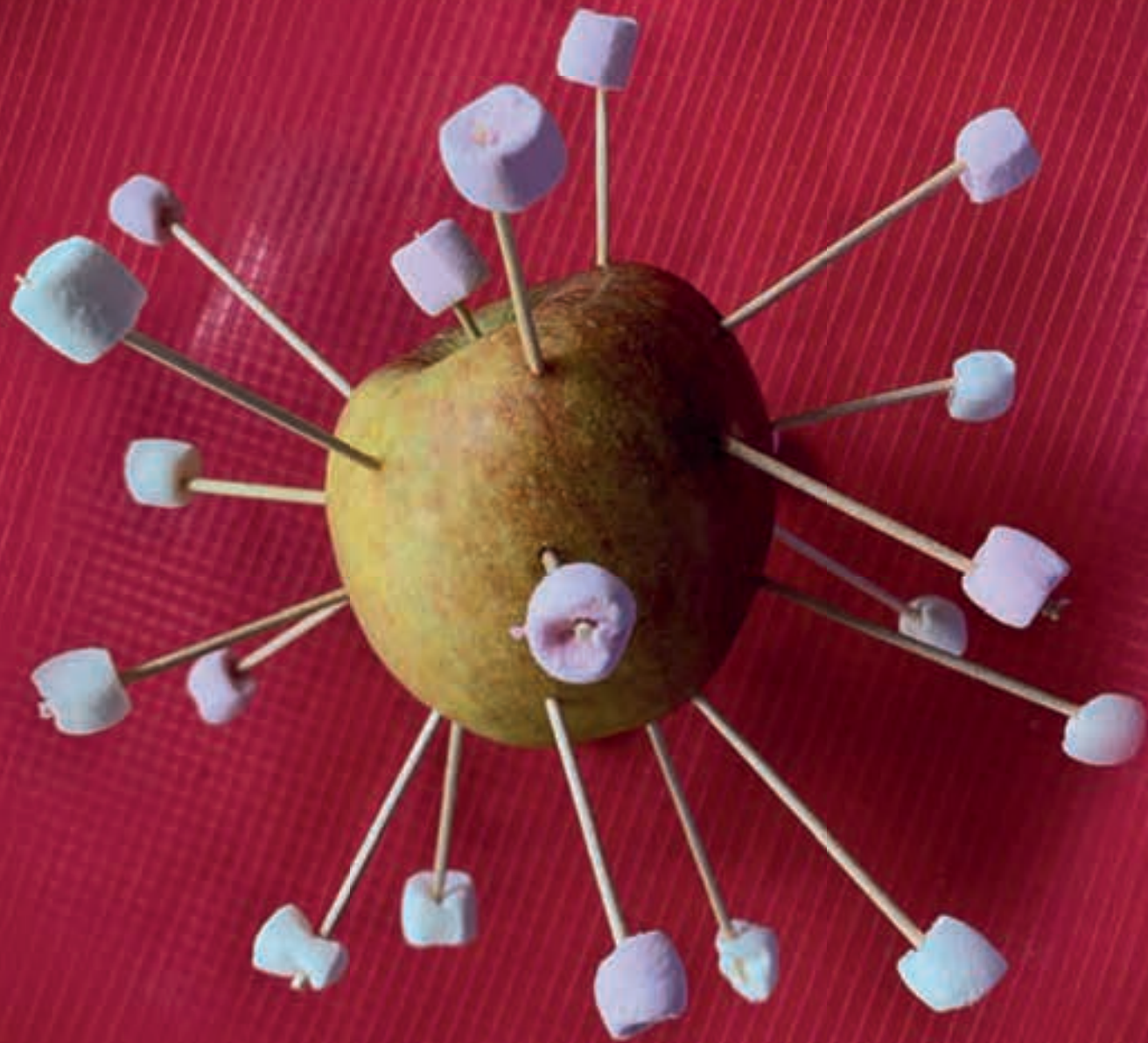


# BACK CHAT

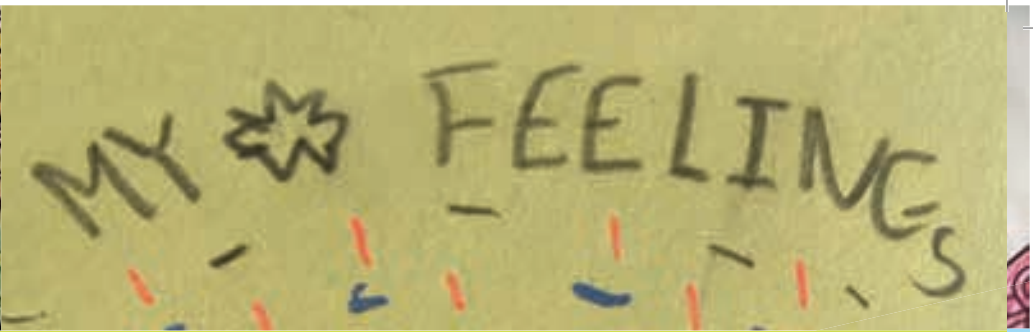


We are children aged

