subjects and this teacher said it was too complicated for them to do it that way so we can never find the work as it's all mixed up. When I told the school parents were struggling emotionally and mentally as were children and that we wanted more face to face (a video message, anything) I was blocked from Google classroom so my child could not post work online. It was stupid to have put it in the comments where other children could read it. I guess they didn't want children to read that parents were struggling. Parents agreed with what I said but maybe it just wasn't the right place but I had mentioned before we were struggling and the school hadn't responded. The advice I was given for one child was just to tell my child they could go on the star!? They offered me support from pastoral care after my public comment, someone to talk to. I declined. I just wanted someone from the school to talk to all our kids. All we've had is one video from the Head, in about April and a video montage from staff and a letter from one teacher. That's it! The school made excuses about why they couldn't have more contact with children. All I was asking for was their teacher to pre record a motivating video because it's become increasingly impossible to make children do their work. Or even a pre recorded lesson rather than another teacher video from someone else's school, found on YouTube. I also feel it was unfair that children who have been in school have been commenting on Google classroom and posting work up when many children have not had access to school. My children are 2 years apart at school. Imagine trying to teach 2 children who are at very different levels and need help, at the same time. I was a teacher myself (I'm now self employed) and it's been the most stressful experience of my life and it's affected all of us emotionally and mentally. The staff are lovely at the school and I'm sure under lots of pressure. They just seem to be 10 years behind everyone else in what they do. I just wanted someone to contact our children so they can see their teacher's face and hear their voice. How difficult is that!?!'

1344. 'I have kept in contact with teachers by email and I have asked for feedback constantly. At the beginning he didn't complete all the set work but they told me how to check online to see any outstanding tasks. In my opinion they should have given more information, at the beginning, to parents about how to support the children. School never set up online work before so it was a learning curve. Because I am very vocal, I am able to

constantly challenge teachers so my son can be the best he can. No going to school has had an impact in my son's mental health. He doesn't want to leave the house and is very aggressive, we had to buy a new TV as he smashed the all one by kicking it. He is currently receiving counselling, which I have to organise myself without school support.'

1345. 'Limited home learning resources - contact through weekly email no check up on well being etc.'
1346. 'Home schooling and working has been so difficult. The kids miss their friends, their teachers and the structure of school. The children are extremely emotional and trying to get them to do any work while you are working yourself if almost impossible. We've had very little contact from the school at all. We are desperate for schools to reopen in September.'
1347. 'Absolutely, truly, truly awful. We tried, that's the best I can say. Motivation slowly dipped, everyone's mental health slipped for the worse. Hopefully never again..'
1348. 'It's been awful. Both my husband and I work full time, I am self employed. We are all trying to work in the same room. It's been very frustrating as the limited time we have available to help our children with school work has been spent arguing, trying to motivate them and failing. I have seen a huge change in my youngest son's personality, he has become withdrawn and very unhappy. I feel that day after day I am failing to achieve anything, that we have been badly let down.'
1349. 'Awful. My year 8 daughter now hates me and hates learning. She loves school. Plays many team sports and is (was) top set although she had to work for that. The school's provision has been woeful. Actually, sporadic would be a better word. Some teachers dumped 100 page + pdfs on the VLE, others ppts, and some pages and pages of blurry scanned text book pages. Others nothing at all. The first week of July saw our FIRST online teams lesson! Maths - for years 7,8 and 9 all together. That's about 750 kids! Talk about mixed ability! I'm a qualified teacher, PGCE, MA (Ed) and I have failed her. But so have the school. She's now pretty much feral. This morning I googled a private school. If her school does not open in September - I'm moving her.'
1350. 'It has been incredibly challenging trying to balance home schooling with working. My 8yo daughter loves school and has always excelled, but at home just cannot focus on the school work; she tries really hard but just doesn't have the focus in the home environment where she is more used to play and relaxation. My relationship with my daughter has suffered as I am frustrated trying to educate at the same time as working a full time job, which is all the more stressful and demanding as the business suffers through covid. The school has sent out resources and work, but it requires almost full time attention and is simply not possible. So my daughter is highly frustrated that I cannot give her the time required for her to understand the learning and the tasks, and I am frustrated that I cannot help her more whilst trying to keep my job. We have just had a couple of days limited return to school which she has loved, but is already now feeling even more upset that there will now be no more school for another 8+ weeks. To be frank, and it makes me die inside to admit to

failing my daughter, but we have pretty much given up on the home schooling, it just causes more stress to my daughter and I prefer her to be as happy as possible rather than constantly pressured and stressed to do work she can not focus on and I cannot give the right levels of support. I do feel like I am damaging my daughter but cannot see a way forward. I can only hope that as she is still young any damage done can be reversed. I don't blame the school for this really, it would have been really great if the school could have done some video conferencing lessons but with having to look after key worker children and managing social distancing the poor teachers clearly do not have the time or support to do this, and of course those less fortunate than myself may not have access to the technology required. It is abundantly clear that mass home schooling in the way it has been executed would not be sustainable for future outbreaks. I really hope that the government resources schools properly for the September return, one of my fears is that return will be phased and home schooling will continue in part for the foreseeable future.

1351. 'Both myself and my husband are keyworkers we have worked throughout some weeks 7 days a week, 14 hour days. My 16 year old was due to do his GCSEs this year so has nothing to do at home. Emotionally after they were cancelled he had a rough few weeks - he had revised well for the exams but not quite as hard for his mocks so the disappointment he felt was immense. The exam board could in my opinion released gcse results earlier so he could get on with reading and small tasks linked to his a'level choices - instead of having 6 months off with nothing. Home schooling my 14 year old (year 9) has been nothing short of a nightmare - all we do is constantly discuss why she should be doing work (when her friends don't), the atmosphere at home is tense and I lie awake at night worrying about her! The school haven't called us once but have just sent emails with work attached - most of its complete. We don't have the technology at home for her to join in the ms teams sessions and she doesn't want to anyway. We are constantly exhausted and some days I do give up because it's easier than another day of fighting over school work. I don't believe the children should go back to school until it's safe - as a senior nurse I have seen first hand what this virus can do to people of all ages; but if we go into lock down again the school and government need to step up - there needs to be a home schooling plan that is not so reliant on working parents. I truly cannot do it all.'
1352. 'I have 2 sons at different schools. One using Google classroom has work set most days, not much face to face time with teachers no online teaching. Bit too much at once. Other son in year 7 has had too much work set, all new subjects to teach himself, found it stressful for both of us. Not alot of feedback and only once spoke to a teacher.'
1353. 'My son's school immediately switched to online lessons when lockdown happened. It was extremely stressful for my son. Totally unreliable broadband from Sky was a major issue. Figuring out where to find all the resources online quickly was a nightmare. My son was confined to his desk for over 7 hours each day, minimum exercise and he felt alone and overwhelmed. I had to sit with him day in, day out and help him meaning I had to do my jobs after 4pm. I am grateful that his learning continued but the stress was not worth it. He started biting his nails and can't stop. His mental health has suffered and he misses his friends.'

1354. 'Incredibly stressful as nhs keyworker work expectations were very high, very intense and very emotionally distressing. My husband works full time also in a small firm so any dip in productivity impacts on the future of the firm and the rest of the small team. My husband had to try to deal with most of the homeschooling due to my job having no flexibility or understanding of having a child to look after or homeschool. My child was able to avail of keyworker provision but this was a big change from normal school and then he had to face home school when he came home and was tired and cranky. He associates home with play time and fun, cuddles etc. There was a role reversal - school was fun, home was not. No one spoke about impact home schooling had for children of keyworkers who I feel missed out as much as vulnerable children as we physically could not motivate him to engage as much as when he was at school. Our child also missed the social aspect of learning. He is only 6 and we are concerned with how he will cope if schools are not full time I don't think we would engage in home schooling again. As a keyworker i felt intense guilt not being there for my son during a pandemic when his world as he knew it fell apart, i also felt guilty that the majority of homeschooling fell on my husbands husband's shoulders and this too caused problems.'

1355. 'My wife's an NHS keyworker and I was furloughed by my employer so I've been the primary home schooler for my two children aged 4 and 7 since April. It's been an unbelievable struggle trying to keep the children mentally and physically active. Our 7 year old in particular has found lockdown massively difficult and has really struggled. They've missed the routine, structure, mental and physical stimulation which school life provides and we as parents alone cannot solely provide. Not to mention missing friends, lack of social interaction with peers and no school, evening or weekend clubs. These have all added up to have a huge detrimental impact and I fear for the long-term effects this will have, particularly on their mental health. Schools MUST return in September!'

1356. "We both work full-time and have 2 sons aged 10 and 13. Both their schools have been quite good at setting work on the online portals, and our 13 year old is fairly self-sufficient and able to work independently. However he gets hardly any feedback on the work he does and, apart from not knowing if he's getting things right, he finds it very demotivating. As lock-down has gone on, he has found it increasingly difficult to stay motivated and focused, with just same routine of sitting at a laptop day after day, which is understandable. Our 10 year old is obviously much less self-sufficient, and needs regular support and encouragement, otherwise he gets easily distracted. Clearly, it's unrealistic to expect a child of this age to be able to just spend several hours a day doing online learning on his own. Both their schools were slow to adopt any form of video learning (eg Zoom, Skype), and have only really started doing this since the May half-term. These have been good for their social interaction with the rest of their class. This has all been going on while we have both been working from home and under considerable pressure from both our jobs due the the impact of Covid on our respective employers. Whilst our employers may 'make the right noises' about being flexible, the reality is that if you say 'sorry I can't attend that Skype meeting because I need to spend an hour helping my 10 year old with his schoolwork", it doesn't go down well. Particularly if you are trying to explain this to people who aren't in the same situation.'

1357. 'This is the email (cut and pasted at the bottom) I drafted but never sent to our primary school (we have a 9 and 11 year old), it gives a flavour of my/our feeling as a working home schoolers (on which we've largely given up on now for our own sanity other than reading, pre for secondary school and the school video calls). Too stretched and exhausted to give constructive feedback. I know I am being somewhat unfair to the school who have always responded well to constructive criticism in the past. I wrote it as an outlet for my real frustration which is with the government. My friend and I joke that we'll march on parliament and leave the kids on the doorstep of number 10 in September if no plan is devised. We need to look to successful countries like New Zealand and invest in education not providing unsustainable industries like airlines more money to line the pockets of the top 1%. From friends with pupils in secondary schools the structure (and the students ability to learn more independently) was in place from day one. But also a year 6 teacher I know prepped the technology for her class before lockdown, checked in every morning, set work at 10am to be done by 2.30pm, marked before end of day and interacted throughout the day. She hated not being the classroom but said she'd never worked so few hours. Why aren't we drafted in young people furloughed, unemployed, unable to attend university to provide childcare and basic schooling support...reading with children playing games...allowing parents to work and really get the economy going rather than focusing on building and infrastructure project not the green economy. School Email draft: I write this email with a heavy heart and much trepidation as to whether it is the right or kind thing to do. I have on numerous occasions wished to respond to the lengthy letters and emails from the school but have not felt my response would have been helpful or productive. However since you emailed with a survey monkey survey request, it felt an appropriate opening for feedback. In addition I think putting down in writing months worth of anxiety and frustration would be a cathartic and helpful process personally. You have mentioned on occasion the pressures of balancing parenting and home school but your 'actions' do not appear to take those pressures into account. The tone and language used in your communications often implies that one or both parents are sat at home, bored twiddling their thumbs furloughed or unable to work and therefore able to focus all their efforts on home school. We are not. Indeed even those that are at home will be struggling to do a job they are untrained and unpaid for and one which they do not have the luxury of leaving at the end of the work day. As a front line key worker my husband, is out of the house for more than 14 hours a day when on shift, on his days off he is home schooling to allow me to work, on his work days I am often in five plus work MS teams meetings whilst juggling home school and child care. I have a very understanding employer but do not feel it fair they take, what I feel, is a disproportionally large amount of the burden, through my reduced productivity, which I feel is largely due to the schools woeful lack of face to face teacher contact as part of the home school provision. On more than one occasion you have used the word 'expect' in regard to your school community. I have found this word deeply troubling and must counter that. You do not get to 'expect' anything of us, nor do you get to tell us/dictate/instruct what occurs within the confines of our home. You, however, as trained, paid professionals, can have expectations placed on you by us parents and by our boys as pupils. I am afraid you have fallen very short of my expectations recently. We have taken the opportunity to foster independence but that is proving problematic with the amount of change forced on us by the school, much due to reactionary communications and

administrative errors and lack of a consistent schedules for timing face to face teacher contact. I have come to dread the Friday school email where I know you will chop and change meetings, 'expectations' and generally upset the apple cart and insist on yet more parental admin. It is exhausting. I finally, after much burying of my head in the sand, I tackled the email mountain from the school on the first Saturday of May half term. When I waded through, I had 25 emails from Collins e books. This is completely unacceptable. I set up rules to automatically redirect school emails into a folder to better manage the level of stress I felt as each new one dropped into my inbox. I checked the home school webpages in more detail and joyously found the plan for what I thought was more MS Team meetings and misinterpreted it as ten 30 minute sessions for each child, each week. I had talking about how 2-3 lessons a day would have a monumentally positive impact on both the boys engagement with home learning as well as allow me some precious child free time to focus on work. However I was one of those parents not receiving the second email that weekend. When it arrived, stating the continuation of the quite frankly, pitiful, provision of two 30 minute face to face video sessions a week would resume, requiring parental supervision throughout (really!) you can imagine my disappointment. I am more resigned to the weekly disappointment as time goes on. The online learning provision is at best uninspiring and unengaging and at worst down right patronising for the boys. It in itself has, regrettably, made me begin to question the standard and level of provision in the classroom before Covid-19. I 100% think the schools top priority and focus should be to provide in school teaching or childcare for those families of vulnerable children and those families with two key workers out of the house at work during the school day. The next level, in my opinion, once lockdown eased, should be for those families who can not resume work unless their child goes into school and those whose parents desperately in need of children to be back at school for whatever reason, I include those exhausted and at the end of their tethers, in this group. I, therefore, am failing to see why the strong and amazing leadership team the school has, that stood up to the lack of funding and closed the school on Wednesday afternoons saw fit to follow the completely arbitrary, non data or common sense driven approach that government set and accepted reception, year 1 and 6s back. The result is a completely unfair and inequitable use of staff resource. How can it be fair that a third of your pupils get three quarters of the staff resource, whilst the majority (two thirds) get a quarter? I would have no issue with that if that third all fitted in the the categories in bold/italics above but they all won't. Plus there are lots of children probably still at home that did not get the opportunity to come back to school that should have done. Simply, it is just not fair. To make space for others is in part why we never requested either of our boys to be in school. I can work, in fact, have to work from home at the moment and so can be around to care for the boys, however hard that is for us I know that is right thing for others and our boys mental well-being at the moment. I feel privileged to be able to do that and work from home, not all have the same luxury or opportunity to send their children back to school. I am therefore not asking for mine to be back but I think to ask for more than a pitiful 60 minutes of teacher face to face video time a week, that does not change on a weekly basis is not too much to ask. To be honest I'm not even sure that is what I am asking anymore as it all seems a little too late now. The length of correspondence from the school and the speed you expect a response is unmanageable and unhelpful when all of us parents have way less time for admin not more. I am sorry for such a negative and unproductive response. I have always championed the school and

responded with practical solutions when I have noticed things that may be able to be improved. At the moment I feel let down, exhausted and feel frustrated my boys will have missed more than half a school year at best, more at worst. I have been mindful not to be making things worse for the school by airing my frustrations sooner but feel the school have not been mindful of the negative impacts their actions, or lack there of, have had on the wider school community, myself and the boys included. Yours regretfully'

1358. 'I never expected it to be so hard! I have older children, a 14 year old son and 12 yo daughter. The first few weeks from March to Easter were awful because the school set very little work, I don't think they had any idea how long the school would be closed. After Easter, a more structured approach was set, a proper timetable and several live lessons per day. This has been equally hard! I have been reduced to tears by my sons lax attitude to his work whereas my daughter has gone the other way and spends every waking hour completing her work to the highest standard. My son has become withdrawn and refuses to talk to me or his father. Every day is a new battle. My daughter has become very stressed and hyper - they are both missing their friends. My husband and I have been working from home throughout. This has been a far from enjoyable experience. I would send both my children into school tomorrow if I could. My biggest fear is that they return in September only for another lockdown to take place. My children need school!!'
1359. 'Very little communication from the teachers, no scheduled zoom lessons or calls made. My son feels very much alone with his work with no support. Not good enough after all these weeks.'
1360. 'My year nine son has taken his options ready for starting his GCSE courses in September. Despite this, during lockdown, the school still insisted on teachers setting work for the subjects he will never study again. These are subjects such as drama and art, things he has no interest in, I can't teach him about, and are difficult to 'self-study' in a home setting. A lot of the work set for all subject has been a case of box-ticking by the teachers; simple but boring and time-consuming for the child. It has led to a lot of conflict in the house about the completion of the set work, and occasionally contact from teachers enquiring as to why work has not been completed. I work full time and have had to contend with the stresses of my job as well as the added stresses to home life. Teachers are expecting children to have the self discipline to self learn, and for parents to oversee this; in short, unrealistic and unfair. I feel like teachers are expecting parents to achieve the same levels of education as they would and, under such difficult circumstances, this is not possible.'
1361. 'Work put together by teachers was ok. However, took weeks after lockdown before anything was sent it. There had been no online learning from teachers and June didn't contact the children until June. It took the form of a phone call, which did motivate the children a little, but they have struggled with motivation without that teacher contact. School have pretty much refused to engage with parents so no parental support has been able to be offered to the school.'

1362. 'Firstly, the information sent back by the school has been good. Good detail, breadth, although the level of work has not been challenging. The school has been in touch, although sporadically and not frequently. The uncertainty and lack of a coherent plan from Government has made for a lot of unwelcome pressure at home, on me, my wife and my son. Their plan has alienated lots of children and it is unsustainable for parents to hold down full time jobs and homeschool, both can't be done. My son has lost all motivation as missing proper structure and interaction with friends. Either work or he suffers. Disappointed that there is also no plan for summer so parents are in the same situation for another month and a half as there is no provision for summer holiday clubs. All are struggling and worried.'

1363. 'The School have been really good at providing structured work through their website. They have adapted really well and I have nothing but praise for the school and teachers. My daughter has loved the cartoon pictures her teacher posts everyday. My son became accustomed to getting on with his work so he can play more later. HOWEVER. The children are used to working in a group of thirty with professional staff supporting them. They support and inspire each other. They are too young to self guide teaching. We have had to be present to teach daily which has meant shifting our work to afternoon and evening and being present to not able to spend much time with them. We are lucky to have flexible work and enough space at home, but we are tired and poor teachers at the best of times. We were coping with them not inspiring them. Then I had an emergency operation. My wife was left working and looking after the children, and me when I came home. The children tried to carry on but we were unable to support them so much and they soon became distressed by the work as well as everything else going on. We have not been able to help them overcome obstacles in their learning and the long term effects of failing at education now worry me. We are now nearly at the "summer holidays" with no plans for a holiday and September is looked forward to as never before to get the family back into a happy structure. I sympathise with the difficulties schools are having predicting what the rules will be in September. Please can they and we have some certainty as soon as possible.'

1364. 'Inconsistent approach between teachers - no standards on whether to submit work or not. Some are having weekly form Team meetings others have had none or one. Had one phone call home from form tutor in all the time they've been off and I had to chase for that - distinct lack of pastoral care. They have no idea how these children are feeling about it all and yet they continue to pile more work on that isn't sinking in. Death by PowerPoint isn't working! Children will have been on their radar before this all happened but they do not know about children that are now experiencing domestic violence and sexual abuse, etc. because they are not engaging with the children. Their safeguarding obligations are not being met. Overwhelming amount of work set with no clear guidance on how long tasks should take to aid prioritisation. Log onto Doodle on a Monday morning and you're faced with a list of tasks. No co-ordination from departments. Work is being set across years 7-10 for a subject which is making lives easier for teachers but not students. No live lessons apart from a 'drop in' for one subject if the students are struggling - other schools do it, so why can't ours? Some students are lucky enough to get live or recorded lessons by teachers who are going that one

step further. The school claims most teachers don't have the tech or knowledge to do this so they should be sharing best practice and getting those teachers into school to use equipment there or get them the equipment at home. Expectations on quality have declined since the pandemic so they don't need to be Sam Mendes directing a film! They claim that some children will not be able to access live lessons but this is the minority. They should be catering for the majority not minority. Children manage to watch Tik Tok, catch up on Instagram but somehow they can't watch live lessons... Distinct lack of feedback on work that isn't always requested to be submitted. How do these children know what they are learning/writing is correct? The head claimed the teachers couldn't provide feedback for all students as it would probably fill most of the teacher's working week. What are they being paid to do then?! They need to return in September and if necessary drop some subjects and concentrate on core subjects - Maths, English, Science, History and Geography. My son has been getting an enormous amount of drama and art homework which he has not been doing and I have not made him do. Have they asked parents how it is going? They forget households where both parents are working so have little time to support their children. The children expect help to be there when they need it - not that mum has a deadline that she must meet so they need to wait an hour which then causes a melt down. The school quotes 'partnership working' but they aren't working with parents at all. They aren't taking our opinions into consideration and they are very institutionalised within education and do not realise what is being done in businesses, often day in day out 365 days a year, even without the pandemic. They seem to put barriers and excuses in the way of why things can't change.'

1365. 'My son is in year 6 and though he has gone back to school it is only for 4 hours two times a week. The rest of the time he is meant to learn at home. This consists of a "schedule" for each day of schooling. Mostly the work he does is completed in 45-1 hour. So effectively it's only one hour of work per day. The work is not checked by his teacher. In all the weeks off, we had one zoom call from his teacher. Apparently this is to protect children. Why can't teachers mark the work the children are doing? Why are teachers not recording video lessons? Why is more work not being set? It is left to the parents to organise additional work, which takes time. Not enough is being done, children getting agitated. It affects their development, their happiness. No one giving a voice to the children.'

1366. 'Limited support from school. Reliant on child access to IT, internet l, printer and scanner. Not possible when working from home requires the only laptop. No direct contact with teacher via phone or video conferencing. Limited interaction with friends via a messaging portal. Could hold zoom classes, make telephone calls, offer home learning packs through post but have not done so. School teaching capacity limited to 3 bubbles due to staff sheilding. Need supply teachers. I am self employed working in Further Education sector and I have adapted to online teaching to support my learners. I using interactive webinars. Why can't schools provide a timetable of online interactive class based learning? On a basic level no-one has made contact to ask how each child is coping? I thought teaching was a vocation. Public sector union protected attitudes have absolved responsibility and landed it on the doorstep of parents. Mothers in particular. Many women in work are disadvantaged because of this and I think that the gender opportunity gap is being pushed back years. As a mother to a daughter I worry about this. Limited support from school. Reliant on child access to IT,

internet l, printer and scanner. Not possible when working from home requires the only laptop. No direct contact with teacher via phone or video conferencing. Limited interaction with friends via a messaging portal. Could hold zoom classes, make telephone calls, offer home learning packs through post but have not done so. School teaching capacity limited to 3 bubbles due to staff sheilding. Need supply teachers. I am self employed working in Further Education sector and I have adapted to online teaching to support my learners. I using interactive webinars. Why can't schools provide a timetable of online interactive class based learning? On a basic level no-one has made contact to ask how each child is coping? I thought teaching was a vocation. Public sector union protected attitudes have absolved responsibility and landed it on the doorstep of parents. Mothers in particular. Many women in work are disadvantaged because of this and I think that the gender opportunity gap is being pushed back years. As a mother to a daughter I worry about this.'

1367. 'We have 3 children all in primary school. At the same time both me and my husband work full-time jobs. We know we have been lucky that we still have a job and although our employers are very understanding and offering flexible working hours, the whole experience has been an absolute nightmare. The only way we could make this work is start at 6:30 in the morning and finish after 19:00, every single day. In between we have taken shifts between work and homeschooling while feeling completely in adequate and exhausted all the time. The kids are very much struggling with this whole situation of home schooling and missing their friends with many ups and downs and behaviour problems. The school has provided online material but have not tried a single time tried to talk to any of the kids or do something like an online class. These things would have made a massive difference already. Why are schools in other countries, like I hear from friends in the Netherlands, able to do this whilst it seems an impossibility in this country?'

1368. 'Extremely stressful for me and my 14 yr old son, He is on the autistic spectrum and although bright is not very motivated to do school work at the best of times. The work set has generally been reasonable quality and an appropriate quantity. Audio files have helped. But there is no doubt my son misses the interaction with the teacher and his fellow students. When I have emailed teachers (mostly about him not doing the work) they have been very supportive and encouraging. Any work that he does submit is marked and returned. The problem is that the work is almost all online (or needs printing out) and he won't do any work unless I am in the room with him - just switches to computer games or other distractions; and even then it is becoming increasingly difficult to get him to do any. I am lucky that I only work part time. He has had a couple of emails from his TA asking if he needs any support, which he has said he doesn't. I am managing to sustain my relationship with him by using humour; and one of the features of his autism is that he forgets his outbursts (meltdowns) fairly quickly and moves on. Over the years I have learnt to cope with this, but it is never easy. I am almost desperate for school to restart in September.'

1369. 'My work has been very generous and flexible, but the fact remains I have two primary school children and my husband and I are both trying to work at home full time. This is simply not possible. I'm getting up early to do a couple of hours work before the kids wake up, pausing for breakfast time, setting them off on some work (inevitably shouting and

threatening them because I need them to do it while I'm in a meeting), stopping to sort out a morning break, and again, stopping for lunch, throwing them out unsupervised into the garden (I'm lucky to have one).. this carries on through the day until I find that I stop work at about 7 at night and only the kids have left the house, nobody has been for a walk or anything, and we are all grumpy and exhausted. Day after day. Looking after children is a full time job. I usually have childcare arranged throughout the summer holidays (booked months in advance just to make sure we are covered) yet this year I'm just supposed to have the kids at home and get on with it. It's been awful, I will be surprised if my marriage survives, and God knows what effect it's having on the kids... Looking after children at home IS a full time job. I know I should be grateful that my job and salary have carried on unaffected, but it feels far from a positive experience.'

1370. 'Having a child with ADHD has been a nightmare. She is desperate to go back to school. It started off ok and we were doing about 2-3 hours a day although we did have lots of arguments and she said that I wasn't her teacher! After 6-8 weeks it gradually reduced. Now it is 10 minutes a day if at all. It is not worth the arguing. She has become withdrawn and just sits and plays on her computer, Xbox etc. I worry more about her well being and not the lack of work. She has changed to having little self confidence. I'm looking forward to September as we are desperate to get her back to school but fear that she will struggle with getting back into the routine. I think schools will have a very difficult job.'

1371. 'I have a child in secondary education and one in primary. Secondary school were on it from day one with a clear plan each day for the children, lessons sent to them via google classroom for the subjects that were timetabled for the day in normal circumstances. They had a deadline of 5pm to submit work and would get feedback in each piece of work from their teacher. My eldest child is very driven and academic, we are lucky to have enough 'tech' in our house to provide both kids with a laptop/computer to work from. She coped well under these conditions. Primary school was very different. We had lots of random 'fun' tasks to do- PE, painting etc that did not hold interest for more than 10 minutes- that is hard when both parents also have to work all day. After the Easter break when it looked like the children would not be returning to school, they provided a grid of work- 5 subjects a day for the children to complete. This was brilliant and gave my son a good framework for the day, he knew he would have a maths English spelling and reading task each day and one different thing (RE, art, science experiment etc) None of these subjects get marked or have feedback from his teacher/a teacher at school. My only quibble is that the teachers at the Primary have not been in contact to ask how he is doing. Not even an email. We have encouraged him to email bits of work he is proud of and sometimes he will get an email back. It would have been nice to be able to convey to his teacher how tricky it has been for him at times.'

1372. 'Home schooling for us has been a very mixed experience. I would say that my step daughters academic progress has probably accelerated in a number of areas as she doesn't have the constraints of working to the pace of a group. She is currently in reception and we do the work that her school sends through for her but she does this without problem so we have had to purchase extra learning material for her and she is doing work aimed for years 1 and 2 now. That is the good side of home learning but there is a serious downside. It has put

an incredible strain on my partner and myself. My stepdaughter is incredibly bright but is completely incapable of working independently in any way due to her age. Both my partner and myself work and have been lucky enough to get sorted working from home. My partner's workload is fairly even and she can break off when needed usually but my workload is fairly constant and I am on the phone to clients a lot so cannot break off. Trying to balance work and trying to do a child's education at the same time has been nothing short of hell and has caused serious levels of stress, panic attacks and recurrences of mental health issues that have long been under control. Part of the issue is the work being set by school. They want proof all exercises have been completed but all the exercises they set are 'you and a parent do this', 'discuss this with an adult', 'get a parent to help you..' and so on which means it just isn't possible to do the work set by school and also work. My work has been incredibly supportive and offered paid 'time off for dependents'. I usually work 9-5 but I was able to cut this back and work 8-2 with no break that meant that the little one only had to entertain herself or try school work alone for part of the day then I could help her and spend the rest of the day as a school teacher (even though in reality at 2 o'clock she would usually be winding down for school work). Work eventually decided they were furloughing some colleagues with full pay and I argued to be furloughed just to take the stress of trying to do two jobs away. This seems like it will continue until the end of the school year now. Homeschooling has been incredibly hard and is in no way sustainable long term or even for another period the way it has worked this time around. It feels like the impact and strain caused by this is not really appreciated by the government or by the schools.'

1373. 'I have 2 children. My son age 15 was sent home after being told his GCSEs are cancelled and had no further contact for weeks until he was given an "optional project" to do. He has had no pastoral support or online education since. My daughter is 14 and in a different school and she has about 3 hours work to complete a day. But this is largely worksheets to complete with maybe one or two online lessons weekly. I have written to schools and the dept for education several times to no avail. It is quite clear there is no plan to provide high quality online education for all pupils in the event of an inevitable second wave. I do not understand what we are not building temporary classrooms where we could stream live lessons across classes. The government has refused to insist schools provide online streamed lessons and thus results in such inequality between schools. Some are clearly providing excellent support and lessons and some are providing next to nothing. This cannot continue.'

1374. 'We have 2 children ages 8 and 10, both have been homeschooled since the start of lockdown in March. My husband and I take turns doing the 'teaching' as we both work and we're really trying hard to ensure they're doing as much as the set online work as possible. It's been a huge challenge to adapt to working and teaching and these past few months have been tough and mentally draining. Neither my husband or I are teachers (and we now know why we never ventured into that profession!!) and we worry constantly that we are not helping with their education but we are lucky that we have laptops for each of them to do their work and we're doing the best we can. Our children have not had any opportunity to go into school as their year groups have not had the opportunity to go back so we've all been gutted about that. They miss their friends and teachers so so much and also the whole school

experience. There has been lots of tears all round. At the moment we're all counting down the days to the summer holidays (just for a bit of rest!) but wholeheartedly agree that we need them to go back to school full time in September.'

1375. 'To summarize, school took an easy way of delivering the curriculum. Every 2-3 weeks we received pages and pages of school work for each year group (school is small so we have joined classes Y3+Y4 and Y5 + Y6) without really knowing how much we should achieve. The submitting via photos and well done is not adequate and definitely not motivating. Work was chasing me constantly for meeting deadlines as most of employees were furloughed (7/10) and I as only woman and one of 2 parents not. The management was pressuring us with money situation in the company. After 13 weeks of trying to be a 'good parent' (you see those super parents who manage everything) and juggling the work and adding the additional House work and constant cooking leading to lack of sleep I was so stressed that I fell apart. I was crying for 3 days and had to go on sick leave. Unfortunately work didn't see the problem and my impression was that I'm a quitter because they refused my request of furlough. I feel that non keyworkers children are being disadvantaged. 2 primary children 2 working parents'

1376. 'This is a middle school and my child is in the first year of middle school (Yr5). The school have had no communication with the parents at all on what work has been issued or what is expected of the children. Being a full time working single parent I cannot afford any time to help my child with their work so I have stopped any schoolwork since the beginning of May. At the start we tried to do the work, but with my job I could not get into a routine and I could not understand how the work had been set or how to navigate the Google docs system. It was expected that my 9 year old knew how to do it. There was zero communication from the school at the start of lockdown to parents on how this would all work. Schoolwork caused many arguments between my child and me, most resulting in physical violence from my child towards me and many tears from me. I reached out to the school as I was struggling and my health was being affected. They didn't help. I struggled to get hold of them as mostly 'They were not in and working at home'. Apparently a teacher Working from Home means that they cannot complete their job.... Their answer was to log onto BBC bitesize and set a timetable to stick to. The timetable was a joke as had only 1 hour of work for the whole day. With the amount of work that was being set this showed that the teacher had no idea what had been set from other teachers. There was no way that my child was ever going to keep up which will have caused more stress on us all. I also explained that I wasn't sure how that was going to work when I couldn't get my child to log on to the laptop. I needed the school to help me and 'teach' my child. They were not interested and made me even more stressed and anxious as they were not listening. I tried to explain to them that the work set is too complicated on the instructions to expect a 9 year old to understand and that there was no requirement to hand anything in, where was the teacher support? Most of the work was being set with the answers! (Of which some of answers are incorrect - the teachers can't even get it right!) I actually spent a day and went through the Google Docs site (had to teach myself how to use it and navigate round it) to document all the work that was on there and the flaws in what was set and how complicated it was. Some of the set work was incomplete and some just too complicated to understand (even for me) and not something that the children had learnt! This placed extra stress on me as I had to teach myself the subject before trying to teach my

child. All with a full time job and another child in the house! I was expected to begin a brand new subject? Just wasn't going to happen. I was told by my child teacher that the work was being set to give the children something to do, so at that point I removed the schoolwork as it was clear the school were not at all bothered and my relationship with my child is much better. I also am so much more relaxed about every day. I feel very guilty but in my mind, I tried everything for help and received none, so I removed the thing that was causing the issues and that was the schoolwork. Funny how there has been not a jot of schoolwork completed in 11 weeks and the school have made no contact, it just goes to show how much the effort the school are putting into it. They have not even bothered to follow up bearing in mind they were fully aware of the issues we were having. I have lost all respect for the school and will be moving my child after year 6 into a secondary school in a different county. This school need to be held accountable for their complete incompetency through lockdown, to the point whereby they were aware my child was physically harming me, yet there has been no follow up. I am disgusted with them. I am pleased to say that the above issues are now a thing of the past - I took the decision to make our lives happier and I have another child at home so the 3 of us are much happier.'

1377. 'We've all found it very difficult as my partner and I both work (from home at the moment), and our five year old is not motivated /able to learn on his own. We as parents are really feeling the strain and you can see this reflected in our sons attitude. As an only child he needs social interaction with children his own age. We could not continue hike schooling for a significant length of time without me giving up work.'

1378. 'I work full time at home since lockdown and have been attempting to home school organise a 13 year old boy and 17 year old girl. I have been reduced to tears having tried to meet all my work commitments, run a home, home school - motivation, organisation. The school has been very lax basically putting a load of powerpoint stuff up line and expecting the kids to get on with it. The college has been much much better with a timetable of Teams lessons on line to attend. My teenage son lacks any motivation (although he is bright) he would rather be on the xbox, he has had virtually no exercise, its a struggle to maintain any routine, he is bored, angry, hormonal . I will be deaf (from constant use of headphones for work team calls or headphones to drown out his shouting so I can listen to my music) or have lost my mind by Sept. If the school goes back part time I will still be juggling all this, if we revert to some sort of lockdown again because everyone is now out running around the pubs catching Covid 19 our generation of kids and us as parents will be lost.'

1379. ' Home schooling brought me close to a mental breakdown. My kids are bright and love learning, but trying to it while also working took its toll on all of us. Lots of screaming and shouting (from us all), very little learning and an overall sense of defeat and guilt. And it's very obvious that this burden has been overwhelmingly felt by women, further disadvantaging us in the work place and making relationships with our kids more strained. Home schooling is not a viable or appropriate response to any future coronavirus waves.'

1380. 'The children have been in tears due to worrying about missing out academically and socially. We are struggling to work and homeschool and working evenings and weekends. We

are storing up a mental health time bomb. I worry that a lack of a plan for schooling will store up economic and health issues for decades to come.'

1381. 'Using BBC bitesize isn't sufficient for teaching new topics so I am fully teaching my children the work set. Other friends schools have filmed the teachers delivering lessons and then their teachers are available for questions following watching the lesson. This system provides a more supportive system of actually teaching the children. Whilst our school is supportive when you contact them the teachers are busy in school with key worker children so replies are sporadic. It is unsustainable to expect working parents to teach their children whilst being full time workers- who's company have pushed all meetings/ training to online. I have enjoyed spending this time with my children and see it as an amazing opportunity to watch my children grow hopefully with no long lasting effects. However it's is detrimental to keep children separated from their peers for such a prolonged period of time expect now they are not deemed the "superspreaders" of Covid they were originally thought to be. I am disappointed that more years groups were not returned to school before the summer holidays and even 2 days a week would have hugely benefitted my children. However only compulsory year groups returned leaving years 2-5 without any support or social interaction. Trying to juggle work and home schooling and a preschooler has pushed me mentally to the edge. I am working in roughly 20 minute snatched slots through the day and then well into the evening/ night to get my work done. So I am exhausted and drained and ready for some normality to be restored. Whilst I don't know the outcomes if this disease does rip through our local community. I am hopeful that we will not suffer any long term mental health issues, although with such varying levels of harm and devastation caused by this disease with limited understanding and no vaccine on the horizon that I have no idea if myself and my family will require support from this trauma in the future.'

1382. 'Home schooling has been the biggest challenge of parenthood so far. No parent expects to find themselves having to work from home and educate their child. My child turns 4 in late July so is one of the youngest in her reception year. She was also born 3 months early, which has caused her to fall more behind in her learning compared to her peers. My husband and I are both working and simply can't dedicate enough time to effectively home school her. The school have an app called Seesaw which they upload work to and we return it via the same platform for comment. The work sent has been quite generalised and not targeted at my daughter's level of learning, making it more difficult to home school. My husband and I will continue to home school over the summer holidays in some hope that she won't fall even further behind. We also have a 2 year old and it's been a nightmare trying to keep him entertained whilst working and home schooling. Children have a different respect for teachers compared to their parents and trying to teach them in their home environment has been almost impossible. We're worried about how much she has fallen behind and what the school are going to do to help her and other pupils catch up. We're all emotionally drained and just hope that the schools open to all in September so we can all get back some structure and normality.'

1383. 'School only set work for two weeks. After that gave us a list of websites to rely on. My child is very bright and it was not challenging. We both work full time, I do it from home,

so it was me picking up pieces. Any tasks I asked him to do was completed within a couple of minutes and I don't have time or knowledge to set harder work. I am worry all his motivation to always wanted to the best is gone. I contacted the school and they said there was nothing they could do, as the websites they provided were for correct year group. At the end he didn't do work at all. I have struggled to do my job and any family dynamics are terrible. When we decided to sent him back to school in June, I felt teachers didn't want him there. The first thing I got was that he was going to be bored as they couldn't set challenging work for him alone. They said because they couldn't come close to him because of social distance. I don't agree. There are only six children in my son's class and two teachers, are you seriously telling me they cannot set up different learning levels. What is going to happen in September when all children are back? He is much happier now back to school, but is going to take a long time to rebuild our family.'

1384. 'We've been abandoned! My 9 year old son has Autism and a full EHCP with TA assigned to support him. It all stopped...no contact, no differentiated learning plan, nothing. We flagged from the beginning that we were concerned of the impact on his wellbeing due to lack of social contact, but feel completely ignored. We were refused any access to school as only one parent is a keyworker. He's still being refused access. It'll be 6 months with no school if he returns in September. I feel his needs are being used as an excuse not to have him back and no one is on our side. We are single income family now as I can't work till I can get him back to school full time. It's impacting us all and we feel utterly helpless and let down...it's like we're a dirty secret rather than a group of vulnerable children that desperately need help.'

1385. 'While my 10 year old daughter started out highly motivated to do work on her own, while I work, the materials have become boring for her. She never allows me to teach her anything, and so I feel she hasn't learned anything new - just reviewing things she's already been taught on these materials. I am confident her progress has slipped and she needs to have a teacher in her life.'

1386. 'For over 100 days the school has provided learning sheets that are freely available online. My 7 year old has had 3 short phone calls in 3 months from her teacher. No marking or feedback on work. One questions what an earth the majority of teachers have been doing other than enjoying full pay for not going to work. What an absolute disaster. We are lucky to be able to afford an online tutor each day to make up for the schools total lack of effort.'

1387. 'School send home 3 packs per week, for the first 3 months we managed to keep up with the English and Maths. But after half term we have not been able to do this, and actually had to fully stop attempting the packs. My son is August born and the youngest boy in his class, he was already behind his classmates (who are mostly autumn born) and I am incredibly anxious that he is now further behind his peers. He is currently in Year 2 and was added to the SEN register a few weeks before lock down. He frequently has angry outbursts at home and regularly gets upset. My worry about him has snowballed as Hone learning has become impossible, and I have been crying uncoNtrollably every day. I am taking St John's wort as a result and, whilst I am still crying every day, I am no longer hysterical. My youngest son is

currently in nursery year group but his year did not return to school, and because of focussing on my six year old's education, my four year old has had minimal interaction with anyone each morning for 4 months. Instead of stimulating playing he has gone on an iPad to play games. I know so many mums whose year 1 children have returned to school and I wish that my year 2 son could return, even part time would be better for all of us. If I wasn't battling homeschooling I could play and interact with my four year old. I can't drive, we don't have much spare money, we live in a flat, and I feel utterly trapped. My boys get on well but lockdown is so intense that they argue repeatedly, which they never did before. My youngest will be entering reception in September. I am desperate for them both to attend school in September, and when they do I am very anxious about how their needs will be met, particularly my 6 year old who has additional needs. Thank you.'

1388. 'Mixing homeschooling and working full time from home has been close to impossible. In order to do one, you have to neglect the other. Our children are 4 and 6 and can't work unsupervised. The older girl has been struggling with anxiety since schools have closed and has been crying when trying to do school work as I am "not teaching like (her teacher)". Both are suffering and I fear that they will start falling behind as I have also got a very demanding job that I have to hold down.'

1389. 'I have found Lockdown incredibly hard. I'm in a two working parent family with a reception and yr2 children. Even though my work have been understanding and told us to look after the family needs and try to get as much work done as possible; I have felt under incredible strain to not let anyone down. My reception child was doing great at school and enjoyed learning. Her attitude has changed and she started to refuse to pick up a pen at home. This has meant she has gone backwards with her learning and lost confidence in herself. School set work once a week, which I had to sort into daily chunks, but she had no interaction with the teacher through calls or videos so I don't think she realised the work was being set by school. My yr2 child has learning difficulties which were about to be assessed when lockdown started. We now have no idea when he will be assessed. He found all the class work set (set daily in an email and laid out in chunks) far too difficult for him and he is not independent enough to do any of it on his own. I discussed this with school who gave me some other ideas on what to do with him instead but then it was left up to me to sort this out each week. All the stress of schooling on top of my first year in a new management role has been too much. My mental health has suffered and I have cried while on walks with the kids in the woods and cried in a ball on the kitchen floor at night. My yr2 child started threatening to kill himself by multiple means as he was struggling with the messed up routine and feeling of failure with the school work that was too hard. I'm not a teacher and my relationship with the kids has suffered. The feelings of guilt and failure are terrible.'

1390. 'Great support from the school but I'm not a teacher! Homeschooling is damaging our family relationships as there is a 3 year old who is left in front of the TV for hours whilst I homeschool her 5 and 6 year old siblings. This will surely have a long lasting effect on her. The work from the schools is too easy for my children so I am up until 2AM most nights trying to source alternative, more challenging work for them. The effect on their mental health by

being apart from their peers is hardly mentioned either. These are developments years for them and they need access to school for 6 hours a day, 5 days a week.'

1391. 'Daughter has found it extremely hard to engage with home schooling. Due to emotional difficulties (attachment) will not allow us to help. Due to lack of structure and minimal feedback/interaction from teachers little work has been achieved at home. My daughter will have fallen behind More motivated peers. She was disadvantaged in her learning at the start of the pandemic but that gap will now have widened.'
1392. 'Thank goodness someone is speaking out, both myself and my wife have tried to work from home and school our daughters, aged 11 and 8, throughout this. We aren't "key workers" so our kids couldn't get a place, as the school filled up the little support we did have disappeared as all resource became focused on those in school. The government needs to quickly revise the IT strategy for schools, make sure they all have a remote solution such as Microsoft Teams, Zoom or Google available, which they use for staff meeting and pupil support post this, it's the way the modern world works. For those who have worked though and aren't defined as key workers, it feels like we're the forgotten ones, left to fend for ourselves. To juggle the multiple roles, and not doing anything particularly well. I'd rather have been on furlough than try to manage home schooling, emotional well being and work through the last 14 weeks. The damage it's done emotionally and socially to our children is so upsetting to watch, trying to explain why some of their friends are back at school when they can't be, why mummy and daddy have to work but don't get school support and why they can't see their friends when those in school can has been extremely difficult.'
1393. 'Both primary and secondary school did the best minimum for 3 months hiding behind 'safeguarding' when it is clear that many teachers were treating the situation as a long holiday on full pay. Whilst a minority of teachers have been super dedicated they themselves have been hampered in engaging with children with online lessons as a result of negative union guidance. Many schools and teachers have failed to step up to plate and have forgotten that they are public servants and have failed their students.'
1394. 'My son has worked hard but is just not the same since this. Over the weeks he has missed his friends. Had no verbal contact with teachers. He has become very withdrawn staying in his room most of the day. He says this feels like he is getting no education and not progressing much. I have never seen the sorrowful look in his eyes before and I think even with the support of myself and his mother this his damaging him. There is no social life for him at the moment, even his online gaming with friends is just not much anymore. Children need other children not screens and isolation.'
1395. 'I live in an area that still has the 3 tier system and my child is at a lower school and in the final year, 4. The 3 tier system has been completely ignored by the govt. and so year 6 has been given priority but not yrs 4 and 8 in our area who will be moving to new schools in September: middle and upper respectively. Therefore we have had this ridiculous situation that yr 6 have gone back in middle schools and yr 8 who should be transitioning have not! My child has not been at school since March and will not be going back for any formal schooling this academic year. He will have to start a new school in September with very little support to

help him through this. His current lower school has offered very little support in terms of work provided. Until half term there were no work packs or work set for the children, we had to muddle through ourselves. This improved after June half term with an online timetable with worksheets and powerpoints but no interaction with the teachers and no pastoral support at all. We have only had one phone call since March who spoke to me and my son has not spoken to a teacher since March; there has been no video lessons or messages. This has had a massive impact on his emotional state and well-being and negatively affected our relationship as I try to encourage him to do home schooling trying to get together resources without the support of school. I am very upset that our council/MP did not do more to push the rights of 3 tier schools and so our children have missed out and also that there was no minimum standard of schooling required by schools thus resulting in wildly differing school offerings during this period. Many people are struggling to home school and work at the same time and it is placing a massive mental strain on parents and children alike. There must be a plan in place for September and also a minimum requirement if schools have to close again - in terms of contact, provision of work packs or access to these online, video lessons etc. This cannot be just left to head teachers with no checks in place. I feel we have no voice and no one is listening and the truth is most of the people taking on home schooling responsibilities are women regardless of their work situation and so their voices are not being heard. NB/ Even your survey here only has drop down for primary and secondary, I'm unsure whether people realise the 3 tier system still exists!'

