



Thursday 7th January 2021

How times have changed...



Lockdown 1: Fresh air and family-time...



Lockdown 3: Dry January out the window...

Dear Thornhill,

So... here we are again. Locked down. Wasn't 2021 meant to be the year that 2020 wasn't? I think we all feel more than slightly fatigued by the prospect of being shut away again. Looking back at the heady heights of lockdown 1, now seems like a distant memory. It was almost magical and mystical as we embraced the scorching (ok sunny at least) weather, began to appreciate the beauty of nature again – the birds tweeting, the trees swaying in the gentle breeze – and appreciated the simple pleasures of a family walk or trip to Sainsburys. Or perhaps I'm just romanticising about the 'good old days?' – the days when we used to say hello to our neighbours, collect the elderly's shopping and clap for our carers.



By the way, this is who Beau calls 'Dadda' when I'm at work!

I'm sure you'll remember from my last message back in May (that is no doubt still pinned to your fridge) I had embraced my one permitted daily dose of exercise by embarking on a gruelling challenge of self-discovery and personal improvement. And no, I'm not simply referring to trying to juggle Mr Robinson with Dadda at home, I'm talking about my PLANK CHALLENGE; my mammoth (yet admittedly slightly pointless and more than a little self-indulgent) challenge. Planking my way through Spring, with the dreams of Summer holidays and Christmas with loved ones fixated in my mind (what happened to that?!), I reached the heady heights of 4 ¾ minutes of pure planking ecstasy. I embraced my zen-like inner self, sucked in my core, blocked out the pain and conquered my demons. And then I stopped. I got bored. I quit. I gave up.

Ah well, as they say... there's always next lockdown!

And here we are again. With you all on tenterhooks, on the edge of your seat, I hereby announce my next lockdown challenge.
*Drum roll please.

I am going to run from Land's End to John O' Groats!
Yes you read it correctly – all 874 miles!



(Before you nominate me for a Pride of Britain award, I'd just like to clarify that this is not all in one go!)

<https://www.endtoend.run>





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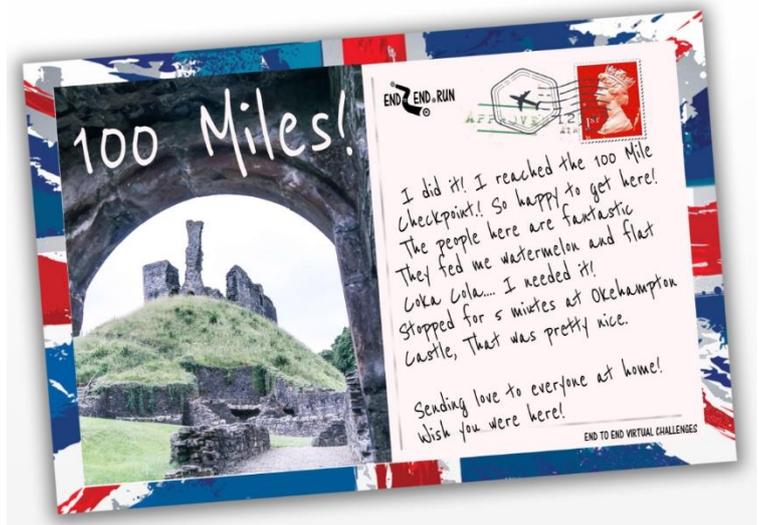
Let me add, I have a full 12 months to complete the challenge, but I am actually going to do it in 6! And by the way, this isn't how long I anticipate lockdown to go on for!! Please, oh please don't let these be famous last words.



Okehampton Castle, Devon

I actually started the challenge at the beginning of December and have already covered 179 miles. Just the 695 to go! 95 miles in, I passed Okehampton Castle, the site of the remains of the largest castle in Devon. Did you know that the castle is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 and is believed to have been built shortly after the battle of Hastings in 1066? The Courtenay family, including the 1st Earl of Devon, owned the castle for hundreds of years until 1539 when Henry Courtenay had his head rudely chopped off by Henry VIII on a charge of treason! The castle was then abandoned and left to decay, with the stones scavenged by locals for building projects.

Throughout lockdown I am going to give you updates on my progress and information about the famous sites of the UK that I run past. Perhaps your children could embark on some research about the places I see? I stopped at Banwell Bone Cave in North Somerset last night, on my way home from school, but I'll save details of that for next time. By the way, if you're interested (or mad) you too can sign up for a virtual challenge at <https://www.endtoend.run> Join me running the length of the UK or why not climb Everest or take on Route 66 (2278 miles!... Eeek)



Enough about me, as interesting as that undoubtedly is, and on to goings on at school. Parents you have made a fantastic start to home-schooling; please bear with us and continue to persevere. It is early days this term and we will continue to adjust and adapt our offer as we see fit. Continue to use your imagination and utilise the home environment to provide interesting learning opportunities for your child. Please address any feedback via thornhill@thornhill.islington.sch.uk rather than using the DB chat forums.

Like the first time around, we will get through this and the children will be ok.

Our staff – both those in school supporting key worker and vulnerable children and those at home managing remote learning - have again been remarkable with their spirit and dedication to step up and do whatever is required of them to get the Thornhill family through this difficult time. Many are supporting their own children at home or dealing with personal illness, trauma or anxiety but they will continue to endeavour to do their very best for your child. We are all here for you so please do not suffer in silence; if there is anything whatsoever that we can do to help then all you need to do is ask.

Finally, I'm happy to see that the 'clap for heroes' is returning tonight. There are heroes everywhere, doing their bit, so please continue to be kind and supportive to one another; we all sincerely hope and pray that this is the last instalment of this terrible saga.

Lockdown 3: The Final Chapter 🙌

Kindest regards and continue to stay safe,

Mr Robinrun 🏃



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