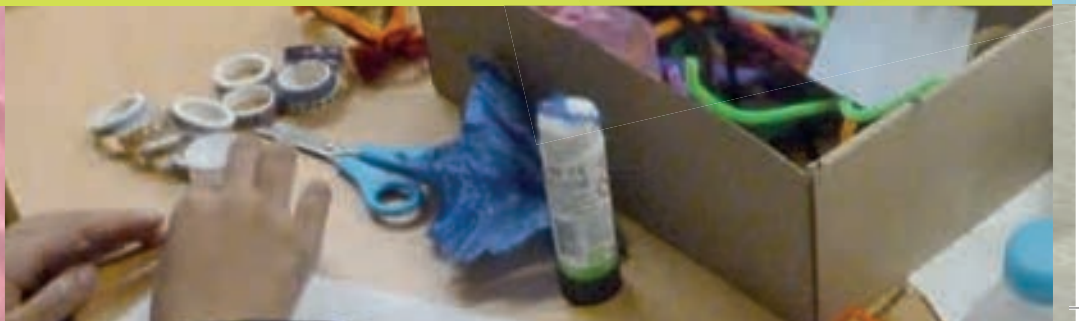
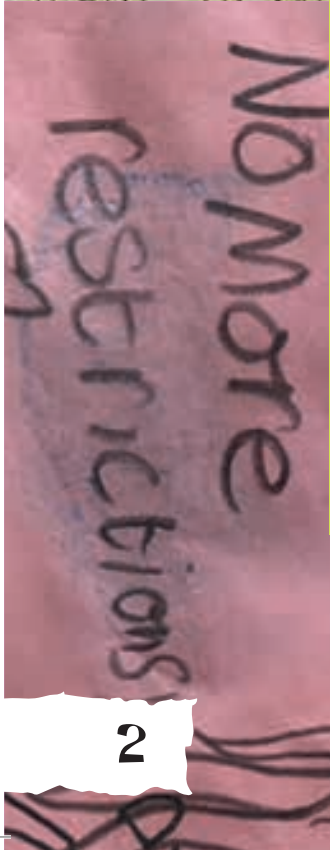
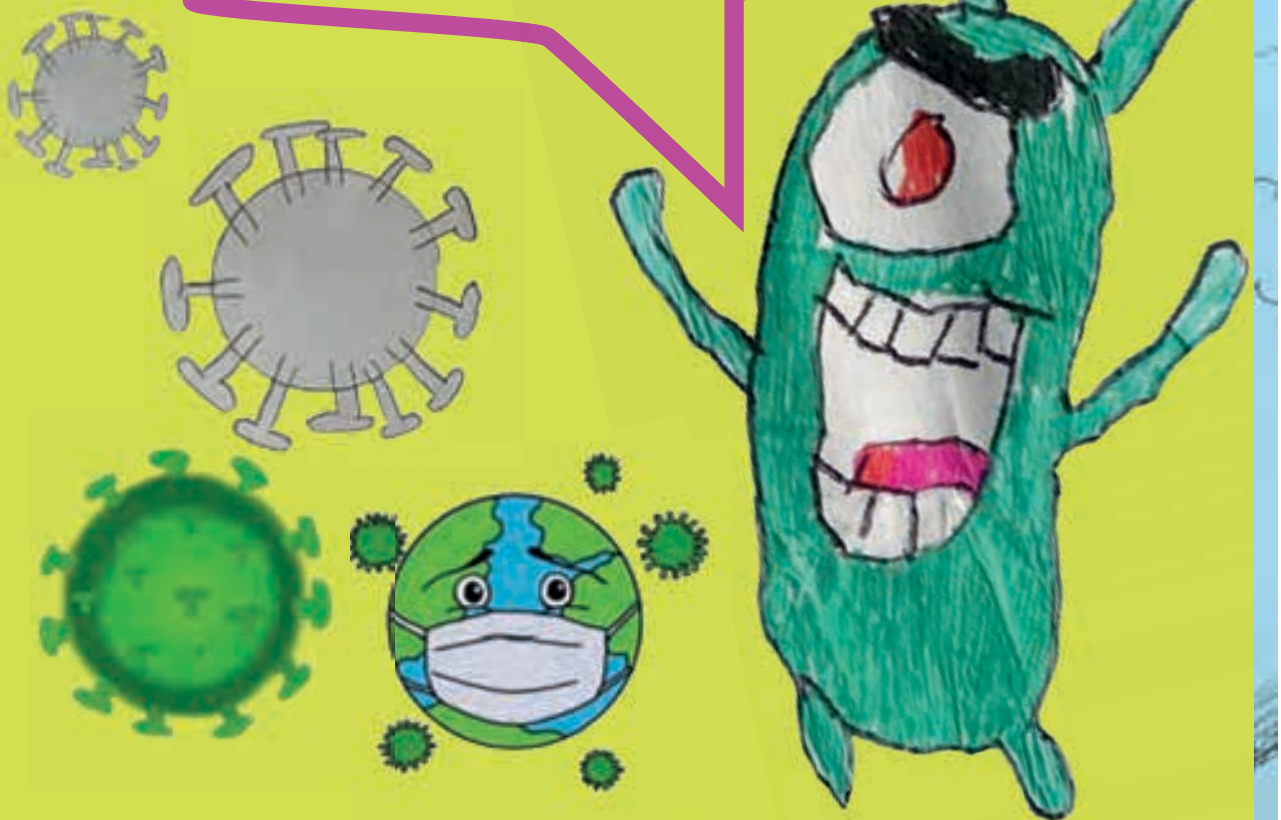
11 and 12