1396. 'Very difficult and challenging balancing both parents working full time (from home during covid) with educating two children (reception and year 3). This has involved juggling school work with professional work during the day and working late into the night - every night. The impact on the children has been huge - emotionally. The level of support from the school has been poor - we have subscribed to twinkl ourselves as we often run out of work. The level of feedback has been low - in 4 months we have had one phone call from the teacher. No other interaction. It is not acceptable that children have been kept out of school for 6 months - we are continuing to do school work at home now yet our children are faced with photos of their friends at local farm and theme parks on school social media sights. How can it be acceptable that large numbers of children are coming together at such attractions yet they are not allowed in school?'

1397. 'I've spent this whole time trying to balance staying firm with my 7 year old meltdowns, to establish a home school routine, or just saying to myself it's not worth the stress, arguments and hassles! We have managed to do some work every day, but this has often taken up to an hour of negotiation first and then the quality of work he produces is like something from pre school! Frustrated, stressed and worried and the emotional drain of trying not to lose my temper during "negotiations" has brought me to tears on many occasions. Things changed for us as soon as he could meet with a friend in the garden and they did some work together. I have now ignored all school set work, which he found no interest in at all, and purchased Yr3 textbooks, which he gets on with without argument each day (still a little negotiation over quantity!) Whilst trying to juggle this I've lost around 75% of my business income, and unable to claim any more than £200 from Gov Income protection scheme. Only since June have teachers started video calls (which still require me to be

present, so I can't work). That was 12 weeks with zero voice or video contact with a teacher! Although our arguments and stresses of doing work has now calmed, my entire morning is spent with my son, leaving half the time for me to work (and earn!) All of this means my 13 year old has had to just get on with it himself. His school have been brilliant, as has he, but I have huge guilt of focusing all my time on youngest and my work, as they are what need my attention the most. This area (pop c 200k) has had 2 cases of Covid-19 in the last 3-4 weeks.....staff and pupils have more risk of being run over on the way to school than catching the virus at school!!'

1398. 'It's a nightmare, I have two children 8 & 10. On any given day one or both refuse to do school work whilst I am maintaining a job that requires focus and conference calls. My wife works in the community four days a week so we need to be careful with shared responsibility. Mentally fatigued, physically drained are words that are consistently used between adults.'

1399. 'My child just turned 4 last month. She started going to nursery settings at 7 months of age as I had to go back to work. We were lucky enough that I had the opportunity to start slowly with just a couple of afternoons a week and increased my hours at work and her hours at nursery as the years passed. Last September, she started attending a school nursery close to where we moved to, in full school hours (mon-fry, 9-3). We never ever had any problems with her in any nursery (We had to move around a bit and this was her third nursery setting) and she always loved going to nursery. Not a single day she asked not to go - which helped me a lot to manage the guilt for needing (and wanting) to hold a paid job. Since lockdown started, in March, the nursery has simply put some material online, which for a 3-4 year old does close to nothing as learning social and emotional skills are the biggest benefits of nursery. The staff has not once been in touch with us, apart from some occasional vague and angry emails from the head teacher (who is leaving the school this summer). All the schools and nurseries in the borough have returned to a certain extent and ours have not. As there is a huge problem with childcare where we live, with pre-COVID waiting times for nurseries at around one and a half to two years (people have to put their names down on lists before getting pregnant!) now, there is not a single nursery in the area who accepts my child. We are stuck. We tried a childminder and it did not work well as she was among children much younger than her and after two and half months of lockdown, she simply struggled for the first time with boundaries and interaction with kids. The childminder also did not have any structured learning activity, which my child enjoyed, but worse, with children much younger than her around she struggled to have attention from the adult and also to interact with them - as it is a very different dynamic, interaction with a 1.5 year old who removes things from your hands and cries a lot (all normal things for that age but that my child couldn't understand). She asked not to go and would cry not to. For the first time in her whole life. The childminder charged £10 an hour - which went down to £8 with the tax free childcare scheme. This is a lot of money! We lost our 2 week deposit too, as she doesn't want to go anymore and we decided it was not worth forcing her to. We are stuck. I am left in a mix of deep anger at myself for having chosen a nursery school that doesn't care about the wellbeing of the children and parents and at the government, this country and the people in it, who accept that it is normal for pubs and Primark to be open, but not schools. Where are

the staff at the pubs and Primark keeping their young children by the way? The message is that working parents are not a priority, that education is optional and disposable (although they will be back with fines for non attendance in September, so education is optional only when it is the on the government's obligation to provide it) and that children's wellbeing is not of interest). It puzzles me that we, as a society, have accepted to sacrifice children's wellbeing like that. In any extreme circumstances, don't we prioritise children? Why are we not doing this now? The "no going back until it's safe" mantra hurt the confidence of parents, children and teachers to the extent that schools are being seen as a death trap, which they are not. There is little evidence that children actually transmit the virus consistently and also their death rate from the virus is close to zero. We also have to think that in an universe of untested people who actually caught it, the death rate as a whole is not as high either. This is not to minimise all the lives that were lost in the pandemic but to ask what safe really means? Is it safe to keep children at home for 6 months? Is it safe to submit working parents to this level of stress? Is it safe to have children lose out on social, intelectual and emotional development for 6 months? 6 months is a long time for young children. Is it safe for women to be away from the schools, which in many cases is the only place they have contact with others? The lack of school means the lack of human contact, the lack of protection from domestic violence and the fuelling of it. The lack of school means children and women are exposed to abuse of all forms. But I digress. I feel like society and the government is failing me and my child. That my job and myself as an individual are disposable. That my child's wellbeing means nothing. She now says she doesn't want to go to school in September or ever again. She is having frequent meltdowns from the smallest things. I am depressed and anxious. I have taken a moral hit at work, from being a high achiever to someone who makes mistakes and has to have her work corrected, as I have to do things with little attention and in a hurry. I have gone from feeling I am an above average mother to a very very bad mother, who is constantly neglecting and not prioritising her child over work. It is a constant mental and emotional battle, a battle that can only be won by mental illness. I called my GP for support and the simply prescribed me a heart medicine - propanol. That does not even touch what I need. The government and the system are hurting a generation of children and working women. I have even considering moving out of this country to go to a place such as Denmark or Switzerland, where schools have gone back before workplaces (showing their government are capable of compassionate and logical thinking - how can businesses restart if working parents don't have who to look after their children?). I wonder if it is even legal for the government and schools here to simply stop providing education - which certainly is a human right! I could, but I will not keep going because I need to get back to both working and caring for my child, which means I am doing neither properly again, and will have been doing it for nearly SEVEN months when schools go back on the 10th of September - if they go back. I will call my GP today again to see if this time they actually hear me. In the meantime, I am just sorry to see how my child went from happy and active to grumpy and couch potato. As for me, it is just the trauma of being let down by the government, the guilt for not being a good mother, depression and anxiety. Thanks for listening.

1400. 'We have two children, aged 11 (primary) and 13 (secondary) , and home schooling, whilst being a challenge at times, has, in the main, been rather straightforward. I suspect the main reasons for this are ; - the flexibility in my own job - being able to work from home with

variable hours, and - my partner is a part-time teacher, working Mon-Wed, so the home schooling is split between us both - having well structured days that follow school hours - a good balance between discipline and reward - a consistent and fair approach from both parents - good support and lesson structure from both schools'

1401. 'Homeschooling has been extremely difficult for us. Our children are 7 and 3, and so their abilities, interests and attention spans are completely different. My wife has been working in the NHS during the pandemic, and I'm on furlough. However, even having me around full time hasn't made homeschooling easier. We had the option of using a keyworker space at the school, but the communication from the headteacher was very alarmist and confrontational and did not make us feel like our child would be welcomed there, and so, like a number of other parents at the school, we kept her off. Our 7 year old lacks motivation to do schoolwork at home, even though at school she is one of the top students in her year and very bright. She sees home as a place to play and relax, and trying to change that mindset has been a struggle to say the least. She's also suffered emotionally from less play and exercise as well as missing her friends. Our 3 year old boy has made homeschooling more challenging too, as he also needs play and attention, but isn't yet at the stage where he will leave his sister alone to work. Trying to divide my attention, care and love between two children at vastly different stages and with very different needs has left me exhausted and irritable, and the whole situation is putting pressure on my relationship with my wife as we try to navigate the circumstances as best we can. Having the children return to school would be a massive boost for them and us.'

1402. 'The school have provided lots of resources and work but we both work full time. The balance of working and supporting a 6 year old has been incredibly difficult. We've tried working "shifts" but the consequence is working late into the night to catch up; night after night. Even when year 1 went back there was no wrap around care; our working days do not finish at 3pm. Children should be in school being educated by professional teachers.'

1403. 'Extracts from letter already sent to Academy Trust, Headteacher, MP and others in June: 'The immediate concern I would like to raise is about arrangements for September 2020. The most recent letter from the School makes no reference to these e.g. if/when/how children can return, what class they will be in and on what basis they can attend school – full time, part time, not at all...? This is confused also by the fact that some year groups are already back at School. Without guidance from the School/Academy Trust, we are simply left to speculate (and worry) on the basis of various media reports and government 'announcements'. Of course, I am aware that national policies are still very unclear. As a parent of a child in this situation (and I do recognise staff will also be experiencing the national situation as parents as well as teachers) I would also like to make a few observations about the 'home learning' arrangements put in place over the last months. Of course, 'home learning' cannot replace the emotional and social learning School provides. For the first few weeks we understood it as a kind of extended homework, with a home-learning book replacing homework book. We did our best to deliver the School curriculum as well as providing extra activities (alongside our two 'full time' jobs and other conditions imposed by the lockdown). I was also initially sympathetic to the policy to not make use of any direct

online teaching, on the understanding that with primary year groups the focus must be on getting as many children back to School as possible. However, the downside has been a real sense of lack of contact for children with the School. There has undoubtedly been a sense of isolation, compounded by the length of the lockdown. When the School partially opened from 1 June to younger year groups, the way in which home-learning was provided changed, as the learning was no longer set by the class teacher. There was also little differentiation between Year 2 & Year 3 learning. Our daughter is the oldest child in Year 3, soon to be in Year 4. I am not convinced the work currently being provided really meets the needs of a child in this situation. Thus, since this point, the learning has felt more proverbial, a worry as this is now what we are contending with for several weeks and potentially beyond September. I would also add that the other challenge (beyond the much-discussed technology challenges in the press) has been about access to learning resources – by which I mean books, workbooks, worksheets, library books etc. – given the lockdown. Even for parents able to afford these as we can, obtaining them through the lockdown has been challenging. The BBC resources have been excellent but whether other things could have been done to provide access e.g. to books via the school library and even laptops for any children who needed them, I'm not sure. We have hugely appreciated the School. When we learned School was closing in March it literally felt as if a huge element of our world was falling apart. We are concerned about the future and what provision will be possible, knowing, as has been explained, that the School does lack staff resources and capacity to open more widely at present. This combined with the current home-learning set-up does leave us with many causes for concern.'

1404. 'I have had to be 3 different people at home during lockdown, a teacher, an employee and a parent, and it has been impossible! Any attempts at home schooling stopped at Easter as I didn't have the energy to do it any longer.'

1405. 'Limited contact from school (fortnightly phone call but missed first two and no follow up) Fortnightly work pack - mainly links to online games etc. We supplemented hugely with our own home learning. Son now back at school (year 1) and very happy, I'm pleased with what school has put in place to welcome them back. Confident for September return, but small village school so easier.'

1406. 'The first 11 weeks my husband has been able to support in some of the homeschooling of our daughter with him being on furlough whilst I am working full time from home. Now he is back at work full time, I'm working from home full time and homeschooling as well. Our school provides weekly worksheets which can be sent to school and comments are made. There is some contact with teachers but only by messages. There has been no visual communication between my child, other children in her class and her teacher. I am concerned for her wellbeing as she has not seen her friends or teacher for the whole lockdown and with the end of the school year coming up she's now getting very sad about leaving her current school year without seeing anyone. I am also trying to keep positive for both her and my husband but I have frequently been overwhelmed with the feeling that I'm not doing enough of my work; not being a good teacher to my child; as well as just trying to

keep on top of the house, food, meals and the 6 weeks holidays are nearly here and how do I manage that as well without the support from the grandparents.'

1407. 'My husband works full time And I work four days a week. We have 13 year old twins and a seven year old. There has been very little pastoral support from the Primary school - not one phone call or chance to see a teacher for my seven year old in 3.5 months. Work has been set over Teams but as a list of sheets to complete and some worksheet style questions over screen platforms. The seven year old has been exhibiting (understandably) a lot of care seeking behaviour as he craves our attention as we try to hold down two jobs and keep the 13 year olds sane too.'

1408. 'I have a 7 year old daughter and a 12 year old son. Both myself and my husband work full time. This has been a very dark and extremely stressful time for us as parents and for the children too. My daughter wasn't quite where she needed to be before lockdown but we were working with the school and she was having regular 1-1 sessions to help her with her phonics and maths which she was struggling with. Since lockdown the school basically just forgot about her. The only resources they provided was what we could print off from the school website And it was all very confusing for parents with zero teaching background. I realised early in the lockdown that my daughter needed a lot more assistance than I was able to give her. She needs to be TAUGHT. A 7 yr old does not have the ability to work independently and needs to be supported in every aspect of their schooling. This in itself is a full time job. I am terrified to find out just how far behind she will be when school starts again in September and I am not confident that she will ever recover from this gap in her education as we were able to do about a fifth of the work that was set by the school. I personally feel that the lack of support for working parents and their children in this dark period has been shocking and very damaging to our mental health. My son is 12 and in year 7. To date He has had one phone call from his teacher to basically tell him he has to do better. On top of all this, our jobs have become increasingly pressurised and we are required to give 110% just to stay in employment with the threat of redundancy looming over us like a dark cloud. We work at the dining room table and our house has changed from a place of safety and respite from the outside world to a place of stress, tension and an enormous amount of guilt. Needless to say, we do not go on idyllic long nature walks and family bike rides... we work... that is all we do. Another very worrying side effect of this awful time is that my beautiful little girl has developed a weight problem due to the lack exercise and us having to 'plug her into the iPad/phone' when we have our numerous work calls every day. We cannot go through this again. We are counting the days to September but we also need to know what will be done to reverse the damage that the past few months have done to my children. We are desperate.'

1409. 'It has at time been an enjoyable experience, having extended time with my children and being able gain a better understanding of their work. However it is a huge strain to take on this burden along with our full time work. There has been little or no input from their teachers other than to upload daily work packs onto a school website. The Government / Local Authority threaten to impose fines if your child is absent, but it feels like the school has been absent for weeks and nobody is holding them to account.'

1410. 'Both my husband a director for a business and myself HR professional for a business have continued to work from home during lockdown. We are not key workers. Our duties drastically increased as a result of the pandemic, as well as trying to work out how to carry on with guiding a workforce through business as usual we also had to coordinate all the changes the pandemic brought to our workplaces (furlough, sickness absence protocols, distancing, enhanced cleaning, pay reductions, implementation of reduced working hours, redundancy...the list goes on) plus we found ourselves being teachers to two boys ages 12 & 9. Until May half term everyone coped but as time went on the novelty certainly wore off, for all of us. Juggling and enhanced work load with two children is virtually impossible, we feel close to burn out. There has been absolutely no recognition for people in this position, unless they are a key worker. Schools have suggested as part of lessons to get out together and be active, hello? We are working!? When the news came in that the children would not go back to school, that schools couldn't organise in time I didn't know whether to laugh or cry. We as individuals are responsible for employment & have had to make our businesses ready at a flick of a switch and somehow we have done it. Pubs and restaurants are now allowed to open but education is not. We are now relying on screens to teach our children, screen addiction was a problem before, now.... I dread to think. My previously sporty, 12 year old that couldn't really spend 10 minutes on a game is now glued to his phone. And given they have little else to do & we are at maximum capacity we let him do it. The one who already had an addiction to gaming is now worse, somehow, when this is over we will have to ween him off again. I'm at the point of burnout, I'm worried about the summer holidays, with them having nothing to do (with very limited childcare options available - especially using the vouchers I've saved up all year to use in the summer) & us still having to balance pressurised work. Work that is precarious due to the economic environment we are now in. And all the time due to safety and the fact that this virus hasn't gone away, I just feel guilty / even a bad parent for wanting the schools to open. One son is in primary & one is in secondary.'

1411. 'Children have engaged well and communicated well with most of their teachers. Good mix of clear lesson work and help with explanations. Online interactive lessons in age groups would not have been as effective as the selection of work my children have reviewed. They have learnt a lot and grown.'

1412. 'Awful I have become a nag, they see the home as fun and play so getting them to work is a mission. Basically im giving them sheets of paper of putting them in front of a screen, many times doing stuff they already learnt. It is compromised relationship with my 10yr old, made my 8yr old clingy and withdrawn. I have never been a liw person but I am exhausted and run down. I feel useless. Food bill gone high, brought education stuff and printer gone high. Been worse 4 months of my life!!'

1413. 'difficult with 11 year old a and 8 year old both in different schools with different work and both needing support. The IT has been challenging, school assumes you can support your child on the computer all day when they have very little experience. Other school by contrast sends very little work so trying to make up tasks to keep 8 year old busy. Cannot do anything else like jobs in the house. Not sustainable long term for working parents.'

1414. 'Even the term homeschooling makes my blood boil. My house is not a school, I am not a teacher. I have no resources to use when my child is fed up of the work, school has set and in turn feel terrible guilt for letting the work slide in order to find a better balance for a harmonious household in such stressful times. What a horrible combination. I have a two year old who constantly demands my attention and my husband works full time. Where on earth am I expected to find the time to sit and teach my five year old. The best decision I made for my family's wellbeing was to stop homeschooling altogether. The absolute best decision I made. However I am aware I am lucky, my daughter is only in reception she hasn't lost out on too much education. The idea of having to homeschool in the new term fills me with a deep dread. This type of learning is damaging for families already struggling with the challenges the pandemic has brought. We will have a mental health crisis on our hands if solutions aren't found.'

1415. 'Home schooling has been hard on myself and my daughter. Not only have I been working from home but I've also had to oversee all her work ensuring that she was doing everything correctly. The initial support from the school was to just post the work and expect the children to do the work. This just didn't happen as there was no guidance at all, also there was no actual interaction from the teachers. I am aware that some schools had virtual lessons but my daughters school did not have any, I am only aware of 2 online meetings that took place with a teacher the whole time we were in lockdown. Serious consideration must be made if there is another lockdown, into having more contact via social media with the teachers. My daughter had an issue with a lesson she had and it took 4 days for the teacher to respond to the question.'

1416. 'I have a y7 in a super selective grammar school and a y4 in a state primary (rated outstanding). The communications from both schools have been very minimal with a lot of worksheets sent through (y4) but no feedback other than "well done". There's been no teaching either synchronous online or asynchronous recordings. There's been a lot of instructions of "do these sheets, write an essay on x, research on y" but then very little feedback. After much complaining from the parents at grammar, they reluctantly put on a timetable of sorts of 3h each day, purportedly teaching online somewhat but probably in reality more like 30% of those lessons were online/recording. Some teachers used that time as "drop in hours" - very little teaching. The primary school has finally agreed to have an MS teams "goodbye" call. So...after all the excuses of GDPR and teachers being overworked, they can suddenly find the time to not teach but just to say goodbye? It's ridiculous. And I say this as an academic who teaches online (now) and has moved all my teaching online. The excuses that teachers also have children doesn't fly anymore. It never should have because frankly, all the working parents are also parents, who work. We are also having to juggle without child care, regardless of whether we are bin men or lawyers, we are all having to work as well. I'm concerned not just about the academic outcomes but more importantly about the sense of community that the children have missed. The teachers cannot just say they won't teach online, and now say they won't teach f2f out of fear, and won't wear masks or have PPE. If they need masks and PPE, the community can provide, just like have they've provided for GP

practices and care homes (assuming the government can't source them in time). The teachers cannot have it both ways. Be paid and not teach. Unreasonable on so many layers.'

1417. 'Trying to teach my two children , 5 and 10 whilst working full time and keeping them happy, engaged and well, has been horrific. Both my husband and I work full time, he is a key worker and cannot work from home. I have a full time job that is full on at the best of times, but I am able to work from home. We are a middle class educated family, living in a village with access to a garden- we know we are the lucky ones. I am not a teacher and the works given to the children presumed we had the time and the ability to teach the topics and coach the children through. There has been little interaction from the school, no materials other than lists of activities and no social engagement. My children used to love school, learning and their friends, however within weeks the children were not interested, they started to slip backwards and my son started displaying aggression, mood swings and I would say borderline depression. Our relationships with our children have been twisted. We are now parent, teacher and playmate and it doesn't work. Home was always the down time, safe and relaxed environment. Lockdown home schooling has turned our home into a fraught and stressful environment. The mental well being impact has been huge on us as a family. We soon abandoned the work list the school gave us and focused on reading, maths and exercise. Our priority is wellbeing for the children and keeping our jobs, with some educational basics thrown in. We are in extraordinary circumstances however I expected more from our schools, education department and government on helping us manage this prolonged period of home schooling and working. I have written off this term now. Instead I am going to give my children my focus and try and make the summer fun. We need to see a plan for September. How are we going to get our children eased back into schooling? We cannot be expected to keep home schooling in the same way if there are further lockdowns (which there will be). We need resources and a plan to continue educating our children in and out of lockdown until Covid is under control. We cannot throw it all at parents each time to do this or we fail our children and our economy. I cannot tell you how frustrated , angry and abandoned we have felt by the education system. I have been in tears in the kitchen as I battle another conference call with trying to get the children to do school work or given them the support they need. We need a plan for September, or we will risk a deeper mental health crisis in both children and adults.'

1418. 'Lockdown has been harrowing. We live in a two bed flat with a 7 year old and a new baby. My husband is working 7 days a week to fit in homeschooling our 7 year old while I look after our new baby. If the baby had been older and I not on maternity leave, I would have had to leave my job. If the government are serious about the economy they need to address childcare and schooling. My husband has been in tears over whether our son will look back on this and think of his father a jerk, rather than the father who taught him to read when school had failed to do so. Our son loves his little sister but being around her and the inevitable noise has creates a lot of stress in him. All we've had from school are worksheets that relentlessly march through the curriculum without any acknowledgement of our son's learning stage. All these worksheets have done is expose the huge gaps in our son's learning and we've stopped engaging with them so we can focus on his reading. I do not trust our school's ability to address learning needs in September, they need help and support to get out of crisis mode

and into a zone where they can plan and get the necessary skills training for the next academic year.'

1419. 'Nightmare. I have a very compliant child who loves learning. She was excited at first but quickly became stressed, anxious and uninterested. Towards the end she was showing bouts of rage and anger not seen before. We have a good set up in our house - room to work/learn, fast internet and a printer. One of us wasn't working so could supervise/teach. It still didn't work. If the children are sent home again in the future we will not be doing formal homeschooling. We will be playing games, doing puzzles, cooking/baking and playing outside as much as possible. I value having a good relationship with my child above all else. By the way - this is and wasn't a poor reflection on the school. The activities which were set were manageable and reasonable. But the idea of 'home schooling' when neither child nor parent chose it doesn't work at all.'
1420. 'Trying to home school a 7 yr old and a 10 year old whilst my wife and I take turns in working full time from home and an office (both as key-workers). Relations have become strained as we try to find time and balance supervision and energising of the children with their work whilst still working. School have provided an overwhelming amount of online learning (not always possible if not enough laptop availability) - guilt trips over how much some children are doing when evidenced in Facebook groups or email updates from school. We had ability to email teachers with examples of work done - with responses from one teacher. One phone call from each teacher in the last few weeks and a farewell Zoom meeting. For our own mental health and that of our children, we managed to get the children to school for 3 days a week for the last 3 weeks of the school year, taking advantage of our keyworker status (though the school only wanted parents to use this as a last resort). Needed more help from school.'
1421. 'Home schooling for my wife and I whilst working for our local authority has been problematic and stressful. It's impossible to monitor our 12 year old son's educational progress and do 40 hours own work each week. We try to introduce structure with exercise each day and meals but sadly it has been a bad experience. We are afraid that our son's educational progress has been hampered and feel with technological advances, his school has been way behind the curve. This must not continue and safe educational opportunities must improve before September.'
1422. 'I have two children aged 6 and 12. I'm not currently working during the week. I've found home schooling tiring, frustrating, overwhelming and incredibly rewarding. I now feel closer to my children and have enjoyed the intense immersion into their education. My eldest son is severely dyslexic and I believe having one to one tuition from me for this time has benefited him. But because he needs constant supervision my younger son has been left to his own devices way too much. The guilt has been constant! Despite all the challenges it will be an experience hopefully we'll all relish going forward, and even though I'll welcome the return to school I'll miss them come September.'

1423. 'Home schooling has been very challenging. I have a 15 year old and a 12 year old. The 15 year olds work is too advanced for me to help as I don't have sufficient knowledge in all of his subject areas he is worried about his GCSE's next year. I have been able to help my 12 year old but we have some very difficult days when he gets really fed up of sitting looking at a screen this causes real tension in our home as he refuses to work. I was recalled to work in June meaning my husband who is self employed now has to home school him meaning he can't earn any money, what a worrying time.'
1424. 'Too much learning then too little then too much.. I have no idea why live lessons cannot be done for lessons.. The system show my homework is confusing for adults so goodness knows how it is for children.. It needs to be better for september.'
1425. 'Yr 6 child. Timetable provided by school unimaginative, not challenging and purely from bbc bitesize. Son is very bright and was completing 'lessons' in 20 mins. School is part of an academy Trust and I know the other school in the Trust had an imaginative and varied timetable - no idea why they didn't share with each other. No interaction from teacher, even when prompted the head used the reason that there was too much variety in parent expectations to please everyone. Working full time at home I did not have time to sit and expand on provided material. The flip side is that the school gave been brilliant at getting the kids back into school. All years have been back which I know is unusual.'
1426. 'Working from home and home schooling is impossible. Children over 12 years are becoming Ferrell. They are gathering in groups - no social distancing- and are meeting up every day, either sitting around, on bikes or skateboards. It's difficult to keep them indoors, especially if you are working from home. Yet, they can't meet up at school. It's ridiculous! Are teachers self isolating or are they out and about as well? It's time teachers were back in the classrooms and off the streets too!'
1427. 'Mostly a nightmare. My daughter is in Year 2 & is highly capable & motivated in school but has shown little to no interest in the work sent home from school during lockdown. We have had tears & tantrums over it. She lacks any motivation to do frankly quite boring worksheets with no teacher-led instruction (& God forbid I try to teach her anything!) & no peer interaction. She misses her friends & that social support & fun aspect of school. She has always been a generally sunny character but I have seen behaviour from her that I hadn't ever seen before lockdown. She's an only child & I'm a single parent (father estranged), plus I'm self-employed so it's been an extra strain having no childcare support & financially. We have had 1 phone call from school & I think we are both feeling very disconnected from the school now & just desperate for her to get back.'
1428. 'Homeschooling and juggling my job has been an emotional nightmare. It has caused a strain on my relationship with my husband as he has refused to help, for the most part, despite us both working continuously throughout lockdown. One of my child's teachers calls every fortnight to check in but my other child's teacher has only called once. The school decided all work should be marked by parents leaving me to be the one telling my child to do corrections etc. My son especially has not responded well to this and I fear it is damaging our

relationship. There has been no virtual learning, not one single live lesson. We've had tantrums and things thrown. The lack of social interaction with other children has left my kids withdrawn. The lack of exercise time is a problem as I've had to fill all my non work time with homeschool activity. All this will inevitably in time damage my career, I fear when the job cuts role round it will mean the mums like me that suffer again. This weighs heavily on my mind.'

1429. 'My husband and I have both been working from home throughout this time. Our relationship with our children has suffered as a result of trying to get them to do their allocated work but without the time to help them. Their self motivation has dropped over time as it became clear to them that the position wasn't changing anytime soon. I fear my 8 year old son has gone backwards academically and he is certainly emotionally fragile as a result. His attitude and frame of mind has improved no end since we stopped any attempts to home school (which we chose to do about two weeks before the end of term) and any suggestion Of restarting home schilling next term is met with absolute refusal from him. It is not a question of lack of support from the school or of us not having a good set up at home - we are very lucky on both fronts to be well provided for. But a child (of his age, at least) cannot work in isolation from instructions delivered via a device and would be better just playing until he can be educated at school. Home schooling is NOT a solution for the future.'

1430. 'Awful. Child non compliant. No time to invest in child as working from home full time. All work sent home from school needs printing - not everyone has a printer. Zoom teaching could have been so easy to implement but option for most schools seem to be putting ownership on parents. We have not been furloughed so it was basically an impossible task that caused significant stress.'

1431. 'Home schooling with a 2 year old at home and working part time remotely has been tough. School were positive and helpful but the respect children have for teachers is not mirrored at home. Year R is about learning through play with classmates. Online resources and support were amazing but still hard to know what is best to use and not to teach things that we aim the wrong method etc. I hope no one ever has to go through this experience again. Time with the children was amazing but it was tough even for the most mentally strong parent.'

1432. 'Initially when lockdown started there was an element of novelty to homeschooling and having my children at home with myself and my husband but we're at at point where this has gone on far too long and we are all disillusioned now. Both my husband and I work full time whilst trying to support a reception child (who is still only 4 year So young in the year) and an 8 year old. Both boys so in need of a good deal of motivation. The emotional support from school has been lacking - we have had ONE phone call from each teacher last week - so it took 16 weeks to get any direct contact! Despite the wider school opening my 4 year old was not able to return to school as there "were too many key worker children". Some of which I know are genuine cases others I now know were people saying what they could to get their children into school. Even at the expense of the year 6 kids who deserved a chance to say goodbye to their primary. I find that disgraceful. I'm not sure schools/ government have appreciated the divisive nature of this in school/ not in a school scenario. I now found myself

feeling extremely angry that Other children have been prioritised over mine and the tears and arguments could have been avoided had they been in school even if only for a couple of days. It will take a long time for the strains put on our family relationships to recover.'

1433. 'We are a family where there are two full time working parents with professional roles (non Key worker). As a mother I have been getting up at 6am to do 3 hours of work before the rest of the family wakes up, and then from 9am until 12am I focus on homeschooling (around any work zoom calls I need to attend). I have been using annual leave to reduce my weekly workhours to a more manageable 5 hours a day. This is due to run out in July and I will have no more annual leave to take until December. I am so tired. I have a 4 year old and a 7 year old. The school have been uploading work each day for both of them (no zoom classes, no phone calls, no pastoral care, no marking). Teaching a 4 year old phonics from home has been a challenge - teaching EYFS is very much play based and requires a specific skill set, the reception teacher tried really hard to provide work we could do at home with the children and is always open to feedback and is keen to see how the children get on. She wanted to set up Zoom calls from the start, but the school had been told by the local authority (Trafford) not to do this. The DFE put on some youtube phonice classes - but they were so boring, then our teacher found a much better one (Mr MC Memory Maker - he deserves a medal!!). The stark difference in these shows how out of touch the DFE really is. Before my daughter went back to school part time I was having to play with my daughter a lot more than normal given the absence of friends of the same age. She is a different child now she is back in school, but this has made it even harder for my 7 year old who is still at home. He has struggled more - there has been a lot less contact from his teacher (one letter a week online), and he hasn't the maturity yet to work independantly. He has become violent and we have both ended up in tears over the homeschooling. He is usually such a happy sociable boy, who loves learning, but has really struggled without seeing his friends and fomal teaching. Once Bitesize was set up, the work was based on that with some extention activities uploaded once a week (some spellings from Twinkl, English and Maths - marked by ourselves - nothing has gone to school). We weren't given the personal email address for this teacher (unlike the reception teacher) - which has made communication more difficult as it all goes via the school secretary. 3 class zoom calls have been set every fortnight in July, more of a show and tell, and seems too late for these children. Neither the children or teacher seem particularly engaged in these. I hope my son's love for learning returns over the Summer. We have always been very happy with the school, and I know they have worked hard to keep it open for the Key Worker children , but have been dissapointed by the level of contact - especially by the year 3 teacher. The school is normally on a par with local private schools, but has really fallen behind in these times due to lack of support from the Gorvernment, Local Authority (setting up protocols for schools - allowing zoom calls etc), and the larger class sizes. The school has been operating at capacity now for many years, so there is no way they could have classes of 15 return in any way, especially given the level of Key Worker attendance (very high - around 15% - 20% of the school in recent weeks - we are near a large hospital). The school has worked hard to allow year 1, 6 and reception to return and to cater for all key workers, but everyone else feels abandoned slightly.'

1434. 'I am fortunate as my children are older (2 at uni, 1 in year 11 who had his GCSEs shelved and one year 7.) Like so many others I have been working from home so my youngest

daughter is pretty much left to her own devices- luckily she is fairly independent and does her work without reminding. My issue has been the lack of work provided . Private schools have been providing as near normal timetable online via zoom etc. In state schools it seems the teachers don't want the hassle and so don't bother? The work she has had has been little and more project based eg make a rain gauge. I don't see why teachers - who are still being paid and are mainly at home (save for those helping key workers children) cannot plan and provide a reasonable level of work online. I have to try and adapt and work from home. I don't like it but have to do it if I want to keep my job. Teachers should be doing the same. I have spoken with one teacher who thinks that families are enjoying the quality time together . I don't think some of them (the Unions?) understand the financial and social pressures faced by people who do not have a guaranteed wage and job as they do. Academically I am not concerned but she misses friends and social interaction and spends days on her devices when she could be doing something more productive.'

1435. 'Both schools (first and middle) have been consistent in work provided. My older son has received considerably more work, as would be expected and teachers have been on hand throughout the day to give feedback on work as it is submitted. Feedback is personal. They have also called twice to check all is going well. My younger child's school has provided an overview of activities and these can then be uploaded to the class blog where public comments are provided by the teacher. This has basically become a stage for (a few) competitive parents to showcase how amazing they are at home schooling whilst the rest of us do what we can. Work is set on Purple Mash too which teachers reply to personally which is how my son has received feedback, I refuse to enter into the competing with others who are either stay at home parents or furloughed so have the time to work uninterrupted with their child. The school has not called once to check all is ok, the emphasis is on parents to call and admit they're failing. As a family, both my husband and I work full time and have continued to do this throughout, adding to the guilt of 'are we doing anything well'? I myself am a teacher and have loved the opportunity to work with my children and share this time but the dynamics of home schooling and teaching other people's children is very different.'

1436. 'It's been one of the hardest experiences of our lives. Both myself and my husband have continued working full time from home during lockdown. We have three children - two in primary school, one in nursery (due to start school September). We received zero support from nursery in terms of activities, work etc. And for the first six weeks, little more from our school. We were given "activities" which were uploaded to their website - basically scavenger hunts - and left to fend for ourselves while other schools in the area were having constant communication from teachers via zoom classes, google classrooms or just good old email. We received four phone calls from our teachers in the entirety of the period. Things improved towards the end when proper worksheets and projects were finally set (coincided with year 1 going back to school) but it was too little too late. The children were already completely disengaged and we were dead on our feet having had to plan, source and deliver education for our children whilst still working full time. It's been relentless. We have tried our hardest and attempt to do at least two hours a day, but we have felt utterly abandoned and worry what effect this has all had on our daughters.'

1437. 'Very basic Internet based learning initially via worksheets. No Comms from school. After 12 weeks a few of us started contacting the Head teacher and local MP to ask for interaction with teachers. We've all had to learn to do this for work, and we're sure schools could do the same. Pre recorded lessons now available - one per subject per week. One zoom call with form class per week. It's not good enough. We are both working full time at home, luckily at Yr 8 our son can look after himself but he is bored, unmotivated and is not inspired by the current remote learning. He should be making gcse choices next year, but based on what? It would be easier (as a parent) not to care, but we do. I'm no longer so concerned about academic progress but about the social and society aspects of going to school. These are unmeasured but a critical part of life learning.'
1438. 'Mainly okay but at times it has been incredibly difficult to blend work and home learning needs. I have taken 2 days off work due to stress, something I have never done before. As the school never had a mechanism for 'checking' our kids work, this meant as well as often having to supervise the work, we also had to go through work with them afterwards - all very time consuming. Without having the head space to be patient and the skills to deliver information as a teacher would this has been really difficult for the kids. Both have way less self-esteem, confidence and independence, are increasingly grumpy and unmotivated meaning more effort is required to get them to engage with and complete tasks as time has passed. Although the school have improved the quality and accessibility of the homelearning, there has never been any way to share and get feedback. No online classes. Interaction has been through 2-3 phonecalls in 3 months although they are now posting online videos for classes. They are not personal to each child.'
1439. 'I have a 4 year old and a 8 year old and both myself and my husband work. It's hard to explain improper fractions to a belligerent 8 year old. It's hard when I haven't done it for years and need to youtube it myself and can tell that my explanation is confused because I am. It's really hard to do it when you know you have a meeting in 3 minutes and you have to get her going on a worksheet to keep her busy during that. It's really hard to do it with a 4 year old throwing a ball at your head and her head all through the process. My worst nightmare was having to work with no childcare and to have to homeschool on the top of it just compounds it. We have had massive rows when we all agreed we didn't want to be doing this, the 4 year old has been relegated to mario kart for vast periods of the day, and now we're expected to work through a summer catch up pack over summer somehow too?'
1440. 'I have been home schooling 12 year old twins, one of them who has mild dyslexia and one who has cerebral palsy (right side hemiplegia). While working and teaching virtually from home, full time as a senior lecturer and Head Of Department at my place of work (University). My children's father (my Ex), is a key worker (manager of a homeless hostel), he has only been able to have the children 2 1/2 weeks out of 15 weeks of lockdown so far, as he has had to be at work and not able to work from home (no fault of his own) and the risk of Covid, great. The pressure has been overwhelming, exhausting and a very lonely time. The thought of the children not been back at school in the autumn and the announcement that my university is moving to a blended online teaching offer, means that this situation will potentially continue through the next school year. This thought fills me with anxiety and

worry as to how I will cope, how the children will cope and educationally develop and whether continuing at work is sustainable. My university employers have announced voluntary redundancies- I am seriously considering taking it as an option to find a way to appease and get through my current situation, while also knowing that redundancy is not the right or best long term career option for me in the long term. Women are being severely affected emotionally, mentally and potentially financially and career wise through this pandemic. We are all tired. School has called 5 times (3 times - school nurse, twice - head of year). Weekly emails to the whole school from the Head. Since May half term, a weekly form tutor whole form email to the children Weekly class Worksheets for each subject, following the children's existing timetable. 3 subjects 'marked' a week with feedback (a couple of lines from the teacher) 'Positives' given by teachers for work where necessary.'

1441. 'Have to be quick....work and home schooling to be done.... 4 year old (hopubgbti start school in September) 7 year old (in year 2) Mum and dad...we are both still working from home. Routine: Dad works 6-9am Mum works 9-1 whilst dad starts homeschooling. Juggling a child in school and a preschooler is tough...not able to fully focus on either Dad works 1-7pm whilst mum finishes homeschooling then opens laptop, ignores children, and tries to work. Horrible atmosphere as mum feels like the worst parent in the world...but mum is hourly paid, so has to keep working. Mum makes the kids dinner in the kitchen whilst still tapping away at the laptop. Mum and Dad can't eat with the kids as Mum has to get most of her hours done during the 'normal' working day as she has to make phone calls to clients. 6.30-7 put the kids to bed 7-8 mum and dad have dinner 8-10, mum and dad carry on working. There has been 1 email and 1 phone call from school. Work for the following week is released on a Friday but consists of about 5 worksheets...which 7 year old can do in one day, so lots of time is spent researching and printing appropriate work. It has been hell.....tiring, exhausting and relentless. Yes, we still have jobs, yes, we are safe at home....but we are broken. We feel like terrible parents and a terrible employees.'

1442. 'It has been quite a damaging experience for us as a family. We have one daughter Who turned 9 in lockdown. As an only child she has had to rely on us entirely for her social interaction. She is dyslexic and has had none of the interventions she needs. I have been working full time from home my partner who has chronic pain has had to manage the bulk of the homeschooling. Every interaction we have has become an argument. The work set has been too hard and we have struggled to teach it. None of it is marked and. O feedback has been given. The school started weekly 30 min zoom meeting with groups of 10 only in the last month. Our anxious child has become more anxious, angry and depressed. She regularly calls herself 'stupid' and says she hates herself and wants to die. We have tried to arrange catchups with friends when this was allowed but often that just makes things worse. The situation has become worse in The last month as it Became clear to her that almost half her class are back in school in some capacity (as key worker children). She is desperate to be at school and doesn't understand why she can't. We as parents are damaging our relationships with our children in order to keep them educated. The schools tell us to relax a bit, but for the parents of a child 2 years behind already due to dyslexia that just isn't realistic. We feel utterly alone and worry that things will continue like this in September.'

1443. 'This experience has been awful !! Two children 17 and 12. 17 year old is very anxious about the damage to her a level results and family arguments trying to get the 12 year old to do anything has made the whole situation worse. Not proud to say but this has gone to the level where it is not far from physical fallouts with the 12 year old. Some teachers have really made an effort to load quality work but a LOT are a joke. Design a rounders bat for a national competition - really people get paid to load that for a day ? The school was VERY quick to close and VERY slow to start zoom lessons, all kinds of obstacles such as security. Please - give the parents a choice. Most haven't started anyway. I can't help but think if the government did what my employer did - if you really feel too stressed to come to work then yes you can stay at home, but we can't pay you - I think they would have been open long before September. My taxes are being thrown down the drain paying people to stay home and do nothing while I am doing two jobs ! Disgraceful waste of money by the government. Loved the teachers articles on our school website though showing their home improvements and garden renovations. That made me feel better ! I did write to school as they chase that days work about 2.30pm I asked if they could chase next morning given I work to 6pm then check my sons work before he submits it. I was told their contracted hours are to 3.30 and they like to get it closed off that day - well that made me feel better. I could ask my employer if I could start work at 3.30 to work around the teachers hours but think they may say no. Sorry - these people have destroyed their profession through the way they have handled this situation ! Thank god our lower paid nurses did better !'

1444. 'It's been crushingly disappointing to see how little effort the teachers made for the first 10 weeks when we had only a loose vague outline of subjects to cover. As an example under the heading topic- 'mayans'...thats all, no detail no actual work....My 9 yr old child has had 2 video lessons, one class virtual meet and no personal contact from the school. Since 1st June weve had set Oak Nat maths, one school weekly set English tasks broken down into daily tasks, one online book, and 2 topic tasks.....one of which has been an Oak Nat lesson. No foreign language, no geography...the best example of sheer laziness is spellings.....we were told 'spellings off the year list'.....until at last following a child comment that thier parent sets them 10 a week, which I had also been doing, the schools finally set 10 specific per week with a video test....it took them until Mid June to do that.....I've lost trust that state schools put the needs of children first. They seem too preoccupied with thier own interests. And then the head bangs on about how proud she is of her staff!!! They live in another world. I've had to lesson plan, be a class mate, teacher, parent....I've lost 2 hours every Sunday setting a weekly routine, I'm working half the hours I should, and I can see my childs emotional and mental health is crumbling. All while the school has 5 kids in per teacher. 5, when the guidance is clear it should be 15. One teacher has even told the kids during lockdown they've really enjoyed spending more quality time with thier own kids. That's time on full pay whilst we, parents, are doing their job for them. They are showing no can do attitude. The Oak National lessons are a godsend. I cant thank them enough. The only additional guidance to that published from Sept is that if the school closes they MUST provide full remote lessons covering the full curriculum.'

1445. 'Home schooling has been a nightmare. Both me and my husband are middle management and we're not furloughed through covid 19. We were both expected to work

from home full time leading teams through times on uncertainty and changing business models. All while having no childcare for our 3 children under 5. Our oldest in year 1 school was pretty useless they didn't have any virtual classes and said they did not have technology to support zoom or teams classes. We were only provided with 2 workbooks which we completed in the evening pretty quickly. As time has gone on it's been harder and harder and creates battles around doing work. The school have re opened but minimally and he can only go 2 days a week 9.30-2.30 which doesn't support working parents. I feel our usually very bright son has switched off from wanting to learn and hasn't been well supported by the school. We had 2 phone calls from school in 3 mths to check on progress. All why I had a father who was shielding and required additional support. I feel like the non furloughed two working parents family really were forgotten in this whole process. For us it's been so tough I'm not sure how we have survived.'

1446. 'Working full time and trying to homeschool a child to the extent they deserve is really difficult. It means both are not done very well. When the school needed to prove that our 30 free hour allocation was being used to pay other teachers and not for us to use as childcare they started providing regular homework tasks for the children. Everyone is now stuck all summer with no childcare voucher allocation yet no one told us it was being used during the period of closure. I have regularly felt upset that my child isn't getting the education he needs and I feel like I'm failing because I can't give it to him. I don't know what I am going to do come September if I have to homeschool him again. Especially when I'll be required back in the office. I feel the online videos they show don't have much impact on the younger children as their style is all centred around involvement and fun, if you remove that because they can't get hands on or interact, I find most of the activities are really dull and he's not interested. I myself had to develop my own learning style with him based us there being 1-2-1. But we have no guidance from school to change the way we teach, they just continue to send us films like we are in a classroom. His teacher is lovely and this is no way directed at her, more higher up to set the tone. it would have been good to have some overarching general advice and support for parents, rather than just crack on as if you are a fully trained teacher. Tutorials for all us parents who had to become teachers overnight.'

1447. 'When lockdown first started my 9 year old daughter wanted to work by herself. She got really annoyed if I tried to sit with her or go through anything. She was getting frustrated if there were things she was struggling to get right, to the point where she was in tears. As time has gone on we are now sitting together to look at her work, but she frequently gets upset if she can't do something. Her mental health has declined. She is low, withdrawn, doesn't want to do anything, is tired all the time, not sleeping or eating well. It is absolutely heartbreaking. Recently, when I was talking with her about some answers she hadn't quite got right, she began sobbing. I asked her what was upsetting her and she said "I hate it when people point out what I've done wrong. It makes me feel like a failure!" I could have cried. She is 9 years old and feels like a failure :(School have been good, but it would have been great for my daughter (and all children) to have had some video calls with her teacher. She is upset that she won't get to finish Yr5 and will be going straight into Yr6 in September. My daughter is very anxious about returning to school. My mental health has deteriorated considerably. I suffer with severe anxiety and have felt increasingly anxious about home

schooling. I wake up in the morning with a feeling of dread about the coming day, about the work I will have to teach, about how my daughter will cope with it mentally, whether there will be tears from either of us... It has been a difficult situation for the whole country and I don't know what the right answer is. All I know is that it's been so, so difficult and absolutely heartbreaking to see my daughter's mental health deteriorate.'

