

## **Life During School Suspension**

When school was suspended in January, I was ecstatic, as it was a small holiday to just rest. It's fine! After all, we would be back in school by March. But little did I know what was to come.

January, the month when the suspension first started, it was pretty fun. I still woke up early so I could talk to my friends who lived on the other side of the globe. I spent the whole day chatting and playing games with them. I was still in touch with my classmates though. We discussed what was going on in the world.

February, the month when we started to receive the E-assignments, I was hooked on a new game that recently came out. I made a lot of new friends there. But near the end of the month, I had to stop playing. Not only had I gotten bored of the game, but I had also realized that I had to start studying and doing my homework. If I were to stay lazy for the next few months, I doubted if I would've been able to keep up with my studies when school eventually reopened. I said goodbye to the friends I had made in the game and started focusing on E-assignments.

March, the months of Fatigue and loneliness! I worked hard to finish every E-assignment. It was very stressful. I wanted to do some self-study but by the time I felt like I had done enough assignments for the day, I would be too tired to do my self-revision. I also began to feel lonely. All my school mates stopped texting me. Whenever I texted them, it always felt as if I was bothering them. It made me rethink so many things about how I perceived my friendships with other people. I needed a break!

April was a month of healing, and planning ahead! I took a small break from social media. It wasn't too strict. I just chose not to post anything. As for texting, I stopped trying to initiate conversations with my schoolmates. If they wanted to talk to me, they could just message me themselves. I mostly talked to my friends from Canada who had better ways to get the social interactions going on. And it was so much fun! I also tried cooking. I thought that it would be good to learn some new skills that would be useful later in life and cooking was something I had always been scared of trying. I started off by learning to make scrambled eggs. Then, I learnt simple dishes that did not require much effort. I wouldn't say that I know how to cook from now on but if someone asked me for help them in the kitchen or asked me to make something that involves following a recipe, I wouldn't hesitate to try. I felt as if I was improving as a person

May, the month of new beginnings- May 27<sup>th</sup>! That was the day when school finally reopened. I was nervous but excited. Would I be able to catch up with my studies? I still couldn't finish some of my e- assignments. "Will it affect my report card? How much has changed? How much have I changed?" I kept on asking these questions to myself. But I knew that I just couldn't wait to go back to school again.

These were my thoughts during school suspension. To be honest, it's hard to remember specific events that happened during the holidays. This is because the only thing I want to think about now is about what lies ahead.