This is our story about our lives during the pandemic





**"There's hardly any children speaking, just all the adults saying all their points of view and all the children are just going along with it"**







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OUR VOICES 12-13

WHAT NEEDS  
TO HAPPEN-  
CHILDRENS RIGHTS



Family

Me

Mum

Time



# A B O U T

**We are children aged 11 and 12. Back Chat is our story about our lives during the pandemic, and the period after, told through our own images, music and words.**

# B A C K C H A T



**We live in the north of England and we have played an important role in the pandemic.**



**We support our families, friends and communities. But we haven't always been listened to or been given the information we need.**



**"... if things went back to normal, then we haven't learned our lesson"**

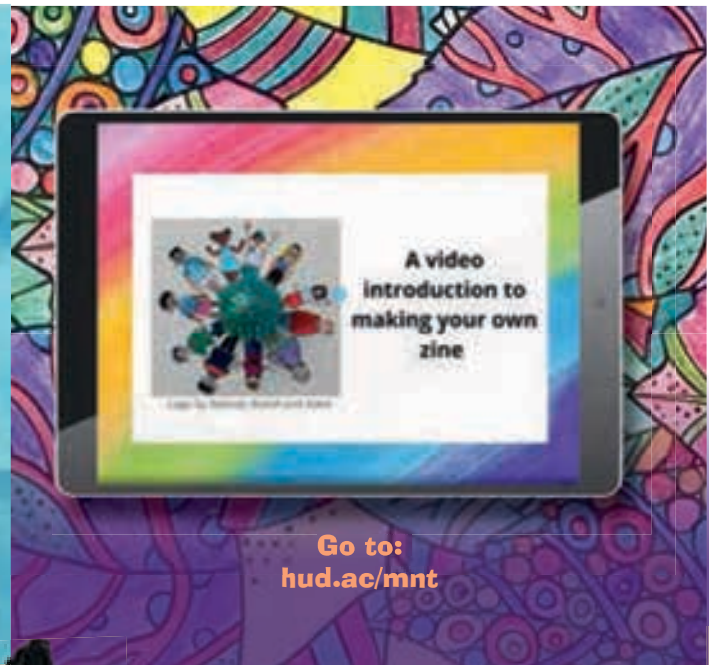


**"I think it's really important to share the message that everybody has different experiences and it's okay ...."**



# 'What we did'

As part of Back Chat, we chose the different art materials and we met on zoom to talk about our experiences and make art together. We learned about making our own zines so we could share what we think and feel. And when the pandemic restrictions lifted, we got to meet and make art together to make one giant zine. It was good to be with our friends, to have time and space to play games and to share our ideas. You can read and look at artwork about our experiences of the pandemic in this zine. And you can read our key messages about what needs to happen for parents, teachers, policymakers and other children.



"Some of us used felt or tissue paper to create our original art work and some of us used pastels, pencils or digital drawing apps"



## UNCRC



Respect for children's views



Sharing thoughts freely

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

<http://hud.ac/mjy>

Child-friendly Convention on the Rights of the Child summary

<https://bit.ly/3xmRtNr>



# GOING OUT

**We have the right to meet with other children and to contribute to clubs and organisations. Time outdoors to play and take part in activities is essential for us to feel well.**

Being outside in our communities and in the wider world again is important to us. We could not take part in our clubs and activities during lockdown. Many of us have gone back to attending our clubs in person.

But some of us are still not able to join our clubs. There are rules to follow. Having to stay inside was difficult at times. We like to experience and play in nature. Some of us enjoy trips since the rules have relaxed - this has enabled us to reconnect with our friends and our

families and do fun things outside. Some of us went on holidays when the rules changed. Some of us have family who live abroad, but mostly we haven't been able to visit them.

Not all of us go abroad anyway. And a few of us are still not going outside, apart from school. Not all of us have access to green space but being able to go outside helps us feel well.