1448. 'Homeschooling had been a nightmare. We have been desperate for help. I am a keyworker but had no possible way to send my child to school as the school decided only parents who had 2 parents who were keyworkers could attend. Lots of parents lied and found ways around this (I do not mean those with ehcp statements etc). My child gets extra support at school but has no official statement yet. At first the school sent home 3 blank exercise books and some login details for online learning. The login details were incorrect and work for the wrong year group 2 years higher had been allocated, it took a week of phone calls and emails for my child to be able to access the account. Finally we accessed the account. My child was so disappointed as all there just were items from twinkl and bbc bitesize which she had anyway. This was hugely demotivating. My child struggles with school work and needs support. My partner and I took as much time off as possible and changed our work hours with him working every single weekend just so we can try to support our child. We have all found this situation horrible and frightening with no end in sight. The school have done very little at all and refuses to listen to suggestions such as having some online or video lessons as they only want to go back to how things were before and have no realistic plans instead just blaming the government and talking endlessly about safety. Our child now never wants to go back to school feeling totally abandoned by them no matter how we have protected our child from the schools/ teachers dialogue and given encouragement. The handling of this situation has been very harmful and sets parents and teachers at odds with one another. A number parents have withdrawn their children from the school and are instead sending them to a different school in September.'

1449. 'This has been a living hell. Both my husband and I have been working full time whilst juggling educating a year 5 and year 3. The work from school has been very basic with no links to video resources just print outs worksheets. The motivation from the children is so low that we are constantly nagging them to get on with it. I feel torn between having to do my job and teach them - neither is being done effectively. Fairly sure their mental well-being is being impacted, my relationship with them has gone with me now saying nasty things to them as I start resenting them. Last week it all got too much and I smashed my work pc in frustration!! Made matters worse and I can't stop crying as their doesn't feel any light at the end of the tunnel. On speaking to friends across the country I see that my school is being very poor. For my youngest in yr3 we have had no contact, 2 calls from my yr5 teacher. I worry so much for my children's future.'

1450. 'Balancing work as a college lecturer and home schooling my Y4 daughter has been tremendous difficult. I regularly feel that I'm giving more time to my students education than I am to my own daughter (who has additional help in school). This has caused me anxiety and my daughter upset. Some days she's been sat in her room on her own as I've been so busy. I've tried my best to give her approximately 3 hours a day education, but at times it's been

frustrating as she's not focused. I worry she's falling even further behind and being in education myself, this is not what I want for my child. I'm upset that her school have not been able to accommodate her for some time.'

1451. 'Extremely difficult. It has caused my partner, my daughter and myself to all suffer from breakdowns, to the point where my daughter has tried to self harm. We have secured a place at school but only for a couple of hours every day. The workload that my daughter has, while it probably does reflect the normal amount of work that she would do if at school full time, is far too much for us as parents to manage, given that we are not teachers ourselves, and we do not have the backing of the body of work that has been done at school pre lockdown.'

1452. 'Our school started off really well, weekly phone calls with the teacher for parents and children to talk to and then weekly calls with the TA for the kids to read aloud to. A pack with plenty of work uploaded each Friday for the following week. Once some years went back in, all the teachers and TAs were in class so couldn't do calls anymore. Packs and short videos were uploaded but they just aren't the same as proper teacher interaction. With two highly educated parents both working from home (in stable public sector roles) you'd think it would be easy but kids don't want to learn from their parents in this way. I'm exhausted from dealing with the emotions of it all - at 8 and 10 my children are aware of what's going on and what they are missing out on. My energy is spent from trying to keep them going and feeling guilty for every choice. My 10 year old is going for 11+ in Sept but without that to motivate him, I think we would have had to given up home learning long ago. As it is, we do only a small amount of formal desk based work and then lots of reading/watching BBC bitesize. At the same time, work has got busier and busier and my concentration has got weaker and weaker. My kids have been really good but they still need to interact with us but we need to be on conference calls much of the day. I cannot describe the guilt I feel when one of them tries to speak to me when on a call and I have to shoo them away, or the older one shouts at the younger "stop speaking to mummy she's on a call". It has all been so heart breaking.'

1453. 'I am a Pilates teacher so have not been working much since lockdown. My husband works full-time from home. I have been responsible for home-schooling my 2 sons aged 9 and 7. Yesterday my eldest son slept for most of the day. He is depressed and completely unmotivated. He badly misses the structure, friendship and validation of school. He will get 1 day back at school before term ends. I do not understand how it has not been possible to give them even half days back. The school gives suggested lessons in an email once a week, and a weekly class zoom where they chat generally (which he hates). No proper lessons.'

1454. 'Like many others I have felt a failure as a parent, colleague and wife. My husband and I have both been working throughout lockdown, I'm working from Home, and he is going out to his 12 hour shift. It has been incredibly stressful!! Although my employer was very sympathetic and supportive at the start of lockdown towards ensuring I had time to spend with the children (2 boys), the pace of work has increased over the last month, meaning I've not been able to do any home schooling. My husband's employer hasn't been flexible at all, as he's a key worker. So the juggling has been down to me!! Trying to succeed at doing more

than 2 jobs, it's not just my job and the job of playing teacher, but the chef, the motivator, the entertainer, the cleaner, the planner, the worrier... the list goes on! It has zapped my sanity and my mental wellbeing. If the government expect that parents are the contingency to home schooling in the event of a second wave, they absolutely need to consider that special leave is applied to all work contracts, so that parents can feel a sense of achievement in supporting their children, not stressed out, fatigued failures!!!!'

1455. 'My husband and I work full time, our son is in reception and our daughter is in year two. The ONLY correspondence we received from school is home learning packs on Fridays with links and tasks. there was no other reach out, welfare calls or online teaching or at least social meet ups for the kids. the home learning packs were combined for two school years so we had to read through a not very clear formatted document, sometimes over 20 pages long to see what was relevant. No school work was marked and no feedback was given. I am a key worker at a university and we didn't get a place in school as the government did not announce until late April that I would be considered a key worker. Therefore we missed out on a place in school. My son returned to school and my daughter is still at home. She is extremely bored and also jealous of her brother. The partial return to school divided the kids and added another layer of stress and difficulty to the family. for about 5 weeks now my daughter has refused to do any school work. I am so upset and worried about her learning. In order to do my job, I have been working from 7am -11pm most days, working during the day has been impossible, yet our work load increased because of the pandemic. it has been relentless - at times it was a real test for our marriage and relationship and I constantly feel guilty to leave my children with the I-pad, the TV or just alone as I have online meetings or have work to complete. We are dreading the summer holidays as it will be another 6 weeks of hell for us. We have booked some annual leave which we hope we can use to give our children more time. Certainly there won't be a break for us. we are a strong family and our kids are happy, but I still worry about our welfare - how is the government going to support us. there are not many winners in this pandemic, but as parents who have to work we feel as the double losers!'

1456. 'highly stressful to try and work from home and teach child and same time, I too have broken down into tears, feel like I'm always pushing my child away so I can do my own work, my child has become less easy going and more demanding than usual. much of the work requires you to sit and teach your child, difficult to let them get on with it while you work there has been a range of topics and subjects work uploaded to HWB (the platform used in Wales) in pdf sheets which child cannot type answers on no printer at home to print out work my child is bright and much of the work does not challenge him NO lessons held over internet such as teams or zoom NO follow up of work/marking NO 2 way communication eg phone call to see how getting on, or if you need any extra support work put on HWB platform has had worksheets with no explanation sheets leading to googling to find out info to complete, on one occasion the answer on reputable website differed from that on the answer sheet provided by the school(via Twinkle)'

1457. 'Having a 9 year old and a 4 year old and working full time from home has been hell. My 9 year has additional needs (but no EHCP) and needs my full attention to engage in any

kind of learning. We manage about 20 minutes. The arguments have increased and I'm depressed. I've started counselling. I received 21 emails from the school in the first week with work at a level that he could never access. I stopped reading them after that. There have been no phone calls, no direct teaching. Just loads and loads of resources he has no chance of working through independently. There is no pressure from the school for him to complete the work, a focus on mental wellbeing as most important (I agree), but tell that to the exam boards and employers when he has no qualifications. He needs to be in school but he also needs adult support in the class and I worry the expectation that teachers will keep their distance may continue to fail him educationally. My 4 year old is not yet at school but her sadness at why I can't play with her all day breaks my heart. They both instead spend hours playing computer games and my guilt consumes me.'

1458. 'I run a busy full time business and my husband works full times. My daughter is very clever and have coped with year 7 better than many however it has had a huge effect on her learning and soca interaction she has become withdrawn and not worked to her full ability. My son is year 4 the work set by the school has been very parent heavy and requires substantial supervision. There is an assumption by Schools that all parents are not working and teachers are setting work and working part time and teacher their children and on an extended holiday having fun with their children. All children need to be in school in September the risk of transmission between children is low and teachers need to stop worrying about themselves and get in with the job they are paid to do. If they are concerned then they can take precautions and use face masks or PPE'

1459. 'Very little useful support from the school. We have been given an overwhelming home schooling schedule, which is impossible to achieve when trying to juggle working from home. The oak academy resource is dull and not engaging. Why haven't the government teamed up with existing providers such as explore learning to offer blended online learning with 1:1 tuition. Why aren't the teachers holding virtual sessions via teams like the rest of the country!'

1460. 'I have 2 children, in years 11 and 5. Both have additional educational needs. I struggled with working and home schooling. The emotional toil of doing neither aspects properly has reduced me to tears on several occasions. My childrens mental health and learning has also suffered. I left my job to concentrate on their homeschooling. I hoped that we could just get by financially until September when I hoped I would be working again and they would be back at school. But the uncertainty around this is stressful. I also feel that virtual learning is no substitute for qualified teachers and the other group experiences that a school can offer face to face.'

1461. 'Very difficult to balance working and educating my child. I've had to find the money to pay out for resources, paper, printer ink, glue sticks etc that would normally be paid for by the school. My child has missed his friends and their support. Communication from the school has been minimal, even when I had a call from someone and I told them we were struggling. Health has been prioritised, quite rightly. Food has been prioritised, quite rightly. Denying

children an education, wrong wrong wrong! They need to be back in school in September, or end of August if possible.'

1462. 'It has been very difficult. School does not seem to recognise that we are working full time and that our hours and stress levels have actually increased in what are already high pressure management roles for my partner and me. School has been sending tasks with no actual teaching support lots of which the children have not encountered before and we have not been able to support because our employers are putting pressure on us to work up to 12 hour days (sometimes more). Our school also send snippy emails home with comments about how the children are 'lucky' to have educated parents who can support them and asking why the children have not sent things in etc which is out of order really. The children do get on each day and the eldest tries to help the youngest but to say they are being supported or we know what they are doing would be untrue. The eldest child got Teams this week, which seems ludicrous as they break up on Friday. They are not allowed to see each other or use the microphone though - just the chat with the teacher supposedly leading. So far one teacher has talked to them about Netflix and one has told them off! The comments from other pupils are inappropriate and alarming and the teachers don't manage this so my child will not be going back on and I am concerned that the online behaviour in clear view of teachers is not being dealt with! Middle child has been back in school for 4 weeks but seems to have watched more Disney films than actually doing any school work! There is a huge disparity between what children are getting from schools and mine seem quite poorly off compared to friends' children. We also need to stop this awful and anxiety inducing assumption that everyone is off work and has all the time in the world to support home learning. As a result of this, anxiety has caused me serious medical issues through the school making me feel so guilty for being a full time working mum who cannot take time off - it is appalling really!'

1463. 'Our 8yo daughter has had little contact with her teacher - one single Google Meet since lockdown. My husband and I have spent Sunday evenings downloading the schoolwork, printing it and sifting through it to prepare for the week's homeschooling. Which of course, has never worked out well - her enthusiasm for learning has all but disappeared. I have had to reduce my working hours to accommodate this new life and am earning less as a result. There is very little learning an 8yo can do independently so the pressure has been on. We feel abandoned by the education sector, the same sector that usually goes on incessantly about how important each and every day of attending school is and has been fining parents for taking kids out of school during term time for 'unauthorised' absences for years.'

1464. 'Phone call for each child every week. Links to oak academy provided, plus alternative curriculum of maths/English/foundation subjects. Teachers responded through Microsoft Teams. Work packs provided if no internet.'

1465. 'It was impossible to home school my daughter as well as working from home. She wasn't in the right mindset and I couldn't give her my full attention. It eventually lead to her moving in with her dad for a week and me having time of work for stress and anxiety. My daughter is in yr6 so went back on the 1st June- it has made things so much easier because

she's getting to learn things but also getting attention from her school group and I can do my work!'

1466. 'My husband and I work full time at manger/director level in The energy/construction sector. The organisation we work for has been excellent in enabling us to continue to work from home but the job is very demanding and even more so during this time. We have 2 children aged 6 and 9. Our eldest has dyspraxia and it effects his ability to learn. Everyone tells us we need a routine but when we set one there's always a work diversion. To add to this we were mod renovation on our home so we are all crammed into a small section of the house and on top of each other. The school has supplied plenary of learning material but we have found it impossible to do it and often end up having major argument as a family. I feel guilty if I'm working and not home schooling and vice versa.'

1467. 'I just wanted to add that it's not just families stuck in small rooms with no pc's that suffer! We are lucky we have a decent size house and a bit of garden, we have a pc and laptop and can afford to buy study books etc. But this have been a living nightmare for us too, my wife is a key worker so is at work all day, home schooling has fallen to me! I have a business that is really struggling because of C19 and so my choice has been to try and save my business and the jobs of my staff or home schooling my children! What a horrible dilemma! Perhaps we could have sent our children to key worker school, but it didn't seem right back in March, to burden the school when I was at home. "A terrible mistake", our kids have been brilliant but are both struggling to be stimulated and challenged. Our primary school has done some zoom calls but the secondary school has hidden behind online safeguarding as a reason to have no face to face interaction with the kids! I am at a loss to understand why years 2,3,4,5,7,8 and 9 have all been ignored, even 1 day per week would have allowed the kids and parents a "normal" day in all of this. We must learn from this and how about a round of applause for all the mums and dads that have been unpaid teachers for 6 months now??'

1468. 'School called briefly once a week for a welfare check, teacher called briefly once a fortnight to speak to parent, not child. She was surprised when I said that he wasn't engaging in learning as he has done well at school so far and is bright. She didn't offer any suggestions. He was able to return to school two days per week as reception age but while trying to work from home we did very little formal schooling. The PowerPoint presentations offered by school did not engage my 5 year old. We had more success with Maths factor website and teach monster.'

1469. 'Not enough interaction between class teachers and children: two phone calls but not until June. 1 lesson per day, but this increased over time. Videos from teachers to give extra homework tasks. Could email work to teachers and they would give a reply, but no enforcement or checks on this: my child could have done nothing. Younger child (EYFS) had more breadth of lessons provided, any work posted on Tapestry was responded to, usually within a day.'

1470. 'We've really struggled juggling full time work (one of us from home and the other working shifts) with helping my 13 and 15 year old. School has sent plenty of work for the kids but other than 1/2 teachers no support with the work, leaving that to us. There has obviously been the expectation by the school that parents would take over their role. Some teachers are sending 3/4 weeks worth of lessons every week, way more than what they would cover in the 2hr lesson at school. It's as if they are over compensating for the kids being away but this is excessive and results in me prioritising it and choosing what bits to do and what to leave. The more work, the more time we have to find to do the work with them as they find it too difficult to work through on their own. Particularly my 15 year old in yr 10 and studying for GCSEs next year she is expected to learn new subjects herself, attempt to answer exam style questions and gets very little feedback. Instead of finding out why she is not getting it all right she is being told instead her teacher is disappointed and she needs to try more than she is. What about giving her a call to see if they can help or just to tell her she is doing ok? Shes stressing already over nexts years exams. The work has been mainly PowerPoints or sheets to print off and work through at home with lots of links to websites, you tube videos for the kids and requests for them to 'do your own research on...'. Some teachers started voiceover slides 3 weeks before the holidays. This is something they should have been doing all the time. 3 phone calls from school in total and 1, 10 minute visit to school for 13 year old with a teacher from a different year who he didnt know. Pointless. 15 year old started 1 day a week from 26th june back in school but no teaching being given. She is sitting in a group and being asked just to get on with her own work. Again pointless. There is no structure in the timing of the work just a due date. Other schools I know have timetables operating with teachers being online at certain times and for kids to be online at same time so can support them with their learning. My school is way behind that and although work has been sent it is the lack of support with the work and lack of feedback. My 13 year old has completely lost any enthusiasm he had in his school work and I worry how he is going to be motivated for the return in September. Hes not spoken to any of his teachers or had any contact with them throughout. He has time to catch up but my 15 year old was already weeks behind in the curriculum (due to teacher absence in her school) and I cannot see how she can be in any position to confidently sit exams next year, some of which are early in the year. I feel I have no choice but to get tutors to support her which is an expence I cannot afford however working full time, I guess as usual we will fall outside of any extra government funded support from the school as my children are not within the 'deprived' 'poorest' children category. We've achieved what we have through hard work and through no fault of their own the kids are losing out, risking missing their goals for the future.'

1471. 'We have a 17 year old in yr12 who has the motivation and skills to continue to learn, albeit unchecked and without key feedback. She will undoubtedly be affected by this when her a levels come round next year. Our hope is that doesn't jeopardise her application to join the police force. Our 10 year old is a different kettle of fish. Adhd diagnosis since 6, slightly autistic traits have been exacerbated during lock down and it's fair to say home schooling has been hugely traumatic for us all. We have our own business (marquees/mass gatherings!) so we're fighting to keep that going, we have dozens of customers cancelling and one computer to manage it all, one desk and our time & focus is on keeping money coming in after receiving no government funding. Our youngest has been sent 5 subjects each week via a link on the

schools website, without any recognition of her own learning plan. It mostly has to be interpreted from the teachers notes and lesson plans, done on a computer and needs hours of concentration. After almost 4 months the school have recognised that Mia should have her own tailored learning and lessons. We have only just agreed a new set of tasks and to ignore the huge pile of outstanding learning, which will never be caught up or repeated. Frankly, she should be held over a year and we should try this one again! As we face a couple of more months before returning to school, we face a girl who has broken the habit of learning, developed a sense of self that doesn't identify with school work and is terrified of returning to school. Six months is more than long enough to break a habit. Seeing schools on tv that have embraced streaming, video lessons and daily contact makes me sad for my youngest, because these would have helped. School teachers are smart and have the IT available to do this kind of teaching, why was the education authority not coordinating a switch to distance learning rather than letting teachers email their lesson plans to a nation of ill prepared, stressed unqualified teachers?'

1472. 'School have tried their very hardest and I have been impressed by their communication. I think their use of technology has been slow and that's been the one downside. I think they could really have engaged children through online lessons, but that didn't happen.'
1473. 'I have two girls, 6 and 8. I used to consider myself and my kids fairly capable academically. This homeschooling has tested us in ways I previously thought was impossible. We have had a series of Covid-19 related deaths in our extended family, which, no matter how much you try to shield your kids from, cannot be hidden. On top, we are struggling to work through a house sale falling through AND moving house. My 8 year old, who is considered an above average student, has struggled with anger, sleeplessness and emotional breakdown frequently. My 6 year old who is typically shy and thoughtful appears to have lost her confidence completely. I have to balance my online work, moving house, unpacking and keeping home along with homeschooling. While our school is wonderful, there were extras like playing academic games or suggested extra curricular activities and projects that are simply impossible to do. I have just scraped past with English and Maths. I have not even dared touch upon things like French or playing Maths games. My stress levels are through the roof, I used to be healthy, active and happy. Now, my body aches all the time, I am constantly frazzled and I find it hard to feel optimistic.'
1474. 'I signed up to be a parent but not a teacher. My 9 year old daughter, an only child and intelligent sociable person, thrives at school. She is not thriving at home. When she has done some schoolwork which she often sees as a chore, she resorts to lounging on the sofa or kicking a ball around the room. I am busy with my own work and can't talk to her all the time or engage her in more stimulating activities. We live in a small flat and have to share workspace. I get distracted and stressed, she gets bored and there are frequent arguments and clashes which never happened before lockdown. When I try to help her with schoolwork she shouts over me saying "this isn't how the teacher would do it" or "I haven't been taught this at school yet and you're not explaining it right". This model is unsustainable long term. Teachers send plenty of work and feedback and comments but there isn't enough live

interaction with the school. One 30 minute video call a week - that's it. If we go into lockdown again they definitely need to get set up with teaching classes online. The only thing keeping us going right now is the thought of her going back to school in September. I am concerned there is no Plan B for future lockdowns.'

1475. 'The content of home learning provided by school has been terrible. Not at all aimed at individuals with SEN such as my daughter. All they have provided is two basic work books which seems a cop out. Two zoom meetings were hastily arranged , after three months of ZERO online class meetings. Not good enough.'
1476. 'Our school have sent links to curriculum materials but we have really struggled to engage with them. We don't have a laptop, so using a kindle seems to make it harder. My son just doesn't want to do worksheets on his own. My mental health is suffering badly as a result of my furlough and lack of adult company (I'm single mum) so it's really hard. I thought it would be easier.'
1477. 'Bloody awful! Two children, one in year 10 and one in year 8. Two parents, both NHS workers but one having to work at home. Lots of work set by school but no virtual lessons or contact. Children not chased for work and having never had to worry about work being done or handed in every bit of work is an effort to get them to do it. As parents we are extremely worried about the effect this will have on year 10 child's GCSES. She should be a very high achiever but this lack of education may seriously effect her future. It's been heartbreaking, soul destroying, infuriating and very frustrating to watch my children learn nothing for months on end. We cannot go on like this.'
1478. 'My child is in Yr7 and was enjoying their first year of secondary school. Whilst there has been frequent general communication from the school, my child had spoken to his tutor once (yesterday 07/07/2020). Until then there was no communication from the person he had the most contact with at school and who should have made some effort to keep in touch with their form group. The focus has been on year groups taking exams next year and whilst I agree they need contact so do the younger years.'
1479. 'Child in Year 8. Too much work so he has felt overwhelmed. If deadlines haven't been met has 'unsubmitted' written against task in red which has added to him feeling totally overwhelmed. Has done maths & some English nearly every day but only selected work in other subjects. He's now fed up of on-line working & wants to get back to school. Due to home working & increased workload have found it difficult to provide all the help that is needed with school work. Also elder child is at FE college & has needed to complete & submit assignments for his end of year mark & his final qualification. As he is nearer to the end of his educational journey have had to make the decision to help him at expense of child 2.'
1480. 'For the first 12 weeks of lockdown as per the guidance (where key worker children can be safely at home they should be) my children stayed at home with me whilst my husband continued at the NHS. The experience of trying to balance home schooling and my busy job nearly broke me. No work was set bar some worksheets sent home so we relied on

the BBC (Thank you BBC!) to at least ensure they weren't regressing. There were constant tantrums and frustrations over the easiest of work. I interviewed for new recruits at work with screaming children at one point. How we survived I don't know! I do know my mental health suffered and is still suffering and (during the period we could only have one daily exercise) my physical health, as I prioritised ensuring my children had a walk with me rather than running myself. My children have now returned to school thanks to the change in guidance around key worker children. However their mental health is still suffering - my 9 year had a rant on Sunday as to how the pubs could me open (w with no sign of social distancing between friends) when she can't see her friends. The problem in September isn't catching up with core subjects, it is how to help our children's mental well being!

1481. 'Home schooling has been incredibly hard on my husband and myself and our two children. I am a nurse so the majority of the home schooling has fallen to my husband whilst I am at work, with him needing to complete his work when I am home in the late afternoon. How he has been able to work and teach our children at the same time I don't know, i do however know that it is taking its toll on his mental health and causing us more angst in our marriage. In the initial lock down it felt ok, it felt as if it was an adventure, as the time has gone on the stress and impact has on us all has increased, with my 12 year old needing to access counselling via school. If this carries on in September I am worried about the effect this will have on all our mental health, the idea fills me with dread and makes me feel physically sick. How pubs are able to open yet schools can't is causing increased annoyance and disbelief in our household- how can it be right for pubs to open whilst schools are still not functioning?'

1482. 'While working from home and trying to home school I have found this very difficult. With very little support from the school. Two pieces of work provided each week a maths sheet with 10 questions and a reading comprehension for my nine year old which were provided four weeks into lock down. Two phone calls for each child in all this time. Now all I see on their blog is how happy and settled all the key worker children are (and I do question how these key worker places have been allocated) I feel that my children are the forgotten ones!'

1483. 'This has been hell. I've been lucky that I can work from home but I can't work and teach. The first few weeks were novel but it soon became impossible as work levels increased. The school have done their best but we don't get much each day and an 8 year old boy does not work without persuasion and assistance, can't self entertain and can't understand why he can't have dedicated attention. Each day now has multiple arguments and I am starting to resent my partner as he leaves the house each day to work and lead a 'normal' life as he can't work from home. This has affected our family's mental health.'

1484. 'Pretty desperate at times Rollercoaster of emotion for both children and adults. Wonderful spending so much time with our kids, a chance which we wouldn't have otherwise had. Felt that I have had to prioritise the learning of one child over another due to the stage in their learning. I shouldn't ever have to do this.'

1485. 'Home schooling has been incredibly difficult. I'm fortunate that I work part time so can do schooling with the kids in the morning and then they play (mainly on devices) while I work upstairs in the afternoon. My husband is full time. There is no respite and even with devoting as much time and energy to them as I possibly can, they are not getting the quality of education that they would at school. We are fortunate that the school does send work, but it varies even within the school. The EYFS teachers have been brilliant, sending videos and lots of activities for my youngest (although the white rose maths for EYFS is very questionable some days, thankfully they send other work too) and she is doing well. For my son in year 3 however, the work sent home has not been interesting or challenging and much as I try to engage him, we don't have the relationship he does with his teachers so I know I'm not getting the quality of work out of him that they do. I worry a lot about September and how much they are going to be home again through the winter because they have a cough or cold that isn't coronavirus but still means they have to isolate for 14 days. I'm not sure how I will cope.'
1486. 'Me and my husband are both front line NHS staff. School told us there were very limited key worker spaces and to only use it when desperately necessary, so we have struggled through balancing our workload using school usually a max of one day a week. I mostly have worked evenings and weekends, often swapping parenting roles in the hospital car park as we finish/start at the same time. We are utterly exhausted. We've both essentially worked full time, plus been single parents and responsible for education. I think we have had 5 days off as a family since this began.'
1487. 'Home schooling has made me step up as a parent and share my time with my 3 kids (1 primary and 2 secondary) I now understand my children's work expectations and where they are at - I used to just leave this huge job to their teachers. It's given us more time to connect as a family and adapt our lives with lots of compromises. Most parents moan about how hard it has been, but I've always found it hard - this is parenting. Working alongside teaching 3 kids has been challenging but I plan to be more involved next term and stay this supportive. I have a new respect for their teachers and they've learnt how much I value their learning and in now have total respect for school. Instead of buying them things, I read with them and spend time with them. Time to share is the real currency for kids. My work has continued but it isn't such a priority - I let it take over before. Now my boss has fairer and more realistic expectations. Maybe this should make us question what workplace changes need to happen to make work/family life balance possible.'
1488. 'We have had good support from the school in terms of resources, but ultimate it is impossible to meet the needs of my children aged 8 and 10 with the demands of my job. They have suffered as a result in terms of their learning and I think their mental health.'
1489. 'I have two children (8 & 5). My youngest adapted to lockdown very quickly and was happy to engage in homeschooling. Unfortunately the whole situation had a profoundly negative impact on my eldest. I'm fortunate to be self-employed and to have understanding clients as well as financial security through my husband's work. This allowed me to scale back my work to try and dedicate time to homeschooling. I didn't mind the idea of

homeschooling and in some ways was excited by the challenge and prospect of spending time learning with my children. The reality is that my eldest child did not want to be home schooled. I totally underestimated the impact lockdown would have on her. Her whole world came crashing down around her. She is usually very sociable and the lack of social interaction sent her into a cycle of depression and anxiety that was (is) difficult to manage. She is also usually a very active child. She has a potentially progressive medical condition and physical activity is key to the management of that condition. The lack of sports and physical activity has been a real worry. With the best of intentions it was not possible to recreate the missing physical activity which she was used to and the lack thereof added to her low moods. She started to disengage in learning and became increasingly despondent and at times volatile. She cried at least once every day during lockdown about how she missed her friends and wanted to go back to school. When we attempted learning, where she had previously been enthusiastic in her studies, she started saying that she wasn't good at any of the subjects, she couldn't do it, she was rubbish etc... no amount of encouragement from me and my husband helped. She would breakdown and refuse to do the work. Homeschooling Changed the dynamic of our relationship. We would argue often during which my eldest would fly into awful rages. We were loathed to "punish" her because we recognised it was a product of circumstance but it was hard and overwhelmingly sad. I thought about talking to the school, asking for more teacher contact but I wasn't overly impressed with their approach to homeschooling and so reaching out to them felt like a waste of time. I considered taking my daughter to the dr but did not want to add to her anxiety. We have dealt with it the best we could. My children are both back in school (only very recently) for less than 3 hours a day excluding Fridays. They are delighted and it seems to be a positive experience for both of them despite limitations. There has been some change in my eldest but the volatility remains as does her over emotional response to things. I worry that this will have a long term effect on her wellbeing. Seeing your child change for the worse, sobbing, not sleeping, not eating, all over something which as a parent you cannot change/control is the hardest thing. I have continued to work reduced hours which has had an obvious impact on my income. Clients are now asking for me to increase my hours and I'm doing so when possible. Before my children returned to school this meant working creatively around their education and emotional needs. This caused additional stress for me and I have struggled to manage at times. But my number one priority has been my children and putting on a brave face for them to help them feel secure. There have been times I've failed and have cried, shouted, begged in front of them. I tell myself it's because I'm human but it still feels like failure. And that is an overriding feeling during all of this, a feeling of failure. Not quite achieving what I set out In homeschooling, not being able to achieve professionally, and home life generally turned upside down. The thought of another lockdown fills me with absolute dread, not because I care about being at home or my social life but purely because of the impact I know that will have on my children. I don't know how we will manage if this is repeated. I believe that the gvt needs a plan to get all children back in school full time in September in a normal school environment (on return to School recently my eldest was told she was not allowed to touch anyone in her bubble at all and they would get in trouble if they did. This is not conducive to healthy learning environment. There is also no playtime or use of equipment which is all part of the learning and growing experience). I also believe that it is crucial that the gvt has a plan in place to prevent schools closing in the event of other lockdowns being necessary otherwise

I have no doubt that additional school closures will result in a lost generation educationally and also from a mental health perspective.'

1490. 'It's been the greatest challenge yet, homeschooling 2 primary ks2 aged children and both parents working. We're lucky we still have jobs and have even been able to adjust our hours down to give us some time to do school work. However, even with such a fortunate setting it has been such a challenge. The children don't want to be taught by their parents and need constant rewards to keep them motivated and engaged for every single thing. We've had no support or advice on how to encourage or motivate them. We've done a little English and maths most days (there is no time for topic or other work). The children have done ok with the work they enjoy, it's the work they find challenging that I feel they've gone backwards with. In our case it's writing and spelling. Neither of mine enjoy this and consequently neither has picked up a pen or written much since March. We're not going to force it, our relationships and mental health is more important. At school we could see clear progress with writing - the teachers and peer pressure encourages them. I can't help feeling like we've failed them in this respect. There have been really low days where you just feel like you're failing at schooling and work because it's impossible to do both. Luckily I have a good network of close friends to talk to or I would have struggled a lot more. I can't wait for the kids to go back to school. They need it and we as parents need it. I'm angry and frustrated that they haven't been able to go back in the summer term. How can we say it's safe for pubs to open and beaches to be packed full yet not for schools to take all their pupils back?'

1491. 'I have my two children (5 and 7 - reception and year 3). I have found the Junior school's set up for home schooling really great and have enjoyed the process of home schooling my son. (I should also add that I am not working so can dedicate the time needed for home schooling). We have worked on Google classroom so get feedback on all the work quickly. We've not spoken to any teachers (though I did miss a call). We also get regular correspondence from both schools (infants and junior). My daughter in reception hasn't been quite as easy with the (optional work) seeming a little overwhelming at times. I've opted to concentrate on reading, fun phonics games and a little bit of maths. I have made contact with the teacher about a couple of things but there hasn't really been a discourse there. As a family we've also had a great time doing craft, baking and walks. I know that most people have hated it - and if I had a job to answer to it would be really stressful. I'm used to being at home with the children as was a full time mum throughout their early years - so, as they're older, this is a walk in the park in comparison! I'm really worried about them going back to School in September as we seem to have gone back to hand washing as being the main weapon (like back in March). And protective Bubbles have reached popping point in my opinion, rendering that dialogue pointless. I would have liked to have seen a more flexible approach to the return of schools in September. I'm not a natural rule breaker and being told I'll be fined for not sending them has got me considering home school for the long term. I'd rather work with the school and send them back when I think the Gov has actually managed to get a handle on the pandemic with robust testing, tracking and tracing. I'm sick of arbitrary dates - I don't think a pandemic works like that and my trust in this Gov is very, very low.'

1492. 'No online lessons at all. Kids could have been taught from home every for an hour or 2.'
1493. 'Initially there was frequent emails from the school and from my child's teacher via an app however as time has gone on communication became less frequent. A promised phone call from my child's teacher never happened, they've not spoken to my child since March even though they are on the SEND register. There has been no communication from the SENDCo teacher. Work set has been minimal. Topics for two weeks that are not engaging and need a lot of parental input. This would be fine if I had been furloughed but I've been working full time from home throughout lockdown. Having to juggle both roles has been exhausting. I feel constantly on edge as I can't give either my full attention. Given the option to have my child back at school I would take it.'
1494. 'Awful. I have 3 boys at secondary school, and both my husband and myself are key workers. We are expected to home school as well as do frontline jobs. We can't. The school has been no help at all, even when I have written to say how much I am struggling. My youngest (year 7) finds working independently very difficult, and his confidence levels are dropping. He has lost weight, he is white as a sheet, not sleeping properly, and looks ill. I am beside myself with worry. I just don't understand why the school couldn't use technology to engage with children face to face - I work in the NHS, and we have managed to do this safely and securely. I'm angry with the school, angry with the government and feel a failure as a parent.'
1495. 'Home schooling has been very difficult and stressful. The first couple of weeks were manageable but this has gone on far too long and is unsustainable. The school has provided online printed materials but nothing else, no phone call, no online lessons. I feel this is inadequate. Even if this support had been there, trying to work from home and teach is simply impossible. Trying to cram in a lesson at lunchtime or after the working day doesn't work. The children are tired and I'm tired after doing a full day's work. Grandparents can't help either due to shielding. Weekends become equally stressful as we try to play catch up. No time for baking banana bread or any other fun. I feel very guilty my children have got behind because we're trying to hold down jobs on the brink of recession. Sorry to say but if we get a second peak teachers must do more and provision of some online lessons should be compulsory.'
1496. 'A real mixed bag. As a single parent of one, who is also trying to balance a full time job, it's been a challenging time for sure. We have good days and bad days and positives can be negatives and vice versa. To make this all work, I get up at 4:30am and log on to start work at 5:00am. I then pick up a few hours here and there throughout the day and again after dinner. The early start allows me to get a good few hours of work under my belt before we start school at 9:00am. I found I need to be 'available' to my child and not tied up with work, otherwise she ends up losing concentration and wanders off to do something else. Of course, I have to juggle my day around virtual meetings. If I have a meeting scheduled mid morning, all goes to pot and I'll find her drawing, playing or watching TV and it is SO hard to get back on track. The work provided by the school has been pretty poor to be honest. I'm not sure if this

is what they would normally learn at school but I was shocked at how basic it was. Most days we are done in 1.5-2 hours. Which then means I have to find something else for my daughter to do or she'll watch TV all day. I spend 2 hours on a Sunday sorting out her work for the week (printing timetables, worksheets etc). Then another 2 hours finding additional things for her. She has far more enjoyed things we are doing OUTSIDE of the school provision e.g creative writing, art, finding out more about the world (oceans, deserts, mountains), learning about myths and legends etc. The school set work is so uninspiring and pretty much 90% of it is links to BBC bitesize and Twinkl printouts. And my favourite highlights include...to learn about the difference between climate and weather - a 5 min video from BBC bitesize and a word search and a science experiment you tube video on making a lava lamp with no attempt to explain WHY this works. It seems like minimal effort from the school which has really surprised me. We've had NO online lessons, NO phone calls from teachers. Last week (15 weeks since schools shut) we had our first zoom class with the teacher and 5 other classmates. Except it wasn't a class. It was a social. Which is OK but the children in our social are all children who chat via facetime 3-4 times a week. It was pointless. We submit work online but none of it is ever marked or feedback ever provided. We've received 5 emails acknowledging this work and saying the token 'hello' Friends who have complained to the headteacher or who have tried to ask for more work/effort were pulled up in the weekly newsletter. Anonymously of course, but it has put me off emailing my thoughts (which I would phrase constructively of course!) into the school. They have just been so defensive and passive aggressive and just tell us that staff are working hard, from 7:30am-4:30pm every day and have their own children to look after on top of this. Well guess what... We all are! I am working from 5am until 9pm, doing two jobs, looking after my home, my child, my elderly parents, trying to teach my child,. Like some teachers, we are also still working full time And now homeschooling. Job and children. Just like teachers. I don't know why the head thinks they are the only ones who are juggling things. It is like he has no sense of reality outside of his bubble and thinks we are all on furlough. We also are frequently told that they have to write the end of year reports and prepare for next year, but that is nothing new and is done every year as part of the regular cycle of work. I can only think the Head thinks he is doing us a favour by giving us a softly, softly approach to homeschool. We don't want token word searches and video links. We want our children to learn. Help us! It is such a shame because I really loved this school. I'm just so surprised at how little support they have provided. So, so disappointed.'

1497. 'I have a 6 year old daughter. She's a good student at school but reluctant to learn from home. She has a 3 year old brother who is disruptive in the way that 3 year olds are. During the first 3 months of lockdown schooling was reduced to one or two worksheets a day, on a good day and maybe listening to her read. Art projects were easier but not really as these had to be limited to what the 3 year old could join in with. This is in the context of my husband and I trying to work 6 hours each a day. Schooling took a back seat with job pressures pushing school out. As a family we've tried to teach our kids other things like life skills during this time and we've kept up with plenty of exercise. The three year old is now back at nursery 3 days a week and we focus more on schooling with the 6 year old but she remains reluctant and she will give up as soon as something is hard. She will refuse to work and tantrum. I've felt overwhelmed with worry that her academics are slipping massively and the lack of school has caused her irreparable damage. I burst into tears during a bad school

session last week. Contact with school has been limited with a weekly upload of suggested work. Google Meet for the kids has only just started in June and there has been no welfare call to check how we are getting on individually. My daughter is in year 1 but her school have not reopened to year 1 generally and only operate for the key workers. This has made things harder for me as other year 1 students in the same village are back at school and there was an expectation from my employer that as nursery and year 1 were publicised by the government as being “back” that I would be able to return to normal working hours. The news that September is the earliest she will return to school is hard on all of us. The school refusal and reluctance on the part of my daughter is, I am sure, as a result of a change in the dynamic at home and a desire to be back at school where learning is normal and delivered by a teacher.’

1498. ‘I am a primary school teacher. I have x3 children and teach in school part-time. My children are 13 (Year 8), 11 (Year 6) and 7 (Year 3). My husband started a new job for the housing association at the beginning of April so has been working non-stop from home. The quality of work set has been very good for all 3 children. Weekly Zoom lessons have helped their well being and interaction with friends. Video lessons have supported their learning. The schools could have done no more in terms of support. They have also ensured all children within school have had the opportunity to return on a rota basis for x2 weeks. This is as well as having specific year groups back from 1st June. But, even though the schools have done everything they can and even though I am a teacher, I have found home schooling so difficult and supporting x3 children who are all at different stages of learning has been practically impossible. I have also been working in school myself a couple of days a week and my husband has had to work from home every day. It has been a struggle and has driven me to tears on more than one occasion. It has, at times, been an impossible situation and has put a real strain on family life. My children have resented my efforts and it has not helped our relationships. I have felt immense pressure to keep up with all the work for all 3 children and to sustain this I have needed to give my eldest my work laptop, my middle child has an old laptop that we bought and my youngest uses an iPad. We also have a printer which has been in constant use. It has definitely effected all of our relationships. I know, however, that we are lucky. My children have the technology to support learning and I am a teacher in Y6 so have understood the work that they have been set. I also only work part-time. Yet it has still had a big impact on our family life. But, how it has impacted on families in much more difficult situations is my biggest worry.’

1499. ‘Single parent (of one 7 year old child) with high-pressured, full-time job (working from home). Initially tried to print off work set by teacher in Google Classroom, but even the printing was a challenge (it didn’t always work from my phone or tablet and my work laptop has a high level of security so can’t print from it). Tried to encourage child to study independently, but too young to work alone. After a couple of calls to the school, I resorted to buying syllabus-related work books and I now ask my son to complete a few pages of each. This is hit and miss. If I’m in a 2-hour conference call (sometimes they are 3 hours!), I return to the sitting room and YouTube or Netflix are back on! It’s safe to say, he has done very little. He’s a bright child, but struggles a little with maths and doesn’t have the concentration to excel in English comprehension, as he rushes it and doesn’t fully read the questions. If I’m not

sitting over him, he struggles. So...I really worry that he will have fallen too far behind when the schools eventually return. I did ask the school if he could go back, but he is in year 2 and the response was 'no'! I appreciate the school's reasons, but after over 3 months of daily 'solitary confinement' I felt so bad for him that I had to try. Home-schooling is definitely geared towards families where at least one parent works part-time or doesn't work at all. Parents who have been furloughed have managed much better. I was actually envious of furloughed parents! The first few weeks were hell. I was emotional, anxious, borderline depressed. It did not help that I had started a new job in December and my boss is a tyrant who lacks empathy! I have been under immense pressure and my child has been abandoned. I feel like a jailer who pushes a tray of food and drink through his door before closing the door and going back to my 'office' (dining room). I feel like a terrible parent who has neglected my child. As for exercise!! He now gets none. I even bought a large trampoline for the garden (I'm not rolling in money - far from it) but the weather has turned, he won't do Joe Wicks, I sometimes finish work too late to go for a 'Boris walk' and my son won't play in the garden on his own if I'm in the house (he needs to know where I am every minute of the day).'

1500. 'Weekly work has been set which has been good but I'm a key worker and on my days off am tired my husbands working from home but he can't do school work with a 7 year old and work was a bit easier when he was furloughed. The last 3 weeks we've done the minimum. My little boy feels this is his home, the place where he relaxes and has fun not to do work. His reading has improved exponentially though.'

1501. 'We have had little to no contact with my children's teachers. My husband and I are both working full-time from home while still trying to home school. The children are very resistant to attending lessons set by my husband or my mum(a retired teacher). We feel guilty most of the time as it is distressing not being able to give them the education and care they need while we still need to meet the needs of our own job roles. It is exhausting.'

1502. 'I cannot fault my children's school, the Head is incredible the staff amazing - Google classrooms set up over night, kids know what to do, teachers sending weekly timetables and work with links and clear info, they are calling their pupils, still issuing rewards and 'housepoints', engaging with children and parents. What has been the issue is me working 4 days a week juggling work and schooling. Novelty wore off after week 8, its hard, stressful and we have all shouted and cried. We have had enough of the groundhog day and sadly each other! They are on ipads and TV most of the time unless I entertain or orchestrate play. My kids are fantastic, they have been great and resilient and brave but enough now, they miss their friends, routine and school. They must go back Sept, we're at breaking point!!!!'

1503. 'It has been difficult but just about manageable. I have been the primary home schooler of our two primary age children. I work part time as an instrumental teacher and am delivering lessons via Skype and email. My husband is working full time at home, occasionally having to go into the office, and one day a week he takes over the schooling of the kids, while I do my Skype lessons. We are lucky enough to have laptops for both kids (one modern, one old so they swap each day to avoid arguing!). We are also lucky enough to be able to have enough knowledge between us to be able to help our y5 child with all his subjects without worries. Having said that, it's still hard. Keeping their motivation is tough. Kids don't listen to

parents like they do to their teachers (mums know nothing... even if they're teachers!). I've been in tears multiple times, my husband hates his homeschooling day because he feels he isn't doing it as well as I do it (which is rubbish!). My ability to do my job is hampered so I feel I'm a worse teacher. My work has given me a life coach to help so that might do but it'll take time. I know we're lucky because we have what we have and we don't have the added money worries but it's still stressful. I'm also shielding.'

1504. 'Two children at primary school, little to no support from the school, a call a fortnight from the teachers, some work loaded up on a Sunday for the week but realistically about a day's worth, and nothing goes back to school. Of the work that is put up about half has answers leaving us in doubt most of time - and needing to spend time on the net trying to find out what the point of the lesson is. On 4 occasions the work put up was duplicated from the previous week. The school has been useless. It has placed huge levels of stress on all of us and frankly isn't sustainable.'

1505. 'One hour a week of work provided by each subject teacher which took my child about 30 mins to complete - school justified this because "maintaining staff and student mental health must be paramount". Most work set using online platforms like Hegerty maths. School made it clear that they would not offer Microsoft teams/zoom because "it was not fair to make their teachers learn a new system for teaching when they were already going through a stressful time dealing with the pandemic". Very little feedback from teachers and no work has been required to be handed in. After many parents have complained school has now offered my child 1 zoom catch up with his form tutor. Really disappointing experience, teachers have really let their profession down and in my opinion should be ashamed of themselves!'

1506. 'Our school has been very helpful and there is always a teacher at the end of the phone when we need help of any kind. Weekly emails are being sent and we are receiving regular calls from them checking that we are ok. I work in a hospital and my husband is a keyworker working from home. We talk to the children (yr2 and nursery) the night before and let them know what to expect the following day. We could have sent them both to their settings but chose not to as I didn't want to pass anything on from work to other families. The children have thrived from being set a task and then showing us what they have achieved. We have kept a bedtime routine which I think is very important but spread learning over 7 days so we can do some fun activities at the weekend. It's been tough but manageable in comparison of the alternative of catching the virus. Our biggest concern is wrap around care for September, if they are only at school 9-3 and school clubs don't run because of bubbles that's where we run the risk of losing our jobs. My husband will be expected to return to work if schools do and with an average day including commute for both of us starting at 7:30 and finishing at 6:30, both sets of grandparents at risk one of us (most likely myself an NHS worker) would have to give up my job to look after the children before and after school. I don't think the government realise that school hours don't help families that work full time and it's a well oiled machine of childcare that allows parents to work, take that away and schools core hours are just not good enough and the children suffer all over again in a different way.'

