Staying Home



SALLY NICHOLLS VIVIANE SCHWARZ

To Tom, Peter and Robin – my companions in chaos.
I couldn't have asked for nicer people to be isolated with. – Sally

To my neighbours. – Viv

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Staying Home



SALLY NICHOLLS VIVIANE SCHWARZ

Emily, Harry and Charlie are staying home today.
Emily is not going to school.
Harry and Charlie are not going to nursery.
Mummy and Daddy are not going to work.



They wash their paws before they eat.

You:



Rub your hands together.



Wash the backs of your hands.



Make two fists and rub them together.



Make a wiggly hedgehog with your fingers.



Rub your fist around your thumb.



Wash your fingertips.

Hurray!

You have to keep washing for as long as it takes to sing "Happy birthday!" twice.

Emily sings
"Happy birthday,
Mr Poo!"

Harry sings
"Happy birthday,
Stinky Bottom!"

Charlie says, "ME!"
And cries because
he has to wait.

“Why can’t we go to nursery?” says Harry.
“Because people have been getting ill,” says Daddy.
“If someone who’s ill coughs or
breathes on you, or if you touch something
they’ve touched or breathed on,
you might get sick too.
So we have to stay at home to make sure
we don’t catch it, or give it to somebody else.”

“Will it make us really sick?” says Emily.
“It depends,” says Daddy.
“Children mostly just get a little bit sick.
But some people get really sick.
So we all have to stay at home
to keep everyone safe.”

"Will we ever go back to school?" says Emily.
"Yes," says Daddy. "But maybe not for
a long time."
"When I'm a hundred?"
"Before then!"
"When I'm ten?"
"Definitely before you're ten."
"Before my birthday?"

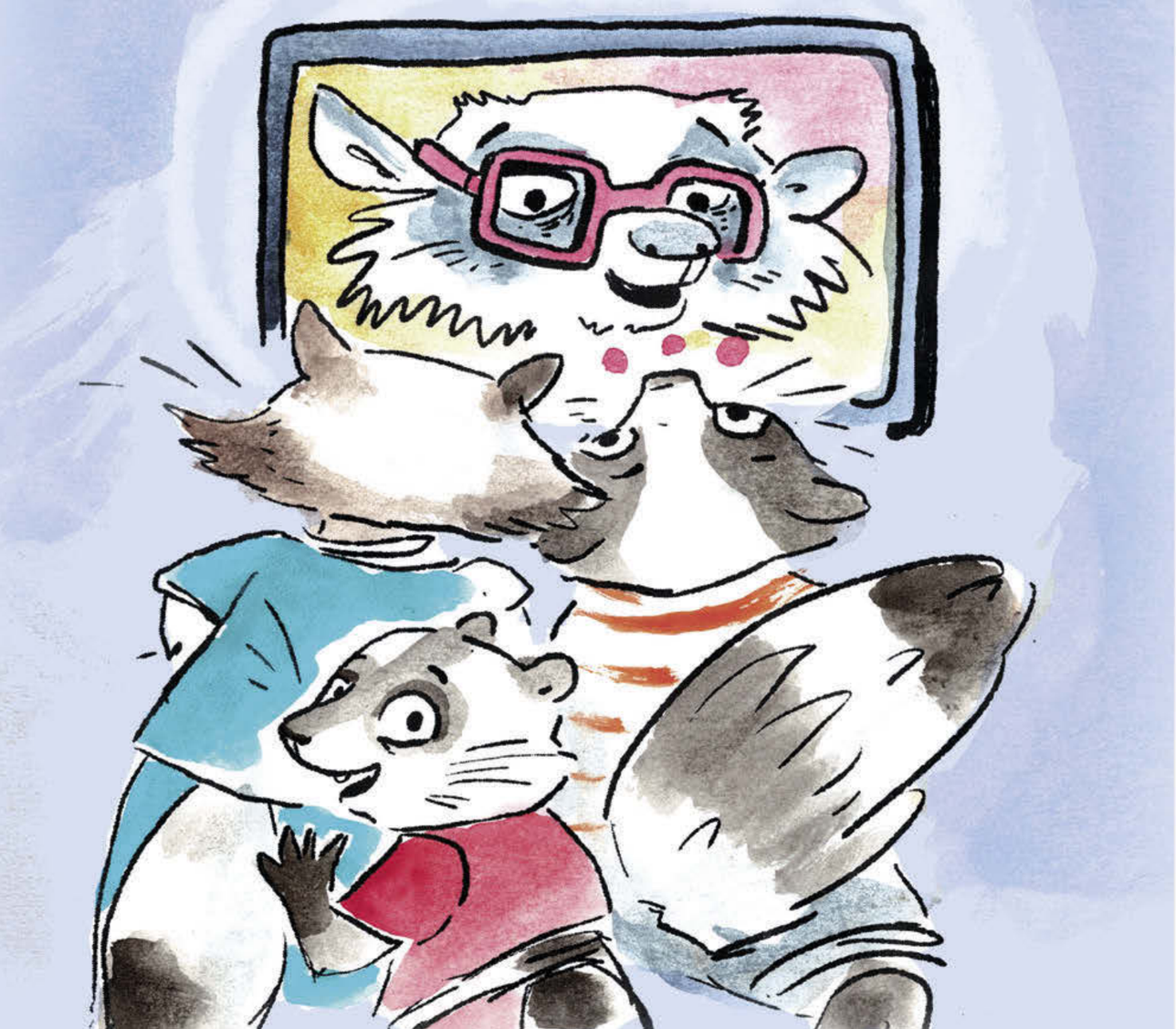




"Well. Maybe not.
But you will go back.
I promise."