"the blue and the green threading together represents coming closer during lockdown because we understand each other more"

"... you've got to take your temperature and you've got to put hand sanitiser on and then they've got to ask you three questions to see if you've been in contact with someone or you've got any symptoms"

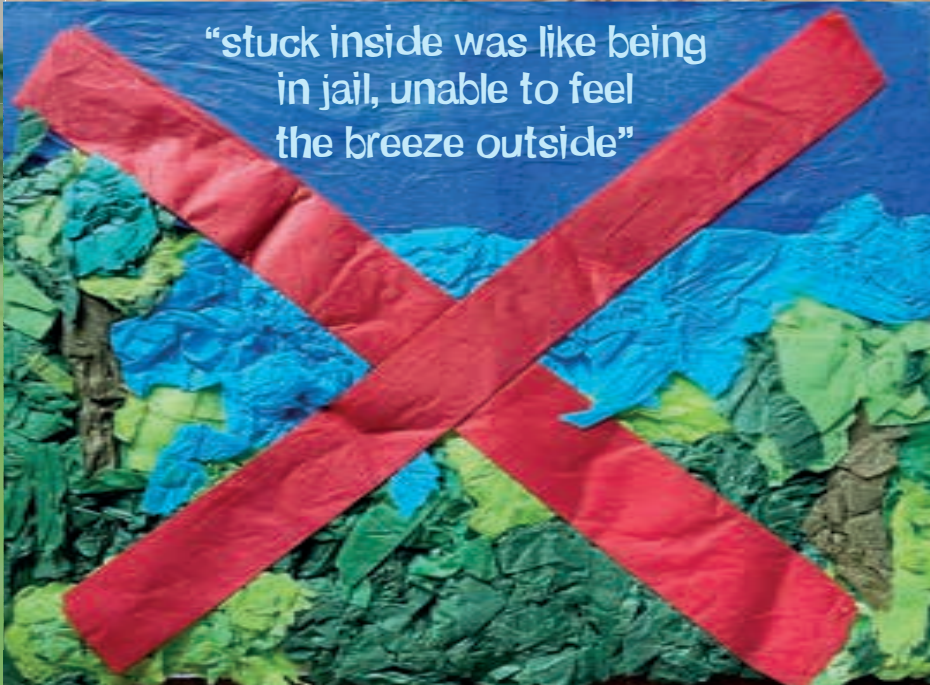




camping ...  
swimming ...  
and unlimited  
fun"



I have dropped out  
of many clubs like  
Football club, Swimming  
lessons and more  
This hurts me



"stuck inside was like being  
in jail, unable to feel  
the breeze outside"



Bees are always working together to help each other"