1507. 'We have been very lucky compared to many families as we have a good income and plenty of space. However, my children have been damaged by the lack of school support and have essentially been left to run feral as I am a key worker and my husband has been working hard to try and save a failing small business and the livelihood of his 15 employees. We have 3 teenagers who have varying levels of motivation and there are frequent arguments about school work which have a very negative effect on our family life. The children in years 12 and 10 have missed so much of their curriculum for major exams next year and no one seems to care. The detrimental emotional knock on of being isolated from your peers has been very apparent and there has been a significant regression in their social development with a rise in conflict and arguments. The amount of work set has been variable and the direct personal contact from school for 2 of them has been non-existent. One of my children is autistic and on the school register for having special educational needs- we received a single phone call in April to see if she was coping and nothing since. I remain shocked that the government and teaching unions pay so little care to this generation and that the profession that should be fighting hardest for education has allowed it to fail. I fail to see why education is not seen as an essential service and teachers as key workers. The health and wealth of the U.K. and this generation is routed in education and the damage done will be greatest to those who start with most deprivation.'

1508. I work virtually full time but have been able to work from home in this period. My husband is an Essential worker and has been working out of the house at work throughout lockdown. I have 8 year old twins and I homeschooling them whilst trying to work has quite honestly the most difficult experience of my life. Most days I take myself off to have a cry over the constant juggle and guilt of feeling like I'm doing none of it well. The school have provided resources online, but apart from 3 phone calls from teachers who have never taught my children (and so I couldn't have a meaningful conversation over the homeschooling issues we were experiencing, and also my children would not speak to them) we have had no other support from the school. Although they are twins they are academically over a year apart and so trying to manage that dynamic has been very hard. The online work has been difficult to complete on a small tablet without adult assistance, and they have to share that tablet. We have tried to print off worksheets, which works better for the children, but is very time consuming for us adults, not to mention expensive in paper and ink. I now have 2 very demanding jobs. I feel I have been thrown into a new career, that I did not choose and would not ever choose, whilst still trying to hold down my usual job, source groceries, cook and clean. This is hell.'

1509. 'Home schooling has not happened in our house. Our children instead have been told to sit and get on with it and then told off when they hadn't done it. It's been awful and not fair on them. The reason being we are not teachers and have high level jobs and they had to come first. What a choice jobs over children! My husband, a construction director, was working all day struggling to keep his business afloat, 100 staff in jobs and safely shutting his sites down. I am a nurse manager and provide care to 20 children and adults with complex needs. I have worked from home throughout but it's been hugely stressful. Battling for PPE, supporting 50 staff all struggling financially and emotionally, managing suspected and

confirmed cases and families having break downs. All conversations, little ears should not hear. My childrens school is fantastic and I accept they have tried, by providing a weekly learning plan, but it's not been enough. It requires so much printing and standing over the children helping them with it. Its also been very boring for them which hasnt helped to motivate them. I then have to photograph all their work and send it via an app. Its therefore been a daily battle to get them to do their work. One that led to me breaking down in floods of tears on a weekly basis as I have felt a failure as a Mum, teacher, Nurse, wife and person in general. Other friends children have had online interactive lessons. Our teachers put videos up of singing and reading daily but never did an actual lesson. I honestly feel if they hadnt have gone back to school these last couple of weeks, we would have had serious mental health issues all round in our household, we could take no more. If the children do not go back properly in September, (I hope they do for their sake) there has to be a better home curriculum involving interactive lessons. I cannot go through this again. The children's safety is paramount of course, but their (and our) emotional wellbeing and mental health has to be balanced against that risk.'

1510. 'Absolutely disgusting. Leadership team weak on the back foot. Work set randomly to start with timetables changed at least three time's. only now Microsoft teams being utilised for online live lessons when they had the technology from the start. Work not being commented on consistently And fed back. Year 10 being put under pressure from lazy teachers who are now in panic mode. Oh yes the back to school for year 10s pathetic bear minimum being offered. No phone calls from school on child's well being oh sorry they were concentrating on send oh no they weren't. Just absolutely let down and left to get on with it. The headmaster needs to be held to account it's been a very negative experience and disappointing from a school which usually has high values.'

1511. 'Not a good experience at all. It took weeks for the web site to be set up to host the homeschooling. Told various times it was ready when it was not. Took over a month for us to be able to upload any work with no feedback from one teacher. The work that was set was spread over lots of different platforms, having to remember how we log in to each one. We were given a code on certain days for a learning by questions web site - the code didn't come through at the same time each day so you didn't know if you had been missed with parents asking each other if they had the code yet. The letters re returning to school were biased and not reassuring to a parent as were were told the safest place was at home. After being off since March they needed another two "training days" to set up despite already creating a PowerPoint presentation of the changes they had already done. Took 3 new start dates before they actually started back. We were cancelled one day late on a Sunday. The school started using another schools home learning sheets. The activities were bizarre and the work set by some teachers prior to this was much better. We were told to upload work on a Thursday but they might not get to it as they would be too busy teaching (only the keyworkers were in at this stage). It took over 100 days for a Zoom meeting to take place with my child. Despite the 2 metre rule being relaxed there are no plans to take the children back before Sept. After spending over £40 on ink and producing a file full of work whilst also working from home myself, the school want us to complete a "summer home school booklet" to work out what stage they are up to. We could have been working on a booklet the whole

time they have been off and now they want us to continue through the summer. How could they send home a school report with scores if they don't know their level? The whole thing has been a sham, some individual teachers are fantastic but sadly the management have been shocking!

1512. 'The school has been fantastic and has been careful not to overload parents. That said, our nephew died at the start of lockdown and having to try and work full time and homeschool two children has been immensely stressful. Combined with the grief of the entire family and trying to support my brothers family and we have been in tears, shouting and on the floor with exhaustion. Homeschooling takes up over half the day, meaning that work gets pushed back. Being freelance means I don't get paid if I don't work. It has been much easier with my older child who is at secondary but we feel like We havE no idea how he's getting on because we don't have time to have an eye on his work as well.'
1513. 'Like many others, juggling the demands of working full time with suddenly home schooling 2 children at different key stages. I've started to feel depressed, my daughter is miserable and missing school and my son is refusing to engage and falling behind where he was. He is also in year 2 at an infant school so has now missed out on any transition to junior school and feels extremely anxious that when he goes back to school he will be in a new place.'
1514. 'We have twins. We are both trained teachers, one of us still works as a teacher, the other usually works from home. Home schooling has been so hard. 'Teaching' your own children is much harder than teaching a class of children and we have said so many times, how hard must it be for someone with no teaching background at all. There have been many tears and arguments from all of us. Worry that our children are slipping behind, that we're not doing enough but then finding it impossible to get all the school work done AND work from home. It's been hellish.'
1515. 'My experience was most of the curriculum issued by the primary school referred to BBC bitesize. Although my husband was a key worker I was interrogated by the school as too why I was asking to send my child when I worked from home so I relented and kept her at home. The result was I was singled handed trying to wfh and home school whilst my husband worked 12-13 hour days in his key worker role. Every time I was on a zoom call the children were straight off their set work and on YouTube or similar website. I locked down all the computer access but it was a constant battle. In addition the children then just got bored and became withdrawn so I then was having to set extra work and mark it every night from books I ordered from amazon just to try and keep them stimulated. My daughter is y6 and back at school and my older daughters senior school has in the last few weeks moved to a full time online curriculum which has taken a huge weight off me. I am absolutely exhausted and drained, still not sleeping well and desperately worried about the lack of interaction my oldest daughter has had.'
1516. 'I have been fortunate enough to have extra time in my hands over the school choosier period. I have enjoyed supporting my three children, watching them learn and

having a role to play in the way they see and interact with education. I am looking forward to them returning the school in September for their own well-being and development. However, I may be the extreme but I have nothing but happy memories of home schooling during threes unorthodox time.'

1517. 'Awful. We both wfh and could not cope in supporting our 5 years old son and managing our work activities. Our son suffered a lot during lockdown, missing school and friends, so it was particularly difficult... at my work noone cared about family needs, part of the team was furlough so we had people with no family having nothing to do for months while i struggled not to neglect my own son... support from school, note it is independend prep, was extremely poor at the point now we moved the boy to another school... when discussing with both work and school they always say Covid covid covid, i understand but both school and work were unable to support us and, even worse, unable to care about us and our little son... gov was extremely poor in understanding this problem. Boris johnson wake up: too many mistakes specially at the beginning of the outbreak, you also protected Cummings saying he did nothing wrong as he did it for his son but you forget millions of parents who are struggling in this situation, if you want the economy to recover you must sort this out quickly.'

1518. 'We have a 7 year old daughter, in year 2. My husband works full time and I work part time (we have both worked from home throughout lockdown). In order to be there for our daughter we have shared the schooling, but I have done most, which has meant me having to start my work very early every day. Home schooling has been incredibly hard. Our daughter cannot be left to work independently for long, and is reluctant to engage. Most days there are arguments, tears and tantrums. From school we have received guidance for maths, English and topic but not much that will engage them for long. Through lockdown we received once weekly phonecalls from the teacher but these stopped once years R, 1 and 6 returned. In the last 2 weeks the school have offered 3 zoom sessions (assembly, story time and chat) which have been good, and I wish we had had them throughout.'

1519. 'It has been an absolute nightmare trying to balance home schooling with working from home. It is quite clear that employers aren't interested in home schooling, cooking and cleaning for the family they see it as your problem, all they want is there work done. Trying to balance both home schooling and work commitments are physically and mentally exhausting for the children and the parents, you have no where to turn to for support, every day is the same. Just to fit schooling in I have to work extra hours on top of my 8 hours to catch up with work. The government must intervene to offer clear guidelines in relation to schooling at home for the sake of the children and the parents welfare.'

1520. 'My wife works for the NHS as a key worker, I am a manager of 24 people and currently work from home. My children's school mandated that both parents needed to be key workers to accept them. When my wife goes to work, she leaves the house. Balancing home schooling my job and ultimately the safety of my children whilst I'm occupied on meetings has added stress I've never experienced in my working career. My eldest is

becoming reclusive and is getting minimal exercise, my youngest is going backwards in her academia.'

1521. 'A cochany of stress, emotion and disappointments. As a two parent household, both with jobs that remain in place and where we are paid in full, we consider ourselves very fortunate during this crisis. However with this has come the challenge of both being required to work to full capacity alongside schooling (and caring for) two primary school age children. We have all reached tipping point at various times along the last 4 months. The pressure of switching from senior management roles dealing with tough HR and financial aspects of business to, at the flick of a switch, the patience and warm environment needed for a six year old learning from a new environment has at times been impossible. Both the mental health of our children and ourselves have suffered as a result. We struggle to find time for ourselves due to the demands, which we are prepared to lose, but we all acknowledge this is having long term effects on us. We cannot be the employee we should be, we cannot be the teachers we want to be and we cannot be the parent we need to be. We will be ok, we can rationalise what is happening, but we are letting down our children by not providing them with all that they need at a critical time of their personal, social and educational development. In the short term we are making any adjustment we can to make this juggle viable, but a long term prospect of this continuing into Autumn 2020 is a daunting thought. The work provided by the school has been fairly basic. Subject content rages through regular maths and english, with bits of history/geography/science and a little personal/social development. The format has been challenging - worksheets every day, which require printing out to make them manageable, sometimes with links to videos or games ... some work with one device, some on another. Our children cannot work through these independantly and require support every single moment. At times the learning seems to easy and does not provide enough challenge, two bright children are not being given the opportunity to stretch, however we dont have capacity to do more so perhaps for no this is no bad thing! There is little or zero accountability between child and teacher, with the only communication coming through parents the children have lost that connection and relationship and have not seen a piece of work marked for the last 4 months. We have had two calls from the school during the whole period. Initially to the parent. In the second call they asked to speak to my eldest but after a challenging 4 months where they have become almost terrified of video conf calls due to the staring eyes, my child did not want to speak. Therefore we have no child to teacher interaction. Videos are occasionally sent from school but have been fun rather than teaching content of the worksheets. We have maintained the work but it has been a struggle and we definitely do not make the best teachers for our children. In all, this is a period we are looking forward to ending and for our children to be returned to school where they are inspired, challenged and entertained, where their development is prioritised and where they can begin to socialise again.'

1522. 'School have been brilliant. There's been enough work to keep us busy but not overload us and the balance has been just right. Obviously we would prefer to be in school however it's just too soon to bring all the children back safely. Home schooling is not easy but the best alternative to school in these testing times!'

1523. 'My children, who were previously interested and engaged in their school work, have lost all motivation and it is a daily battle to get them to do any work. The school sets work via google classroom which is used across the borough in state primary schools. However, due to privacy issues there is no interaction and the work consists mainly of links to videos. My children sit staring at a screen passively and the work provided is generally neither interesting or provides them with any challenge. The school has struggled to provide any differentiation in the level of work provided. Both my children have developed sleep problems and my eldest has become very anxious and withdrawn. My partner and I are both trying to work and at the same time provide some educational support to our children but it is just not possible to do both at the same time. I am especially concerned that i am likely to be selected for redundancy as I have just don't have the time to get on with my own work.'

1524. 'I have two daughters and I am a single mum. I am also a full time primary school teacher! What a combination!! However, it does not do me any favours!y eldest is in year 7. She has a social communication disorder which means she has autistic traits and pathological demand avoidance traits. Her school have been great! They have been giving her an hour a week virtual tuition-she will do some work but I have to give her my undivided attention because she can't organise herself and struggles academically. My youngest is in year 4-her school has been running all their activities through the website and I have to check it daily. She has no interested in school work, her mental health and well-being is suffering. She spends all day in the dark-curtains closed. I have been pushing her school to support her-but it is like hitting a brick wall!! I have tried everything to engage her! I feel incredibly guilty as I know what is expected of her academically and I know what I am providing for my class and support I give-and I can't do the same for her. I am working from home when I can and I am also on the rota for my school. I phone parents regularly or support through email and learning platforms-but this is detrimental to by own children's education! Youngest has been in school as a key worker child-but was then made to feel guilty for not doing anything and the school set her lots of work to do in then evenings. (After she had been in school all day and I had been in work!) I don't know? Too much pressure on our relationship. At my school, those keyworker children who are in are encouraged to do the home learning we have been setting daily at school on the day they are in. People/parents assume as I am teacher my children are totally engaged in learning at home-they are so relieved when I say they are not. Then parents are more likely to open up to me about their Individually struggles. I am a mum to my own children and not their teacher at school.'

1525. 'We have a 7 year old, a toddler and both have jobs that have required us to work from home. Our employers have been fantastic and very understanding. However our relationship with our children and each other has suffered. They don't understand why we suddenly need to speak for possibly over an hour to someone and that 'popping up' in the background is not welcome as it might have been previously to a family member. Tempers have frayed and arguments and tears have flowed. The private nursery have been great too, stopping fees from April, sending home emails of activities we can do with the toddler and reopening in July with what appear to be robust protocols. However we have been shocked and dismayed by the lack of contact from my older son's school and his teacher. Initially he was sent home with worksheets, then we just received links to online learning facilities. There

has been no direct contact other than an email to the entire class, one short 'look after yourself' video and a call to me from his teacher that I put straight through to my son, which apparently was not the 'done thing' but I felt it was more useful for him to tell her what he had been doing rather than her hearing it second hand. She cut him off after 10 minutes. We argue daily about his school work and so I asked him one day what is different about home working and school work, he said he misses his teacher explaining the exercise and working through examples with him. Something I have tried to do but finding the time is near impossible. I, and I have since found out, many parents have emailed the school with suggestions of how the teachers could contact the children, Possibly weekly calls to each child or a video call. However we've been either ignored or told due to 'safeguarding' this is not possible, surely if I, his parents give permission and accompany him it should be allowed? I've always liked the school but feel through this period they have been overwhelmed and have failed to act proactively. We have a 7 year old, a toddler and both have jobs that have required us to work from home. Our employers have been fantastic and very understanding. However our relationship with our children and each other has suffered. They don't understand why we suddenly need to speak for possibly over an hour to someone and that 'popping up' in the background is not welcome as it might have been previously to a family member. Tempers have frayed and arguments and tears have flowed. The private nursery have been great too, stopping fees from April, sending home emails of activities we can do with the toddler and reopening in July with what appear to be robust protocols. However we have been shocked and dismayed by the lack of contact from my older son's school and his teacher. Initially he was sent home with worksheets, then we just received links to online learning facilities. There has been no direct contact other than an email to the entire class, one short 'look after yourself' video and a call to me from his teacher that I put straight through to my son, which apparently was not the 'done thing' but I felt it was more useful for him to tell her what he had been doing rather than her hearing it second hand. She cut him off after 10 minutes. We argue daily about his school work and so I asked him one day what is different about home working and school work, he said he misses his teacher explaining the exercise and working through examples with him. Something I have tried to do but finding the time is near impossible. I, and I have since found out, many parents have emailed the school with suggestions of how the teachers could contact the children, Possibly weekly calls to each child or a video call. However we've been either ignored or told due to 'safeguarding' this is not possible, surely if I, his parents give permission and accompany him it should be allowed? I've always liked the school but feel through this period they have been overwhelmed and have failed to act proactively.'

1526. 'We've had a very difficult experience with 2 children home schooling and 2 parents (one a keyworker) working full time from home too. Motivating the children to work at the beginning went well and working at home was a novelty. Easter holidays came and all work stopped, so home was no longer a classroom but 'home' again. Then school term started again and motivating them to start working was difficult. The schools online learning system wasn't substantial enough and lacked proper background information to each task. My child didn't have any idea the topics that were being asked to research or write about. Working at home to mirror the methods of working in the classroom for an middle primary school child would have been far more beneficial. Worksheets, discussions online listening to teachers

perhaps. Seeing teachers face to face make my child realise they are still part of school life. There has been limited methods to contact the teacher and no way for my child to make contact independently without using my personal email on my phone. We have had no online video calls and telephone calls. Just an online learning system that my child was disengaged with from week 4. Tears and door banging happens most days the online system is suggested looking at even if it's just to give them something to do. All while we are trying to work long hours in our jobs for our employers that put the pressure on as working from home would seem somehow easier for us!

1527. 'My 9 year old daughter goes to a private school and the online learning platform was excellent but this was double edged because there was a huge amount of pressure to keep up and have structured lessons, so I had to resign from my job to support her. Having a job was hugely important for my mental health, I've ended up on anti depressants and my school loving daughter has put on a brave face but has suffered too, with increased anxiety, loneliness and night terrors... we feel a bit broken.'

1528. 'It's been incredibly hard. I work full-time and my wife works almost full-time. I've been lucky in that I have been able to work flexibly to fulfil childcare duties during the day, but it has meant very long days juggling homeschooling with work. My wife's employer has been far less flexible and supportive which has placed a strain on all of us. We have developed a regular routine of exercise (walk or bike ride) in the morning, followed by a couple of hours school work, lunch, and more school work in the afternoon on most days. The work has been a bit of a mixture - with weekly topics for both our sons (Years 1 & 3) which they have found engaging, but a lot of Twinkl worksheets and repetitive activities (especially for Year 3). The school has done its best to keep in contact and support us, but it's not a substitute for being in school with their peers. Having children in different year groups has been a challenge, as the topics they are given are different so you are trying to get your head around two different sets of school work while having Teams meetings and replying to emails. The school had done a fantastic job of reorganising itself and bubbling kids to return in June. This enabled our younger son to return for a few weeks before the local lockdown kicked in. I found this really hard to take, and so has the school. It feels like the government hasn't really prioritised education and supporting schools and parents. There will be more local lockdowns and it will be very disruptive for children to be continually returning to school and then staying at home. There doesn't seem to be a real plan for September. Our sons' school returned in June with most year groups still at home, and a lot of parents choosing to keep their children at home. There were only 5 regularly attending in our youngest son's bubble. If schools couldn't be kept open under these conditions during a localised outbreak, then I really worry about September when all children are expected to return. I have seen no evidence of contingency planning by the government, and this is very concerning. They are just not on top of the situation at all.'

1529. 'My husband and I work full time for charities. We aren't key workers but our work relates to health and social issues so we are busier than usual. Our children are 7 and 9 and the older one has dyslexia. We have had to extend our working days to 12 hours to incorporate home schooling and we are all exhausted. I feel that the children have lost parent

time, which they really need at the moment, to teacher time, as we can't do both roles at once. We are constantly balancing keeping them feeling happy and safe with making sure they do the work set on google classrooms, which they can't do alone. There's been no help at all re the dyslexia - he's been expected to do the standard work with no additional support. They have each had one call from their teacher and otherwise it is just work set on google classrooms. We are totally exhausted and near breaking point.'

1530. 'I have experienced terrible guilt over this time. I feel I am not able to give my children the support they need whilst also making sure I am fulfilling my obligations to my employer. The dynamics in the home are so different to those in school. The school has set work but have said nothing will be marked. This has demotivated my 7 year old, he's trying so hard but is only receiving my feedback. My 5 year old has been lucky enough to return to school for a short time and I can see how he has relished the opportunity. He doesn't want to work at home, I've been brought to tears trying to persuade him to work.'

1531. 'The school was very good at offering online work, teacher interaction and phone calls up to the point Years R,1 and 6 went back. At this point we lost all interaction and have only received a set of tasks each week. My elder daughter feels abandoned and forgotten, and resents her younger sister for being back at school. Although my employer has been wonderfully flexible it has been punishing trying to cover schooling in the mornings, exercise and the school run in the middle, and work in the late afternoon and evening. I'm working until half past eight or nine most evenings and feel completely burned out.'

1532. 'The school provided adequate work for a 7 year old and I knew they were available for any problems. The expectation of the work achieved by my son was not set too high, they understood the difficulties of learning at home would be high due to the circumstances. I don't believe the school could have done anymore. But my son's schooling has definitely suffered due to trying to nurse a newborn and being a single parent I couldn't give him the attention he needed to always get his school work done.'

1533. 'Girl 5 EYFS and boy 2 private nursery Nhs keyworker mummy, daddy working full time from home in professional capacity. Declined keyworker place at both provisions meaning I needed to reduce hours, take annual leave and juggle childcare. Contacted school in writing to make a complaint (also contacted er yorks council) no reply/response from either. Very little contact from school during lockdown - fortnightly ideas for "home school" published on the website and latterly an invite to a once a week zoom activity. We have not always managed this at the time offered due to work commitments and daughter finding it difficult to go on the zoom (5 teachers and up to 50 kids all on the same call). Returned to school 2 short days from 8th June - daughter's individual teacher has been amazing since then. Contact via tapestry maintained throughout lockdown.'

1534. 'My son attends a private school in Penrith. This little school has been marvellous. The school remained open over the Easter holidays, setting up Microsoft teams and training all the staff. After the Easter hols, my child has accessed school as normal from home via Microsoft teams. It has been brilliant! The teachers have been very supportive with my child

who is dyslexic and with us as a family. A good amount of work was set, work was broken up with weeks of independent study (which was very well structured by the school). The teachers then worked through half term to get the school set up so all of the year groups were able to go back after half term. For the last fortnight every child in that school has been receiving a face to face education 5 days a week. I cannot thank the teachers more for all their hard work. Despite taking pay cuts to see the school financially through the pandemic they have all stepped up and delivered a world class education to my child, despite having to care for their own children. As the head told me “they have had no choice!”. It must have been a very difficult time for the teachers, many of whom were also caring for their own small children, but I feel as though they prioritised my own child throughout, which is simply incredible that they would do that! Every child deserves an education like this, not only the children who are fortunate to go to a private school. We scrimp and save to invest in our child’s education but this has shown me the enormous inequality there is with education. In my opinion, this prep school in Penrith has shown best practice. It has been amazing!’

1535. ‘It is impossible to be a parent, employee, and teacher all at the same time. It has been extremely stressful for the whole family at a time when things are already stressful and we should have been allowed to focus on our roles as parents supporting our children and family. My children have found the lack of social interaction very hard to handle. My daughter in particular is a very focused student who loves the school environment; however, she has struggled to engage with homeschooling at home, leading to arguments and upset. She is on the brink of developing mental health issues as a result of the lack of school and indeed I know of many children who have been pushed into anxiety. As an indicator of how common the problem is, try and get an appointment with a child psychologist/psychiatrist/psychotherapist. It is impossible as they are all fully booked dealing with the fallout of school closure. It has been extremely galling to see the opening of pubs, bars, shop and restaurants prioritised over the education of our children. I cannot understand a government who thinks it is more important for people to go to the pub than for children to go to school. I am speaking on behalf of a family that is lucky enough to have 2 working parents in stable jobs. Many are not so fortunate. I haven’t even spoken about the toll this is taking on my career. Compared to the wellbeing of my family, that is secondary. Female equality in the workplace has suffered immensely as a result of women taking the lion’s share of responsibility at home to care for their children.’

1536. ‘This has been the hardest aspect to deal with during the pandemic by far. I have a Year 7 and a Year 10 and I fear so much for them both and now their mental health is my worry. My Year 10 (first year GCSE) is now about 6 weeks behind in studies across all of his subjects as the pressures to keep up and not knowing or having regular feedback on work is taking its toll. We all work together around the dining room table but he is still falling behind. The only virtual interaction has come last week as I have intervened and emailed the Head of Year needing to speak to him and all of my son’s teachers to see exactly where he was at, for them to provide feedback on the work produced and to raise any worries. I also needed to know the expectations where my son should be in terms of what may be re-covered next term. Some assignments had not been submitted since end of April and yet no red flags raised by the school - how is this possible. My son is at a grammar school but there is no

virtual teaching but yet he is expected to go back in September and work on a piece of course worth 40% of his GCSE - how with little support? Again he is learning Spanish but how does that really work when you are 15 and have no interaction with others? His school did re-open to Year 10's and he was due to go in once a week in his bubble. He went for the first week and then in the second week he broke down and was crying and begging me not to send him in as he was miserable in there with no friends and nothing different from being at home. Children were all at different stages. My son never cries and the impact seeing him like that has made me worry so much about his mental health and him bottling up his feelings and fears. The Head of Year agreed with me that he should stay at home for the remainder of the term but then I received a call from the school office asking where my son was the following Thursday - lack of communication not just to the students but amongst staff as well. My daughter was also struggling but was now back on track but required intervention with her school as she broke down in tears when she fell two weeks behind in certain subjects and felt like a failure and that she would be getting told off by her teachers if she didn't do the work or indeed couldn't remember anything come September. Her mental state is a constant worry as she now curls up in a ball and cries and pulls at her hair out of frustration and worry. Again mental health was never a concern and I am now experiencing this. I am a single mum with a full time professional job and the pressures to keep both roles going is so taking its toll on me also. I am constantly tired as where I am trying to direct and help my children I still have my own work to undertake so this means long evenings just to do both. Sometimes I become so overwhelmed by it all that I have to get in my car and take a drive and just cry my eyes out with sheer despair. I am so concerned for my son and the final grades he will receive in his GCSEs next year and the impact this will have on his A Level choices and then ultimately University place. There still remains no guidance but an expectation that kids will just catch up, which is such a wrong assumption that the government is making. The summer school break will not be a break at all as we continue to play catch up but given the work outstanding this is an enormous task to achieve and then where is the break for the kids and for me. We are all running on empty with relationships strained and worries mounting up. There is a serious misunderstanding being made regarding how we are all coping as in essence we all are not coping at all. We need help and assurance so please provide that sooner rather than later.'

1537. 'I'm a trained primary school teacher who stopped work in August 2019 due to poor health. I am planning to return when I'm well. We have a big house and garden and my husband has been working from home. We couldn't have had it better. I have two girls in year 2 and 3 and so I thought it would be easy. They are in separate schools...one is in the infant school and the other is in the junior school and they have different heads. The infant work has been brilliant, sent in advance and if any emails are sent the teacher responds. My year 2 child has a calm nature and has flourished during home schooling. Both were adopted so the security of being at home has reduced her anxiety. I've been careful to leave her to work independently too knowing she has to return to school. It has been a totally different experience with my 8 Yr old. She has been set what I can only say is dire home learning. It is open ended and vague. The worst was Philosophy and all it said was "Yellow is the answer. What is the question?" She will not accept that I have any skills to help her and our relationship has been severely damaged. She was adopted at 2.5 but has started lying, calling

us idiots, saying she hates us. I've said she can do the work or leave it but there is a minimum that is required in order to have screen time as my youngest is working so hard, there needs to be some justice. I'd be happy to talk more or be interviewed on anymore.'

1538. 'For two children in years 7 and 9: The provision has been highly variable across teaching staff. Some have provided work to do. Others have simply not. No online zoom classes: no work marked and returned: no regular contact from staff to the children: and the assumption that I - lone parent, attempting to work full time from home - can assume responsibility for my children's education. No attempt to get children into school for even a day before the end of term, once DfEE guidance changed to permit this. Meanwhile, friends' kids at the private school down the road have a full online timetable of zoom classes, delivered live. My children's motivation has decreased and their socialisation badly suffered. More than that, however, is the negative tone of messaging from the school re: September opening. Communications are about the 'difficulty' of implementing DfEE guidance; how it is 'extremely challenging' and how the school is unsure how they can make the guidance work. It does not inspire confidence that the school intends to open fully, for all year groups. We really need either a) guidance to be relaxed so that schools cannot cite 'impossible guidance' as a reason for restricting children's education or b) regulation in law that schools must open, in full, for all pupils, in September - and must provide a full curriculum at that point.'

1539. 'We have two primary age boys in yrs 3 and 6 and one secondary school age boy in yr 7. My husband and I both work and are able to work from home. Homeschooling has put a huge amount of pressure on our family. The kids need someone to be able to encourage them and to explain the school work and we simply do not have time to spend with each child and manage our jobs. I had to apply for a place back at school for my year 6 son as he is one of the youngest in the year but they prioritised families with one or two keyworker parents regardless of whether there was another parent who didn't work. I have a letter saying I am a key worker as I work in the civil service however at the time the guidelines made it clear the places were intended for parents who could not work from home. We have found the boys have been claiming to do their school work when they haven't and it's caused stress and tension. I have no energy to complain as it's happened at a time where we are understaffed at work so I can barely keep on top of things. I wish they could have made a more thorough check of what was fair in terms of allowing kids back to school perhaps letting more of the kids come back on fewer days.'

1540. 'Home schooling has been incredibly difficult for us My husband and I both work and we have 3 children, 8 year old twins in year 3 and a 6 year old in year 2. The work my 6 year old receives from school has been good and he always receives feedback for his work via Google classroom, the work for my 8 year olds has been patchy with little feedback from their teachers. The 8 year olds haven't actually spoken to the teachers during lockdown. My 6 year old had 2 phone calls. I asked for the second because he has become lazy and unwilling to do his work. Our relationship with my children has become strained over lockdown because we are not trained teachers, we are still trying to do our jobs and our children are feeling isolated and confused by the situation. My eldest son has become very angry and aggressive, frequently hitting all members of the family and trying to damage the house. I have had to

have support from CAMHS to deal with his behaviour but it has put a real strain on me and my family and I feel like the government and our children's school have really failed them during lockdown.'

1541. 'My older children's school (private secondary) has provided a full timetable of daily lessons covering all subjects (including art, PE, sport etc). Most content is written or pre-recorded in case of access problems but the teacher is always available to provide live support via Microsoft teams during the lessons. The children are required to submit work for marking and are chased by email if they don't submit it. The school has also provided a full programme of extra curricular activities. My year 7 child has made very good progress and doesn't seem to have suffered from any problems with motivation etc. My year 10 child has been less motivated, but is still on track to achieve good GCSE results and the school has scheduled exams for September so they can identify any gaps and support children to catch up. My children have kept in touch with their friends via audio and video calls and they are happy, healthy and have continued to learn. Overall, lockdown has not been a negative experience. If schools are unable to operate at full capacity in September, my preference would be for GCSE and A-level years to return as a priority.'

1542. 'I am just hugely worried about the impact no formal schooling is having on my children's education. It feels like the Government has abandoned school children. Where is the extra money for Nightingale type schools to ensure our children get the education from September they are entitled to? Schools have to reopen in September, whatever happens, and it is about time that the Government takes this seriously.'

1543. 'It has been fabulous. I got to know my son more, and his capabilities in lessons. He has developed skills such as writing legibly, showing working out and finishing tasks. Now calmer, more able to get on with work, he has benefitted hugely from this experience. Previously he couldn't stay on task, never finished anything and work was sloppy. He's ten. The school use seesaw and we upload photos of work and the teachers mark and comment within 30 mins. At first it was difficult - he clearly wasn't used to doing much - but now he does so much more than in school. I'm not sure I want him to go back at all. He's told me he prefers home learning with me. I'm shielding, so him bringing the virus home would kill me. I used to be a teacher and to be honest they do so little in school, parents are seeing now just how little. It's easy to pretend you gave a child who is eager keen to learn and being taught loads when out of your sight at school!'

1544. 'We have done very little home schooling. Our time has mostly been spent outdoors as much as possible as being at home behind a desk in our house was causing my child to get upset and distresses. I worry that they will have fallen behind and will find it difficult to integrate back into school. I do hope the school decides a more play based approach to ease children in. May I add that we also have a nursery aged child at home and me and my husband have been working full time from home. Our home environment has been hard.'

1545. 'The school has sent out work each week by the head. Links to websites and ideas for topics. Most of this my 9 year old has found uninspiring. If we send in photos of our work, the

head sends kind comments. No work is marked, no contact has come from class teachers. As I work full time it has been difficult to maintain everyone's enthusiasm. We are now concentrating on about 45 minutes of computer based English and I am tutoring 45 mins of maths. We are increasingly turning to educational documentary s, and we love Jo Wicks PE!

1546. 'I am a trained primary school teacher not currently working in school but running a tutoring business and working in retail during the school day. I was furloughed from the shop and moved my tutoring online during the mornings. My husband works fulltime as a key worker outside the home. My two children aged 12 and 9 go to the same school but have had very different experiences of home learning. My year 5 child has coped relatively well with the work set but needs constant supervision and motivation to attain best results. My daughter in year 7 has found online lessons very stressful. They both became angry and withdrawn and my daughter's preexisting anxiety has developed into an eating disorder so is under the care of CAMHS. She misses her friends and collaborative working. I have found it very hard working with them and tutoring even as an education professional. Children need to be back in school and parents need to know that they can return to work. Family counselling needs to be made available immediately to those in most need after this crisis.'

1547. 'Interaction brilliant with school and teachers. Quantity and quality of work good but breadth could be more than just English/Maths concepts. However I did a lot of science, geography etc with my children anyway. Good feedback from teachers most replied on the same day.'

1548. 'Home schooling has been hugely challenging. My husband and I both work, our 11 year old has been devastated at the loss of his final term at primary school and our 8 year old simply doesn't like us taking on the role of teacher. To ensure that I could keep my job and be efficient at it, I have been working from dawn before the kids wake up. I then had to stop and devote my attention to them for a few hours, then back to work again once we'd managed just some of the hundreds of pages of worksheets sent home by their school. Their school have relied solely on parents having incredible printers and time on their hands. No interaction via technology and no attempt to change that over the 100 days we were at home. I've felt many times that I've been a bad teacher, a bad mother, a bad wife and a bad fundraiser. The stress on all of us has been huge and we are only really coming out the other side now. I'm fortunate to have a very understanding boss but I took a month's unpaid leave despite our tricky financial situation to balance the children and my job and all our mental healths. It's been so tough. We will spend the summer being a family again rather than a fighting tribe, battling for space, time and attention across all areas of our life.'

1549. 'Home schooling my two sons aged 7 and 9 has been awful. My sons are well behaved and great children but the stress of trying to homeschool for months on end has been very stressful. Our school has been useless we have had very little contact or support. The ages my children are means they cannot be left to get on with any work themselves and therefore I can only help one at a time. Added to this is the stress of my husband working full time from home. I worry every day that I haven't done enough to help them and feel so guilty I hardly sleep. This cannot happen again. We cannot put aside our children education. What if

there is a 2nd wave or local lowdown??? We cant go through this again .. Us parents need support and the government needs to realise this. Wr cannot be put in this situation again.'

1550. 'The first couple of weeks were fine. It was a novelty, we worked out a routine and we felt like we had it in the bag. It quickly changed when the illusion lifted. I wasn't really teaching and I wasn't getting my work done, I felt like I was failing at it all. My husband is self employed so I had no help form him. Its very isolating, desperate and upsetting. I really don't think I could cope doing it again.'

1551. 'We have a child in yr 3 and in yr 11. For the Yr 3 - In terms of support from school we had 1 short phonecall in 3 months in fact in April..so we've not had any personal contact from school since then apart from generic emails regarding school operations. We are both working from home and we've had problems in terms of devices available in the house.11 has been disregarded by school in terms of ongoing learning as GCSEs were stopped. It has been incredibly stressful.'

1552. 'Child was sent home a pack in the first week which contained links for twinkl and other websites. It also contained a maths and English workbook. There was no further follow up from school for at least several weeks. The first couple of months were great for our 8 year old and us. We stuck to a timetable and our son worked while both my husband and I worked full time from home - both in stressful jobs that would see us having to work additional hours. After the May school holiday and allowing our son a week off school, as you would in normal circumstances, we found it a real struggle to try and motivate our child again. He no longer wanted to get out of bed on a morning and his behaviour and mental health were suffering. By this time we had had no calls or work from school. I contacted school to ask for help. They then sent a few bits of work via an app (which is shocking and really not user friendly). Since then school have been setting work and have called a few times - they do seem to have picked their game up in the last month or so but I can't see that any of the work my son has done has ever been marked over this period which we have submitted on the portal. Both my husband and I are working very hard at home and cannot continue this way. I also find it heartbreaking at time's that other kids are receiving an education, seeing teachers and friends and my children are completely missing out. I am aware of numerous parents that have used being a keyworker to get their kids back into school and they are not the key workers that you think they may be and are not even working full time. Some people have actually said to me that they have played the keyworker card to get their kids back. My child needs to be back at school, both for his mental well-being and also his education. I really do hope that his school are going to invest extra time and resource with him in the new school year and not just dedicate this time and extra funding to certain children. All children need and deserve an education and I do not want my child to be penalised due to my husband and I being full time workers.'

1553. 'I have 2 children aged 10 and 12, we started out with great intentions to carry on school as normal as possible.... It was then realised pretty quickly that this is not going to happen. As the weeks have gone on its become less and less due to the arguments and anger its creating. When they did go to school it was only for half a day when some schools have

had a full day. As with schoolwork we are finding that they have been given too much on too many platforms. I personally have had to carry on working also covering people who have been off with COVID-19 symptoms, my wife who works in a school has had to prepare classes for her students. Relying on our kids to do the work themselves is really difficult.'

1554. 'It's been a roller coaster-the school learning platform is ok (seesaw) & there are fresh assignments daily. I'm working full-time from home & manage a team which involves a lot of meetings. My working hours feel as though they've doubled & my husband runs his own business & does nothing to support our one daughter's home education. I can no longer trust that my daughter will work online & I now have to print off the daily assignments. She's 9 years old & an only child. Our relationship has suffered from this situation & I am close to burning myself out. My patience is very short & I have to schedule time out of my work calendar to work with her, which extends my day further. School now post answers as well as assignments so I no longer have to search google to find out how to explain something in a way that won't completely confuse her. I really feel for her & I've had to impose time boundaries to her online activity-she will stop working as soon as it challenges her (or even sooner) & she'll switch to roblox (online game) where she'll play with her friends. She's also chatted to her friends on zoom & unfortunately they call whilst I'm working! I am amazed that we've reached this far & I am feeling much better about the whole situation now school have said they're returning on 3rd September. I've no idea what I'm doing with her during the summer school holidays as all clubs are closed. I'll just have to deal with it as I've dealt with everything else-plan as much as I can & take it one day at a time.'

1555. 'Both myself and my husband are working full time from home. Our work has not reduced in fact mine has increased due to working in accounts and other being furloughed. We have altered our hours so that we each spend some time with the children and they are not alone entertaining themselves all day. Schooling is almost impossible. Our 7 year old was already struggling at School and was behind. He seems to have regressed back to struggling even with basic principles like adding up. He now has panic attacks at the mention of us doing any schoolwork, he is depressed and says he is useless. Our younger son is starting school this year and just wants attention and doesn't u see stand when we try to teach our eldest so we have to entertain him while trying to teach the eldest and work. It is having a huge mental health impact in the whole family. It doesn't help that my husband has cancer and although he isn't having treatment right now we are constantly frightened to do anything and go anywhere. The idea of sending the children to school in September has us both having panic attacks with fear that it won't be safe and they may bring something home that makes my husband seriously ill and die, but we are coming to the realisation that we are going to take the risk as the children need to be in an environment where they have dedicated teachers who have the time and the ability to help them and even the social aspect of seeing others are in the same position and struggle too.'

1556. 'Challenging. I'm working from home full-time and don't have the time to supervise my child's learning too. I've had to leave him to it and he hasn't responded well to home learning. He lacks self-motivation and guidance from his teachers. He simply can't learn at home and needs to be back at school. The arguments and fights have been heartbreaking to

be a part of and I gave up early on, but continue with a daily 'are you going to do any schoolwork today?' question so I at least feel I'm not giving up completely. I can't wait for end of term and I can't wait for September...and neither can he.'

1557. 'I have found home educating almost impossible whilst maintaining my current employment. My children are aged 7 (was 6 when schools closed), 5 and just turned 2. Both of my school aged children are too young to work independently so require assistance to learn and complete work. Having to do this after having worked a full day and with a demanding toddler to occupy at the same time has been very stressful. I am also currently pregnant and have been all the way through this pandemic. My partner and the childrens father also works full time and has throughout the whole pandemic also. The additional burden of completing the childrens education at home has definitely taken a toll on us all. Despite our best efforts I feel that the children have gone backwards in their education. We cannot be consistent in the amount of time and work we put in daily whilst maintaining our current full time jobs. The children have been stressed with the work as often the only time we get to complete this with them is not really the appropriate time of day, ie the evening after work and they are uncompliant as a result. This leads to conflict and negative learning experiences. I personally feel that my childrens education as well as our emotional well being has suffered a lot as a result of the continued closure of schools over the last four months.'

1558. 'I'm a single mum of 2. I usually work 34 hours a week. I'm currently failing at everything. I can't keep up with my work, without working evenings and weekends. My son is year 6, and returned to school 5 days per week. This has only made my life more difficult. I need to do a school run, in addition to working and schooling. While he was at home ill start work at 7am, and allow the kids to sleep or play in the morning while I worked. My daughter has excelled in school, but she is now uninterested and finds work stressful. I've now given up trying to educate my daughter through any formal learning, as she is so upset when we discuss school work and so upset that she can't see her friends. Seeing her brother go to meet friends, but being isolated with just me while I try to did in and out of work dealing with urgent issues - I worried she's becoming depressed. Why couldn't some children go part time, even alternating weeks, why did gov advice rule this out?! The kids school prioritised getting the priority children in full time, and leaving the others with no time in school based on government advice. While my daughter is at home, the number of 'key workers' is increasing. The definition of this seems to have been pushed to the limits by some parents, often while one parent stays at home. I understand their worries about children not being at school for their child's mental wellbeing. Yet while I'm a single mother, and trying to work Im not eligible for any schooling for my daughter. My daughters mental well health doesn't matter? I worry also for September. Will 'key workers' children and the children of parents who are happy to state they are key workers continue to benefit, and their parents continue to have an advantage in the workplace? I'm expecting this may still be the case and limits will still apply to wrap around care. But it's not fair.'

1559. 'With a child in reception and year 5 and parents who both work homeschooling (HS) has been incredibly hard for us. The first few weeks we had little or no support from the school and felt completely overwhelmed with the responsibility of it all. Having two children

with different learning needs made it especially difficult planning activities that they both could do and enjoy. The pressures on my husband and I have been immense and I have felt completely abandoned at times. Coupled with that my work pressures and demand have been immense and it has been a draining challenge trying to balance this with the HS. Since my son went back things have got easier but it has taken its toll just this week my husband has been signed off work for 2 weeks due to stress/depression. I am so angry at the unequal support that is being given particularly in relation to private and state schools where the gaps are now even bigger. My fear is come September there won't be a workable plan in place and parents will be expected to HS again. This is not a sustainable approach. I am so grateful to find this campaign as feel very passionate about this so that you for being our voice!!'

1560. 'Both parents trying to work from home full time with two children. One in primary school and the other secondary. Two very different experiences even though both schools are in the same academy!! My youngest is in year 4 and the amount of work work set has been minimal. Plus there appears to be no consideration taken into account for ability ie work is set at the lowest level so She is bored rigid eager to learn but completing the days work in 30 mins. Resulting in us using oak academy and bitesize to try and challenge her academically. Teacher is lovely and does call but has no answers for my questions and isn't setting any additional work even though asked. No work is submitted so no one is monitoring her progress or even if the work is been completed. My son is in secondary and work is set (about 6 lessons a day) which means he works from 9-3pm every day. Standard of work set varies with little guidance and very little feedback at all even though he has deadlines and every piece has to be submitted . I have to support him quite a bit with the 'discussions' as no interaction with his teachers and to keep him engaged. No online classes but they have started live streaming but only for 1 class a day and for the whole year group (360 kids) so he still can't interact with his teacher or ask questions so pointless really. Feedback ranges from that's great to nothing. Surely there must be some critiques or improvements he can be making in all areas??? Contact with the school incredibly poor. First phone call i received was 9 weeks into lockdown and the callers hadn't even checked where's my son was up to with his work set on line (surely they could log into Google's classrooms and see ignorance work I have submitted...) prior to the call. Since had an email from them stating please contact us if any concerns which be I have and had no response. I do question why I sent my children this school. No encouragement from the academy to send my children back and in fact they actively discouraged it and haven't opened their doors. All letters or communication about future plans is extremely negative and minimal. No 'school community' going on in this academy and these are the two 'best' schools in the area. Luckily we have enough laptops for us all to use and we share the dinning table and have set up camp tables around the house to take conference calls. Kids have been driven to tears at times and we have had had down tools and walk away from it all on the odd day as too much stress. My colleagues have been supportive and don't mind the kids taking me away from work and interrupting meetings so very very lucky but still very hard. Fortunately they are both motivated and will complete work but they need to be with their peers and in a proper learning environment to thrive. I don't understand as a business we have had to adapt and embrace new ways of working very quickly and adapt to technology why schools haven't done the same. I wouldn't be allowed at work to just shrug my shoulder and say it can't be done. There are solutions out there even

the basic zoom to allow my children to speak with their teachers etc. No pro action on their behalf unlike some schools who have set up marquees and tried to get everyone back. Very very poor by the MAT.'