After breakfast, Emily has some work from school.
She does some writing and reads a book.
Harry draws a picture to send to Granny.
Granny is one of the people who might get
really sick.

They can't see her, but they talk to her
on the computer.



Charlie likes to play with
the coloured pencils.
"Daddy!" says Emily.
"Charlie's making a mess!"
"I wanted that pencil!"
says Harry.
"Mine!" says Charlie.
"Maybe it's time
to go out,"
says Mummy.



Daddy does some work on his computer.
Mummy takes Emily, Harry and Charlie
out on their scooters.

They have to wash their hands again
before they can go out.



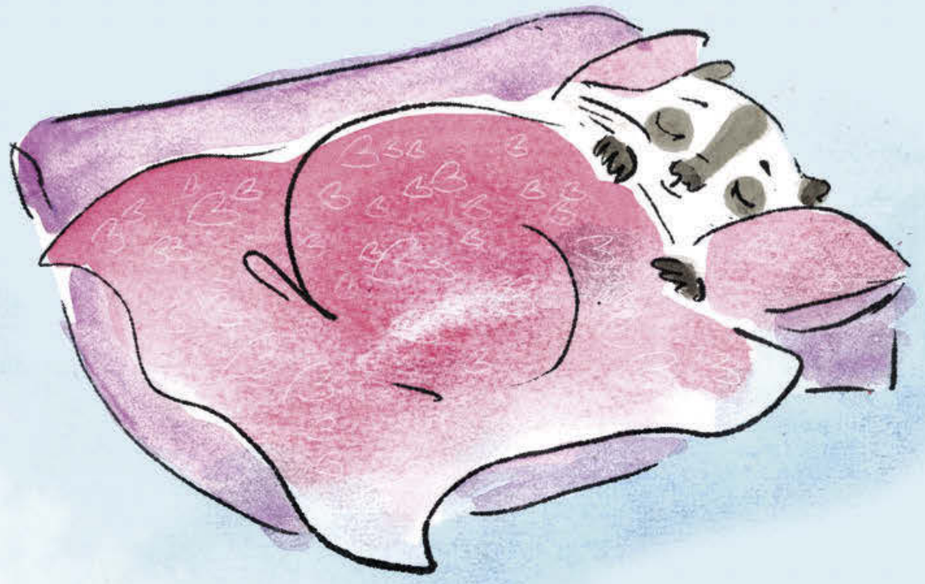


As they're going down the street,
they see their friend Hakim.
They can't get too close,
so they wave and shout "Hello!"



When they get home,
they have to wash their hands *again*.
Then it's lunchtime.

After lunch, it's time for Charlie's nap.
Emily plays with Lego.
Harry and Mummy play a board game.
Then Mummy reads them some stories.
"I like being at home." says Harry.
"I don't," says Emily. "I wish I could go to school.
I miss my friends."



When Charlie wakes up,
they all watch a film.





Emily and Harry play a computer game
while Daddy and Charlie cook dinner.
Emily is cross because Harry isn't sharing.
"It's my turn!" she says.
"I'm not finished!" says Harry.
Emily tries to snatch the computer.
Harry starts to cry.

Daddy comes through from the kitchen.
"You know," he says. "Sometimes it's hard
being together like this.
I know we annoy each other sometimes.
But aren't you glad we've got each other?"

"I know how to
cheer us up,"
Daddy says.
"Let's do some
exercise!"









Then dinner is ready.

"Why did people start getting sick?" says Emily.
"Well, we get new illnesses all the time," says Mummy. "Mostly it's just a new type of cold. But sometimes it's something more serious.

It's nobody's fault.
It's just something that happens."



After dinner, Mummy and Daddy clean the table and sideboards with bleach. They wipe the doorknobs and light switches.





"That'll kill that silly virus," says Emily.

Then it's bath time.

Mummy comes in to say goodnight.
“Is everyone staying home?” says Emily.
“Not everyone,” says Mummy.
“But lots of people in countries
all over the world.
And of course, some people are
working.
They’re looking after people who are sick,
or trying to find new medicines.
They’re driving lorries and delivering post
and growing crops and putting out fires.”





“I wish I were
a fire fighter,”
says Emily.
“Perhaps,” says Mummy.
“But what we’re doing is just as important.
We’re saving lives too.”

Mummy and Daddy kiss Emily and Harry
and Charlie goodnight.
Outside their window, the stars are shining.
The streets are quiet.
People go from house to house, delivering food
and checking on their neighbours.

And in the houses, people are waiting.
They're not going out.
They're not seeing their friends.
They're staying at home...



...until everything is safe again.