UNCRC



Rest, relax, play, arts  
and culture



Meet with other children,  
join groups and organisations





# Our



**We need opportunities to connect with our families and friends.**

**We also need time with our pets.  
And we need space to learn about and care  
for the wildlife around us.**

## Relationships



**Our families are important to us.**

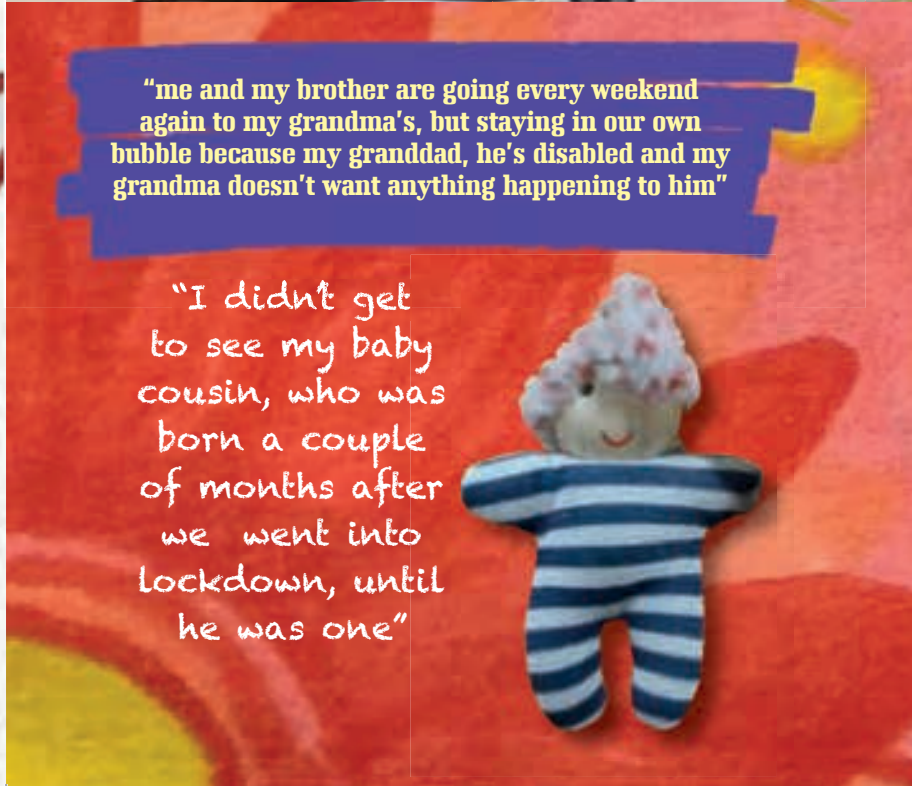
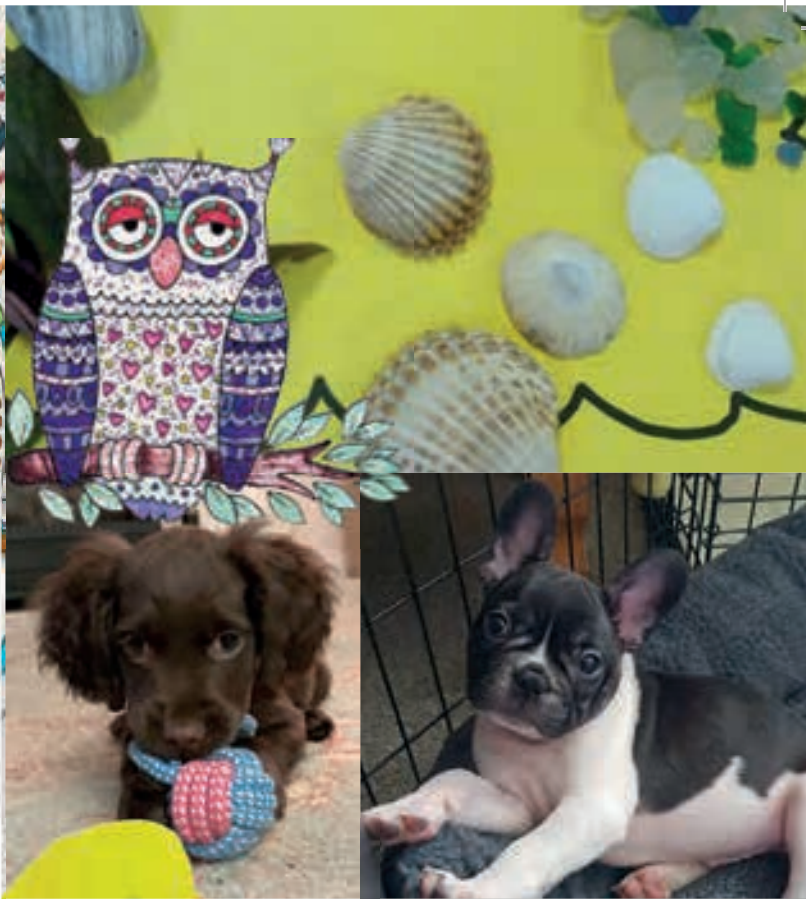
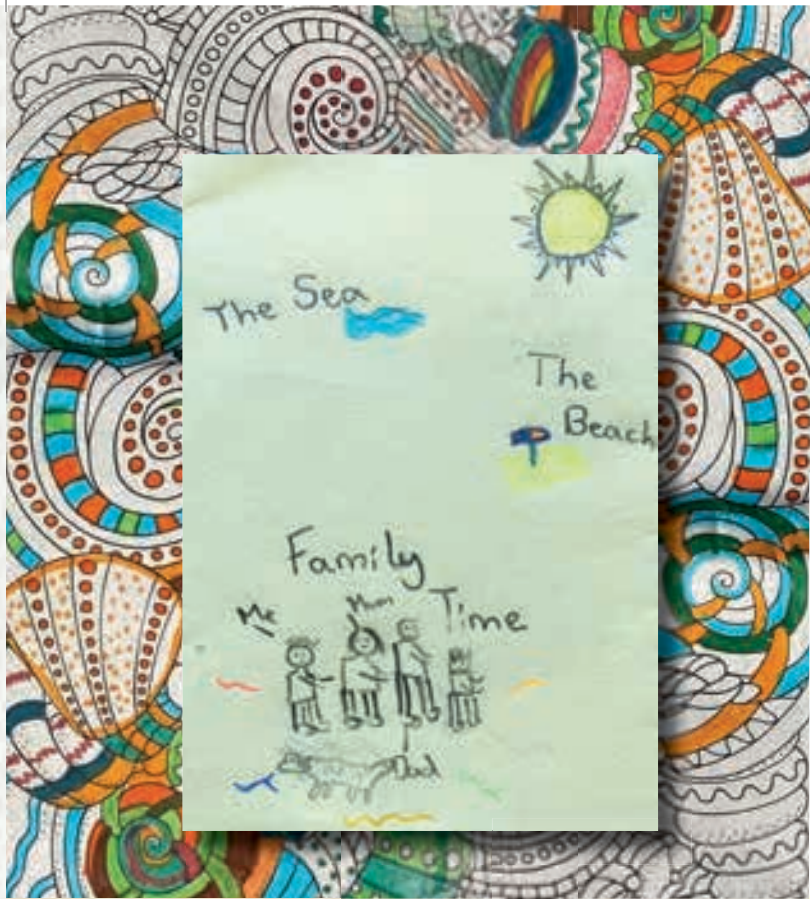
**We need time with them.** Some of us didn't get to see members of our family during the pandemic. **And some of us still can't see those who are vulnerable.** We take extra care – lateral flow testing, handwashing and social distancing - to protect our grandparents and new-born babies. **In some families we have decided to stay in bubbles.** Our friends are also very important to us –we need time together in person, and for some of us, playing games online is something we still like to do together. **Many of us have pets and care for them a lot.** We also care about the wildlife around us.