1561. 'We are working parents with a 12 yr old child. Throughout the lockdown he has been inundated with work and deadlines, whilst largely supporting himself. The school are able to respond to email queries and most teachers are very good at this but there have been no attempts at virtual learning other than homework set on satchel one. I work for the NHS, outside of the home and when he needs support with work we help him in the evening or at weekends, further degrading family time. I can clearly see the impact this has had on his mental well-being as he is very clearly overwhelmed by this at times. He also attended school for key workers but as the only young child felt as isolated as he did at home. The teachers didn't even chat to him, just left him to get on with it on his own and sat together chatting. I'm worried about the impact the crisis on our children's mental well-being.'

1562. 'Juggling home school with both parents working full time has been a real struggle. I get up at 6am to get work hours in before home school starts and I have often worked in the evenings until 2:30am to try to complete my work. Sleep is my sacrifice, a 15 minute bath of an evening feels like the height of self-indulgence. On Monday, my employer has asked me to take a 5% salary cut to safeguard jobs next year. Whilst I'm willing to do that for the greater good, this feels like a huge kick in the teeth after all of these months of struggle and to be honest, very little meaningful support from my employer other than 'work flexibly, take annual or unpaid leave to manage childcare'.'

1563. 'My child is completely unable to engage in any self motivated learning. He has been waiting for a year to be assessed for Asperger. He has a ridged way of thinking : School is school home is home and the two do not cross. In 2019/20 he spent 6 months refusing to go to school with incredibly poor mental health and self esteem because of it. A managed move to another school, slow reintroduction and he managed to return finally completing his first full week two weeks before lockdown. Our experience of home learning has been heartbreaking. A full year after not being able to attend he was forced to stay at home. He struggled with his Mental health and emotional stability once again as the memories of such a dreadful time the year earlier flooded back. As soon as the work came flooding in on the app it was clear he was not going to be able to cope and became completely overwhelmed- as did we. Working full time from home we set about trying to establish some sort of home learning. He was deeply unhappy and we failed to be able to motivate him. His elder sister took over and had a very short period of success. She planned lessons and rewards and we spent hours trying to access and print work from the app. Much of it wasn't loaded correctly and couldn't be printed and had to be requested in other formats. A handful of work was completed and submitted. Absolutely no feedback from his teachers. Nothing. Chased, chased again. Nothing. My son then stated very clearly that if his teachers couldn't be bothered to mark it he wasn't going to do it and things deteriorated once again turning home back into a constant argument with stress going through the roof - both his, mine and his siblings. It became clear that his mental health was more important so we established some very basic rules around getting up and getting some fresh air. We dropped all expectation of

school work and tried to encourage other “learning” through film and exercise. Throughout this time very little academic support was offered. And we have had absolutely no contact from a single teacher despite my son seaming falling of the radar completely. Not a phone call contact with teachers, not Skype, teams or zoom was ever used. It was as if school did not even exist. When the announcement was made that after the May half term some hours of teaching would be on teams we excitedly waited for the timetable to join online only to find out these were merely pre-recorded lessons with no interaction whatsoever, the kind that have been available on YouTube for years. The only exception was (and still is) the LSA who worked with him in the learning centre before lockdown. It was only when she contacted us after the May half term that we felt anyone was listening to the lack of provision for our son. (He doesn’t have learning disability or ehcp). She very quickly removed any expectation of working at home and instead focused on getting him to cross the threshold of school and have a conversation with her. She met him on the school grass at the front of the building - no expectation other than to sit and chat outside in the sun. Following that he has since had a tour of the school and the changes that have been out in place and then an hour in the pathway support area. There is no doubt in my mind the entire experience could have been very different if the government had given schools more focus and didn’t allow them to shut down so completely. If schools thought more creatively and teachers were more committed to the children they teach and not the ticks in the boxes. If the government response to schools had been similar to the response to hospitals - retired teachers returning, sports halls and community spaces opening up for school use then my son and millions like him could have continued with their education, even a reduced number of hours would have been better than this. Our other son has his year 11 cut short - but that’s a whole other response!!’

1564. ‘My home schooling experience has been excellent. My child has had live lessons every day and work set via an online platform. My child has been completing their work and submitting it for marking. They have received feedback on it too via the online platform. I think this lockdown has shown 2 things to the nation; 1. Teachers work damn hard and deserve a lot more recognition than they get. 2. The people that are moaning about their child not doing work or being lazy is down to their parenting. These sound like the parents that blame the teachers for not producing doctors or lawyers when in fact their little darlings would never reach these requirements.’

1565. ‘It has been extremely difficult to balance everything as a parent. With children in 2 different year groups (and schools) and therefore 2 different ways of learning, our priority was to set a structure from day 1. This has worked, however I am bemused when people say teachers have done an amazing job for primary schools. Parents have done an amazing job, with a bit of support from teachers. I have basically become a primary school teacher, though secondary school has been led by the school (Harrogate). Year 7 child has had 4 or 5 pieces of work to hand in per day. All work taught via iPad. Compared to some schools I think this is great although stressful when he doesn't understand the task. Trying to exist in the same house for 15 weeks and basically become a year 5 and 7 teacher, whilst holding down 2 jobs, cleaning, cooking and being the entertainment, at times, isn't very amusing. However we have done our best and for this reason I am sure the tutorial help will be offered to those

who have seen the best option to allow their children to sit on the Xbox all day. I won't be keeping quiet then!!'

1566. 'Work set was inconsistent in quality and amount across year groups. Work set was not enough to occupy child for an hour at a time (this was needed so parents could work from home effectively). Feedback was lacking. Videos or interactive learning engages the children much more than pages of slides to read. School community has been lost as there has been no online assembly.'
1567. 'Home schooling a 5 year old in Reception and a 7 year old in year two. My wife and I work full time and have not been furloughed at any point, working from home (and still doing so). Trying to get a routine and the children learning at the start of the day and to keep them engaged has been hard. Trying to teach two different year groups at the same time as been at best challenging. Mixed with the daily work routine of conference calls (Or zoom calls) and maintaining work load has lead to very high anxiety and emotional out-lashes at Children and each other. Clearly not teachers with the capacity or skills to give our children the academic foundations they need. This is coupled with the worry that in September, should they return some children will have competed more work or significantly less and schools will need to start again. Making you wonder if this time of family pressure and stress has been unnecessary.'
1568. 'My son is in year 7 so had only started the school in Sept 2019. Their communication for the whole school from the head teacher was great from the very start. All work was set online and we are lucky enough that he has his own laptop. He worked independently for approx 3 hours a day to start with. A lot of the work was project work that was a bit boring as it meant they were focusing on the same thing for several lessons. He got on much better with the online quizzes set where he would do some research then answer questions. After the easter break he lost interest and realised he only had to do the minimum that was set (prior to that he was doing some extension work). Some days he would only have one or two pieces set that he would complete in under an hour. I had absolutely no direct communication from his tutor despite being told they would check in with us every week. I am worried that this will have a detrimental effect on his learning going forward but know others will be the same. We also have no idea what the plans are for returning to school in September yet.'
1569. 'Our High School has been well organised with online learning as much of the homework is already set this way. However, juggling the amount of work set, little feedback from some teachers, two younger children at 2 different school and working for myself full time has been exhausting. But I can't fault the school as they have done everything they can with daily updates from the headteacher throughout.'
1570. 'We are lucky, two parents, both able to share home schooling and reduce hours in our work. However, our 7 yo quickly became angry and emotional at having to do any school work. He misses having that adult feedback that isn't his parents, and of course he misses his friends. We try and keep schoolwork time to a minimum but he can spend a whole morning

being frustrated, upset and angry over a 10 min piece of work. I feel guilty for speaking about it as we are privileged really. I am tired and fed up with the situation. When will it end.'

1571. 'We kept to a routine, with home-schooling in the morning, but just trying to get my 6 year old to sit and listen has been hard- all sorts of excuses and he gets frustrated with the type of work set. His reading has improved massively, but some of the concepts the school has asked us to teach have left him confused about things he had a firm grasp of previously. We have to be sat with him while he does his school work. He has had one week back at school and he is so happy to see his friends and have the structure of school. My husband and I both work, (myself 3days per week) and we have been working from home, 6 hour shifts each plus a couple of longer days each to manage to get our work done. We are constantly tired. My 10year old is mainly self supportive, working through her set work with very little help. I have loved seeing the amazing work she has been producing, with her sat next to me while I work. She is self motivated, calm and a great story writer- I have loved seeing her grow her stories which a I would have missed if she was at school.'

1572. 'School have been fantastic with support both pastorally & academically during lock down. Support given for work online & home learning packs. Advice given when needed. Home visits made.'

1573. 'My husband and I have full time jobs, very demanding careers. It has been incredibly hard to educate our 9-years old daughter and do our jobs properly. We are overworked and stressed. And our very keen daughter lost interest in education because we are obviously not able to do a good job. Above all, we are very disappointed at the lack of support from our school. The school sends us grids with various links, which are not working a lot of the times. Not only we have to educate our child, but we also have to waste our time communicating with school looking for alternative links. And this is the only source of education we received. Our teacher has never been in touch with our daughter. Towards the end of the lockdown (June), she shared her email address in case we need any help but from March until June we did not have a dedicated person to deal with our struggles. This is absolutely unacceptable treatment of parents and children. The school set very high expectations, which I don't think we met.'

1574. 'My kids school has been amazing and supportive. They have had lessons and meetings with their teachers. The Head teacher has sent an email every week with updates about the school and covid. We have had a time table already for when the kids go back in September.'

1575. 'It has been very difficult I work full time so have been trying to perform two roles. I have a nine year old son with dyslexia & focus issues, who needs constant support to be able to achieve the homework set by the school. Previously home to him was a supportive nurturing place where he could escape from the pressures of school. It has changed our relationship as now I'm a teacher as well as a parent & when I walk in the room, I feel I'm being thought of as a teacher first now. As an only child with little face to face interaction with other children he has few places where he can talk about his parents, teachers &

perceived problems. I believe it has affected our mental health and fear this will affect the bond we had for a long time after he returns to school.'

1576. 'Our Year 8 daughter has coped well with her education during lockdown but has missed the social aspect of being in school. Staff have set weekly timetables for subjects across the whole curriculum which she has been able to follow. Sometimes the daily workload has been too much and problems with Internet etc have made some days more difficult than others. She has had access to her teachers if needed and welfare phone calls made regularly.'
1577. 'The school has provided the minimum input with very little face to face interaction with the children online. Teachers are the first to say they are tired, they need a break - but they are not living in the real world. They have no idea how difficult it is to home school children and work - I am trying to keep a factory of 240 people going and my children's mother is a key worker - so I had no choice. The school was so hostile to the idea of my children attending under key worker status that I felt pressured into taking them in for home schooling. The children have felt the stress and isolation too.'
1578. 'Our state primary school has been great and shared plenty of work for my year 5 child to work through. Work was initially shared via email and then via Google classroom. Maths, guided reading and English work is provided every day and all other subjects provided weekly. Music, French and PE are provided by specialist teachers. My child has a weekly zoom call with the teacher in a small group and two recorded assemblies are shared each week. My child isn't always as motivated as he would be in school but is happy, healthy and has continued to learn. Overall, lockdown has not been a negative experience for us.'
1579. 'I have two children in years 2 and 3. My husband is a key worker making deliveries and I work in a call centre and have been working from home from home since mid May. The school has been sending a comprehensive schedule of work and have been good at answering questions and providing extra guidance. It has focused on Maths and spellings and then some topic work. If we did the whole schedule it would last an entire school day. Work the children do is submitted through an app. The work is then shared at the end of the week. I don't want to take away from the Stirling effort they have put in. However home schooling has been very stressful and at times myself and my children have been sat in tears. The dynamic between their teacher is different to with their mum. My eldest has become argumentative over school work and refused at times to take part. My youngest won't do any unless I sit with him and becomes upset as soon as it gets hard for him. I have to teach them separately so spend 1.5 with them each, try to keep the child who is left on their own supported and then work talking to customers for a solid 4 hours afterwards. We then as a family try to get in physical activity. By 5pm I'm exhausted. My employer has been pretty supportive however as all children's abilities to work independently vary, the effect of lockdown varies (on a daily basis) And the space in a home to be able to work varies per household I've felt pressure to work my full hours. Particularly when others with children have been, you feel like you have to do the same. I spend most days in tears feeling I've failed my kids because we abandoned the school work or Because the children ended up upset. I'm

concerned they've become reliant on me for reassurance and it will affect their confidence when they return to school. The sharing of the work submitted through the app has become competitive and you can there are families who have not had to work and are completing a high standard of everything that is sent out by the school. As my work became more busy and stressful we have stopped the home learning g because the pressure was too great to get it done before I had to start work. I believe the children's mental well being is far more important than the school work and it would have helped to have some better guidance around this at the beginning of lockdown. We also have no I pad, computer or laptop (other than provided by my employer) so all the school work was viewed through a phone. In addition friends whose children go to different schools had either next to no work or more than we were given. The difference between schools makes you question the value in home schooling. You also wonder how children who did the work will be impacted by those who didnt when The return to school. Will this be an additional impact on their education. If so what was the point in all the stress and heartache. Employers don't understand that every household is different, all children have different capabilities of studying independently or playing alone. When you work with others who are happy for their child to be on a device All day when they work You feel Pressured to do the same. I don't know how I will cope if another lockdown is introduced and the have to take up homeschooling again. It's just too much for one person To be 2 teachers, an employee and parent in one day.'

1580. 'Home schooling my year 1 and 3 Children whilst both of us working full time has quite frankly been a nightmare. Our day has started at 6am and finished at 11pm in order to fit in the schooling and work. We are both broken! What has made it harder is the unfairness of it. I have seen other parents at my kids school who are 'key workers' but not front line strolling back from the school run with a coffee in hand after I've already worked 3 hrs. Why should some families get more support than others? All parents who are working should be supported. The level of support given by schools has varied considerably and the government needs to address this if we go into lockdown again. Why does a primary school 2 miles from where we live offer Teams lessons virtually whereas my school felt online was too risky??'

1581. 'I have been working from home as an NHS CBT therapist over the phone. I found very quickly the initial battles to retain normal school hours at home futile. My Y7 son school day has mostly started at 2 or 3pm depending when I've finished phone calls. He's the type of kid that doesn't take initiative if I'm around. His attitude to school work is no different to home work it's just the stress of it on a mostly daily basis - he plays stupid, plays games to wind me up, lets me take 15 mins to explain something & say he already knows that. Every other day I can be in tears trying to get my admin done. He's sprayed deodorant in my face (messing about to get me out his room), scraped knives across work surfaces before using them to do a school project, pushed the door against me hurting me to keep me out his room. He eventually apologises for how he speaks to me but says he can't help it. His remotes & PS4 have been confiscated countless times. His work has sometimes been worse than his efforts as a 6 year old. He does as little as he can get away with. Occasionally he has done a tremendous piece of work & I can see the intelligent boy again. It's a battle to get him to get dressed brush his teeth. Exercise outdoors is hit & miss because of periods of hot weather, severe hay fever. He loves his drums & guitar but hadn't wouldn't touch them until his lessons

started again. He won't socialise face to face with his mates now he has the opportunity. He only chats over PS4. He's self conscious of his appearance (well & truly in puberty with pimples facial hair voice broken) so won't video chat. He ran up a £400 bill on the PS4 that we couldn't get back. Whilst I love my husband his Dad I feel for the most part alone with this. Dad does what he normally does dips in and out on his terms with discipline. Dad mostly doesn't do school work with him unless I delegate it. My best support has been from other mums who have given up but they have more kids. I worry about his teeth his orthodontist appointment keeps getting put back now it's August. His Dad has fed him sweets fizzy drinks & he's not brushing his teeth properly. I've poured bottles of pop down the sink. I try to remind myself keeping a sense of humour that even his most pathetic work is a break from the screen time & he's sat in a chair not lying down. I've been giving him multi vitamins again because of my worry about his lack of vit D although he eats a mostly healthy diet. I do think he'll bounce back once back at school & he can go swimming/to gym again. I try to see this as working and schooling from home in a not just national but global crisis. It is not 'home schooling'. His form tutor has been mostly supportive & realistic about the obstacles. Bring on September!

1582. 'I want to write/rant again. I'm crying now - for the first time about the school - I've kept going with the schoolwork believing these last 2 weeks of term will be a wind down. I've dug deep believing the pressure will ease. No - a 'fun' cross curricular task for my boy to have an opportunity to manage his own workload. A minimum of 18 tasks from the list. I'm completely overwhelmed. Have the teachers lost all connection with parents stress? It's a hard enough job getting him to organise himself to get up, dressed, teeth brushed before 2pm. My job is stressful as it is working from home. I'll probably do what most of my friends have done and give up. It's not worth my mental wellbeing. Sorry I did what I could. Feels like I'm ending this term as a defeatist.'

1583. 'This period has been one of the most, if not the most, challenging in my life. My husband and I work full time. We have a 2 year old and 10 year old. Our workplaces closed a few days before schools/nurseries closed and we had to start working remotely. The nature of our jobs meant both of workloads tripled overnight. The response from our 10 year olds school was shameful. There was no consideration given to working parents. The assumption was, we would be able to spend all day homeschooling. Deathly boring worksheets were provided. No means for interaction with friends /teachers. The emails we got focused entirely on how tough it was for the teachers - although I knew many and they were all ably homeschooling their own kids and having family time. Just to get through our work and keep our children fed and safe my husband and I were working from 6 am to midnight and through the weekend. My eldest witnessed me in tears on more than one occasion and until we were able to bring back some sport for him he was getting worryingly depressed. This is a boy who has sunshine in his soul and has skipped to school most of his childhood. We agreed with the initial closure of schools. However they were one of the very last workplaces to be closed by the government. After shops. We were told that was because the risk to children /community was minimal. Our son is still not back at school. If the initial advice was true - why isn't he back? And why, when they have stayed closed so long, has no universal provision for proper remote education been made available. Providing parents with worksheets is not providing

an education. I'm beyond furious. I think the government has allowed councils and schools to absolve themselves of their statutory responsibility to teach our children. There has been no balance in the decision making.'

1584. 'Home schooling my year 1 and 3 Children whilst both of us working full time has quite frankly been a nightmare. Our day has started at 6am and finished at 11pm in order to fit in the schooling and work. We are both broken! What has made it harder is the unfairness of it. I have seen other parents at my kids school who are 'key workers' but not front line strolling back from the school run with a coffee in hand after I've already worked 3 hrs. Why should some families get more support than others? All parents who are working should be supported. The level of support given by schools has varied considerably and the government needs to address this if we go into lockdown again. Why does a primary school 2 miles from where we live offer Teams lessons virtually whereas my school felt online was too risky??'

1585. 'Two children, in year 2 and 4 Google classroom, no video lessons and only two calls home throughout the whole 15 weeks. Both calls came during the period since R, year1 and year6 went back in and we're a call from current teacher and next years teacher. Both parents work full time. We have to work in shifts to ensure we properly support their schooling. Life has become working 6.30-9am and 9-11pm with the working day a stressful combination of switching between teaching and working. Trying to synch our work calendars to make it work is a daily stress point.'

1586. 'It's been brilliant to have time to do different things. They have done school work for part of the time and then chosen what to do. I have been able to get on with what I need to do perfectly fine. They don't get this choice in school. No uniform. No conforming. No narrow curriculum. No SATs. They've learnt loads. I appreciate it's not the same for everyone but we haven't missed the bad things about school.'

1587. 'No pastoral support offered from the school to either my 6 or 10 year old. The school were setting work via Purple Mash, these were quick snappy pieces of work with immediate feedback from purplemash and the teacher which wasn't perfect but was ok. the school then took another school's work and started to use that for our children. This work was what the other school was doing about 6 weeks prior and much of it was a backwards step. E.g. at the beginning of lockdown my eldest son was given improper fractions and mixed numbers to add, multiply and subtract. 10 weeks later he was being asked to add 4 whole digit numbers. Absolutely no logical progression. Every task that was given to my 6 year old was: with an adult... and then some lengthy task such as make a glove puppet, create a seaside scene... When I have contacted school they have told me about some fabulous online sites I can access. I am sharing my work laptop with my 7 year old and for a school that preaches about online safety and screen time I am surprised that they now think it's ok that my eldest son is left to carry on on his pc whilst I'm in a different room working. I am working from home as a lecturer whilst my husband goes out to work. I have had to provide live seminars and individual tutorials to my adult students as well as designing and adapting units to go online, all whilst my husband is working and I am trying to care for 2 young children

whilst school can't even ring the children up. This situation has left me very angry at school. I now have to go into to school next week to collect a learning package for the kids to do over summer. I have no idea how big this pack is but I feel it could be avoided if they had provided structured learning throughout lockdown. On top of this my kids get virtually no exercise in the week.'

1588. 'I have 2 boys at the same senior school in years 7 and 9. I am a single mother working full time from home taking multiple calls and managing a team during core hours daily. The boys school has failed them - I have not had a single phone call checking in on them nor have the school managed any kind of on line tuition or timetable. They have been set worksheets and power points in folders with the week on them. Most of which does not get marked. They have struggled terribly with maths and some of the work set has been little more than a craft project - for example making a zoo for a three week science project during the height of lockdown. The teachers do not appear to have been working many hours. When this has been raised the reply has been that they have their own children to teach. I feel extremely let down and that my working situation has meant that they have not been home schooled to any effect.'

1589. 'Both my husband and I are working full time and really struggling to balance this with supporting our young children with schooling. It's just not possible to do a full day of video conferences and also help with school work! We are exhausted, working late into the night to try and make up time on our jobs, and this exhaustion further erodes our ability to teach. Teaching sessions often end in shouting or tears, and the children resist being taught by us. The school provides set work but the children, who had been keen learners at school, are reluctant to engage with it. Actual communication with the teachers has been very limited and they feel disconnected from school, lonely and bored. Their education is suffering and we are all miserable. This is not sustainable.'

1590. 'I work part time, from home since the COVID-19 outbreak. My husband works full time and is out of the home during the day. I have a child in primary education and one in secondary education. Home schooling has been very difficult, the feelings of guilt are enormous. I assumed that my older child would need minimum input, allowing me to focus on my younger child. I was wrong, work has been missed in favour of her being on her phone. My younger child is struggling badly with her mental health, the teacher suggested a wellbeing diary, where she has written that she feels stupid and useless. She cannot sleep and her sunny disposition has altered. They miss their friends, they miss me being available for them. I struggle daily, being torn between my work and my children, often with work winning as I can't afford to lose my job. The stress is putting a strain on my relationship with my husband. I feel resentful that he can leave for work and be free of responsibility. I work with vulnerable families in deprived areas and the impact on these children, short and long term, is going to be huge. I feel very anxious for my children's future and for the future of society.'

1591. 'I'm a mum of three on "maternity leave". When Covid-19 started I did my bit as a health worker and became a test and trace clinical case worker from home. I did this while educating my two eldest and caring for a new born. My children's education has suffered as I

am not a trained teacher. My relationship with my children has suffered. I am no longer just their mum, I'm the annoying woman who stops them playing and forces them to do work, that they don't understand. I'm failing. It's hard everyday physically and mentally. Also the guilt I am experiencing everyday when I let them have 'iPad time'. It started as structured 30min play. Now they can be on it for hours, to give me a break and to entertain them rather than boredom, bickering, fighting. I need to split myself so thin I'm failing at all my jobs. We need help. The school sends 'work' but it can take a week of me sitting next to my daughter begging her to do it to achieve one task. Further more the hypocrisy that I'm a good enough teacher when the government says I need to protect the health of my children and others by teaching them myself, but I get fined if I chose to take my child out of school to offer them educational life experiences, that I as a parent deem appropriate. If The government says I can make educational choices for my child now then this should continue for the future.'

1592. 'I thought i was juggling way too much before. I own a business which works in the social sector, and thankfully we have been incredibly busy and active with covid related support work, but I am also juggling a 7 year old, a 4 Yr old and a husband who has been signed off sick for the last two months. The first 2 months we worked out a rota (when he was working full time) where we could each do half day shifts 8-1 and 1-6/7 where one would be childcare and homeschooling and one would be work. This was a relentless schedule and ended up with my husband in hospital. We are now getting help 3 days a week from his mum which means I can work those days and we just about jeep everything afloat. We all, including the kids, need some time off. We are exhausted and overwhelmed and can't wait for September where some assembled of normality and schedule might re - enter our lives. My kids have adapted well and or relationship hasn't suffered, but it isn't fulfilling or normal to be spending all your time with all the same people in the same place with the same pressures day in, day out.'

1593. 'It has been utterly hell!! We have two children - 3 and 6 year old. My husband has his own business and at the beginning of lockdown a number of projects paused or stopped, therefore he had to focus trying to get new work to keep his business afloat. I was fortunate that I finished my job the day the schools finished and had 4 weeks before starting my new job. I was able to focus only on my children which was good, although very hard trying to educate at two different age groups. I then started a new job and then my husband and I had to split our day to look after the kids which meant we both had limited time to do our jobs. We therefore both continue working when the kids have gone to bed from 8:30/9pm until midnight just to catch up. Then the kids wake at 5:30/6 and we do it all again. Like Groundhog Day. It was a godsend when nursery opened on 1st June as meant we could focus trying to educate my son with no interruptions or distractions. But by this time the lack of social interaction was taking its toll on him and he was becoming angry and I could visibly see how he had gone backwards academically. I was struggling to even get him to write a birthday card let alone any of the work school were setting. I tried all sorts of approaches with online lessons I found on the internet, educational games, just reading and maths games etc. My sons school opened for 3 weeks for year 1 and it was amazing to see the difference in him. He was like a different boy. He was telling me everything he had learnt each day just loved seeing his friends. For me and my husband, we were properly able to fulfil our jobs. My husbands

business has got new work plus the old projects have come back which is great but he has to physically make sure he does all of the work so works all weekend to catch up so I look after the kids on my own all weekend. My anxiety has gone through the roof as I find when even one child is at home I am constantly on edge, either worried he'll come in whilst I'm in a teams call, if he's quiet whilst I'm on a call I'm worried what he's getting up to in the house and that he's actually safe if he's in another room and then just the constant feeling of guilt that he's totally bored whilst I have to work. Work have been flexible and say the right things but the work still has to be done! I take time out during the day to focus on him, play games, go to the park etc, but then I have to work after bedtime to catch up. I have never been more exhausted in my life, worse than the newborn stage! I want schools to be safe and I am reassured our school is doing the best they can for this, therefore September cannot come soon enough!

1594. 'I have never experienced emotions like I have whilst homeschooling during this lockdown. It is completely unsustainable for longer than 2 weeks I would say. The relationship you have with your child should not be that of teacher. As a parent you care far more how your child is doing which can lead to tension and the child feeling like an underachiever. My children have been emotional at the monotony of this, they've missed their friends and a normal routine. It's completely unhealthy and I worry it will damage them mentally in the long term and open up in them something that wasn't there before. They have become demotivated, anxious and argumentative. They are only 10 (twin boys) The children should not have left school in the first place, this virus does not affect them.'
1595. 'It has been a constant juggle as my husband and I both work - the lion share of homeschooling has fallen to me and I have felt that I'm just doing a bad job at everything. The school have provided regular school work but no pastoral care, not one phone call the whole time. The work was mostly computer based but a lot needed printing which we didn't have at the beginning of lockdown and this made it very difficult. There have been some fun projects set but these often needed parental help which we haven't had the time to give. My daughter returned to school 2 days per week on the 8th June but my son didn't, he feels left behind and disappointed. There isn't the normal summer camps etc running and so this will continue for another 8 weeks. It would be impossible to think about being able to do this all over again in September.'
1596. 'I have 2 children at different secondary schools. Despite my daughter being in one of the 'key' years, SEN and due to sit A levels next year, her interaction with the school has been patchy at best (two 15 minute sessions in school since lockdown) and a handful of lessons over the last month. The school has been great for her over the years but they have really come up short in this crisis. My son is in year 8 and effectively one of the 'forgotten' years. He has been set work (no teaching) and receives no help or actual teaching from his school. He has become more insular and withdrawn and gets emotional when he can't do his work. I spoke to both schools and they talked about problems around the difficulties and logistics of setting up online technology and teaching - I'm too polite to tell them that my employer (like lots of others) set up and established new working practices within days, not months. There

seemed to be no incentive for teachers and schools to find quick solutions (in most businesses, if you don't deliver you don't get any income so simple economics drives the need to make things work).'

1597. 'I have been home schooling my two children aged 7 and 5 since March 20th. The support from the school has been limited and sporadic, especially for my eldest child. I have suffered with a huge blow to my mental health and trying to juggle everything as though I'm superwoman has taken its toll. The pressure that has been put on parents to become home educators with no experience and limited support is disappointing. We've just been left to get on with it.'

1598. 'Home schooling and managing work has undoubtedly been one of the most challenging periods of my life despite the fact I am a trained primary teacher. Many mornings I have woken up and cried at the thought of the battle ahead trying to manage both roles successfully. My patience has worn thin with children to the point where we scream and shout at one another over the smallest of things. I can't believe the government appear to have prioritised opening pubs and hairdressers as opposed to helping schools open safely. Many of these establishments are dependent on employees that are stuck with no childcare. Where are Nightingale Schools and the call for retired teachers to return to support our children? In the event of a second lockdown actually helping schools and education establishments MUST be a priority.'

1599. 'I have two children one in primary school and one in secondary school. The oldest has been fine with home schooling because it was all online and her teachers were there with an email and a phone call if she needed it. Really brilliant. My youngest however.. we spent many many many mornings in tears, and unable to grasp how to do simple teaching. He refused to learn and although I continued to try to teach him every morning, we both ended up crying or yelling. I tried contacting school but couldn't get through, just to ask for help, and I will be honest, I gave up. I ended up writing out his sentences so he could copy them and I told him the answers and just skipped over alot of the work. I couldn't hack it. It made me feel like the worst parent ever because other parents were coping fine and getting into a routine with it, and there was me crying in the car because I didn't want to do it. My son knew I wasn't his teacher and he didn't want me to teach him. His school reopened in June as he is in yr1 so he went back to school and tbh it was the best thing. Because he was getting his education and we are now not yelling at each other. Tbh I don't know how I will cope if I had to do this all over again in September and it makes me feel dreadfully guilty because I didn't know how to cope.'

1600. 'Both parents working full time, mostly from home and 2 boys aged 8 and 10 with no inclination to do the work set by school after about week 2 when the novelty wore off. We have felt constantly torn between the different roles of employee, parent and teacher, and feel like we're really bad at all of them now. We feel really guilty that we've let our children and our employers down despite doing our best. I feel the relationship with our children has been damaged and I don't know if it will recover - I really hope so. There has also been a lot of strain on our marriage as we both try to find time for our work. The children's academic

abilities have certainly not improved and we only hope they haven't slipped backwards. The school has done its best with no guidance on how to provide work during lockdown but other than setting work online each week and a few online comments as feedback, there was no contact from teachers to the children for 9 or 10 weeks, since then the 10 year old has had 5 Google Meet sessions with his class and the 8 year old has had 3. In 14 weeks that's all they have seen of their teachers and classmates. The amount of work set for the children has differed a lot. The 8 year old gets a lot more and this has caused extra tensions at home every week. It's been a thoroughly awful experience all round for our family (& yet we were in a better position than many others so I can't imagine how awful it has been for some), and even if schools go back in September we still have the summer holidays to get through with hardly any organised childcare available (& any that is going on is so much more expensive than usual that we can't afford it), while still trying to work. Home schooling has categorically not been a success, even for children who have done the work they've been set, and the government should not pretend that it has.'

1601. 'Our school offered very little support from the beginning. At first we put it down to the speed of the school closure announcement, but the support never improved. After the May half term they stopped providing any work at all and simply directed parents to the oak national academy. We have three children. Two of their teachers have been in touch since the 10th June to see how the children are doing, but we have had no contact for our eldest child. We're both keyworkers who are working full time from home. Home schooling has been very difficult to balance, and there were days when the children were just given their kindles and the tv remote and bribed with treats to keep them quiet so I could work if my husband had had to go into the office (I have to conduct interviews over the phone for up to an hour at a time and can't do it if they're in the same room). The school gave us the impression that there weren't enough keyworker places so we initially kept them home. They are all now back in school as there are plenty of places - so many that they've changed their guidance in who can go to all children with one keyworker parent. My eldest child was suffering with her mental health during the time we were homeschooling and we're very concerned about how she'll manage going into year 6 if this continues. It seems like our school is looking at the guidance coming from government and finding the way to do the least it can. When we've both had to adapt to work from home it's very frustrating to see the school essentially shrugging it's shoulders and telling us they don't have to do any more.'

1602. 'Awful. Our school has offered no online resource, absolutely no contact with the children and the school work has been a series of PowerPoint presentations. I am an educated woman but I do not know how to teach a six year old and there has been no guidance to parents on how to teach. I have asked the school for advice and but received nothing. I'm very concerned about my child's mental health and his educational attainment. He has withdrawn socially and he struggles with home being the classroom - home is a safe place, a fun place. The communication from the school has been robotic and a series of local authority statements that have caused so much confusion.... Will they go back/they are not going back/maybe they are going back/5 pages of guidelines if they do go back/oh no we have no space, they can't come back/please don't message your child's teacher too much - they are now teaching another class. I work full time and the juggle has been so tough. The

only way to fit everything in is to get up and work at 6am, work for a bit, then do school work and look after my child, then complete my work day after he goes to bed. I feel abandoned by the school/education system. Not a single piece of work can be done independently, therefore I have to help him. The constant juggles makes it tough to concentrate for any period of time on work so I worry constantly about the quality of my work and whether my employer will put me first on the chopping block if redundancies come around as I am the only person in the team that has a child not in school. People say don't be so hard on yourself, they will catch up but that is not how I see it. There is so much uncertainty that I need to make sure he is developing. I am anxious on levels I have never known... Will my child be okay mentally? Will he be lower than standard when he eventually goes back to school? Are the key worker children getting an educational advantage over mine? Will I keep my job? How will we pay the mortgage if this continues? When can we see family? Etc etc On top of by the school issues, we have had to face bereavement, where we were unable to see a close family member in their final days and we have been unable to support a different family member as they were diagnosed with cancer. I have had to also explain these issues to my child and they do not understand why we can't see them.'

1603. 'Both of us continued to work during lockdown. Obviously we checked google classroom and Edulink regularly as this is the communication method the school uses. We helped and explained things when they got stuck. Everyday checking that work had been assigned and handed in. All subjects seemed to be issuing work. But only a total of 2 hours a day to do all work. Only 2 zoom online sessions in 2 months (30 minutes each) I think they were just form time sessions. We also had one catch phone call with year head to review things about 7 weeks in all reported as fine we did confirm that the work assigned was only raking 2 hours a day and this was confirm as correct. After 12 weeks we get an email saying pupil had been handing in blank sheets on two subjects since the start of lockdown. When we enquired why it took 12 weeks to flag this and also mentioned nothing was said at the review meeting we got back a reply which implied we had failed to home school correctly and instead of spending 30 minutes a day checking edulink and google classroom we needed to spend 2 hours a day working through the work with our child.'

1604. School have provided online tasks and physical worksheets and been available for assistance; if not working at same time homeschooling would have been enjoyable. Thankfully school have been pragmatic about amounts of work needing to be done and having a Reception age child I have some comfort that he has not fallen behind. However as a part time working mother I have already made sacrifices on my own terms re career and this has been further compounded as I have had to mix homeschooling with work, robbing me of the balances and segregation between work and children I have carefully made. I have always kept barriers between work at home, putting a lot of effort to not be pigeon holed into 'working mother' and stifle career progression whilst also never before having made my children feel like they were playing 2nd place to work. My children hate me working now and I have never made them feel that they have to share me before, now they see my working as a choice between them or my employer which they often loose out on as although employer understanding of children being at home there is still an expectation that work is completed and phone calls answered etc. I cannot either do my job or be a parent adequately and the

position and respect I have built up within my career is eroded as I work in a predominantly male area where no one else is having to juggle childcare. I have to make parenting choice about screen time that I wouldn't have otherwise and feel like I'm letting everyone down - I'm incredibly stressed and worn out, and letting everyone down.

1605. It has been hard with 4 children all at home with Not one being invited back to school at any point. Two are at secondary school and two at primary and the younger two were expected to have computers and to follow work Ideas set out On a grid that mainly just linked to web sites. Often those links didn't work and often you didn't know where the link was meant to take you as the url wasn't actually shown. Most activities seemed to involve parents. Maths is non existent. The school web site Stopped being updated after a while so I had to print out the sheets for my children rather than them look at the online. It took me about half an hour to reformat each sheet to reduce the print content to under ten pages! The kids had to use pocket money And savings to buy these computers. Both my husband and I are self employed and neither qualified for any financial support from the government. I have two jobs - photographer and yoga teacher and the expenses for those didn't disappear like insurance but it was hard to get income. Not impossible and I managed a bit but hard when my 7 year old needed constant attention. Luckily my older 3 were more able to self motivate and learn. My husband lost his source of income at the start and no one wanted to hire marketing strategists during thus time. So our earnings were just enough to buy a bit of food but we had to rely on savings, which we have and therefore make us ineligible for government financial support. The support given out was not fair across the Nation and no way to appeal for help. It's been hard but I have enjoyed the family time - in a large family at least my kids have each other!
1606. The school were very slow to provide any work. Once they did it was all student led with no feedback at all. At 13 my child is too young/ immature to take on this responsibility. The deputy head told me they were not asking any teacher to do anything they felt uncomfortable with which led to little online contact/ pre recorded lessons. Everything focused on the teacher wellbeing not the child. One teacher actually complained in an email that she had her own children to teach. She didn't seem to understand that she was being paid to teach mine! Both my husband and I are working. I have had to juggle my shifts to be present to school my 13 year old (my 15 year old has had to be totally independent) this has damaged our relationship and led to tears on both sides. We are in a position where we have been able to employ a tutor for one hour a week but know other people are unable to do this. I cannot contemplate this continuing in September!
1607. Initially getting a 6 year old to work at home was not easy! This was simply down to my own expectations as I expected independent and quiet working! Myself and my husband work full time from home and my secondary aged child gets on with their work at home during the school day. This was a great signal that the day is for working and learning. Adding structure to the day but flexibility to through in an extra playtime if we have online meetings to attend. The school have provided some work but this could have been better if they'd given a suggested amount for each day. The school use "ClassDojo" but don't have a website. I found it useful to visit other schools websites and find suitable work sheets. I now feel that my child has learnt so much during homeschooling, reading has rapidly improved through

reading a varied selection of books and online resources. Other skills have been learnt through baking, computer skills such as typing and guitar playing to name a few. Video calling friends has been extremely successful in keeping a social life and it's been fascinating to see them playing role play games as they would in the playground. Lots of time in the garden and learning to bike ride has been an added bonus. Overall a great success, online classes and more input from school would have been good, but with a bit of thought and planning from myself we have been fine. I have concerns with sending young children back to school as they won't socially distance and neither will the parents at the school gate. It has been a very relaxed experience during lockdown with no risk of catching the virus at home, I worry that the anxiety of returning to school whilst the virus numbers are still high will cause long term psychological damage for the children.

1608. This has been one of the most stressful periods of our family life. My husband works full time and I work nearly full time running my own business. We have two daughters in years 5 and 6. Trying to juggle work and home school demands is impossible. You then feel you are doing both badly and feel guilty that you are letting your children down and that they will be permanently affected by this.

1609. Starting with the positive : the school have been extraordinary in their quick response and dedication to the children. Starting with good but basic worksheets online, then adding videos of how to do it as they realised children needed more support, then small group meetings so children could briefly see their friends each week playing a game, then whole class Google meets when they realised accidentally that they worked. Now for a few days each week the children have at least 15-20 minutes of 'live' lesson and can answer questions etc. That has been successful. They have done art competitions, videos of the head doing assembly talks, certificates for upholding school values even at home etc. They have been outstanding. Now for the negative : despite all the school interventions and the fact that I used to teach children 1:1 in primary schools as a job it has been awful. Truly awful. It is not to do with my ability to teach or explain. It is not to do with the school work provided. It is the home dynamic. Absolutely exhausting. I am so stressed. My children (two boys) are emotionally all over the place. My children who normally happily go to school and are enthusiastic about learning are crying and yelling and hating it. After battling through the daily whinging, crying and actually getting the maths and English done we are all thoroughly fed up (we have been doing only the basics because of the emotional toll even doing that takes). Our relationship would be in tatters apart from the amount of apologising we have all done. But after the stress and horrendous-ness of the school work I can hardly bear to be around the children for the next while. I got to the point in June where it was taking me hours to calm my body and mental health down. I knew it wasn't good for us. Early on we worked on our attitude. We have persevered. And there have been miniscule positives. But it has been demoralising and discouraging and on some days damaging. I know as a parent I'm wanting to withdraw more and more because of it all. I'm not doing that because I recognise it isn't the children's fault. This is just an awful situation. Since half term when others started to go back it has been even harder. For the first time ever I am welcoming the summer holidays. But also even more...roll on September, whatever the new 'normal' is it has to be better than this.

1610. I can't understand why for those that had technology (most do in my area) the odd zoom lesson couldn't be offered. My six year old has loved going into school. Again could t understand why schools where parents made it clear their kids would not return until sept did not offer some of those places to those going in (for a good 6 weeks my daughters class of 10 remained at 5 and has only just gone upto 6). Home schooling has had damaging effects. I can't motivate my 6 year old even when getting creative and changing things to relate to things she likes. What I daily face is dread when she isn't in school of turning on the laptop to see what school blog work she has as I know it will cause resilience and arguments and then picking on her sibling (noticed aggression that has shocked me) . The thought of six weeks holiday is awful, I'd happily pay if the school organised some small sessions in that time.
1611. Tiny amount of work set, usually maths complete in 10 mins, English on 20 mins, I spend ages reformatting a 20 page blue back ground powerpoint into a few pages I can reasonably print. There is now the option for contact with teachers through seesaw for work we upload. Frankly it is easier to mark the work than to scan and upload it so this is what I have done, same with most English work. Child had coped well, have set up separate French lesson with a friend for her. She is hungry for interaction, yet I and my husband are working from home in job requiring high levels of concentration. we are left drained trying to deliver work on a heavily interrupted day, and look after the two children's learning and emotional needs when we are the only ones they interact with.
1612. I don't understand why teachers can't teach online. Teach via zoom. They've set assignments without instruction how is that meant to work. I am appalled to be honest. They seem like they're on one long holiday it's pathetic
1613. Working full time and trying to home school has been extremely stressful and challenging which also has and an impact on my children's well being and mental health. My partner is a key worker and has been working over and beyond his usual hours. The quality of home schooling material from school has been inadequate, 3 or 4 activities a day such as watch bbc bite size, play a game of scrabble or do 10 push up etc repeat 3 times. I have received one missed call from school in the whole school closure period. My daughter is now at school two days a week in the key worker group however school are not covering all of the home learning activities set, so the remaining activities are still having to be completed in the evening or weekend.
1614. Both myself and my husband have been required to continue working from home during lockdown as well as trying to home school my 8 yo son. He was given 3-4 pieces of work 4 days a week to complete via an app. It was then "liked" by the teacher with the occasional comment. There has been a total of 3 zoom calls with the year group during the time. Parents have had no interaction with the school - unless we initiated it - and no support. It has been a struggle to get him to do any work and resulted in my husband taking holiday to catch up on the school work (2 weeks worth in 2 days). Our work has never been busier and yet we are expected to do 2 roles at once. My sons mental health is struggling along with my

own. It feels like the attitude is that unless you are a key worker you must have been furloughed therefore there is plenty of time to homeschool.

1615. I have an 8 year old and 1 year and both me and my husband work full time. The first week of home schooling went well but it quickly deteriorated and since Easter my daughter has refused to do any work. Every day has been a struggle and filled with arguments. At one point I was concerned with the safety of my baby as my daughter was shouting, kicking, screaming, slamming doors. I spoke to school and even though my husband and I are classed as key workers because we are not NHS they wouldn't take my daughter in. The weeks that followed that incident and tear filled call to school was followed up with the same 'checking in' call. There was no real concern, so I stopped answering the calls. We have tried everything to get my daughter to work but nothing has worked. She clearly has a distinct divide in her head between home and school. In the end we gave up and just let her play. She's not allowed tv/tablet in the week unless she does some work but even that doesn't inspire her! She's really struggled this entire time. She does read and loves books so we're not too concerned by her education but it's taken a massive toll on her mental health and our relationship with her. She spends so much time in her room on her own, doesn't want to go outside, argues about everything and is really tired. She's not sleeping well because she's not being mentally challenged or getting the physical activity she normally gets. She's annoyed and frustrated that we work so much and is probably acting up to get attention. There's so many arguments and shouting because she will not listen or do as she's asked which we know she would do perfectly in school. We think she hates us right now and frankly we don't blame her. She's not worried by the virus which is a positive and she's very in tune to what she needs to do if we go out. But I do think it's the children who are now being punished. The playgrounds have only just opened! We've now got to get through the entire summer with not a lot of options for children or the battle to get something booked quickly like with The National Trust/zoo. For us as parents we are both experiencing severe stress and anxiety. When working we feel bad because we should be supporting her through work or play and when we are with her trying to get her to something productive such as baking etc we're distracted because we should be working. Things she used to like doing such as painting and baking she's lost interest in and doesn't want to be involved in anything. How is it acceptable that we can take our children to the pub/ikea /garden centre/town centre/cinema but they can't go to school? The government have gone extremely quiet on schools in the last 6 weeks and now only focus on September. I've even had to remind my work that there are still parents with children at home and the struggle for a normal life continues for us. If another lockdown was to happen in September or later in the year we will probably ignore advice and use the grandparents to help as the situation is not sustainable or healthy for any of us.

1616. I have had the privilege of being furloughed for the past two months. Still, homeschooling my 7 year-old has been extremely difficult. She is independent, bright, curious and has a love of learning in 'normal times', but the isolation, the lack of peer interaction and positive feedback from a teacher has taken its toll on her. Motivating her to do anything - from dance to music to schoolwork - has become increasingly difficult, to the point where I need to sit with her and do the exercises alongside her (and that includes her dance lessons). She gets angry if I try to correct her or ask her to focus on a task, and upset if a teacher does

not notice her on crowded zoom screens. I simply do not recognise my child from pre-lockdown. The support from school has been pretty poor -- for the first 5 weeks of lockdown, we were simply told to 'go on Spelling Shed 10 minutes a day, SymphonyMaths for 20 minutes a day, practice times tables and do plenty of reading.' Only after 5 weeks of having to make up our own daily schedules did the school finally offer a GoogleMeet session with the children -- half-an-hour per week. I took it upon myself to organise weekly online group reading sessions and, after lockdown eased, I arranged for a small number of class friends to meet in a park to learn together, twice a week. I am not a teacher. I am angered by the lack of support from school and the utter lack of political will and vision on the part of the government. I fail to understand how we could build hospitals in a matter of days and mobilise 100s of thousands of volunteers for the NHS but parents and children have been left to fend for themselves. Thank you for setting up this campaign.