**It helped us stay well.**



**"my family have  
been most  
important  
to me  
through  
lockdown"**





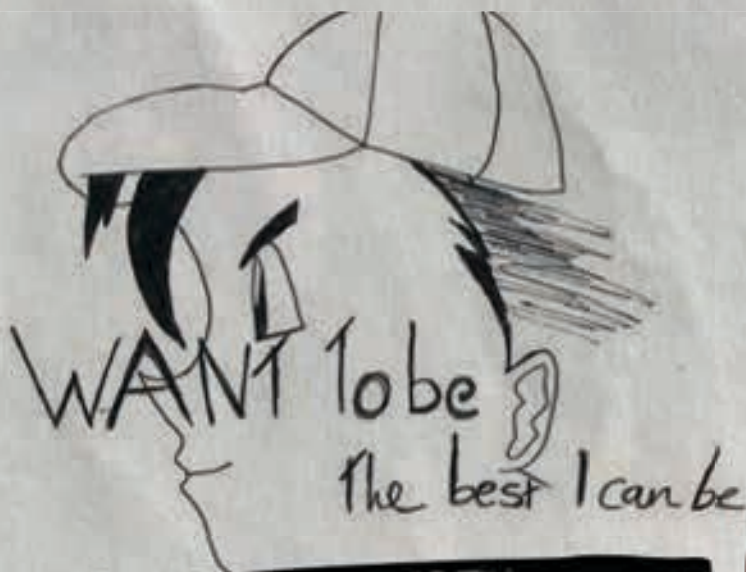




**We have the right to education so we can develop and learn.  
We are pleased to be in school and to have opportunities to learn.**

We missed a lot of school and this was hard for some of us. Some of us are doing catch-up lessons after school. When the pandemic started we were in primary school. We are now in secondary school but we missed our end of primary school celebrations. We follow the pandemic rules at school. But not everyone does. And some of couldn't go back when schools reopened, or we had to home school again when we had Covid. Members of our families get Covid and then we can't always go to school. Plus we worry about giving Covid to our families.

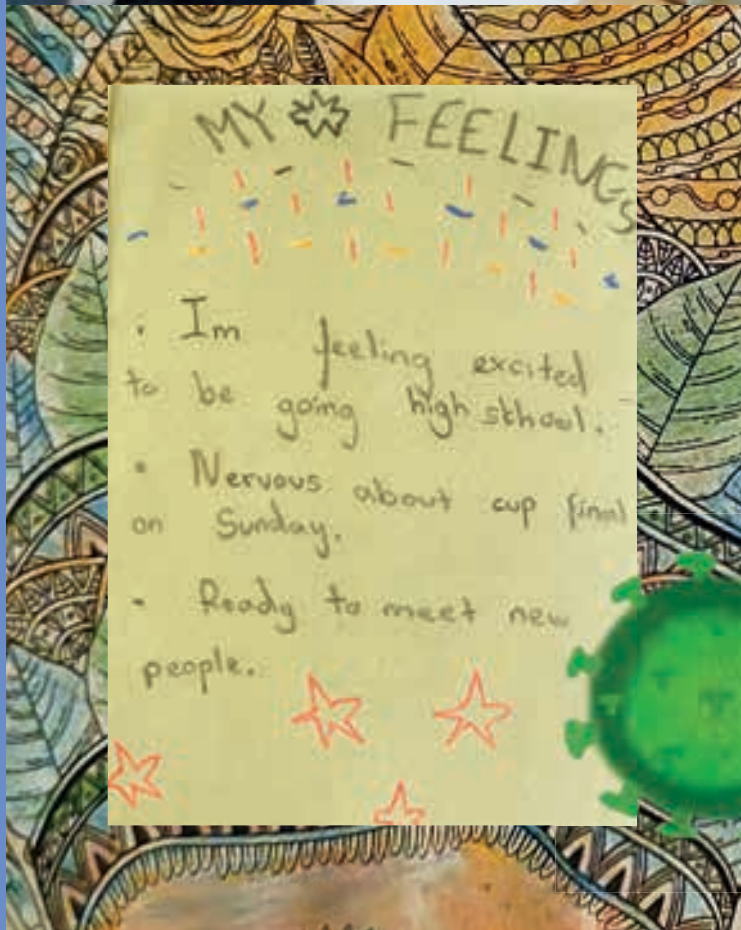




'we lost a lot of learning which we might not regain'



"we need to wear masks in the corridors and not be all huddled up .....but only thirty percent are wearing masks"



## MY FEELINGS

- Im feeling excited to be going high school.
- Nervous about cup final on Sunday.
- Ready to meet new people.

1 in 20

"One in every 20 children of secondary school age is infected with coronavirus. My lateral flow test was positive so was my PCR test. I felt ill for three days".

UNCRC



Access to education



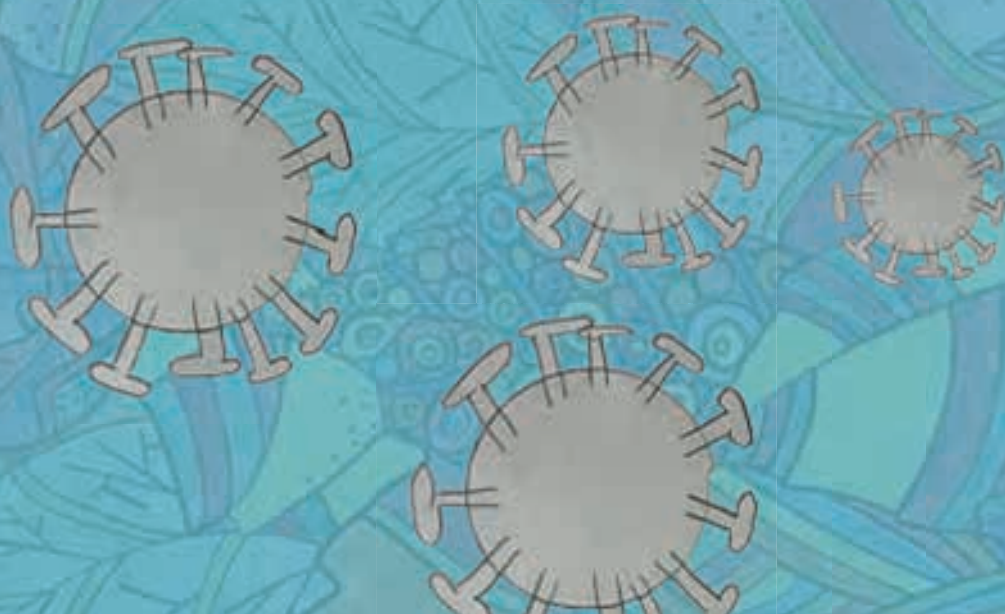
Aims of education





**Children have played an important role in the pandemic.  
We are knowledgeable and want to communicate our  
stories to other children and adults.**

**There is a lot of different things being said by adults about the pandemic  
and what should happen next. This can be confusing for us (and adults).  
We need access to reliable and accurate information that is created with  
and for children. We also have lots of ideas to share about what children  
need to help them to recover from the pandemic.**





# Happy Things to do when you are stuck at home

① ART

② Play an instrument

③ Playing board games

④ Lego

⑤ SPORT

⑥ Read

⑦ Bake

⑧ Watch TV

⑨ Eating

⑩ Indoor games



"Listening to other kids' stories can make you feel a bit better, because the words are coming from somebody your age, so you can relate a little bit more".

"I think I will get vaccinated because my family has quite a few vulnerable people"