1617. One parent works 4.5 days / week. One parent works full time. Impossible. Child (boy, 8) does not want to engage. Refuses to write. Spends hours in the morning whining about doing writing (maths is easy). He is an only child and on his own. Recently have started arranging playdates in the park but for 6 weeks there was nothing. I was a very academic, bright child (and still work in academia) and I found the schoolwork he was given to be dull and repetitive. He lacks any motivation to do it. It has just been awful. I am also pregnant with our second child and utterly exhausted with the pressure of trying to do my job and also home educate. There are not enough hours in the day. I am shouting at my son more than usual and feel terrible about it. I am furious that priority has been given to pubs and restaurants to open whilst our children fall further and further behind and working parents are (apparently) completely irrelevant.

1618. I am a single mum working full time with two children aged 8 and 12. I have no childcare support due to lockdown. I have no choice but to focus on my job as the children rely on my income 100%. In order to spend some time supporting home schooling the only way it can be done is to start work at 6am and continue into the evening to make up for the time trying to work with the children. Then in the evenings the usual household tasks need to be done. I'm sure many people are in the same situation and I appreciate this is what is needed to keep everyone safe. I have been doing my best. What is very frustrating though is the lack of active engagement from the teachers: I see messages on my eldest google classrooms, where the teacher has been doing yoga, baking and making homemade horse jumps yet has made no effort to do online lessons, not even prerecorded. At the same time I receive emails questioning my son's progress with his home work. Can you imagine how frustrating that is!? The work set and method of setting varies completely between classes and is confusing for my son. He very rarely gets feedback on his work, yet the school insist marking is in line with guidelines. In my daughter's primary school, the work is repetitive and unimaginative and all she has had is one phone call from the teacher. I am not blaming the teachers, there should have been more guidelines set and better leadership to ensure consistency and a good level of support. Unfortunately the above has just resulted in many parents I speak to resenting the fact all teachers spent the whole time on full pay, whilst we struggle to hold down jobs. Over the past few weeks, I have reduced the pressure on my children to do work significantly, this results in less work done but their mental health is more

important. I just hope that if they don't feel it is safe enough to return in September, that they improve the level of support and schooling across the country and look at which schools have excelled in order to develop a better system.

1619. Initially a reasonable level of work was set and some was sent to teachers and we sometimes got a reply. Since more children have gone back the work is extremely limited and the burden as a parent trying to juggle work and children is tough. Given half the kids seem to do nothing and being year 6 with exposure to what other kids are doing via WhatsApp all my daughter wants to do is play online with friends. She will get 1/2 day in school before leaving and that will be the total of live interaction. There have been no zoom calls from school or recorded lessons. It's been really poor, I feel guilty as she is bored but I have to work so can only give so much time. Just glad she isn't younger and is able to do most things for herself.
1620. Work is uploaded to the school website. Nobody has marked it, or even emailed us asking how he is doing. No online sessions. He has lost all motivation.
1621. Homework has been given, though a lot of it requires reading or watching, he is demotivated. It's hard getting him to do it by the deadline. Online lessons started last week. I have to work from home to pay the bills.
1622. Nightmare! While older children are able to work independently, younger children are not able and they lack of motivation to do so. My younger child is so much behind that it makes me seriously worry. Work productivity and accuracy is gravely affected by being constantly disturbed by a child who doesn't know what they are asked to do and who don't see the point to learn if teachers won't see the effort.
1623. Despite educated parents working from home in a spacious house and garden, and a houseful of books, homeschooling has been at times a special kind of misery... The idea we may have to do this again is frightening for all of our sanity, our jobs, our incomes, the children's education, health and wellbeing. Trying to work to deadlines yet still get the children to sit and learn is impossible. They aren't used to doing that, we aren't skilled or even vaguely knowledgeable in this area. In the two to three decades since we've been at school, methods, terminology have changed significantly. I'm dreading today. I don't have time to TEACH, and get them to understand new concepts & yet I have a full day of work! Finishing last night at 9pm, I'm tired before we've even started today. Guess how motivated they are? They aren't. It's just us and it's boring as hell at times. They miss their friends! School haven't provided the online lessons I assumed would be happening. I'm really disappointed with central government for failing to put together a comprehensive educational TV programme for all ages, for failing to consider the needs of children whose parents happen not to be key workers, with our school for failing to bother to listen to the needs of parents, (or to even reply to emails) for school for failing to adequately stay in touch with our children. As parents we have done our very best, the children have done their best; they've tried really hard at times to not disturb us on work calls; they've tried not to cry when we cannot explain how to managed to do a certain maths problem IN THE WAY THEY UNDERSTAND. (Because teaching methods have changed so much). We have worked so hard

and have only been supported via school only by a plethora of often vague instructions, lists of 'useful links' (ha!) & sometimes though not always irrelevant seeming and uninteresting tasks. And then we are supposed to find the time to MARK all of this work! HOW?! Homeschooling for this long should never have been allowed to happen and must never happen again. I'm left with a deep sense of resentment that this government and school have let us down and let down people in far worse economic and educational situations.

1624. I work full-time and long hours. Trying to get my 7yo daughter to do any school work has resulted in both of us getting really angry and upset as it's impossible to juggle work and supporting her. School set some work but all of it needs you to support them. I decided I'm mum and refuse to degrade that relationship any more than has already happened. The last few weeks I have glimpses of my happy daughter back albeit still with emotional angry lash outs. We had the offer of 2 days full stop at school in June which we took and it was a lifeline we needed. I am really worried about the impact all of this has had on her mentally and how it will affect her in years to come

1625. Home schooling for my wife and me has been nothing short of woeful and highly stressful. We both work full time and, while I am able to work from home, my wife cannot, therefore I have had to resort on many days working late into the night while looking after and attempting to teach the children during the best part of the day. The stress and difficulty of this has been hugely compounded by the lack of support and study material from the school, with just a poorly updated section on their website containing generic materials split per key stage group. After my children got through the study material initially provided (whether or not I delivered it correctly I do not know as there was no instruction for parents), there was nothing more available due to lack of updates. There was no way to get any feedback from the school on how they did or whether this should be scoped out to further work. I ended making up new work for them with nothing but Google to guide me as to the sort of things that they should be learning and giving feedback that I had no idea whether was of any help or use. Whole situation has been horrible for us and likely adverse to the children's education as we have limited time to spend preparing and delivering work (something which the school continues to give no support with). There is no way that we could do this for another term, or even half of that come September as this, along with other financial and lack of social support pressure, has well and truly taken its toll. I am amazed that schools in this day and age cannot provide a decent online platform and communication system to help support the children and parents. Although my children are at primary school they can both use a computer or tablet and actually would have probably enjoyed the experience of doing their work online, especially with some supportive feedback and interaction from the school. As a professional software developer I have raised this with them in the past (well before the pandemic) and even offered my time for nothing, however unfortunately the head and business manager do not seem or want to understand the benefit of introducing something new and so have ignored this. If this is also the case elsewhere then it is little surprise that the schools are largely failing in the country and have been so poor at providing support for children and parents at this time.

1626. Complete and utter burn out over this, causing stress to me and my child (who now has a speech impediment), the lack of knowledge on my part on 'how to teach' - there's a

reason why teachers are trained for so long. The school have been fantastic with teaching materials and online activities, with messaging and advice when needed. However, teaching your own child is not the same as 'covering'; home-schooling is a job in and of itself. My own work, and that of my partner (we split the day in half for home-schooling) have been adversely affected; I generally manage to get three hours a day, if I'm lucky. Our child is also 'Zoomed' out with online activities and sessions. At 6 years old they are not used to this level of 'face to face', added to that of only being able to see a limited number of people at anyone time, and none are school friends. As to going back in September? Well, this is a pandemic and although I fully understand the desire of getting the children back in school for their emotional and educational well-being, being a scientist, this ain't over and we will do what is needed.

1627. Since lockdown began, we get sent work once a week to last the week - generally, the children have finished it in 2-3 days. After the work is done, we submit it to the school - and that is the last any of us hear about the work. The children get absolutely no feedback on their work (despite requesting this) After complaining, my child's teacher had a 10 minute Teams conversation with them - but this has happened only the once. My husband and I both work full time, and having to nag the school to do the bare minimum is draining. Also, because not enough work is sent, despite me printing off extra to bulk it out, the children are really left to their own devices for 2 days a week, normally filled by playing Xbox, when, if the school could be bothered, they could be doing more relevant learning.

1628. Terrible... Weekly emails from the school with passive aggressive tone and content downloaded from Twinkl. Impossible to balance homeschooling and work, both my wife and I in roles that cannot be furloughed and were part of the CV-19 responses for our organisations. We lack the experience and knowledge of how to teach a modern curriculum, nor the time. No phone calls from start of lockdown. Zero interaction from the teachers, who hid behind the generic office email address. Claims of being "busy and dedicated to their jobs" was somewhat undermined by only having 8 children out of 400 as keyworkers.. and bumping into various teachers whilst about the town they freely admitted that they were at home doing nothing.

1629. I have 4 children, ages 6 and under. A son in Yr 1, twins in preschool and a 1yr old. The school set very little work. A themed home learning project for each week of lockdown. These are very difficult to do in a home learning environment. Really they are designed to be delivered by a teacher and I can't inspire my child the way a teacher can! Plus I have three younger children to take care of. My son was very motivated at first but this has drastically reduced. My 4 year old twins cannot read or write and so in that sense they are very needy - plus there are two of them! It is hard to be pulled in so many directions. There is only so much craft and practising writing their name that they want to do. In many ways we have not had it as hard as others but I have still been reduced to tears by the weight of responsibility. I never wanted to home school and my children have suffered from the lack of contact with other children. Plus they miss the routine and structure of school /nursery. They have struggled with anxiety, problems sleeping, aggression and other issues. I actually would have preferred more work to have been sent home - I would have been happy with work sheets to

work through but that's not what they chose to set. The difference between schools is alarming. I feel like my 6 year old will be behind others as I have not been able to do as much with him as other parents. His infant school has only opened to reception and key worker children, leaving Yr 1 and Yr 2 at home. They seem to have increasingly opened to key workers who are only working part-time or have another parent at home, it no longer seems to be 'essential' childcare, leaving the rest of us at a loss. Stories of mums on maternity leave doing a few keeping in touch days so that their children can go to school full time feels unfair. There has been very little meaningful contact with the school. I dread the thought of the 'summer holidays' and the very real possibility of future lockdowns as I no longer have a positive relationship with the school - I feel like we will be sent home again even though my son will have missed 6 months of school already. When I have raised any concerns I have been sent defensive emails in response.

1630. Both my husband and I work full time and have been juggling homeschooling our three children aged 9, 7 and 5 alongside working from home. The school have provided materials online but there has been limited interaction until a weekly half hour zoom call was introduced in mid-June. We are responsible for teaching the material and marking their work. It had been extremely tough. While we are both incredibly thankful to have our jobs still, it has placed an enormous amount of pressure on us trying to do our jobs and teach our children. We have ended up having to work from early in the morning until late into the night and frankly we are just exhausted. On top of that we have lost any time just parenting our children. In the challenging and confusing time this has been for our children, this loss has been significant. Again trying to balance our children's well being and mental health with ensuring they are getting some form of education has added another level of stress. There are simply just not enough hours in the day to do three jobs: work, teach and parent. The fact that many of my superiors at work either have older children or a partner that does not work makes it harder, as they simply cannot understand what it is like.

1631. My husband has been furloughed and I have continued to work so the logistics of finding time to teach haven't been a issue, but the pressure of being parent and teacher has not been plain sailing. It's hard for children to see you as anything other than parents, we are their safe space where they can rant and rave, something they can't do at school. At the beginning of lock down learning at home was a novelty, the work provided by school was fantastic and structured. As things have progress that novelty has worn off and it is getting harder and harder to motivate the children and ourselves to do the work. The quality of the work provided by school has also dropped. My children are definitely suffering from lack of playtime and interaction with other children. It is definitely time for them to go back to school.

1632. School have provided ideas for things to do with Maths and English, via their website. For maths - generally a short explanation followed by some example questions. For English - a reading comprehension or short stimulus for writing. A few other cross curricular activities each week. There is a short weekly zoom meeting (less than half the class attend - almost all are able to). Teachers can be emailed and generally respond quickly. Work is not marked, but positive comments are made. Our children have done very well. Both parents are working,

but schedule our day so children have 2 hours in the morning with one parent supporting education and 2 hours in the afternoon with the other parent supporting education/ sports. As parents we look forward to school returning, but in a way that is safe for children, families and staff.

1633. Work set weekly for year group. No provision for different abilities. My daughter is a high achiever and usually highly motivated, but is not being stretched, is seriously losing interest. Microsoft Teams finally implemented last week in June. 45 minutes per GCSE subject, once a week. English and Maths are not lessons, just only if you have problems doing the work. Doesn't bother to log on. Other subjects have attempted to do a online lesson, which is better. Work is uploaded and feedback given. Last week, invited into school for a pastoral meeting and feedback from school. Am overall extremely disappointed and angry with the school for failing to get online teaching up and running. All other local schools, including the other state secondary in our town have been running full or near full timetables. Was told when in school last week, there are only 6 webcams in school and the particular teacher I was speaking to informed me, her laptop was too old to run Teams. Zero effort by the school. Equal provision must be provided and it can be done, but the powers that be must mandate. A whole generation is at risk and I fear for my daughter's long term future.
1634. It's been incredibly hard to juggle homeschool and work. But not only that, it has been hugely damaging to their learning confidence and our relationship. My eldest was doing really well this year before. He had finally found his learning groove. Now it's gone backwards
1635. Having worked throughout the pandemic in our local hospital as regisitered nurses, our child has been fortunate to go to "school" throughout for 2 days per weeks as a minimum. For this we are extremely greatful and priviledged even if just for the child care so we could contiune to work and schooling was not the purpose. The inital thoughts of being parent and teacher fo a 5 year old was soomethng that was not something we thought to be be so challenging. Out child is like a sponge, want to absord, learn and do so through play. We never have underestmiated something for a long long time. In a controlled and structured manner he flourished at school with is peers, at home we failed miserably with the contant the struggles and constant battles of which just added further stress in an already stressful environement. The school messeages added pressure beyond belief of which our child should be able to compelte, spell and wirte. The weekends that we had off off having messages come in on a sunday, meant no releife from a stressful workenvironement to a stressful home environement - where had our downtime gone, when we we allowed to just be parents and have fun? The parents whatts app groups, needing to be a part to keep abreast of school issues only to find that [Name], [Name] and [Name] had achieved the goals of the week, whereas us.....well hadnt got to 25% - were we failing our child - not intentionally but it seems we were. Conversations are now about extra tuition, addtioanl support, will out son be needing to repeat a year? He is 5 yeras old and yet the pressure on him and us as parents is unwarranted. We are nurses - not teachers. We will nurse and care for people nd do our best.....but we need help and support through our teachers to enable our next generations to achieve thier potential. One this is abbuntently clear - our teachers, our schools are needing to be open again. Lets get to september and and support our schoools in doing so by doing

what is asked of us - keeping safe. I left school with no qualification and can see the benefits of education and what my child to have this privilege. I am lucky, I continued to educate after leaving school to achieve a great passion for my role and ongoing education. Let my son have the same opportunities. Thanks

1636. Difficult! I work in a school so I have to cram core subjects in when I'm home and leave the children to work on science, art and history as I rush off to work with their daddy working full time in his office upstairs. Sometimes my husband works till 10pm to catch up the few hours he's needed to be with the children due to arguments, children getting stressed etc. I'm exhausted from it all and we have a strained relationship with our 10 years old.
1637. Love love love love home schooling hoping they never have to go back. Don't find my children a hindrance at all, so relieved I haven't had the trauma of "tears".
1638. It has been hard to homeschool our primary school children from different year groups, with different abilities, and both of us working either from home or onsite. The school initially gave us many printouts with options for learning, both on and offline, which initially was overwhelming and meant daily lesson planning. Then there was all the logins and technical issues to juggle. Teaching videos were difficult to get back into if you had missed a day. Seesaw was good for a while then the work stopped being updated. BBC bitesize has something to offer but it's not challenging. Many of the online learning options are more game play than learning. Audible makes them tired. We use a desktop computer and three laptops to keep us all working and learning together. When work together they get distracted by each other or competitive. When working separately I'm going from room to room to helping them and they get distracted. When both are on laptops they need watching like a hawk so they stay on task. Headphones whilst good for reducing distractions from noise make staying on task even harder to spot! Our day has evolved into one child has a learning session in work books (bought online) whilst we parents help/work, and our other child uses Ringfit. Then in the afternoon one parent and child takes a subject based session whilst the other does online learning in our office whilst the other parent oversees/works. When I work onsite both the children work in our tiny office with my partner. The first video contact from the school was about week 5 or 6 which was all the teachers with supportive quotes and saying how much they missed the children. I have had two phone calls from one teacher asking how it was going and on neither call did they ask to speak to my child. We could contact the school at any time for teaching support. In the last couple of weeks we have been offered online teacher/class video calls. One to catch up on lockdown and one to share an assigned task. My question is why didn't the government require schools to provide a level of video/zoom teaching throughout lockdown? (with the laptops for those who needed them) This would have kept their learning focussed on the curriculum, been overseen and supported by the teacher, kept the classes working together and helped the parents to keep the children on task and work. Our children have enjoyed 3 hours of Stagecoach learning each week via zoom, from the beginning of lockdown. It's been wonderful for their mental and physical wellbeing and enables us parents to get our work done. After school we can't play with our children or take them out as we would usually do as we are still catching up on our work.

They end up with the tech nanny for some of this time. Their tech usage has significantly grown in lockdown and their mental health has suffered because of it. As for going back to school. I would like clear guidance as to how the school will protect the children's physical health, support their mental health and grow their learning in all areas of the curriculum. If school is back in lockdown In September then a better provision is needed by the schools for homeschooling.

1639. Trying to hold down a full time job working at home alongside homeschooling a 14 and 10 year old has been incredibly stressful, despite my husband being on furlough. It has caused tension and arguments, and an overwhelming feeling that nothing has been done well - yes they are safe and healthy but I worry mentally the impact this has had and the lack of motivation for learning in the future.

1640. Thank you for raising this! I feel like we are the forgotten part of society and we are at breaking point! We have two small children - one too young to read and who need constant entertainment, the other who can now read but needs lots of input with lessons. We want to homeschool well, but my husband and I are also both working from home. I sit down to work at my desk at 7am and then it is a tag team effort with my husband taking it in turns to look after the kids and do our jobs until 7:30pm. Other than literally passing my husband to switch turns at the desk the only time we speak to each other is after 7:30pm each night. It is exhausting! And entirely unsustainable. On top of this, many in our organisations have been furloughed which just increases our work loads while others are off. It's crazy! And because our children are not the 'right age' there is no option of school or childcare. We would use grandparents for childcare but they are over 70 and some shielding so it's not an option. It is so exhausting! So exhausting my husband was actually off sick with exhaustion - flat on his back - which then just increased the pressure on me. We cannot keep doing this. Households with two working parents and primary school children need more support. It's breaking us!

1641. I feel it has been widely believed that working parents would have some kind of dispensation to allow them time off to support their children. There has been zero acknowledgement from government that what was an emergency measure initially is not sustainable as I and many other parents weep with daily frustration at trying to get reluctant children to do some school work - from a dull selection of google classroom scanned-in worksheets - while holding down a job that is ever more demanding owing to colleagues being furloughed. Few friends without school age children understand this is what we're doing - most assume my employer has given me time off or teachers are running online timetables all day with zoom lessons as in the private sector. I believe the cabinet is blind to the daily realities of what is being asked of working parents, and ignoring the safeguarding aspects of trying to work full time - often on long video calls - with young children left to their own devices. At secondary level - with teenage boys especially - it is madness to think they want to spend their day doing tricky schoolwork.

1642. It has been terrible for the family. I am a key worker but my husband is not, so we did not get a school place. I was managing very difficult unwell and worried patients then coming

home trying to be a teacher as my husband has mental health issues so could only do his own work. He is also vulnerable so I had to do all the shopping and collecting medication. One school provided work and checked if the children were ok, but my 13 year old became suicidal without the contact with others and worry about getting through school work. Local mental health charity was amazing and he improved a lot. School reopened for his year group and he is back to his normal self now, but it was a horrendous time. My eldest is in a different school doing GCSE next year very few teachers have marked any work he's submitted and we have no idea how he is doing. Parent teacher consultation was cancelled in March and we had no contact from the school since. They have been appalling. His maths and English teachers appear to be working hard behind the scenes but the school leadership have done nothing to support or advise parents on how to help during such a critical year.

1643. Trying to juggle full time work with home schooling a 7 and 10 year old has led to our marriage suffering - we are worried about our jobs, worried that our children's mental health is suffering too and that they are going to be severely disadvantaged compared with the lucky children who have been in school. Once the initial crisis was over, all children should have been able to go back to school on a rota; hearing that the children of "critical" workers who were no more "essential" to the economy than we are, were going back to school whilst our children were to remain at home was truly disheartening for us all - someone who works for a credit card company, for example, and was therefore in the financial services category of critical worker feels so unjust. In addition, little interaction from the school in terms of phone calls, video lessons, or support has left our children feeling very disconnected from the school. Parents who are working simply can't home school and no one should pretend they can.

1644. My son, 6, normally attends an infant school. At the start of lockdown the school were very slow to provide any guidance on work that could be undertaken, leaving me to fashion my own selection of activities using the godsend that was free access to twinkl. Following pressure from parents the school upped their offering of home learning packs, but all the content still had to be worked through with the children and there was no element of interactive content, contact with the school via zoom or similar to help the children understand they are still part of their class and that their friends are all also at home in the same position as them. My sons mental well-being has definitely been detrimentally affected by lockdown and me as a parent supporting him whilst also trying to act as his teacher is not sufficient. Even after the government announced year 1 children could return, our sons school have said they are unable to bring children back, as they have prioritised reception children and already have the children of key workers to accommodate, meaning they have no classroom space left for year 1. My son is bright and has always excelled at school and enjoyed learning. Seeing him so angry, frustrated and depressed is horrible, and nothing I seem to be able to do as his Mum is helping. I'm sure he just needs me to protect and love him, but my role during lockdown has had to become so much more. On top of all that I'm exhausted, so dealing with his moods and behaviour has been a real challenge. In addition to all this I've been trying to support our youngest son who is disabled, has been in the extremely vulnerable shielding category, and needs a completely different type of support. I am ironically extremely thankful that I am not currently working as I've no idea how I would juggle that too, but financially that adds a whole different level of stress. Roll on September -

although I have to say I'm not currently convinced the school will be in a better position by then to have all the children back and support them properly. All I can do is cross my fingers I guess.

1645. I have been home schooling my 9 year old . My husband is back working full time and so I have been doing this alone . The school used to call once a week but this stopped . All we get is a suggested timetable of work. Nobody is marking this. My son has really struggled socially as he is an only child

1646. I have completely given up on home educating. It was awful and reduced both me and my 7 year old daughter to tears. She hasn't learnt anything even when I was trying to home educate. I work in a school office and during the first two months of lockdown I worked for 3 full weeks. My daughter came with me and joined the keyworkers children. It was clear at once that she was much happier doing that and in fact she begged me to work more weeks so she could go more often. Now I am back in work full time she goes to her own school with the other keyworkers children. They don't do much work but she is enjoying it. For her the lockdown was a very sad lonely time. She was not her usual self. Our relationship is not quite as good as we have spent too much time together. I tried to think of fun activities and bike rides to do every day but after two months we really had run out of ideas. She has watched a lot of TV. It's not healthy being at home on her own. Children need to be with their peers. Teachers and school are the best place to learn. Overall her school did not do much apart from (upon request) providing work packs. There was no contact from teachers until about two weeks ago. There was no online lessons. I can't imagine why the school did so little as surely this will make it harder for the kids to catch up. Her school has mainly poor kids whose parents are from overseas. They will be doubly disadvantaged by the school being closed and not providing more support with learning. I noticed when we started to meet up with other kids they were heavier and unfit. This is also a concern. In my work I have spoken to many parents whose children are having mental health issues because of the lockdown. Also many children have still not been outside and playing with other children due to parents fears. They are still locked up. Closing schools and playgrounds and sports facilities has made parents think their children are not safe. This is very worrying as those children will surely be mentally and physically in a very bad place. I would urge the government to keep schools open through any future coronavirus peaks. The children's welfare should be Paramount.

1647. We have a 7 yr old in yr2 and a 4 yr old who is due to start reception in Sept. I work full time and my wife runs a business with another person. We've got through this by splitting our working day in two, one of us working an "early" shift, about 6:30am - 1, and the other about 12 - 7pm. Of course, when not working we're doing childcare. School work has been hard. The 7 yr old refuses to do anything unless we're 1:1 with him, which then means the 4 yr old has to occupy himself. If we manage to get an hour a day of work into him we've done well, but it feels like - at best - we've kept him treading water instead of helping him learn more. The school haven't been pro-active at all with helping; it was purely by accident that we discovered 3 weeks into lockdown that they were putting school work up on their website each week. Class DoJo finally made an appearance after about week 6, giving us some contact with the teacher. We only found out, again by accident, that the teacher has been marking

some kids work via DoJo - information just hasn't been offered. We've had to guess at what level our child is actually at, as the work offered includes all "warm" / "hot" levels. After contacting the teacher directly for help they did do a timetable for us one week, which assumed we had 6 hours a day spare for teaching. We don't. As parents we've been stressed and knackered for months, and it's taken its toll - especially with a lot of schools now open to some degree. None of the schools in Liverpool appear to be doing a rota (ie, switching kids days so all can attend a few days a week / every other week), and tantrums and tears from all of us have been flaring up. All of our mental health has taken a hit. As adults we get no downtime to unwind, as we're constantly trying to find another hour here and there to work. Alcohol consumption has increased - we used to have a drink maybe 2 nights a week, now it's a beer / glass of wine with every evening meal. The kids have got each other and they have played a lot of minecraft with other friends, but that in turn leads to stress as we try to limit their time on it. We worry a lot about what the long term effects of this will be. If the schools don't open in September I honestly don't know how we'll cope.

1648. It has been practically impossible. I am a single parent with a very responsible job in the NHS as a senior manager. I have a 9 year old son. I simply haven't had time to home school despite attempts to make time. I have to do my job, and ensure I keep my job. And work are dependent on me to do so which is completely understandable. But I need to do more for my son and it brings an enormous guilt and pressure. I have tried to focus on his areas that need more input and we have tried to be innovative but he needs 1-1 time where I sit with him and creating the time and space to do that when I work 12 hours often a day (at home) is more than challenging. Yet I'm lucky he is well adjusted and happy. I'm lucky I have a job. But there has been minimal support from the school. Paper pack and online work but he needs a laptop to do it on and I'm on mine all day and me to sit with him. As an only child he misses his friends and wants to go back to school. I have the upmost respect for teachers but think my work situation has overall been detrimental to his education. In latter weeks I have tried to carve out time but it's not been easy. It weighs heavy on a parents conscience.

1649. We are a family of three, where our son had entered year 7 at the start of the academic year. As working parents, we have found the home schooling situation extremely stressful, leading to arguments around school work at least once a week. As a year 7 student our son was one of the first affected by the closure of schools, being advised on the Tuesday evening that he was not to return to school. Did we anticipate this situation would remain in place for the remainder of the academic year...definitely not, maybe we had to stumble our way through maybe a month was our thoughts. From our sons perspective, he keeps hearing that some of his peers have done little or no work, leading to confusion, anger and resent as to why he has to do it? We simply use the excuse of they don't live in this house. How does he perceive us as parents now and in the future is our biggest concern. As parents, we both work full time and have done throughout the pandemic. One of us works from home permanently so works from an office created in one of the bedrooms, whilst the other has had to share the dining room table with our son whilst he does his school work. At first work for one of us was slow to filter through as the transition to remote working was implemented. But for the last 5 weeks we have both been very busy work wise and this is where we have felt the tension levels rise. Don't get us wrong, our son has completed all the work set and

has benefitted at times from 1-2-1 tuition reflected in the merits he receives from school, maybe showing what smaller class sizes could do for education in the long term. Work wise the quality of work set has been varied, some good and some very poor. One of the biggest frustrations has been the use of google documents, which at times can be a nightmare to edit. If we had one criticism of the school itself it would be that we have no idea if we have been doing the work correctly or not as feedback has been minimal. For the benefit of the next generation all pupils must return to school in September on a full time basis. We have pubs opening before our children can be educated in the correct setting, with the correct support by experts in their chosen field...that to us is absolutely bonkers.

1650. We have had daily PowerPoint lessons for our year 4 child. Despite asking for them to include links to BBC Bitesize or Oak National academy lessons, to help my child with their learning, the school hasn't done so and actually told us that we, as parents, can supplement the learning. So my husband and I, both key workers and working from home, have been left to find additional help online. The school, after a request from us, did agree to an afternoon FaceTime Call where the teacher would go through areas that my child had struggled with but that was stopped after the teacher felt my child wasn't engaging with it (my child is very shy and quiet) and told us that we were putting too much pressure on them. We feel totally unsupported by the school and incredibly guilty that we've not been able to help our child as much as we would have liked to. If there are further lockdowns, the government has to issue strong guidelines for work that schools set and not let schools pass off the teaching to parents. Thanks for all you're doing to raise this with government

1651. My husband hasn't worked since March, and there is no possibility of him returning until schools are back full time. I personally don't think this will happen in September as it very much feels that teachers and unions do not want this. I work full time in a very demanding job. Due to lockdown my hours are longer and I spend most of the day on zoom. I feel that we are in a lucky position that we can keep everything going while my husband is off work, but we both feel extremely let down by the education system. The school started off well, immediately finding ways to get work to us and be available, but as time has gone in this has waned. Instead of improvements, we've had less contact, less work and Fridays as non school days. They tell the children this, which is unhelpful as we need them to continue with the routine so that actual paid work can be done. The online formats are poor. Just uploads of worksheets that the children have to copy into books. No marking, no expectation and a very low level of activities. We've given up on school work and bought out own books. The key time we felt let down was around the 1st June return. The school had a part time plan for all, everyone was excited, but then they decided they couldn't/wouldn't and only accepted key worked children and implied they had no space for anyone else. We later found out this was 54 children. Despite this, we had been told that given there would be more children in school, home learners would have less contact and support and only set work once a week for Mon-Thurs. I am very aware that teachers have been working part time throughout Covid, yet more teacher training days have been added this year and next. One teacher was working 1 in 17 days and when this increased stated that they have to work "2 consecutive days this week". Their job is full time and yet they are not expected to work full time hours to try to find better and more innovative ways to make lockdown work for education. I hear stories

from friends in other countries, Hong Kong, Botswana who are following full timetables via zoom, yet we can't do that here. Funnily enough fee paying schools can, just the state schools, where they are paid regardless of effort that have found obstacles. I'm annoyed, frustrated and upset by the lack of effort from the U.K. education system. Instead of upping their game, they see this as an extended holiday they deserve because they "work so hard". What they fail to see is that overwhelmingly parent opinion has decreased and they have proven they are much less of a key service in times of crisis as they are willing to let education slip and say 'we can pick up the pieces'..... Teachers are looking for a guarantee risk free return, and without this are behaving like belligerent children. We don't live in a risk free world and every argument I hear reasoning that they shouldn't go back, makes me question the standard of our educators to understand the current world circumstances. We have to face the fact that many don't want to go back to work and are willing to sacrifice the next generation in the process, not just from an education perspective, but mental health, economic life chances.

1652. The school only really kicked into gear after the May half term with the provision of timetables work and CGP workbooks but the timetable mainly followed BBC bitesize. However as a parent of a year 2 infant school child I feel that the provision for transitioning of these children to juniors has been completely overlooked by the government whilst the worked on their blinkered 'primary' system. Not all children are in a 2 tier education system and for those in a 3 tier infant/junior scenario they have been forgotten and now face a daunting move to a brand new bigger school with very little preparation!

1653. I have two children aged 11 and 9 both parents go to work part-time. Homeschooling is great, our children have work set online each day plus a weekly planner we have phone calls 2 or 3 times a week and any time we need help we can contact the school either by phone or online. If it was possible then come September I would carry on with this method until there is a vaccine for the virus and it was safe for the children to return to school, no matter what they say and do until there is a vaccine they cannot guarantee our children's safety. Parents should have the choice to stay on the school register and teach from home or send their children to school, this would ease the burden on the schools as well as keep parents happier

1654. I work as a SENCo and I have worked full-time throughout and tried to home school my 3 children in 3 different key stages. One child with complex needs! My children barely received anything from their school I had to do it all, which was horrendously stressful - even as a teacher myself. I was shocked and disgusted by their lack of support - I don't blame the teachers I blame the head teacher as that's where the buck stops!! I set up a Facebook group to share ideas and support the other parents from my children's school and others. I wanted to do all I could to help the children. They finally set up google classroom which really helped and should have been set up a lot sooner than after the May half term. It would have been so much better. Should we have a lockdown I would hope that this will remain in place as it's a fantastic tool.

1655. During lockdown both my husband and I have been working at home and schooling our two primary age children. Both our businesses have been affected by lockdown and we have had to put extra hours in to do everything we could to ensure they survive. Home school started at 7:30 until 9, we then both turned to work whilst the children were left to their own devices. We then tried to do more school work in the evening, followed by more work once they were in bed. It has had a detrimental impact on our relationship with our children and has impacted on their mindset in relation to work. We had to choose between our jobs and our children's education. Whilst we tried our best, keeping a roof over our heads won. I feel education has been overlooked in the recovery from lockdown. Our school has been very good both in work sent home, communication and plans to re-open. But it has been down to the headteacher. The government and Derbyshire County Council has hindered his plans to safely re-open. Many privately educated children were provided a full programme of online, virtual lessons, further exacerbating the gap between the privileged and less privileged children. Furthermore, there has been focus on helping vulnerable children. Whilst this is necessary, what about the children of struggling, working parents whom have not been able to give their children the time they need. How do schools help children who are now at completely different levels? All schools and after school care must be open for business as normal in September.

1656. My child has gone from being an active participant in learning and enjoying every subject but is anxious and has lost all confidence in themselves. We have had zero pastoral support and although I emailed her tutor I didn't get a reply. I sent a follow up email asking for help as I was worried about her mental health and eventually got a reply with an offer of support which I readily agreed to but it never materialised. Her PLP was not adhered to with the work sent home and I had to choose between earning money, helping my daughter or one of my other 2 children. I have felt like a failure, I still feel like a failure. I have failed all 3 of them and my colleagues.

1657. Both of us are in full time jobs currently working from home. It has been extremely stressful for both us and the two kids (11 & 12). Lots of arguments, no support from senior school, much better support from private primary school. Both of us have taken time off work and it has impacted our relationship, mental and physical health. Worse period of time for all of us. Cannot even contemplate kids not going back in September. Very worried about impact of this on kids especially english and maths as 12yr old has regressed hugely in these subjects. For the last few weeks we've given up policing his work as it is just too much.

1658. We have four children of 3, 6, 10 and 12 so one at nursery, one at Secondary school and two at primary school. As parents we own and run a small financial services company employing staff and both work many hours per week including evenings and weekends. We have tried our best to home school our children and, particularly with the 6 and 10 year old (who struggles with math anyway) they need constant supervision and assistance. This has proved near impossible and our company has been struggling as our 3 employees have young children so can't come back to the office and also can't work from home and are currently furloughed. Our customers are now wanting face to face meetings which is impossible when staff are stuck at home. Our children's maths and English especially reading is going

backwards despite them doing that minimal online school Work being set by teachers. Our 10 year old has one math session a week only and our 6 year old sons teacher has just set a fun project as he given up weeks ago. If things don't return to full time education In September I am not sure what will happen to our company and our children's future will, in my view, be irreparably damaged. My sons secondary school is intimating they will not be returned to full time schooling in September and they have around 2,500 students. They are being scathing of government for proposing this in their newsletters and we are now very concerned they they won't all be going back full time in September.

1659. Absolutely awful experience. Teams 365 set up badly, Cannot find the school work easy, gave up! no interaction with the school or friends. No tutor help or feedback with work set, no marking. 3 phone calls from school about welfare of child- no action taken. Quality of work set from school - poor. Frustrated parent.

1660. My 6 year old returned when Lancashire opened schools and that whole episode was a nightmare. By then she had just become a different person. Unable to engage with school work, refused to listen to her parents, create excessive mess everywhere she went, wouldn't sit at the table for meals, major meltdowns at anything, wouldn't engage with her weekly online piano lessons, shout and scream to communicate. Within a day at being back we could see the marked difference. Three weeks later my angel has returned. Meanwhile my yr 5 girls had been broken. She was self motivated, hard working diligent pupil but up to two weeks ago so has started to go feral. Arguing, refusing to do the same repetitive school work. We started 1:1 french tutor lessons with her two weeks ago and those have been great. On top of that I now take groups of 5 of her peers for weekly walks and book clubs so they can have some peer time too. Clearly she misses school interaction. Not one school left zoom chat. Two phone calls, one post card and a letter is all she has had. And daily she sees her sister go to school and is upset she can't.

1661. Homeschooling has been a complete nightmare. I feel the provision from our primary school has been very poor in terms of education delivery and access to online teaching technology. We are so disappointed at what the school has provided and there has been no new learning. Trying to balance homeschooling and working is completely impossible. In fact it cannot be done. Every day is a struggle and now there's no motivation at all to do any school work. Every day there is a shouting match and tears as we try to get the kids to do some work. Balancing back to back meetings and homeschooling just doesn't work. I'm having to get up at 5am to get some work done so I can at least be involved with the kids during the day. My view is all kids should have gone back in early June. We've had glorious weather and lessons could have been outside.

1662. My wife and I have been trying to juggle home schooling with holding down 2 jobs. It has been extremely challenging and impossible to do justice to both our jobs and children at the same time. My eldest daughter is 8 and normally loves school and learning but finds it hard without the structure of school and a teacher to properly teach and guide her. It has led to a lot of arguments. She misses her friends and her behaviour has deteriorated with more anger and mood swings. We have had very little support from her school. Zero contact from

her teacher. Just online pdf worksheets that we have to print off for her. No one asks to see her work, not that she has done much anyway as we have virtually given up whilst we focus on keeping our jobs. Our youngest is 5 and in reception. We looked at sending her back on 1 June but weren't sure about it due to the infection rate still being high. Her Head Teacher suggested that if we weren't sure we could wait a couple of weeks and send her back in then which sounded sensible. Then we were told all the space had been taken by key worker children and there was no space for her with the limited class sizes and bubbles. We really regret not sending her back. She has also had very little support and interaction from the school. I feel the whole schooling situation is a national scandal and disaster for our children. As parents we have been abandoned by the schools and the Government. It is virtually impossible to home school and work at the same time. I don't understand why schools have not offered more online learning and support like they do in the private sector and have done in other countries. I resent the inference from Government that parents aren't sending children back to school when they should be. We (including our daughters) are all desperate for them to go back to school but they can't because there is no space for them. It's about time the Government sorted out this mess. They should be back in school now but certainly in September. And there needs to be a plan to help them catch up and better contingency planning for if / when schools close in future.

1663. I'm a teacher in a junior school. We're planning full time teaching for all pupils, just to put parents minds at ease a little. Unlikely breakfast and after school club initially and starting and picking up times will alter but other than that significant planning is going into a September start.

1664. I have been working full time at home whilst my husband, a key worker, has had to attend work every weekday since lockdown started. I have a 6 year old and 1 year old. Work has expected me to continue at full capacity which has left home schooling a difficult feat. My 6 year old was a high performing boy in the middle of Year 1 and picking up Maths and English at a good pace. However Year 1 is a critical learning point and stopping that midway has meant he had lost a huge amount of learning that I simply can't do at home. I've given him worksheets everyday and online lessons but he isn't concentrating and knows I am busy on work calls. The school are refusing to have any more children back until at least September but aren't providing any support to us. They have only taken a few children where both parents are key workers. Those children are receiving full daily lessons. I am so worried about the time lost. They need repetition to learn and can't simply catch up on 4 months of learning in a couple of weeks. My son appears to hate me now because I've been trying to get him to do work daily whilst also ignoring him for hours to answer work calls and has lost all respect for me. Our children have been forgotten about and I have not seen any recovery plan for our education system.

1665. I've had two primary school age boys home from the end of March combined with a full time Director role of a PLC company and a partner whom has been out at work the whole duration as a key worker. We declined to send the boys to school initially under the key worker scheme due to pressure felt from the school in relation to lack of teaching support. We felt ok to manage in the interim. And manage we did up until around the beginning of

May. As lockdown however started to lift it became apparent the schools were not going to be able to facilitate accommodating all the children back. Fortunately our eldest in year 6 has gone back and so this has been a huge relief. However we are deeply concerned about the mental, social wellbeing of our 9 year old. I have been juggling both an intense job and trying to keep my youngest engaged however the presentation of the work set by school has mainly consisted of links. I've asked on several occasions if the teachers at the school can pull together a pack for me to collect and been told no ... so the reality is around mid May he completely gave up. That combined with the constant pressure of the school congratulating other children and parents on their ability to keep up with the work set has left both him, and myself feeling very alone. His attitude and little personality has changed beyond belief to a point he thinks his friends will have forgotten him. What's equally disappointing is that even after school clubs whom have been so good at trying to continue during lockdown by apps such as zoom Etc have still totally disregarded the home working parent by scheduling these around 5pm. This has made these also impossible for my son to take part in and only heightened his anxiety. At no point have the school even picked up the phone to ask how he is. I am sure that whilst I now feel it's crucial for him to return September the long term effects of this will be felt for a very long time. I appreciate we are all doing our best during very challenging times but I do feel there has been certainly from our perspective an unfair approach to those parents both in full time work with a very limited wellbeing consideration around the edges which will sadly now play in to schools in the output of behavioural and social difficulties of these children potentially for years to come.

1666. Work has been sent by email, everyday, some of which has been completed. Slow response when asking questions, It would be nice if there was some feedback from the schools, no one has contact my children, a personal call or email would be helpful. It's amazing all this technology like zoom/teams to use and there's no virtual lessons!!

1667. My daughter started motivated but now that interest and motivation has dwindled. We are trying to manage home schooling while we work at home. The school send out worksheets for Maths and English usually on a daily basis, although generally not at all on a Friday. Occasionally I have had to chase and once nothing was set for two consecutive days which was blamed on their systems not working. And I have had to give feedback about when they send the work as they sometimes don't send it till mid-morning and it's difficult then when working at home In video meetings to get things printed and get her set up for the day. She has had no direct contact with her teacher. I might send a piece of work in occasionally and get a short acknowledgement email saying well done but the school haven't done anything to reach out personally to the children. Her resilience is being tested and if she doesn't understand something and we are caught up in work calls and can't help her right away she will become emotional. When we do help her we sometimes struggle to help her understand the method or what she should be doing. On good days she has maybe done a couple of hours work but now we are lucky if she does half an hour as her interest has waned. She misses her friends. At school she was quite bright (although could be tearful quite regularly there) but I feel that in the main she has been set work similar to things she has done before rather than learn anything new. While the school has sent work they have all been worksheets which we download from various resources. I am sure that I could have

subscribed to twinkl and got the same information so I feel that they are taking the easiest option even when lockdown was at its strictest. And also as we work at home it's been difficult to ensure she gets enough exercise. She will go on the trampoline or come for a dog walk but during the day while we are working she often reverts to a screen, and as much as I feel guilty about this, it's a means to an end so we can get work done and she is vaguely entertained. We have real concerns about the return to school in September. We are keen for her to return but even with the government plans we worry that not every school will have the capacity or ability to meet what's put in place and therefore home schooling continues or is implemented again should there be another spike. I absolutely understand the need for key worker and vulnerable children to be able to attend school but it's hard not to feel your child is being disadvantaged as you try and make do at home.

1668. My son is 4 and was recently offered a place back at nursery but it was a dark hall with barley anything and because he's shy and timid and would cry they took his place off him again. He has now learned that if he cries he won't have to go to school and can go back home again so I'm dreading September. Apart from that we've had nothing, no support

1669. My 12 year old just gets bombarded with work. Some like maths is a contrast trickle other subjects just seem to be sending random work to be seen to be doing something. Random pointless things. She feels overwhelmed and because I have to force her to do her work our relationship is strained now

1670. Homeschooling is a slippery slope into alcoholism. I have drank much more and cried when I just didn't think I could do it any more. Homeschooling a bright 4 year old whilst looking after a 10 month old baby has been horrific. A 4 year old generally learns through play which I don't have the energy or time to do so she has to sit down and work most of the time. Although she's 4 so she needs the instructions explaining to her or concepts explaining to her before she starts the work. And you need to work with their attention span. Since she's been back in school she's a million times better behaved and I barely have a glass of wine per week and certainly not at 3pm every day.

1671. I have 2 children one 15 the other 8. Lockdown has had a detrimental effect on both of them. My partner and I are both key workers so juggling busy, important roles with home schooling. The year old has done virtually nothing. A few maybe sheets, but of reading and some arts and crafts all in the first month..since then it has been a battle to get him out of his bedroom, with tears and tantrums most days. My 15 year old daughter started off well but has become more and more isolated and is now having a full blown mental health crisis. She has developed an eating disorder and is very low. Frankly it has been a nightmare.

1672. Myself and husband have been working full time (him as keyworker going to work at nights and myself at home) I have found juggling the demands of a 2 year old and home schooling a 6 year year old almost impossible. My eldest and I have a daily battle to complete school work despite the school being supportive and setting a good variety of lessons each day (approx 6 to 8 items) The headteacher does a positive video message each day and we get daily feedback from teaching staff on the work completed. I can't fault the school, like us

all they are trying to do the best job they can in an unprecedented situation. Our youngest has had to be entertained by the television and ipads which is far from ideal at this stage of his development. I feel he has suffered most from lack of attention. My work involves chasing people for payment and during the economic slow down this has become more and more stressful. I shout at my children everyday, have said things to them that are hurtful and have been reduced to tears several times a week, sometimes several times a day. The strain on my relationship with my children and husband has been immense. I have no patience with anybody and the guilt and self loathing I feel at the end of the day (after logging back into work when the children are in bed) is off the scale. No doubt we will be reading reports soon regarding the psychological long term damage that has been caused by this situation. It isn't anybody's fault, least of all the children. I am lucky because I have a very supportive husband and family and a working mum as a line manager so if I am suffering how are people without a solid support network coping?

1673. I have been in tears most days. I have a demanding job which I've worked from home while homeschooling my young children. When the phone is ringing off the desk, people are popping up on screen for Skype meetings and all children are 'stuck' and need help at the same time, the feeling that I need to rip myself into many pieces is overwhelming. My mental health, never previously a problem, is at rock bottom. I haven't got time to get any help between the work meetings and new work being required by the school.