Respect for children's views



Sharing thoughts freely



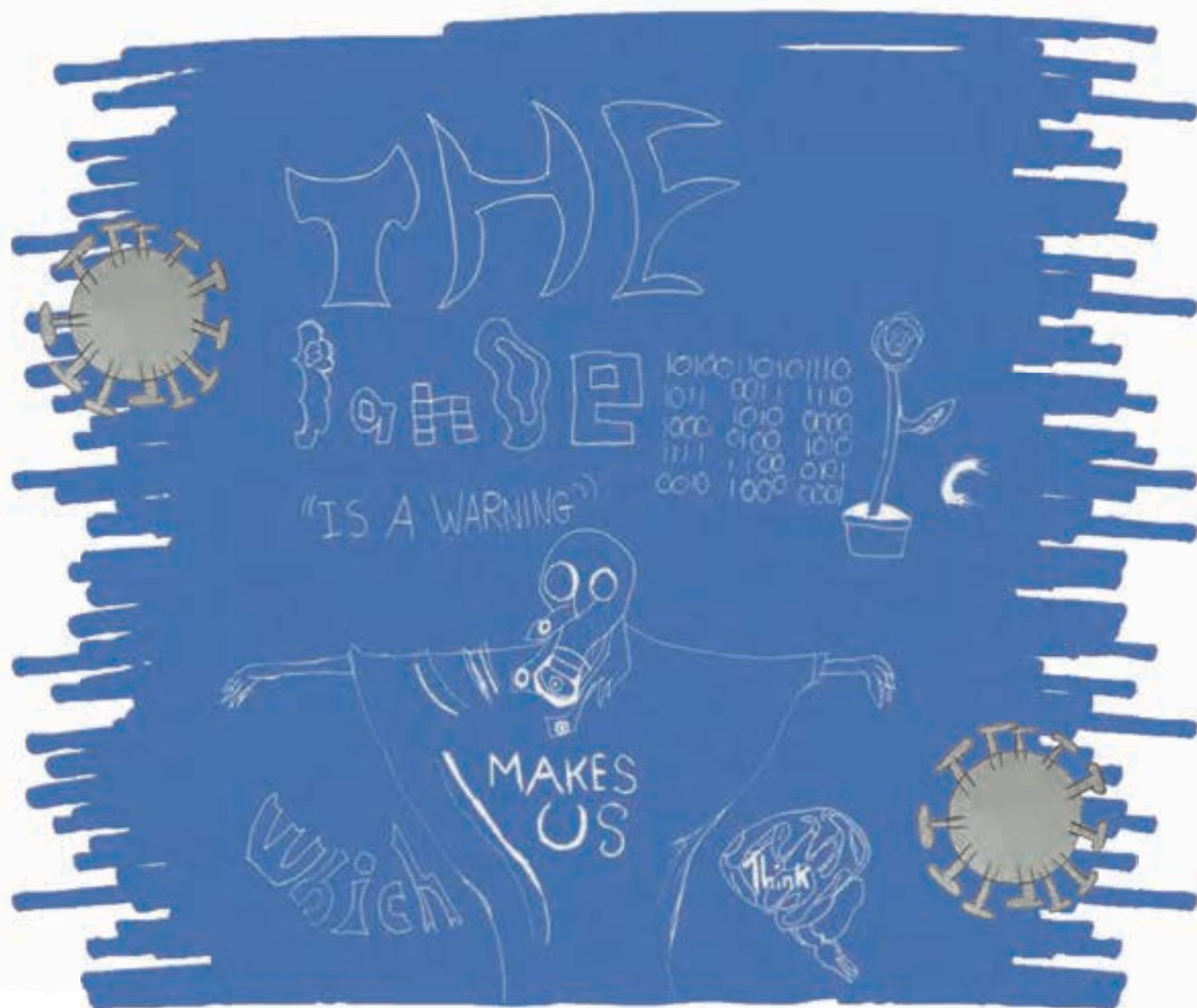
Access to information



# WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN- CHILDRENS RIGHTS

**Our zine shows what life has been like for children from our perspectives.**

**These are our key messages about what needs to happen now..**





# These are our 10 key messages about what needs to happen now...

## OUR VOICES

OUR VOICES should be heard

- 1 We are knowledgeable and want to have our views taken seriously.
- 2 We want to communicate our stories to other children and adults.
- 3 We want access to reliable information - this should be information that we can understand

## GOING OUT

GOING OUT is something we care about - It helps us feel well.

- 4 We want to be able to meet with other children and to be part of clubs and organisations.
- 5 We need time to relax, play and take part in a wide range of activities, especially outside

## Our Relationships

OUR RELATIONSHIPS are important

- 6 We need opportunities to connect with our families and friends.
- 7 We also need time with our pets. They are important to us.
- 8 We need space to learn about and care for the wildlife around us.

## OUR LEARNING

OUR LEARNING is important

- 9 We have the right to education so we can develop and learn.
- 10 The pandemic continues to have an impact on our lives. And we will continue to play an important role in our families and communities, making decisions and taking action about what we think we need to do.



United Nations  
Convention on the Rights  
of the Child  
<http://hud.ac/mjy>

Child-friendly Convention  
on the Rights of the Child  
<https://bit.ly/3xmRtNr>



A, B, O, U, T,

B, A, C, K, C, H, A, T,

Back Chat is a British Academy funded project which has been researching with children to document their experiences about the impact of the pandemic on their lives through collaborative, socially-distanced arts-based methods. This project was created by Helen Lomax – Huddersfield Centre for Research in Education and Society and Kate Smith – Huddersfield Just Futures Centre for Child, Youth, Family and Community Research.




Helen

Kate



Thanks to:

- Our families, friends and teachers
- Artists - Anna Żelasko @annaxietea and Belinda Walsh @belindawalsh
- Amanda Ptolomey for Zine methods @amandasays
- Design – Darren Kefford at  wearema.co.uk

Grant number: SRG2021\211308 : April 2021-July 2022.

For more information visit [hud.ac/backchat](http://hud.ac/backchat) Developing arts-based methods of knowledge generation and exchange with children during times of global crisis

To see our digital Zine, go to: [hud.ac/mnu](http://hud.ac/mnu)

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