1674. It was horrible. My son doesn't want at all to sit to do any homework however I tried. It really affects my relationship with him as a mother. And even for my girl " she is excellent at school" , I found it hard to motivate her. In addition to that, she is really sad and I'm concerned about her mental health.

1675. My household comprises of myself, my husband and my 4 year old son who is in reception. My husband is a key worker, and even though I have been in the fortunate position if being furloughed from work so I can look after my son during this period, I have found home schooling impossible. This was compounded by the the choice his school made to prioritize all other year groups over reception returning (even though he was eligible to). The work/activities that the school has set for him while off each week is of poor quality (on one side of paper) with no guidance for how to try and implement it. I contacted the school because I was struggling to engage him in home learning and they couldn't offer me any further advice on what to do. I have found this experience extremely difficult, have felt frustrated by the lack of priority the school has been able to give my son (and am concerned that this will remain the case going forward). I have also been battling ever increasing feelings of guilt and anxiety about not being able to provide him with what he needs.

1676. I have two children aged 5 and 11, and I am a key worker working from home providing low intensity therapy to patients experiencing anxiety and depression. Home schooling has been exhausting, the planning and looking at the work, sourcing work from other websites because school doesn't provide enough. You can't just hand children work sheets and expect them to work independently they need guidance, encouragement and support. Luckily I have children who wake early naturally so we do work 7-9 and then again 3-5. Before and after working for 5 hours. Trying to teach two children simultaneously who are

in different key stages is also difficult, printing out worksheets is time consuming. The school my children attend provided no online support via zoom they said they didn't have the IT equipment to facilitate this. Yes my children could have stayed in school but that would be placing them and our household at risk and I wasn't prepared to do this. I am so excited about the summer holidays when I can go back to being mum again. My eldest is supposed to start senior school I really feel like the government has expected parents to just take up this role and it feels endless. I think they should change the academic year to run until Xmas and given all children time to catch up together and overcome their understandable anxieties about being back with covid 19 still around and all the distancing measures that will be put in place. But we just seem to be pushing them to get on with it in September and I have no confidence that schooling will be consistent and their will continue to be an over reliance on the school of mum. Again with very little support or planning. Their needs to be a better plan for what happens if there is a second or third wave.

1677. My daughter is 8, is currently going through ASD diagnosis and Ed Pysch has alluded to the fact that she may have demand avoidance issues. So even at school she has struggled with completing tasks. I work full time, contracting, so don't have as much support from my employer as if I was an employee. If I don't do the work I don't get paid. My partner has continued to go out to work, so home education has been left to me. On top of that, I am going through active treatment for an aggressive breast cancer. Whilst working full-time, and trying to home educate an 8 year old, I was having chemo and then recovering from mastectomy and full auxiliary clearance. So have also been tired and have not been able to take my daughter out. Today I start radiotherapy. I have not been able to get my round the many documents and the daily folders of home learning. I have neither the time to learn the national curriculum, nor the capacity to be able to relay it in a way that would be effective. I have had one call from her teacher about three months ago, told her I was struggling and heard nothing since. I am cross that everyone assumes we can spend all our time educating our dear perfect eager to learn children. Not all parents are well, not all parents are not working and not all children are easy to teach. I am At the end of my tether and have booked my daughter into holiday clubs at the end of term, which she is desperate to go to. Her anxiety levels and social Communication challenges have all returned during this time.

1678. I have two boys. 9 and 12 both with autism one with ADHD also. I am a single mum with no additional support as parents have been shielding and I have been working 30 a week from home as well as trying to deliver an education to them. My experience has been horrific. We started OK. Eldest Cant engage with online learning especially with talking over the top of it due to his needs so I have had to develop his own learning programme. The youngest who needs constant stimulation has become anti school and learning and resents that I have not been able to dedicate my time to him whilst working. We are now doing no learning and I feel incredible guilt as a parent for feeling like I have had to choose between work and my children. I think that come September I will have two school refusers as opposed to one (the eldest) and mentally and physically I am broken

1679. The online work set has been good. Some English, some BBC Bitesize maths and a topic like art. My 8 year old daughter has been totally uninterested in doing any of it after the

first 2 weeks. It's a constant battle to get anything done, even a small piece of artwork completed. I can not work from home and homeschool at the same time which has lead to my daughter being glued to her tablet until I finish work as her father is a self employed builder who is working full time on site. Our relationship has suffered badly and I feel awful about that. Tears and arguments most days between both of us. I took 2 months unpaid leave at the beginning of lockdown to try and homeschool every day, it didn't work out and we have had no household income for 2 months.

1680. We have 5 children ranging from 19 to 3 all in full time education. They have all been homes since March. Whilst the two eldest have been able to distance learn with huge support from University and 6th Form Defence College, the three youngest age range 3 to 8 have been a real challenge. Running a Consultancy during lockdown from the house has meant one parent locked away in a bedroom daily. Leaving a single parent to home school three different age ranges. This has all caused untold stress on relationships. So we were overjoyed that two of our children could return to school. The youngest of 3 who is in paid Nursery has been back full time since day one - in a class bubble. It is fantastic. Her sister of 5 who is in another school has been to school for just 2 days. Her Headmistress is shielding and the teachers are running the school into the ground. They say they are too busy with key worker children - when on some days they have just had 9 children in a school of normally a few hundred. It is ridiculous. My other child (8) In the same school has been told she can go back to school for 2 days before summer - each day of just 2 hours long. Pathetic. The school has published no distance learning. Has not used an ICT and have been useless. The Board of Governors have been ridiculous and just blame DoE for their own inability to plan. The toll on my daughters has been terrible - they watch every day as the neighbours children go off to school daily and are in tears. They have become more and more withdrawn. Why can people fly on holiday, get their haircut, get a tattoo and get drunk shoulder to shoulder with thousands in Soho and on beaches- yet we can't get our children into School.

1681. I am a single mother of a 7 year old. Prior to lockdown she was loving school and flung vet well. Since lockdown our relationship has become strained, she shouts a lot, in frustration and boredom: she has developed OCD in her behaviours and will not homeschool for me. I have had to pay for a tutor but can only afford 2 hours per week. It has set her back so much it's sad. She can't play with friends and with her being an only child has reverted to the iPad a lot which is effecting her mentally. The damage is becoming irreparable. This can't continue.

1682. Work is set and sent over each evening for the following day. It's varied and includes worksheets, you tube videos etc. The teachers have obviously spent a lot of time and effort in setting appropriate work. However trying to motivate an 8 year old boy is a complete and utter nightmare, especially whilst trying to provide business as usual to our employers. My son is angry, frustrated, bored and anxious at his lack of structure and isolation from friends. He's not learning, I'm basically using the school work to keep him occupied while I work without being able to devote much time to helping him. My daughter is 11 and in year 6 but unlike many other schools, hasn't been back at school since 1st June. She has been offered just 1 week in school as a 'goodbye' and to give them some closure. So she starts high school in September with no transition, no visits and not having met her new form or teacher.

1683. I work full time and have 2 children age 9 and 7. My 9 year old who was an enthusiastic, happy and engaged child has become angry, obstinate and miserable. She 'hates' home schooling. The 7 year old needs a huge amount of coercing and attention to do anything. I missed a meeting yesterday because I was trying to explain nouns and adjectives to the 7 year old whilst my husband fought with the 9 year old over decimal points. We wake up in the morning dreading school work but I am filled with guilt if we don't try to do it because I'm worried about them falling behind. We have barely managed what the school has sent us. We feel let down by the school and the system. My husband admits he is not a good teacher but that puts even more pressure on me. At least one person cries every day. It's awful.

1684. I agree that this time has been the most testing period of my life. I have been single handedly homeschooling 3 children of 4, 8 and 10 while trying to build up my own accountancy practice, having gone self employed at the end of last year. My youngest has had to keep herself occupied, with varying levels of success, while I concentrated on the older two, especially since my eldest has his 11+ exam coming up in September. They are both high achieving at school normally but have struggled enormously being at home away from their teachers and classmates. It is a very different relationship as a parent and the days have been so fraught and stressful for all involved. Their emotions are all over the place and it has been a complete roller coaster. I could easily devote six or seven hours of my day to their work, and they would churn out a futile few lines of work, which was poor at best. It has been almost impossible to motivate them to put effort into their work and my work has suffered enormously as a result. I have literally tried everything, taking them off individually to a quiet place to concentrate, yoga, mindfulness, cooking, rewards etc etc. I feel like I'm to of being an accountant, teacher, mother, housekeeper I have also become a psychotherapist and an IT support desk! My husband is a keyworker so has been working long hours throughout so it has also put a strain on our relationship. Due to being newly self employed we are not entitled to any help from the government so have had to take a 6 month mortgage holiday to make ends meet. The work sent by the school, whilst ok to begin with, has remained the same since the first day of lockdown and completely failed to offer any "teaching" leaving that all to parents. The teachers are at the end of the email though now they are teaching in school as well that can take days to get a reply. There has been no direct contact at all and they appeared shocked that my very able children were struggling so much. We have been fortunate enough to have a second hand laptop so they have at least had the tech to make this as easy as possible, but that has brought its own challenges. They are completely distracted by other games and videos online and it has become as much of a battle to keep them away from that as it has been to get the work done. They were not able to go back to school due to staffing restrictions and social distancing as the classrooms could hold less than a third of the normal capacity. When the guidance changed to suggest keyworker children should be encouraged to attend even if they could safely be looked after at home, the school ranked them below other children of keyworkers who had already accessed the provision. This seems wrong to me given those other children have had some access to education and mine have had none. Therefore there is no likelihood of a return before September due to

"bubbles being full". We are all utterly stressed, exhausted and thoroughly appalled by the way the government has failed our children and parents.

1685. Well my daughter's school have been very helpful and sent a timetable out each week with our work on Google classroom. I have a 10 & 8 year old who are both bright and in the top group at school. At home my 8 year old has wanted me to sit with her the whole time but her attention span is zero. We've really struggled and fallen out which I feel terrible about. I feel they need structure and it helps us get through the day. My 10 year old will get on with her work but wants reassurance most of the time as this is all new but I feel I have almost abandoned her as I'm say with my other daughter. She has definitely been effected mentally, her mood swings and attitude have dramatically changed and she is missing the whole school structure and being with friends. I just feel like I've not been a mum to them over the past 15 or so weeks just a grumpy school substitute who is trying to give them some sort of education and structure. Mine definitely need to go back to school so I can go back to being a mum.

1686. I have been home schooling my four primary age children. This has not been an ideal situation. My children have missed their friends desperately as well as their teachers and the sense of community that comes from school. Despite our best efforts to complete all the work from school I am worried that their reading and writing skills are actually getting worse. They are not enjoying working at home and I am finding it incredibly demanding on top of all my other responsibilities. I feel like everything depends on me and I am under do much pressure not to fail them. But I need time for other things. I feel forgotten by the Government and unsupported and I feel that throughout lockdown the contribution of parents in dropping everything to home school their children, with all the support of friends and family removed, has been dramatically under valued. They need to go back to school.

1687. We have 2 children at secondary and 1 at primary. The year 7 & 9 children have had to do work set for them every day. They are set tasks to complete and hand in. There has been no face-to-face teaching. One of them was diagnosed as dyslexic just before lockdown, and we have had no follow up on this issue. It has become extremely difficult for them to motivate themselves, and I am very worried about their learning and their confidence. We have had no feedback about how they are doing from the school. They've just been left to get on with it. The year 4 child has been set some work, but it has been very difficult to motivate them to do it, and frankly, it was pretty boring work, and not very challenging or interesting for her. There were no real-time lessons. Overall, we are very disappointed with the teaching service provided over this lockdown. Why couldn't lessons be provided in real time? Other schools do it, other countries do it. To expect families to effectively teach themselves for weeks on end is ridiculous. We feel really cross that more wasn't done by the government. It's as though they hadn't thought it through or recognised the importance of education at all. Which doesn't give us any confidence for the schools opening completely in September. They've less than 2 months to go to get this together.

1688. A top stream Yr 7 pupil, my child loves school. She is very academic, very sporty, popular and joins in most after school clubs. We were asked not to go back on the Wed

before lockdown and had no contact with school until a couple of weeks ago! One email from tutor which I replied to and asked questions but yet to hear back! We found school website eventually with so much content on the expected weekly home learning pages that it was impossible to keep up, even for her in probably top 5% of her year. She got very upset and as work kept changing before chance to complete she broke down in tears. We chose to do Eng Math History and Science each day (our own lessons not schools) as I have good understanding of them and none of the other subjects (French Geography RE Drama Art PSHE PE). She aimed to do 9 til 12 then afternoons were hers. She plays tennis and practices tap dance mainly and more recently cycles with her friends. She is now very happy. I am now in contact with maths dept which has made it easier. We do not own computer equipment which makes online difficult and have to use our mobile phones for schooling. On top of this Virgin media broadband is awful and continually breaks down. We had 2 engineers during lockdown and had to wait several days each time offline and getting more and more behind. I could not continue with my work as my husband was not furloughed either. I had to leave my employment with no redundancy, no furlough pay and we are now on one wage. My job is no longer as the sole trader has had to shut up shop and decided to retire early. Just above amount to qualify for any help but not enough to comfortably live on. I believe we are living on less money per month than a family on benefits! I have no idea when I can look for another job nor if there will be a job vacancy for me. Penalised as I had to leave employment to care for child, no child care as grandparents too old and at risk, not able to ask friends as not in No10 rule book, school did not recognise us as being key workers. We managed to find some free tennis coaching for 4 weeks but after this cannot afford lessons. If we were on benefits these are free or subsidised like most opportunities. There should be opportunities for all children and feel very disappointed that my child cannot do something she loves because of cash flow and the fact we are not quite poor enough to qualify and not rich enough to pay! Who knows what will happen next term? Why could school not run normal lessons timetable daily but online? Where did all the teachers go exactly?

1689. I have 3 children aged 17, 14 and 7. My eldest is on an extended Btec course at college. She is self-motivated to carry on with her work but she has only heard from her tutor about once a month since March for a brief group video call. Promises are made and not kept. My 14-year-old has work set through an app for each lesson in his timetable, he does the work but only a couple of the teachers provide direct feedback. A friend uploaded a blank sheet and was awarded points for effort (the teacher clearly had not looked at the work submitted)! My primary school age child has really struggled. While she is set work each week via a website in a very thorough way by the school, her motivation and enthusiasm disappeared weeks ago. I don't see any point in trying to work through tears and tantrums so I let her choose when and if she does any work. Both myself and my husband have worked at home full time through lockdown and continue to do so. We can't do two jobs at once, I had to share my laptop with my youngest so if she's working, I'm not. All three of my children need to go back to school in September for their own mental wellbeing and for mine.

1690. Super stressful. With all the best intentions at the beginning we ended up at common exception word spellings, bug club and tt rockstars as that was all we could get our boys to do and easiest to manage whilst working from home. Grateful to work for a very understanding

company who raised we were all in a very strange position. Very little contact from the school. 2 emails. No phone calls. My youngest is in year 1 and it has all been much easier since they've been back in school. Communication on return to school was great and the system they have in place works well. Already had return to school info for September. Really need some online teaching for further lockdowns though. Our school said these were not allowed as it is against school policy which given the situation was not good enough. Other schools have had online lessons working for a while now. We cannot be expected to work from home and homeschool again. It's not fair on the children.

1691. Juggling the the different dynamics of parenting and teaching my adopted child at home during lockdown has caused numerous arguments within my family, this in turn is damaging my relationship with my child. In some respects I'm luckier than most, if you can call being out of work lucky. It has meant that i can spend the time trying to make sure my child does not fall behind in his learning and stays on task. However it also means that i haven't been able to concentrate on my own studies and look for a job as much as i should of been doing. Again i also class myself as lucky that we only have one child to educate at home, that has been hard enough. I can't imagine how anyone could manage effectively with more than one child, no teacher training and/or trying to hold down a job as well. Even when schools are back in September, i question how it will work when a bubble of children are sent home again due to 2 cases of virus for a fortnight. What about the parents who are back at work, they can't just stop and start their jobs too. It's very worrying.

1692. I'm a single parent, the other parent has chosen not to see my sons during the pandemic so I have been doing it all alone. I also have a full time job in telecoms and I have been incredibly busy due to the increased demands on our industry with most companies needing to move to support their workforce from home. Juggling both has been tough - I've worked long, extended days to try to fit it all in. My relationship with my children has definitely suffered as they just don't see that I am their teacher and the dynamic is totally different- one minute I'm the care giver and the next I'm asking them to do the literacy/maths/science work that's been provided by the school online. My year 1 child has done very little - he used to a classroom environment where he sits on a mat with his fellow classmates and interacts with his teacher on a whiteboard. I don't have the time to sit with him for each task as I'm trying to hold down my job. My year 3 child has done a lot better with home schooling as he has now started doing more independent learning and work but since May half term this has rapidly deteriorated. I have seen an overall deterioration in the mental health of my children as they have increasingly struggled with not seeing their friends, not doing their activities, not socialising and even not going to school. It's been heartbreaking to witness. My eldest frequently tells me this is the worst time of his life, and at one point even picked a knife up and said he wanted to die. As you can imagine this was incredibly distressing to witness. I am fortunate as since June my children have returned to school as key worker children. The difference in their personalities and mood has been significant- I feel my children are starting to discover their former selves again and they are so much happier than they have been in the last couple of months. If we go into lockdown again and have to homeschool once more....well that would be devastating for all of us. I dread to think what would happen to our family unit which has already been badly damaged.

1693. We've simply had the best time ever! And will always reflect on this unusual period of uncertainty and unknowns. Our 2 children and both of us have ended up working....all from a very small house...and we've embraced the challenge. We will provably never have this experience again, so we set ourselves to be POSITIVE, look out for the OPPORTUNITIES and move FORWARD in this time. September will come and life will change again, it won't be the same, but we don't know what is round the next corner again.... so cheer up the miserable complaining negative backward thinkers.... and instead be thankful for what you have got!
1694. I believe strongly in education and that it provides you with opportunities in life, that certainly is my experience without a decent education I wouldn't have the job I have and standard of living. It's important. That said in order to keep my job I have been working at home throughout the pandemic with my husband physically in work throughout. Home schooling has been non existent and the guilt I feel as a result is huge. The quality of the work given is very poor and until school started w/c 29th June, no contact from the school. No timetables for the week or zoom catch ups/lesson. We have had to privately pay for a tutor for our children. The children are suffering socially/mentally as well. This is a serious concern. No routine. 4 hours a week for my children before the summer holidays is appalling and apparently 4 hours a week is not going to be reviewed until January in Wales. Why is this not being talked about in the press? Everyone assumes children in Wales are back in school as normal? How can this happen in 2020? Blending learning? There is absolutely no substitute for one to one education.
1695. This has been the happiest my daughter has ever been. The work set and support from school had been consistently high and it had been lovely to see her taking initiative for her own learning and be able to extend take and take learning at her own pace. My son is at secondary school and has had a wide variety of on-line tasks and lessons which he had fully engaged with. This period of time has been one which had definitely brought our family closer. Please don't assume that every experience is negative.
1696. My child is 5 and now back at school 2 days a week I also have a 4 year old due to start September. It's not the academic side I worry about it's what is missed socially and building the foundation for school life. My son has really missed school. I'm working from home my husband is now out at work in construction. The burden falls on women with no one championing the children. It's been really hard I feel really lucky we have 2 days just down the road the school is open for all other schools only for the key workers. It's not ok to be so inconsistent. All children matter.
1697. Nightmare. Trying to balance a highly stressful job working from home and home schooling. Both mum and children ended up in tears. We don't have the knowledge of how to get the best from our children in an educational setting. I'm a mum not a teacher. Our school was superb however with the help and information they sent through.
1698. We didn't get much guidance from the school at all. Other schools had zoom calls with teachers or TAs, we had 3 or 4 phone calls, each about 1 minute long. We weren't told

how we could contact the teacher if we had questions or concerns. With a lack of accessible work being set it fell to me - already working in a school - to decide to sacrifice my child's education for their mental welfare. My daughter is beautifully behaved and bright but every time I tried to get her to sit for 5 minutes to do some maths she would become hysterical so in the end she read her book to us at bedtime and did 1 activity on the Carol Vorderman maths factor website.

1699. It's hard. We have a 12 year old and twin 9 year olds - all boys. I'm a teacher myself, but that's not who they are when they look at me. They are their Mum and it's so hard to balance the two. The schools have been really good with setting work and the pastoral care has been excellent. They are state schools and we've been really lucky with the provision the boys have received but it's still tough. For the boys it's the not knowing when it will end that's so bad.

1700. Amazing help from school. Loads of planned resources and very much enjoyed teaching children

1701. Homeschooling three children ages 10, 8 and 7 simultaneously = three individuals having been dumped work by their teachers for the entire class, therefore, no consideration of individual abilities or special educational needs; this causes too much use for me to prep in advance of starting each day, of juggling three little minds full of questions, two SEN children of different abilities and three unmotivated learners, who have received no Zoom or FaceTime with their teachers and are told 'email us' rather than receiving individual support. I mark the work. I now source and set the majority of the work as my children are so down about what the school has sent through. Our girls are dreading returning to school as they believe they have fallen behind academically, despite them doing homeschooling at home with me. I have had to pay for my youngest's dyslexia screening test as the school denied there was a 'problem', I have paid for additional support books as the school say they can't get them to me as it breaks the contamination rules and I have had to make my own interventions for my dyslexic child and apply the interventions for dyslexia as the school knew she had difficulty recognising letters of the alphabet but have done nothing about it. I am demoralised, exhausted, concerned about my children's happiness and am overcompensating as their self-worth has plummeted since the school failed to contact us personally. A huge disappointment. If we could change school now without disrupting our girls' education any further, we would!

1702. Lots of online resources sent by school and ideas for learning , but little else. One phone call in all of lockdown from the head, but otherwise no real interaction from school or teachers with my daughter. She had become increasingly distressed by the isolation from her normal life. It is hard to keep her motivated to learn and has led to lots of upset and tears from both her and I. Luckily my business was unable to operate so I had time for her but I really believe that our kids have had to make a huge sacrifice in this pandemic. The damage to their mental health and education has been enormous and there needs to be some plan to ensure that they are not expected to continue this after September. They should be the

priority for the government. Luckily she how to a small school and they have allowed a bubble of children from KS2 back to school and she is one of them. I am thankful for that as she is back to her old, happy, motivated self. It would be heart breaking if that was put at risk again.

1703. My husband has been working during the whole lockdown. I work from home even before lockdown began, with a job that is timed so I need to be at my computer doing work. We have a 6 year old who I just don't have the time to manage home schooling with. I need my wage. I don't think our school have handled things particularly well which is certainly not helping. We're instructed each week to go into their website to download their work for the week, that's it. Other parents talk about having weekly conversations with their teacher, not us! After weeks of trying to negotiate with my little boy to get him to do any homeschooling I've given up for the sake of my own sanity and my little boy's. Whilst I know all children will be in the same situation from a learning perspective, he's an only child and is going to miss out on 6 months of social interactions. Our school have not taken anyone back further than key workers so despite being in a year group highlighted by the government will not see a return until September. I'm really concerned come September they will be working on a part time basis too which really doesn't help.

1704. The school have tried hard to provide an interesting varied timetable, but I feel it's been unrealistic. When I spoke to their teacher she said it followed what they expected them to do at school in a normal week. Well guess what, it's not a normal week, they aren't at school and I'm not a teacher! I had one at home in year 6 and twins in year 2. My eldest was left more to work independently as the twins always demanded more attention. Then I felt guilty at not sitting with him enough. Whilst trying to do my own work, as their day is a key worker and as continued to be out all day everyday. Then came the guilt at allowing just him to go back to school. Was it safe for him, or fair on the twins to see him going to school where they longed to be. My daughter has been increasingly angry, reduced me to tears at least once a week with her outbursts. It's been horrible and really upsetting for us all. With shouting, kicking, throwing. She wouldn't do any of this in class. She's a model student. And the disappointment when they announced they weren't going back to school in July. That hit us all extremely hard. And there school won't offer any closure for them on this year. I have requested it, and I know that other schools in the area have all year groups back (on a part time basis) or are doing something like a picnic event. I just feel so strongly that the kids have been forgotten in all of this, and the repercussions are going to be with us for years, though missed attainment levels and mental health.

1705. School sent daily plans and access to apps. No individual support. Son in year 1 has gone back for 4 days a week for 5 weeks.

1706. Although my kids have done some / most of the set work from school they have struggled with the lack of Face to face individual teacher pupil feedback. Reading them an email from their teacher just doesn't work in terms of motivation to do set work. They need that constant reassurance and feedback that what they are doing is right. Of course I have been doing that, but this scenario is just not feasible in the long term. I am lucky as I am not working and can try to teach but with 3 different ages under 8 this is really hard. I really feel

that due to the lack of personal involvement from teachers (phone call or video call) my kids have disengaged with the teachers and don't really care what they say. I feel in some ways like they have been abandoned- esp my child who is in a year who hasn't gone back at all. They are clever and have never had a problem with school, but as the teachers have said they don't have to do it, they say why should in bother? Kids are being massively left out and my anger is only escalating. In addition to initially blocking schools reopening, our local council have now not reopened playgrounds, again massively disadvantaging kids. Especially those from families who don't own a car and can't afford to go on expensive day trips. I feel there is a building anger and fear among parents about how children are being forgotten. These kids will be the ones paying for this mess (and climate change...) and I am so scared about what is going to happen. There will be so many problems in terms of children's anxiety, reluctance to learn, fitness and many many more. Just as an extra thought, there were already concerns about 'over cleanliness' leading to problems with allergies. It also scares me to find out how this will affect our children's resistance to disease in the future as their exposure to mild illnesses (through mixing with others) is reduced for the foreseeable future.

1707. We have had homework set on Teams each week. This has often had errors, not been proofread and lacking any interaction. I am trying to hold down a full time job as a mum of a two and seven year old. I am in a professional middle management role at a university. My partner is a HGV driver, which is classed as an essential worker however the local council will not offer us childcare. He worked all through lockdown so could not assist with homeschooling. He is away 4 days and home 4 days. I have felt at my lowest ebb at times, with kids being isolated from friends and me not having any support from family whilst trying to manage my team at work. I feel so disappointed as tax payer and family of a key worker we were not eligible for any support. It is absolutely imperative we get kids back to school in September, for people's mental health and ability to do a job.

1708. With both my wife and I working from home and juggling caring/homeschooling for 4 & 7 year old boys, the eldest of which has an EHCP, the experience has been nothing short of disastrous. There has been an abundance of worksheets and ideas provided by the school but no structured support. We keep hearing 'don't be too hard on yourself' and 'don't expect them to learn like in school' but there is no one either from the school or the DofE offering realistic advice about age-related expectations, so parents judge themselves based on the unrealistic examples they see on social media and try to force rigid homeschooling on their children which inevitably ends in conflict and damages relationships as well as emotional wellbeing. As lockdown and the return to school extended beyond June we have been minimising the defined homeschooling (and therefore conflict) to a short period each day and focussed on the wellbeing of both our children and ourselves by trying to create a schedule that keeps them away from extended periods of screen time but also allows us to work; which is not always successful on either part. Around us people's lives are returning to normal and our employers are expecting us to do the same, but for working parents the daily challenge is taking its toll and we feel it needs to be recognised that millions of parents are in the same situation with no alternatives for childcare.

1709. My son has missed his friends terribly. Otherwise, we have both really enjoyed the experience. His school have provided work and lots of other ideas. We have really bonded in this time and I feel grateful and lucky to have had this opportunity. I am glad schools will be able to reopen in Sept as it is the best place for him to be but would be happy to support his learning at home again if needed in a future lockdown.
1710. I have felt totally abandoned by the school. For the first 10 weeks all we had were packs of work to download. These have about 3 hrs for our 7 year old and 5 hrs of work a day for our 10 yr old. The packs are riddled with spelling and grammar mistakes. For the last 2 weeks they've started care calls once a week but strictly limit these to 2 mins and mostly want to speak to the boys who are a bit baffled by this. So they add no value and are disruptive if anything. They've also started asking for work to be photographed and sent in but, when we've done that, there's been no feedback or response. Next week they are holding 'meet your teacher' sessions at 2pm. I wrote to say this was unreasonable for parents trying to work as well as teach and got a hugely defensive response. I used to support our school but now I am furious with them. I am now struggling with anxiety.
1711. I have a 6 year old and 3 year old at home and its been impossible. My 6 year old is intelligent and motivated at school but struggles that she has school work to do and her little brother doesn't. We have argued and I feel our previously good relationship has suffered. She has become withdrawn and is choosing to spend more and more time alone. I work full time and have been unable to complete my hours. My boss has been understanding but the pressure of juggling home schooling and work with the addition of the loss of my support network has left me on anti-depressants and anxious about the lasting impact of this situation on our family dynamics.
1712. This time during lockdown has been the biggest challenge of my life. In March it started with my family contracting Covid19 just as lockdown started and my travel business almost disappeared overnight. My husband made a recovery but it was tough and he had to return to work remotely to complete a Masters course he was teaching on. I had to put my staff on furlough and single handedly keep my business alive (whilst receiving no government help personally). Then there was home school for my 7 year old daughter to contend with. At first my husband and I divided the task, one of us diligently printing off materials and focusing 100% of our attention on trying to teach our daughter whilst the other looked after our 3 year old son. Even with this level of attention my daughter struggles as she has dyslexia and the materials paid no attention to this. Then both my husband and I fell behind with work and my daughter was losing interest fast in homeschooling. The stress this brought was nothing I experienced before. I often broke down in tears in front of the kids and on the phone to the headteacher when she called. The school were understanding as by then we had all but abandoned homeschooling. Me and my husband had to work and so devoting half a day to homeschool was no longer possible. My toddler demands attention making it impossible to teach while looking after him and trying to work! Months of no childcare has massively taken its toll. I feel unwell mentally and physically and have had to make big life changes to get through this time including relocating to be closer to family and sending my daughter to a new school where I hope my daughter will be happier and they can deal with lockdown much

better. Whilst I admire the current headteacher, there has been very little online teaching. Just one Zoom class get together for 10 minutes which left my daughter in tears. Her teacher expects us to plough through very dry material and we just cannot find a way in. All the problems with the curriculum are amplified 10 fold when you set them as home school. It's not really home school and i feel sorry for those that do a great job of this for their kids before lockdown.

1713. We are a family of four and two of us are clinically vulnerable. Mother and daughter. Our school has been great at sending resources and phoning every 2-4 weeks to check in. We send in one example of work a week and get feedback on it. Home schooling has not been ideal but we have persevered in order to protect our health. We both work full time, one at home and one a police officer. This has meant 70-80 hours of weekly work to be completed at exactly opposite times to one another, to care for the two children, only made possible by the fact one is working at night or weekends. To try and do even an hour or so of education with one while the other 2 year old requires attention has proven very difficult. We have relied on national academy tutorials, twinkl free resources, some activities sent by the school, and then child directed activities based on her interest at. We know she would have likely progressed better in a school environment and also has missed out on socialisation with other children her own age, but we have had some zoom calls and exchanging of videos and reading stories to one another. She is lucky to have a little sister to play with. However these are the sacrifices necessary to protect ourselves. Our children wellbeing is overall very good despite the challenges. The governments messages around the return to school have been very disappointing, and don't seem to acknowledge the anxieties (clinically vulnerable and clinically extremely vulnerable) families like ours are experiencing at the prospect of an enforced September return, with the threat of the associated fines and prosecutions if we will feel it is still not safe for our household that our child/ren attends school at the beginning of term. The current strategy government to enforce a universal return is unfair to CV/CEV, and serves to leave families with underlying health conditions at greater risk than those without these conditions. It strikes me that the measures the government require schools to adhere to are simply to reduce the risk of the virus spreading once brought in. But there are no special measures or reasonable adjustments to specifically reduce the risk of CV or CEV households from contracting it in the first place. Vulnerable families like ours, have already made huge sacrifices to protect our household, and the step change from a controlled environment of the home and fully maintained social distancing when outside, to a high volume non socially distanced setting involving mixing with children and families that haven't been observing the same boundaries that we have, is a step too far all at once. CV/CEV households are living totally different lives to the rest of the society. Other families that have been exploring the full remit of the newly eased guidance (and perhaps even far beyond that) will have been exposed to potentially hundreds of social contact networks. We love our daughters school and we know they will do everything they can with this impossible guidance, but if we feel the conditions are still not safe for those with underlying health conditions come September, and the pandemic situation is not significantly improved or worsened, it may be that we are faced with an impossible decision. I understand attendance rates are not where the government wished them to be presently across the country, but their strategy to launch this hardline directive attached with the threats of fines and penalties

are only causing more anxiety and stress to a section of society that has already been through so much. A section of society that it should be seeking to protect and reassure. So in addition to this latest news, we now have an agonising 2 months to worry about making this decision, where between now and then anything can happen, ranging from; hopefully a much more controlled risk level, to a second wave, or another lockdown. We also recognise and sympathise with the additional challenges this directive might present to schools. - Poor attendance rates against the targets that will be expected. - Tensions and difficult conversations between staff and parents as a result of the process of enforcing fines, penalties and prosecutions. - Heightened stress levels and the resulting impact on staff wellbeing, from having to enforce a directive that perhaps they don't approve of. - A directive that makes families choose between their safety and the prospect of hugely impacting fines/prosecutions they can not afford to bear. Or even worse a process that forces a parent to remove their child from the school system in desperation. - CV/CEV staff worrying for their own household safety. - CV/CEV staff feeling they have no choice but to take a leave of absence, or even worse, leave a role and a school they love, because reasonable adjustments can't be made to afford them the protections workers in other sectors can benefit from. The only thing I can think of that might give more comfort to a family such as ours, would be the prospect of pods shared only by other CV or CEV families, that specifically subscribe or opt-in to attend a pod of this nature as a result of being in a vulnerable family that are observing the restricted guidance measures outside of school. Some basic assumptions would include that; - There might be enough children in each year group that would opt in to this due to household health conditions - to constitute a pod, or if not a blended group across two years. - There may also be a few CV/CEV staff where teaching in a different key stage could be welcomed as a reasonable adjustment. - This would be an opt in only endeavour to allow parental choice that fits with individual family preference, avoiding another forced directive as well as avoiding any health/disability discrimination. - A full school survey and parent consultation could serve as a fact finding exercise, but also enable the data to inform a drafted operational model. To know that children of families in our risk category would be only be mixing with one another, would give us great comfort as we have that shared experience and understanding of how it is to live very differently to the rest of the world, and a lot of anxiety about returning would be relieved by knowing that we are protecting each other by protecting ourselves, outside of school, as well as inside it. It may prove to give a whole host of benefits; - Demonstrate special consideration and controls for families at a higher risk. - Reassure families who intend not to return in September regardless of penalties. - Relieve the anxiety of the dreaded count down to the September 'decision' for CV/CEV, potentially resulting in a summer that is spent worrying, rather enjoying family time and making excited preparations for the new academic year. - Deliver a much higher September attendance rate, than if no special measures for CV/CEV families are in place. - Avoiding any pupil losses from families feeling they have no choice but to move to home schooling, where they are able to. - Gaining an overall majority support from Parents for the return to school before the end of term, serving to alleviate staff concerns about enforcements and tensions in September. - Absolving headteachers, teachers and staff, of the prospect of a number of difficult conversations enforcing forced returns. However I had hoped that the government or local authority would have at least made some sort of recognition of the greater risk faced by vulnerable households, if not in adjustments, then at least in concessions regarding fines or

choice about attending. Vulnerable families have already sacrificed so much to protect their safety, and are now expected to do a full 180 and participate in a universal return that clearly poses higher risks to them than families without these conditions.

1714. It has been a grind. My husband and I both work and have been tag teaming our work since lockdown began to provide childcare and homeschooling. We have worked incredibly hard to maintain their homeschooling but the result is we are both absolutely exhausted. By the time the weekend comes, we have no energy to do anything nice with the them, because we are so burnt out by the week. It is not sustainable. The home learning is also incredibly repetitive now.

1715. Simple worksheets have been provided by my Year 6 son's teacher for him to complete online each day, and his teacher has rung him for a welfare check once a week. Both my husband and I are working full time from home, in jobs that involve lots of calls and meetings. To ensure I have enough time to help my sone with his work (and because he is reluctant to do the work), I have been taking two hours a day out from 10:00-12:00 to help him. This means I am logging on at work at 7am and not logging off until 5/5:30pm on a standard day. On busy days it's 7-7. My husband does the early morning shift, making breakfast and getting our son started on a piece of work before logging on himself at 9/9:30 but is then still working until at least 6pm. Our son is allowed afternoons to play online with his friends or whatever else he wants to do in his room. Trying to get more than 3 hours a day of work out of him was proving too much and as the school only provided 1-2 hours worth it also meant trying to prep some work for him the night before, after an already long day at work. For the first 4-6 weeks this was a challenge we tried to meet but after that we realised that to function as a family we needed to drop the additional work. The last couple of weeks, work has been busy and so our son has not had the same level of guidance from us. He has completed the bare minimum of online work and I suspect has put just enough effort in to get the marks he wanted. I feel like a bit of a failure as a parent but realistically cannot see how I could have done much different without it having an effect on my job. In theory work have been understanding (I work for a local authority) but their offer of flexible hours still means I have to complete the same amount of work as pre-lockdown, and if anything my workload has increased. To properly home-school and do my job, I would be doing both of these from 7-7 as a minimum 5 days a week, which is not good for my mental heath, and puts a strain on the rest of the family.

1716. Home schooling has been a really tough experience in our gphouse, I have a 12 year old very reluctant to engage in any work, who is anxious about leaving the house and support from school has been minimal. I am a keyworker, as Welfare Lead in a Special school, I have worked throughout lockdown, mostly at the school with some time working from home. Working in a school has been extremely stressful, special schools have felt unsupported with minimal guidance for working with children with special needs. My husband was furloughed for 5 weeks but otherwise has also worked outside the home for the majority of the time. Homeschooling lead to daily battles. We have struggled to get my daughter out of bed each day or motivate her to do any work. She has dyslexia and doesn't respond well to endless PowerPoints without regular feedback from teachers. School have been setting the children

work but actual interaction with the children has been minimal, I have asked for help from school on several occasions, but other than the odd email this has not been forthcoming. We were offered a keyworker place but could not take it up as we can't get my daughter to leave the house and I can't manage the battles alongside having to go to work as well. My daughter will be returning to school anxious and very behind where she should be academically, she already struggled due to her dyslexia but I am significantly worried about how she will cope over the next few years and the long term impact on her emotional wellbeing and her education. As a family we would struggle with further homeschooling. In addition to this my 17 year old is considering repeating her first year at college as she doesn't think she pass her A levels next year as she doesn't feel she has a good enough understanding of the subjects!

1717. Primary y6 work repetitive and need a lot of parental guidance. Secondary y7 work independently accessible BUT I had to buy my son a laptop so that I could use my work laptop myself.

1718. Terrible. We have 3 children, we have both worked full time throughout lockdown. Our children are both primary and secondary age. It's all been so meaningless for the younger ones. A forest of forms has been emailed from primary for us to print with there never being any hope of the school seeing the completed work. Where is the motivation when nothing is marked? We cant split ourselves 3 ways for the kids and one more for work. They are not motivated. They say we dont do it like that in school. So we are telling them how we do things but methods have changed. Our secondary age child has no motivation, he has heard hardly anything from his teachers, unless it is to say he hasn't handed in work. I have had millions of emails from schools about updates and links but the time could have be better spent on them contacting students. I work in a school as support staff, I know it's not easy for anyone. The government should be held accountable for this mess. Why didn't they take the lead from other countries? Open halls and libraries for social distance learning? I have one child awaiting an ASD assessment and one with processing difficulties, neither have an EHCP, nothing had been able to be differentiated for them. The impact of the loss of social interaction has been low mood and frustration. I dont know how any of them will cope in September. The government want students to pick up as normal, so more damaging for their mental health when they cant just slot back in. Schools have all taken their own approaches so there is inconsistency for all students of experience. And why has our children education not been the priority? I can take my kids to Thorpe Park but not to school... what a joke

1719. My husband is a secondary teacher and I am a former teacher. We have schooled our Year 1 and pre-school children successfully. However, my business has suffered as a result as I have had to reduce my work. We constantly have to juggle who is in charge of school work / play, with who is working as they are too young to do anything without supervision. We are exhausted. But as education professionals we believe passionately in education and have been determined not to let their education suffer. We have resourced much of it ourselves, as the week's maths can be completed in one session! We cannot keep failing a generation of children. They need education and the social aspect offered by school. Our youngest has lost social skills and now finds it a lot more difficult to interact with other children when he meets them. Children are low risk according to the data. The risks to their education and mental

health by school closures far outweigh their risk from CV19. All the parks around us are still closed too while pubs are open. We are really angry that children and working parents are such low priority.

1720. My husband is in Afghanistan since January and as such have been solo parenting. Although I work in the utilities sector my child was not allowed to attend school because I could work from home. After three weeks of my child sitting in front the tv, and him showing signs of being completely fed up, and I was at breaking point, I decided enough was enough and employed a babysitter. There was no way I could continue working and look after my child at the same time without this intervention. I honestly do not know how other parents have been able to do it.
1721. We are a family with a 5yr old and a 7yr old, two parents with full time jobs. Fortunately we are both able to work from home however we have had to shift our working days to run consecutively from 5am to 2am the following day. While one parent works the other looks after / home schools the children. During the first three weeks of lockdown we only received a few photocopied sheets from twinkl.com. Over the following few weeks some worksheets were put online with no related guidance. The worksheets usually followed BBC bitesize lessons. One maths, one English and one other per day. Once every two weeks we received a short email from the class teacher describing how they were having a lovely time, waking the dog, baking cakes and knitting. At about week 8 one piece of work was offered to be marked per week. The typical piece of work was "write a few sentences about an animal you like". Of the key worker children who were allowed back, they are given movies to sit down and watch as the teachers are not obligated to teach. Our children's mental health deteriorated as we try to balance work and home school. Conscious of trying to find the balance between not letting our children fall behind and not putting them off learning for life we realise that the home environment is fundamentally different from that of the classroom environment and that the relationship between a child and parent is fundamentally different from that of a student and teacher. After several emails with the school explaining we were concerned about mental health we were offered a call with the teacher. This massively helped but made us wonder why more could not have been done over the previous 15 weeks. The school is shutting for summer early and we are left wondering why after so many sectors of the U.K. rallied round in the face of a global pandemic, did the education sector do so so little.
1722. Start of lockdown one child would complain and cry when asked to do work. Now she complains and/or cries anytime anything is asked like "shall we go to park?". Eldest can be found hiding under table whimpering/howling with blanket over her head if asked to write anything. No comforting or rationalising stops the spiral. This has not been homeschooling, it has been school activities in our home, the worst compromise for learning and mental health.
1723. Lockdown has been hell for me as a daughter, mum and owner of a business. As a daughter I lost my father on 16/4 - My last surviving parent - not through Covid but suddenly from cancer that had spread throughout his body and within 10 days he had passed away. For

5 of those days he was in hospital - uncontactable. I drove up to him four hours away, and I was with him when he died. I stayed up there organising his Covid funeral and trying to sort out his affairs when everything was closed - it was hell. During the two weeks I stayed up at my dad's home, family tried to home school my 10 year old. It had been difficult before I came away. Returning home, the home schooling v running a business became torture. My work life was evolving around teams meetings, trying to keep the business going, and every time I went on a call my son was off on PlayStation. He had no interest in the work set by the school, which frankly was so boring it made me want to stick pins in my eyes. My focus had to be on trying to maintain our livelihood, and the livelihood of my staff, and transition to the new way of working. There was a reason I had chosen not to be a teacher. The whole homeschooling was hell - the work was boring and my son had no interest. But there wasn't an alternative only the PlayStation where he was able to also interact and chat with his friends whom he was missing dreadfully. It became apparent he couldn't manage any self directed learning himself. I had to sit over him and all he wanted was for me to do the work myself. I was torn trying to be everything to everyone whilst also grieving for my dad - I was mum, teacher, snack and drink maker, meal maker, house cleaner, MD, manager, business organiser. Our days were about shouting, PlayStation bans, battles of will, me being pulled in every direction. As lockdown was relaxed we finally got a private assessment and my son received the diagnosis we had been seeking of dyslexia and adhd. The reason he couldn't focus nor sit and work for more than 10 minutes at a time. I dreaded seeing the weekly assemblies with the children in my son's class. The other parents with time on their hands creating exciting learning experiences, building amazing zip wires, playing games with their kids, loving every moment with their child and talking about these treasured precious times - made me feel awful - It made me feel alone, incompetent as a parent, not having my priorities right, and not doing the best for my child. Luckily year 5 went back two weeks ago, and some sanity resumed in our household - but already I am dreading the school holidays coming up.

1724. I lay awake from 3 or 4 in the morning totally unable to face the oncoming hell of "educating" my seven year old. We started out okay, we were doing about three hours a day, were both enthusiastic about it and it was fun. Sadly, since then it has gone seriously downhill and now we manage maybe 45 minutes and most of that is arguing, him crying and being sent to his room and me angry and despairing. His school were good to start and sent out the curriculum areas he should be learning and where he should be at with each topic. I have used that to benchmark where he was at and to concentrate on those areas. Sadly, he has gone backwards with some areas since our initial progress. This is largely due to disinterest and lethargy (not surprising). His handwriting, for instance, was bad so we worked hard on it and he improved a lot. I was very proud of our hard work. Now, however, it is worse than before we started and he just isn't interested. It is devastating to me to have made massive efforts every day to ensure my boy doesn't fall behind only to see that happening. His school started sending work twice a week (posted on the VLE) which was great. We took pictures and made videos of the work we were doing and posted them on the VLE and quickly a small community of his classmates joined in and his teacher was replying and praising etc. Now that has all dwindled to virtually nothing. The teacher posts once a week now, it should be on a Monday but can be any day. All we get is about an hour's work so we are on our own finding

work for the rest of the week. All of the online resources that gave free two months of resources are charging now so that makes it even more difficult to plan "lessons". My wife has been working the whole time and I can't share with her this hell as it is my "job" to do this and frankly I am failing. My relationship with my son has been damaged and I am completely way beyond the end of my tether and devastatingly mentally ill. No one to talk to about it so thank you for this opportunity to vent!

1725. Incredibly difficult to manage my very FT job (itself bigger than usual due to continuous WFH and the business problems the virus has caused) with trying to keep 7 and 11 y/o's working even part of the day. School have done their best to set work but kids don't like WFH - it doesn't make sense to them and I'm a poor teacher to boot. I've felt very bad about the terrible job I've done of educating them and there have been huge rows. This can't be the solution.

1726. I have two sons, aged 7 and 3. I also work full time. My husband is in the building trade so has to go out to work. I have therefore been working, homeschooling and trying to keep my 3 year old occupied and happy at the same time. At the start it wasn't too difficult; I put together a timetable of school work and dipped in and out of my work throughout the day. But my work got gradually busier and over the past few weeks I have had to leave my children to play all day because I have so much work on. My eldest son is so reluctant to engage in learning now that it isn't worth the struggle. He is starting to act out because he misses his friends. He has even told me he wishes I had never been born. I feel like I'm ignoring my 3 year old's needs for attention and affection. There is a learning pack produced every week by school, and an app for video lesson introductions. My son has begun to find the packs quite boring and we haven't engaged much with the app because of my workload. I have tried to make up some fun learning experiences, based on his end of year targets but there is a limit to my 'teaching' abilities. He has been using BBC Bitesize and Teach, which have been great, but it only adds to his already above-average screen time. No provision has been made for me by my employers in terms of workload, despite having two children. I am exhausted, stressed, anxious and haven't been sleeping well. I have shouted at my boys too much and feel guilty for it. I am also acutely aware that this situation is likely to return, perhaps many times, over the next year or so. I just hope that my sons' education and behaviour doesn't suffer too much and that I am able to cope.

1727. Although I think the school has done the best it can to set work, there is no doubt that my son's education has suffered terribly since home learning began. He does the absolute minimum in core subjects and those he enjoys but does none of the tasks set in food tech, music, art, computer science etc. I am not a teacher and I do not know how to help him learn. We are both frustrated. Without the right support for dyslexia I think he has regressed two or three school years and I am so scared that he will leave school without any GCSEs. He is angry, anxious, bored and I suspect lonely being away from his friends. We have good relationships as a family but the situation is causing strain on those relationships. My children squabble all day long. We have had one phone call from the school to see how he is doing. No live online classes. However I have been bombarded with emails from the school about mental health issues and when his work isn't handed in. I feel like they are throwing

everything back at me and I am overwhelmed. I am really really concerned about how he will catch up with his peers. School reports come out this week, what are they going to tell me???

1728. 'We have found home schooling incredibly difficult. We have 3 children, aged 7, 5 and 3. The 3 year old is disruptive whilst I am trying to give attention to the other children. We do not have a huge amount of technology in the house and the home schooling activities set by the school were all on line. This meant we had to borrow an iPad and use our work laptops which then prevents us from working. Both my husband and I's jobs became even busier due to Covid which has put a huge strain on also trying to home school. The children, whilst enthusiastic at first, have become increasingly disappointment and it is now a daily battle to get any focus or work done. There is no accountability for my 7 year old as the school does not mark work or give feedback so we have been left to drift helplessly for the past 5 months.'
1729. It's been ok..... That's about the sum of it. Single daughter is 5, reception year. The work the school set could be done in about an hour each day. Leaving both us parents rest of day to work. But you do feel massively neglectful. She's been back at school for a few weeks and is much, much, better for it. The school was helpful. The work clear and good guidance each week. But it definitely felt like we weren't able to give her what she needed to move her forward in what is a critical first year of formal education. She needed more than we could give. And that didn't feel good. I dread the upcoming holidays with no holiday clubs, etc. I'm going to be feeling very guilty that I'm neglectful towards her because of my workload.
1730. My husband and I are both working and so trying to home educate has been extremely difficult. We can't give our children the time they deserve and we feel they are being left behind. The homeschooling support has been extremely poor with just a couple of uninspiring links to online exercises. I am a key worker but the school can only offer 1 day a week because they say they are full. The situation frequently leaves me in tears. I am physically and emotionally drained from going out to work and trying to look after my children. They are undoubtedly suffering.
1731. 'It is assumed that children from middle-upper class backgrounds are having a better home learning experience than children from poorer backgrounds however hey are wrong! Both myself and husband are professionals working full time. I am having to wake up very early to complete 2 hours of work before my children wake up then deliver 2 hours of home learning then when they eat lunch I work again. In the afternoon they have to entertain themselves whilst I work. Then when they go to bed I work 2 hours again until I am so exhausted I have to sleep and start the day the same again the next day!!! This is exhausting for us as parents and is surely going to impact on my resilience over time. My children have found home learning very challenging, sometimes being reduced to tears because they don't get the work and associate home as a fun place It has definitely added a strain to our family relationship I ma their mum not their teacher!! I also feel guilty if I have a day where I am not completing what school set online. They post photos of other children completing work at home which I think creates a element of parent competition which is stressful! Children need

structure and this is hard to create at home whilst juggling work and home learning. I am about to start a new job in September and I worry how I will manage if I end up having to homeschool when school is closed for outbreaks etc. The pressure being put on parents to deliver this for their children is unrealistic.'

1732. '11 weeks of both of us working from home whilst home schooling our 5 and 8 year old boys was one of the most stressful times of our lives. We both have high pressure jobs in London. On top of that, we were managing the household as well as highly stressful employment issues with our nanny who wanted to be furloughed. We were doing tag team so that we could each attend meetings. Getting up at 5am to work before people woke, getting to bed late so I could prepare lessons - the school provided no support for 3 weeks. Horrific.'

1733. We have two sons aged 8 and 10 who both attend the same small village primary school (single year intake). We feel we have coped well with home schooling due to our work being very flexible and allowing my wife and I to effectively work shifts with her looking after the boys in the morning and me in the afternoon. That said we are working long days as a result and both feel we are not adequately doing our jobs. Both my wife and I have found that whilst our employers are supportive senior management who do not have children or who do not have primary age or younger children have not always been understanding of the challenges on parents (i.e not understanding why you cant just attend that meeting that is slightly outside of your revised hours). Our school has provided work for the boys which we download from the website to use each week. The work is well prepared and structured. We've had very little active interaction from teachers with our children during this time and what there has been was last minute and not repeated. Generally teachers seemed unaware of the pressures on working parents (i.e. work was often only loaded up to the website on late Sunday night or Monday morning giving us little time to prepare for the week ahead, phone calls from teachers meant for our children came unplanned to our mobile phones with no ability to phone the teacher back as the number was withheld, as a result if we were in a work meeting at that time our child missed the call) our children have missed their friends and socialising but online gaming with their friends has helped to replace that somewhat.

1734. Three kids. A full time job. Private school teachers for 1 kid making a real effort and using technology. State schools for other two kids absolutely pathetic response. No contact with teachers in over 3 months. The gap between private and state massive. And our children will have to pay for all the money spent protecting the older generation, many of whom will not feel the coming burdens to pay for all of this. Unfair burden on parents and children!

1735. It's difficult to know where to begin with this. I am a single parent of an only child and we have both really struggled in our different ways. For my son, the lack of friendship contact (now easing slightly) and the lack of exercise, particularly in the early weeks, have been really detrimental. For over 8 weeks at the beginning he didn't spend time with a single other child. Educationally, he has gone backwards, which means he has lost confidence in himself and his self-esteem has suffered a real blow, which I think it will be hard to row back from without

some really intensive effort from his teachers (which I doubt they will have the capacity to give). Our relationship has also suffered through the home schooling; there have been almost daily tears and arguments. The school has only recently started to offer two 30 minute Zoom lessons a day but they have come too little too late. For me, although I love my son dearly, spending 24 hours a day with him for days on end and the lack of any personal space or time has been an endurance test, to put it mildly. I am self-employed and have had to put my own work on hold, with the resulting detrimental effect on finances which will start to feed through in a few months time. I heard one MP describe the government as being 'asleep at the wheel' over education and I can't think of a better description. The jubilation (apparently) over pubs and shops opening is frankly pathetic when children are still out of school and missing their friends and their education. They should be the first priority, not the last. Personally I also think the effect on single parents (who will overwhelmingly be women) and only children has been overlooked in all of this (I haven't seen any politicians or journalists comment on this specifically).

1736. The school has been very poor at communicating and they have shown no initiative in teaching our child . They provide one learning plan a week and the parents and child are expected to work through this with little to no feedback. They eventually initiated a 30 minute video call every 2 weeks with my child in groups of 6 children . This started in June after prompting from parents. The school appears to have shown no thought to the children or parents. They have not tried to use technology. The school is in an affluent area so risk of inclusivity of access should not be a major issue and I believe parents would be and have been very supportive of the school if help was needed with resources in this emergency. Why are some state schools able to operate team lesson calls every day , provide youtube recorded lessons, call their pupil's every week individually etc .? All our school has achieved is a 30 minute call every 2 weeks in groups of 6 and very limited on line teaching material! Why do the headmaster, governors and local council offer no solution to providing teaching in the summer term. This side of the story is never presented in the media. I am so frustrated by the school's poor communication and lack of can-do attitude and the lack of professional educational support they are providing to my child. What are the teachers doing whilst on full pay with no risk to their employment terms and conditions.

1737. My husband and I are working full time from home and schooling our two children Since March. One has ADHD and the other has additional needs. We feel we are neglecting our children for a chunk of the day or attempting to teach in an impossible situation. None of this is fair on them.

1738. My experience has been nothing but pure hell. My relationship with my son is at an all time low, we both argue all the time he hates me now because he feels I have forced him to do the school work. You can not try to differentiate between school and home. I have been shielding for 3 months and my wife as been working from home. We both feel the government has failed the children and their education.

1739. Thank you for allowing me to voice my misery. It has been extremely difficult home schooling 1 teenager and a pre-teen. My teenager finds it difficult to remain focused and gets

distracted easily, therefore I have to supervise him constantly. It's not pleasant for both us, we both feel like caged up animals. He attends a good school, with high expectations and not enough support. Both of us have ended up in tears of frustration on several occasions. I'm not a teacher, therefore I'm finding this extremely difficult. I'm concerned about my teenagers mental health as well as my own. I get up at night or very early to get my work done, so I can support or encourage my sons. Headteachers/ teachers and unions could have done a lot more to help students.

1740. It started off ok, but has slowly turned a bit of a nightmare. Initially both of us (who work from home anyway) were able to adapt our working day to cater for spending time with the kids. However deadlines and work commitments do not wait and the work started having to take over. More days than not my two (8 and 11 year old daughters) pretty much have to fend for themselves in terms of keeping busy and entertained. They have got bored and hacked off not being able to see friends. It has also been stressful for my wife and I, if nothing else feeling guilty that we are not spending time with them. The saving grace has been that they are absolute independent angels. They can come up with their own entertainment and to a large degree have been completing some of the schooling themselves. However the amount of screen time has increased, something which I do not like, but have little choice. The school have been providing work set over the internet, but there have been no interactive sessions. I was hoping the my eldest, who is in year 6 could go back, but the school 'seemed' to decide that year 5 and next year's SATS results were more important and only took back years 1 and 5 in mid June.

1741. Both my husband and I have busy stressful jobs with daily targets to be met. We have been working from home whilst trying to home school 2 children (4 and 6). This has been very difficult, my children are very young and need 100% attention, they need help reading and writing, they can't be left with tasks. They are both in different years with different set work. I'm having to get up early to do work, then do home schooling, then back to work once they go to bed. I'm working, whilst they eat lunch then again at night often until 1am. I'm exhausted. Many days I'm reduced to tears. I've spoken to my company about being furloughed however this isn't an option. This can't go on much longer. Both my children's education, my career, the relationship with my children and my mental health is suffering.

1742. Working from home and trying to home school a year 10, reluctant teenager has been very stressful. She isn't motivated and we argue over school work most days. That said there has been minimal work from school. To start with she engaged quite well with school work, but as time went on and the work reduced and she saw her friends weren't doing stuff, she started doing the bare minimum. I can't imagine how she will pass her GCSE's next year even though she is bright and in the top sets for English and Maths. Her mental health has suffered too - as has mine!

1743. My school decided unilaterally without even speaking to parents that only year 7 and 8 children could return to school. As two full time police officers with responsibility for helping lead police response in those early days meant we were working long hours and our

son aged 13 had to be left at home all day everyday. I think it's absolutely shocking the school were allowed to do this and showed total disregard for his wellbeing. To add insult they sent parents and students a contact for child line should kids need support! It's been soul destroying leaving him home all day every day just trying to sit at his computer and work. The quality of work provided has varied enormously. A few teachers have been good and have tried to still teach - others have just been sending a worksheet obviously taken from another site and not their own, others just gave no lessons for three weeks. There is no way some teachers have been working normal hours. The school seem to have done nothing to quality assure what teachers have been doing. I have been incensed to hear teachers saying they have their own children to homeschool so they can't teach as much. This is an outrage - they could send there kids to school as key workers. What about emergency services and food shop workers ... if we all said sorry can't work we have kids to home educate where would we be. I couldn't be paid to stay home and teach my child but I would have loved that option!!!! I know some teachers have been great but many have not stepped up in this crisis. Why haven't ofsted or someone been looking at What's been happening in schools? I have been so cross hearing some comments from teachers / unions - what about all the other key workers at their provided full supermarkets for them or emergency services - they should have been just as prepared to step up and do everything to keep our children educated. I don't have confidence schools will be able to catch up. My son goes into year ten in September. It won't take much and it's clear there education will be disrupted again. I have thought I am going to have to do something different like take a career break from my job as police officer as Parents are going to be the only ones looking out for their children. Children have missed out on so much not just education and they face so much uncertainty. It has been hugely difficult and upsetting and has added great strain for us all. Our sons education has definitely suffered.

1744. I am a single mum who's ex has had little contact with our son during this period. I have a very busy job which has been supporting policing during COVID 19 so it has been extremely hard to balance working with schooling. My son who is 9 has also struggled with the experience. Not motivated to do schooling and reduced to tears most days. There have been a few times when I have just given up. I am concerned for how this affect him going into year 6 and then secondary school next Sept. Mental health wise this has significantly increased my anxiety. I have taken leave in May and July just to try to cope. Parenting alone through this has meant little time for me even to do cleaning and I feel pressure all the time. I am seriously concerned if we go back into sept and then we start to see spikes or classes cancelled because of a case in the class. I don't have enough leave to cover more covid time off. And I won't cope with Home schooling again from September

1745. I am a mother of two (one turned 7 and the other 4 during lockdown). Both parents are still working but not as front line key workers (banking and retail) so the school would not accept our children in their key worker bubble. I have to work from home and my parter works in retail. As such schooling is left to me to fit in with work. I work 35 hours in a highly demanding role and I am the main earner. I cannot afford to drop my work. I have been working from 06:00-11:00 then home schooling 11:00-15:00 (and the rest of the things kids need) then working again 15:00-17:00 then trying to do all the housework, cooking etc. I get

no quality time with my kids, I am stressed and exhausted. They get stressed when I don't teach them in the way school would. They fight with each other and fight with me. We all need a break. My employer has been great but even with their flexibility I have limits as a person and this is taking its toll physically now too. The emotional damage to us all is evident and my children cry out to see their friends even from a distance at school. We cannot carry on like this.

1746. It's been a nightmare. I'm a single mum, having to work from home in our tiny one bedroom flat and home schooling has been difficult. The school sent activities that I didn't have the facilities to print off. It was never a phone call to see how we were getting on. It has been school homework that I couldn't remember from my time at school or how to explain to my daughter. The school really let us down.

1747. Very difficult to motivate eight year old to do home learning she just doesn't have the same enthusiasm as when at school, so the learning is not a positive one. Many of her class mates are key worker children so they have been at school so there is no equality of education, she is also not disadvantaged so I feel like as she does not belong to a special group she will just be left behind with no catch up.

1748. No online lessons <5 contacts with teacher since they left school in March Wrote to Education Minister who said it was up to schools and not Department of Education I know teachers who are at home schooling their own children but not providing any lesson contact with their pupils.

1749. Stressful and guilt ridden doesn't begin to explain how I feel. Working full time with 2 children at secondary. Both behind on their school work as my ex doesn't have the internet, although that isn't the only reason that they are behind, plus I can't teach and do my job... due to the timing of lockdown I was deep in year end accounts and budget setting for the new year and trying to get my head round the new interim financial framework... I am an accountant in the NHS. Busier than ever! So my kids don't get enough of my time although I try to have a lunch break with them it's not always possible, one of them is not eating enough, neither of them get enough exercise and one doesn't like even leaving the house. I am concerned about their mental health whilst battling with social isolation myself as I now work from home full time. One daughter needs constant checking on as has a very short attention span so difficult for her to stay focused. She is also teary and upset now and says she's not ok. It's hell. Please they need to get back to school and social interaction. Thanks for reading. Hope this helps!

1750. My children are at primary school; my son is in y4 and my daughter is in y1. Our school has been fantastic and managed to get yR, y1 and y6 back full time. However, this has been at the expense of the support provided to those students not in the priority groups. My son's teacher is still setting work, but is now in the classroom teaching a different year group bubble full time, so the weekly phone calls and swift response to emailed work or questions has disappeared. I don't blame the school, they have done their best to follow government

guidelines, and the work that is being set for my son is still interesting and varied. But whilst my daughter is receiving an excellent near-normal education at school, and spending the day with her friends, my son is still completing work on his own at home and it is going into a void, with little or no feedback. It has created a massive disparity. More broadly, I don't think that wider society understands the challenges of simultaneously working, teaching, and parenting. None of those three roles can be performed effectively if you are trying to do something else at the same time. It is totally unsustainable and parents and children are at breaking point.

1751. Avonwood Primary have been an absolute disgrace during this situation. All they have done is regurgitate what anyone can find online. Set extremely unrealistic expectations of parents and children. They seem to forget that parents work and can't do a full day's teaching. My respect for the teachers at that school is now non-existent

1752. This period has been one of the most challenging of my career so far. My wife and I are fortunate that we have both been able to work from home but doing this full time with nursery age children has been extremely hard. It's been relentless balancing parenting and work. Neither of our workloads changed in that period, if anything they increased. We have felt we have not been able to be good parents or do our jobs effectively and are exhausted. It's great having more time with our children but trying to focus on work, emails, calls etc whilst dealing with usual behaviours of such young children, who can't be left unsupervised, has taken its toll.

1753. The general level of work set has been fine. However at 8 years old my son cannot work independently, despite his teacher telling me he should. I am sure he does in the classroom but this is not the case at home. Trying to get him working, whilst working myself and trying to help my 10 year old daughter has been awful. I have been reduced to tears on a number of occasions as I cannot achieve everything. We receive brief written feedback on any work submitted. However, we have received no other communication from the school, no pastoral care. It feels as though my son does not matter to them.

1754. While we were hearing about lots of brilliant teachers on the news, my daughter's school posted a few tasks on their website but nothing more than that. The school did not call/zoom/email to see how my daughter or any of her peers, were coping. My daughter is 5 and had just started reception class, during lockdown her first teacher left as she was maternity cover and that wasn't handled at all by school, when the kids returned they not only had new rules and class sizes but also a new teacher that they'd never heard from. My 5 year old daughter was just on the cusp of learning to read but absolutely refused to read with me during lockdown. She wouldn't do any homeschooling during lockdown and this will have significantly delayed her progress. It was becoming distressing for us both. The school delayed reopening and then attempted to deflect blames about this to the local council. The school has also refused to discuss any issues with parents and many parents are very distressed.

1755. Thank you for highlighting this I feel deeply for these children and parents and their unnecessary suffering. My two young adult daughters (one a trained teacher who left her job just before COVID hit, the other a student) are examples of willing hands that have been underused during this pandemic where they could have been bought in to provide much needed 1:1 support online on a voluntary or paid basis. I suggest that a new infrastructure is needed - they both signed up as volunteers for NHS and community and both have a DBS check. The students are available all summer.
1756. Whilst the school have been extremely supportive and sent comprehensive packs for my 2 girls and set up online support it has been extremely hard to educate a key stage 1 and a key stage 2 child whilst working full time from home. Both me and my husband are working full time and I am trying to manage a team remotely. Neither can we work properly or support our kids properly. Our youngest is hard to get to work and on some days we end up spending much of the morning arguing with her as she refuses to do work. It's hard as she needs support with work but we can't sit with her all day. By the end of the day we are all drained and often tempers frayed. Having MS too doesn't help. The key is to stay calm but that hasn't been easy. It has been stressful and I have never been so fatigued. It's been a massive ask to carry on working full time and educate 2 kids and kept them fed all day. My kids have gone back to school 2 days a week but that has had a negative affect as our youngest wants to be there all the time and our oldest came home and said it was much more fun at school. I said yes because your teacher has one job to keep you happy & their focus is purely on the kids. Plus there is a cook cooking your lunch at school. I said at home we are doing 3 jobs - working full time, schooling 2 kids and cooking/making food through day. Thank god its nearly the end of term.
1757. Both my husband and myself have been working full time throughout the pandemic whilst also looking after our 4 year old son. We have had to each take it in turns to work for an hour whilst the other looks after our son. As many of our colleagues don't have childcare pressures the work requests have continued to come in thick and fast, with often short and unreasonable deadlines. Meetings and conference calls get put in the diary without understanding that we need to check our work rota and this has led to conflict. To make up our hours both me and my husband work late into the night most days. To keep our son occupied we have done activity timetables, but as the weeks have gone by he has become withdrawn and frustrated and has been refusing to engage with us on any activities for a number of weeks now. Until 3 weeks ago the only help the school gave was to recommend a few websites and tv programmes he should watch. I have felt horrifically stressed throughout this, its impossible to work and look after my son, so I am failing on both. Doing this for so many weeks has made us all totally fatigued and although the school is currently taking my son for 2 weeks there is no provision for the summer holidays so we have to carry on like this until September. I am deeply concerned about this next stage of lockdown, the pubs are open so everything is back to normal so the expectation to perform well at work increases, but we still have no childcare.
1758. It has been a horrendous experience. Balancing school work for two primary school children while trying desperately to both do and keep my full time job (working from home).

This has been a very negative experience, including public shaming from school on their website if we are unable to share our work, terrible impact on the relationship between parents and children (will this ever recover) and previously unseen levels of family stress. Stress as a result of the balancing act, anxiety all round re the virus, mental health worries across all family members.

1759. Our children in primary Y5 and Y2 have struggled emotionally due to me and my husband attempting to work remotely throughout this pandemic I cannot be a teacher, mother, housekeeper and staff member all in one day, in one place. Everyone needs to get back to their spaces, their friends and their support networks. This is why I fully support Sept For Schools. Their school has been good in supplying curriculum-led work and class-style lesson plans since March which has helped immensely. They are being offered a morning to go back before end of term, but I feel this may confuse them more. They need their friends, teachers and structure back

1760. I'm a keyworker. My oldest goes okay to her primary. My youngest, 7 didn't enjoy being there without her friends and she was bullied by two pupils. The school told me about an incident after I raised concerns with them and despite low numbers it wasn't dealt with and she hasn't returned. I am a single mum, I work full time, I have not managed home schooling, I get up at 5am to get some work done. I've become ill with stress. I had two calls from school. Work sent home once. My daughter who is resilient is wary of returning in September and if she struggles I think others really will. I don't think schools have fully considered the impact on mental health and behaviour. We have a terrible long term CAMHS issue, not robust or open to work. I have done the maths and my kids schools could have used other space and outdoor space to have all kids back. They could have used their TAs. My oldest who has been going to school hasn't been doing any more than minimal work. Schools have only told us they are doing what they can and they have never told us what that is or asked us what we think. Schools have been closed, stressed and self focused. Unfortunately, and I say this with real sadness, I think come return they will be shocked and concerned that they should have done more sooner. Staff have generally been rotating, weeks on and off, now they have a 6 week break. I am facing 6 weeks with no support, I have two weeks off and I can't use my parents to help as I don't want to risk their health aged 80plus.

1761. I have two children aged 6 and 9 and am trying to balance working from home with educating them. I think I would have enjoyed either working at home or teaching the children but trying to do both is very hard. Currently I get up between 4am and 5am to work before starting "school" at 9am. My partner is unable to work from home and is not involved in home schooling. I try not to arrange any work calls for 9-11am so that we can do at least some basic English/Maths but this isn't always possible. The kids take it in turns to have a zoom chat with their friends at 10.30am and we try to continue with less structured school work at 11am. Lunch at 12 and usually some work zoom calls in the afternoon whilst the children usually watch TV or play with their tablets (before coronavirus I never used to allow TV before 6pm and it can make me feel very guilty the amount of time they spend looking at a screen). The school set work on their website but I haven't done any of it. I've bought

various workbooks for the children and we tend to use them. I try to have a "topic" that we do for a couple of weeks, so far we've done things like Vikings, the periodic table, evolution and electricity. I then have to prepare an evening meal, after which I usually catch up on a bit of work. I'm usually exhausted by the time the children go to bed and was generally falling asleep trying to read them a bed time story. So now I sleep in the spare room with one of the children (my partner takes the other) so that I can fall asleep when they do. I haven't slept in my own bed for over 3 months. I like to think I'm usually a fairly resilient person but there have been a few occasions where I have broken down crying thinking I can't go on like this (usually when trying to meet work deadlines). I have been drinking more than usual and buying a lot more lottery tickets! If I didn't need to work I would have really enjoyed being able to spend this time with my children.

1762. I have 2 sons year 10 and 7 both have been little teaching from the school in the form of face to face or online. Any work set is of mixed quality, many teachers set work sheets on google classroom which can't be uploaded. The experience has caused a lot of stress and pressure in our house, negatively affected our relationships. Who is it ok to open pubs and theme parks but not schools!

1763. As the parent of a 7 year old child with additional educational needs (social and emotional) home schooling has been a massive challenge. My son is a very bright and capable little boy so trying to keep him occupied with enough work has been incredibly demanding. The school have been amazing at providing work and support but it has fallen financially to me to provide extra work (text books and printing) to ensure his days are filled and his learning continues. Balancing this with the demands of work and emotional stress for us all has been extremely difficult. Tears and tantrums have been aplenty which is not how I want my son to remember his childhood. As someone who has worked in a school for 20 years until recently, I feel incredibly for the staff in schools and the pressure and worries they face. Yet, education seems to have been bottom of the agenda for "getting the country up and running" again.

1764. The support from the school has overall been very poor. It is not good enough to send across "homework" and expect dual income or single parent families to become the teachers. Intraction rediculously poor not even a phonecall, quality of homework given poor again riddled with errors and not quality checked. Remember that the teaches have 0 risks of losing their jobs and my wife and I are not in that situation so imagine, we are effectively running 2 jobs each and carrying the stress of knowing we could be made redundant in the Covid 19 fall out. The big question for me is what exactly have the teachers been doing? Drinking Pina Coladas in their back garden while the parents do their job? This is what is feels like and with current technology there should be no issue with remote classes even if for a few hours a day. Private schools have remote classes, churches and mosques have been doing remote sessions with children...but no, not state schools. Absolute useless slackers. One thought for you on this campaign....many schools will go through lockdown in the coming months and this is likely to persist. The campaign should include gaining committment on remote teaching for all childeren not only opening schools!!!

1765. My son is year 10 and clearly has no motivation to complete school work. At the beginning of lockdown I would receive email after email from the school stating he was not doing school work and would we like help. I would reply stating we did and rarely did this come to fruition. Arguments, tears ensued and I reached a point where I told the school my relationship with my son comes first. My daughter is yr 8 and she is doing the bare minimum over 2 or 3 days. Their mental health has declined and my daughter already had concerns with her mental health I am self employed and have recently worked 1 day since March 18th. I used to work 5 days a week between school hours. Going forward it will be fridays only until Sept. The financial impact is horrendous.
1766. Two children at different schools, one secondary and primary. Secondary - A-levels next year. Fantastic response from school with regular teacher contact on line. Assessed work with feedback. Lots of holistic support. Daily updates from Head. Help with uni applications. Resumption of fitness training when guidelines allows. Innovative and impressive. Primary. Child in Year 5 with selection tests soon. Appalling. No teacher contact. None. No work set. A grid of ideas sent out fortnightly. Infrequent letters via ParentMail with 'piss off' message. School claiming to be underfunded for on-line teaching. No attempt to monitor what the kids are up to. They won't have a clue when they get back. Homeschooling a complete nightmare despite our best efforts. Daily tears. Dreading the holidays. Desperate for government to ensure schools accountable and get rid of unnecessary constraints. The contrast between these two experiences and seeing what can be achieved is verging on negligence in my view.
1767. My partner and I have been working full time, very demanding jobs whilst homeschooling and caring for our 2 and 5 year old children. At the start of lockdown I received a blanket email from HR at work threatening disciplinary action or simply not getting paid if I was found to be caring for children during working hours. Additionally, whilst knowing the pressure I've been under at home, my manager piled the work on to me which involved complex, time consuming work and tight deadlines. The past 16 weeks have, frankly, been disastrous for my family. We've had to work evenings and weekends, snatching the occasional hour to ourselves to work during the day, often doing 20 hour days to keep up. We are exhausted. My eldest child has changed from a child who loved learning in to a child who frequently tells us she now hates reading, writing and maths. Attempts to homeschool descended in to tantrums and our child has become increasingly distressed and violent towards us. We have been wracked with guilt from not doing our jobs properly and the alarming effect that this is having on our children. My eldest child's ability to read and write has noticeably gone backwards. Additionally, support from school has involved a few Pinterest craft ideas a week, some worksheets (which our daughter refused to do and require one of us to help) and one Skype call where the children all said hello to each other for half an hour. We worry this time has had an irreversible impact on our relationships with our children and the significant changes in behaviour make us fear for their mental wellbeing. I have frequently been reduced to tears in front of the children and started to have panic attacks from the pressure and exhaustion of juggling work and homeschooling. The children have been back at school and nursery for the last few weeks but the behavioural issues have continued. We now have a 7 week summer holiday looming, with no annual leave left to take and no access to childcare from grandparents, and the panic is setting in.

1768. It has been very challenging for my daughter who is eight, my wife and myself. We are both working from home balancing full time jobs whilst home schooling our daughter. The school set work sheets on a daily basis which we will encourage our daughter to complete. She is not motivated at all and will put little effort into this work often taking hours to complete a task which can be done in a few minutes. We often end up shouting at each other and getting in arguments. In an attempt to stop my daughter falling behind we have also started paying for an online tutor via a company called Kip. This involves a one hour zoom call each week. This has helped a bit but we still feel our daughter has fallen behind. In my view a parents role is to be a parent and we are not meant to educate our children in this way. Our role is to provide a loving home for children, somewhere to be safe, protected, relaxed and loved; Home schooling our children is having a negative impact on all these.

1769. Home schooling has been extremely challenging. I am working full time from home and home schooling our two sons who are in different year groups. My foreign husband has been unable to help much with schooling, the pressure has been enormous, he has now returned to his home country (and we are separating, our 17 year relationship is in tatters). I am left feeling a not very good parent, a not very good employee and a not very good wife. I am stressed, overworked, pulled in all directions and trying to keep my head above water. The school have been supportive in providing work for the children and not putting pressure on anyone to get it completed but it has been so difficult to work to keep my job whilst permanently fighting or bargaining with my kids to get them to do work which they don't want to do when they're at home so they don't fall too behind. I feel sorry for the teachers who will be under so much pressure to implement a new way of working and learning in September with 30 kids who will be rebelling against 'school routine'. This is all without the fear factor of the actual virus - I am terrified myself or my asthmatic kids will get it and as much as this has been a nightmare I would rather continue as we are currently than them return to school and me to work in September

1770. We have had a really positive home school experience on the whole. Our son is in Reception & prior to schools closing they were sent home with a school exercise book & resources such as a word mat & list of high frequency words. His school have provided a daily lesson plan via Seesaw, going into lots of detail for each subject. They outline the activity with links to resources/ videos/ websites & give clear guidance on the expectations of work they expect to be done. They have followed the school timetable in terms of what they set (Daily Phonics, Reading, Writing, Numeracy, Handwriting, Understanding of the World, Cooking, PE, RE, Computing, Music etc) & encourage us to do the same, including routines like doing wake up shake up, writing their name at the start of the home school day & snack time. They set extensions to some activities to cater for those who are at a higher level. They also provide guidance videos such as as correct handwriting technique. We are encouraged to post photos/video of our sons work daily & the teachers comment on or 'like' this. They phone every two weeks to check in & answer any questions, as well as chatting to our son. We have lacked access to reading books/scheme, so my sister signed our son up as a pupil to her school so he could access their reading scheme online which is great as they are targeted towards his age. There is no timescale for when we have to start/finish school or report in,

which gives us flexibility in how we structure our day. The teachers hold a weekly Zoom meeting with the class, which is lovely so they can all see each other. They sing songs, do quizzes etc. Every weekday night they post a video of themselves or a Teaching Assistant Reading a bedtime story, personalised according to that day, like “hello reception, we hope you’ve enjoyed learning about the police today. Tonight’s story is about a policeman, so snuggle up & enjoy tonight’s bedtime story”. Our son & his friends absolutely love this! The only area I feel we have maybe lacked guidance is advice on behaviour. Our son tests our patience some days refusing to do work! (as do all 4-5 year olds!) & we have been at our wits end. Home schooling needs different behaviours to home techniques. We got some advice from my mum who is a retired teacher & give stickers & rewards and ‘Privileges’ which he now responds very well to. Luckily, my husband has been furloughed & I am working from home so he has done most of the home schooling. It can be a challenge at times as we also have a one year old who can be quite distracting & we do feel guilty for not spending enough time focussing on our one year old. However, my husband usually travels for work & has loved spending time with the boys. We both feel, moving forwards, we have enjoyed the home school experience & now understand what our son does at school in far more detail. We feel we will be able to support him better when he does return to school. We are worried about his mental health & physical health (& the risk to our family) on his return to school & whether he will settle back ok with a new teacher/classroom in addition to COVID measures.

1771. My daughter is at a small single form primary, I believe the school have done their best to provide materials and support in a really challenging time! They have continued to provide a range of materials on different subjects. However, my daughter is an only child and in year 2 so there has been no option for her to return to school I believe this prolonged time at home has, at times, negatively impacted on her mental health, she has been lonely and bored tearful and angry. Other days she is fine but my husband and I are both working from home and there have been days where we have been unable to support her in her school work because of our work commitments. Sometimes It’s almost impossible to work with a 6 year old at home who rightly wants your attention when you are in the house! We’ve tried our best to make sure she is still doing her work - the stress of trying to home school and to work from home has caused arguments and tears. We’ve really tried to keep up with the school work and our own jobs but this has lead to my husband and I spending many late nights working, and a complete lack of work life balance. I believe it is so important that children are able to return in September in a safe way from an educational, social and mental health perspective: homeschooling with working parents fails the children!

1772. I am a keyworker, my partner is chronically ill, not able to work and shielding, so he moved out to allow me to continue going to work and come home without putting him at risk. We have two small children (5&6 Yrs). Our parents are all over 70 and shielding. Although I feel lucky that my children were able to go to supervised childcare at school (quite different from school), the restricted hours have meant that I have had to take annual leave everyday or take unpaid leave to be able to pick them up. When there was no half-term cover available, I had to do the same. I tried working from home to make the time back, but with two small children, I found it impossible. When the bubble restrictions came in with the staggered pick up and drop off times (with a whole afternoon needed for deepcleaning) this

meant that I would lose another 11 hours a week. I think our school has tried really hard, I have keyworking colleagues whose children have been given even less support by their schools.

1773. I have 2 teenage children who attend different high schools. My son is in Yr11 and has spent the entire lockdown on his xbox. Today, 7th July he had his first online session with his college. We have had no phone calls from his school but have had emails telling us how to report mental health concerns. Other parents, of younger students at his school have commended the school's efforts during the lockdown, it's just Yr11 that seem to have been left to their own devices. A teams account was set up for them about three weeks ago but by that time my son was completely not interested. My daughter is in Yr9 and trying to motivate her to work when her brother is playing video games has been hard work. Her school has updated work on a weekly basis. Most has been computer quizzes. Of the written assignments she has submitted only 2 have been marked and given feedback and that was after I had emailed to query why work was not being checked. We had received one phone call from her school in the whole of the lockdown and then another after I sent an email to the headteacher complaining about the standard of homeschooling. Her school started online lessons yesterday. To my mind this is just to say they have done it - box ticked. I pointed out to deputy head that I had been delivering Zoom sessions to 22 of my Girl Guiding unit since the second week of lockdown, as had the other uniformed groups in our area. It was not difficult to organise and many of the parents of my unit had said how much it had helped with their children's well being as they looked forward to speaking with their friends.

1774. Work has been set following a normal day but there is no break from the screen, even P E has consisted of research/written work. All they have done is watch videos or try to fill in multiple PowerPoint slide sets which largely consist of very difficult formatting issues. Both adults work so enforcement has been a nightmare, feedback from teachers when week after week work has not been submitted online it is very unclear? Due to the amount of overdue set work mounting all my spare time has been on chasing up some modicum of completion for a few key subjects but if we get through the equivalent of one or two hours a day work per week that involves checking up on children at the evening or weekend consequently feeling trapped in a useless cycle. Very damaging to everyone's physical and mental health. Luckily everyone has their own devices but I am concerned that default to secret gaming when not supervised is leading to lack of concentration and motivation and lack of trust inside the family. As other people and sectors of life seem to be going back to normal I feel very left out and let down by the government. It has made me very resentful and angry as people can now go out to the pub or on holiday but I am not able to send my children to school and work effectively. My children are going to be set back by this and I can not afford extra private tuition to compensate for the damage done. The thought of either continued catch up set school work throughout summer or the thought of not a full time return in September fills me with dread. We qualify for school transport due to our distance from school. As it is it appears school transport will also be disrupted I don't know how am I going to juggle work with a twice a day school run. If I have to pay for public transport it is an annual card so some clarity and explanation of why public but not school buses can run would be appreciated.

1775. Utter hell. Either I can do my job, or I can home school -- I cannot do both (and only get paid for one)!!! Since ~13 March I've been working something like a 60hour week, AND home-schooling (split with my wife) ON TOP OF THAT. I routinely don't get to bed until gone 0200h, sometimes 0300h or 0400h, but homeschooling starts again at 0830h... Child just wants to be back at school. We don't get any exercise. There isn't time. Yes, it is damaging our health. We get through as much of the assigned work as we can, and focus on the core subjects, letting a lot of the other stuff slip. If we did it all, neither of us would keep our jobs -- it's bad enough as it is. Material from the school has been variable; there are often spelling / grammar mistakes, inconsistencies or logical contradictions -- this is in the material provided by the teachers! If my own work was that slap-dash, I wouldn't deserve to be in paid employment. I suggest a Singapore-style system: Make the teachers work two shifts a day: first one starts at 0700h, the next at 1300h. Now there's enough space, enough buildings, enough teachers. Jolly well suck it up like all parents have had to for months.

1776. My son is in Reception and we really struggled as a family during lockdown. Both myself and my husband were trying to work at home whilst teaching him and look after our one year old. This was virtually impossible to juggle. The school couldn't be faulted on the support offered, we had daily, lengthy plans for activities to do. However, at age 4 he understandably needed constant supervision and support. Invariably when he didn't get this, he just lost interest. We tried to stagger our work hours so we were either looking after the children or working, however this means you never get a break and we ended up exhausted. I ended up feeling completely useless, and quite down, it seemed other children where perhaps one parent didn't work or they were an only child, were happily completing the tasks each day. My son's emotional state from the lack of structure of school, and social interaction was definitely affected. In the end we gave up on the tasks allocated and just had to focus on keeping the children and ourselves as happy as we could. The provision by school was excellent, but working at home, homeschooling and looking after two children under 5 does not work.

1777. 'It has been hell, school has been supportive bit getting my son to work is hard. My daughter works well and is up to date. It has caused arguments with us as a couple too. We need to put this tiny virus aside accept some will die and just get back on with LIFE!'

1778. 'It has brought me to the brink of a mental health breakdown. My children's school has provided so little support and contact and it has had such a impact on our family life. The provision is so variable in quantity and quality it is awful.'

1779. 'Although home schooling started well and we were all enjoying the experience, the novelty soon wore off. The emotions kicked in and my children started missing not only their friends and peers but their teachers and the school community. Everyone forgets that they spend longer at school than they do with us their parents so it is a massive jolt for them mentally and emotionally. In the end we had to contact the school for advice as my sons behaviour deteriorated enormously from the stress of the situation. They were very understanding and told us they had a lot of families in the same situation and recommended

we stop home schooling which we did. There was a small improvement after that. It damaged my relationship with my son and we are going to have to work hard to repair that. Trying to juggle two smaller children, work, homeschooling and running a house is unrealistic. Everything suffered. Including my mental health from the stress of attempting to be superwoman. I worry that the school holidays will have a detrimental effect as my son is now back and happy at school. The long term and far reaching effects of lockdown cannot be underestimated.'

1780. 'Advice on homeschooling is poor. Children get worksheets to do each day, with little contact from school. Activities follow same formula, which becomes very boring for children, lowers parents and children's motivation. No proactive contact from teachers to pupils, and no consideration to the mental wellbeing of the child or family, Not reflected in decision making, and link to a video is simply not enough. No consideration for children of parents on maternity leave or long term sick, being at home doesn't necessarily mean you can care for your child appropriately. Lack of communication from school on their plans to return children, frustrating when you hear the next nearest school is being very proactive and is opening school up beyond the year groups advised by government. Lack of clarity for infants/juniors school set up means that year 2 children very disadvantaged and feels like their needs through transition into a new school have been ignored.'

1781. 'It's very hard as a couple trying to juggle working different shifts (1 normal day job the other night worker) with schooling and sleeping and mental wellbeing of us and kids. Not much input from teachers apart from a little work set and expected to be done. Always being set after 1 left for work in the morning and the other had gone to sleep. This is for both primary and secondary aged kids.'

1782. 'In a word..stressful. Both my husband and myself have full time jobs. Since March my role in particular has increased in volume, deadlines and pressure due to the job role I have. In addition to 12 hour plus days I have 2 children. My daughter is taking her GCSE's next year and has struggled with her mental health and the pressure of keeping up with emailed tasks and homework. My 10 year old son has also struggled and trying to get him to do his school work is like trying to push water up hill! In addition to having a high pressure job!! If one more teacher phones and says when things get back to normal .. it annoys me how schools assume working mothers have jobs that are part time with no responsibility. I am the major wage earner! There should be a better plan on getting kids back to education safely! I cannot understand why I can communicate on a daily basis with colleagues around the world but schools cannot set up distance or remote lessons?! Can we not learn from places like Australia? Why can there not be zoom lessons? Kids will listen to teachers more regarding school work- I don't have the time to give lessons on top of a job and ensuring my kids are happy and healthy. Rant over..there has to be a better plan!'

1783. 'Single mum working from home with a 5 year old. I was furloughed after 4 weeks and thought that this would make homeschooling easier—wrong. My son has had no physical interaction with another child for over 4 months. I am irritable and struggling with the lack of routine. I can't meet his needs without having a break. The work provided by his school is

enough to fill 1-1.5 hrs a day and there has been no phone call from his teacher either which I find disappointing.'

1784. 'The start of lockdown was hell, literally the toughest period of my life. I work full time while my husband has his own small business. We have three children aged 5, 8 and 11. Trying to do my job as normal while my husband struggled to save his business whilst we had to home school three children of varying ages was almost impossible - our eldest has dyslexia and the middle child was being assessed for ADD before lockdown. He hated doing any school work and resisted everything. Our youngest also struggled to understand why she had to sit at a computer and do work. At least two of the kids had a meltdown every day - our eldest was worried about dying, or someone in the family dying and started to suffer from stress and anxiety which is still affecting him now. It's also his last year at primary school and he was upset to miss out on all of the last term activities he should have been doing. I didn't even have time to go outside during the working week. I lost weight because I had no time and was too stressed to eat. My husband and I who are both usually very strong emotionally were on occasion reduced to tears with stress. Our relationship with the children definitely suffered and our middle son especially struggled to respond positively when Daddy (who is also dyslexic) was teaching. We tried taking turns with home school, so that we could both work and teach the children but it was a nightmare. I couldn't work out if it was good or bad that the kids independent schools had been amazing and quickly put together a timetable of 4-5 lessons with teachers available online if you needed help. We always got behind schedule which was a continuous stress. So more often than not the teachers had been and gone by the time we got to lesson 2. The lessons were generally well planned although still always needed a parent to help work out what was required and talk them through it. Taking time to shop for food, plan meals and cook healthy balanced meals twice a day was also stressful and time consuming. We didn't stop til 11pm every night. My employer would tell me that he was there if I was struggling but apart from offering an ear, offered no actual support and when I suggested that I would happily be furloughed, he laughed and thought I was joking. I was not. Fortunately my work started to slow down as the lockdown continued and for the last 2 weeks before my eldest and youngest were invited back to school, I wasn't too busy with work so was free to home school full time. Still not an easy task and the day would not be finished until 4 or 5pm. From a 9am start that was a long stressful day for everyone. The house was a tip and still is. Finally my last and middle child was invited back to school - just as my work has picked up again so the timing was good. And just in time for my son who had started developing strange anxieties like a fear of using the toilet because of thinking he would be attacked by fish with teeth. We discovered he had started urinating in the garden! One saving grace has been online gaming - giving the kids an opportunity to chat and play with friends although too much time on the computer brings fresh problems. And my youngest just really suffered from loneliness and a lack of playmates. I felt so guilty that I didn't have time to play with her. If I wasn't trying to teach, I was working or cooking, or doing laundry, or cleaning. Worrying about getting ill, the children dying (before we knew kids are less affected), my parents dying, friends dying, my husband's business collapsing, the children's mental health, our mental health and relationship. Putting on weight once I rediscovered my appetite and chocolate! Sorry I've just realised this might not be what you

wanted to know?! I think sharing helps process the trauma!! I really hope schools are all open in September - kids need school as much as parents need school!'

1785. 'I am working full-time, this is being done from home currently as my 10 year old daughter is not eligible to be back at school. My partner can't work from home so it's just me trying to home school, work full time, walk the dog and make sure we're fed and watered. We quickly went from 3 hours of home schooling a day to 1 hour at best, as I am unable to give her the support she needs to learn and do my job at the same time. To say I'm home schooling at all does a massive disservice to teachers and the important job they have in our children's lives. My peers at work have their children in private education and so have nearly full timetables of online lessons so yet again, the government is failing the less wealthy in society. There has to be a plan and provisions made so they are not penalised as they move through their education.'
1786. 'My children have done next to nothing over lockdown. I'm working from home but the nature of my job means I just can't provide homeschooling on top. Just getting through each day feels utterly exhausting now. The thought of another month and a half is tear inducing.'
1787. 'My daughter has been sent 'homework' and asked to do and submit by certain dates. If submitted she get a comment from the teacher but nothing else. If not submitted there is no follow up. There have only been about 3 short zoom calls as a class and 1.5 hour visit to school. No work done just a chat It has been very difficult to get my 14 year old to do the work. Both my husband and I work and if we try to encourage her / ask how she us doing she is unresponsive or gets aggressive. We ended up buying her a laptop so she could work on her room or kitchen but I am aware she is often watching other things. We can't keep an eye on her all the time as we need to work. She is a bright girl but has been working for 15 weeks with virtually no teacher support and so is unmotivated and as a teenager she doesn't want our support. I am only grateful she is in year 9 and so doesn't start her gcse's until September . It has been a very difficult time and I feel we have not been supported by the school'.

July 2020