



Good morning to all the children, staff and parents of Kinokuni Schools in Japan,

We are all part of one big family but today that family cannot join together to learn through sociability and community in the playground or the classroom.

Here at Kilquhanity we have always felt the real physical distance between Scotland and Japan but today we feel it emotionally as well. We hope everyone connected with the schools, their family and friends all manage to survive this deadly virus that permeates the world today and tomorrow.

I know Matthew, based at Killy will send his own message and maybe some photographs of the estate today. We have nearly finished the new kitchen and the estate is looking good in the Spring sunshine.

Sadly, we are not supposed to see each other due to the virus 'lockdown' in the UK. We are only allowed to travel for essential food shopping, medical needs and are allowed about one hour a day for exercise outside. As some of you know I can be naughty, so I do sometimes take my exercise at Killy - we play table tennis - badly and sometimes go for a bicycle ride along to the river pool at Glenlair where some of you would have swum with Gavin much to Hiroko's concern! Gavin was always a bit of a rebel, like his father and A. S. Neill and he would take risks and he would often do things his own way - we miss him greatly.

Around the UK all of the places you like to visit when you come to the UK are closed, the Castles, Gardens, Cities and Visitor Centres are all closed and this weekend - Easter Weekend the Police will patrol the beaches and beauty spots to clear gatherings of people - sunbathing or having a party.

Like you, everyone is wanting to play together and celebrate the passing of this horrible virus but we are not able to do that yet! For me as some of you know, I had organ problems a few years ago, I have to make extra precautions to avoid the virus and am supposed to be house-bound for another 10 weeks at least.

A lot of people liken this event to a war. Killy opened during the second world war when John and Morag were fighting, peacefully, to show children and the world that problems could be solved through dialogue instead of weapons and physical fights. So when this war against a disease is eventually over, we will meet again to learn about living together in peace, learning to look after each other, learning that no one is more important than anyone else, learning that play is not just fun but social and about developing skills of our own as well as learning to love one another.

So when this over we look forward to seeing you all once again in bonnie Scotland to learn and play together - a safe journey to you all through this unpleasant time and a safe journey to Scotland next when you are allowed to come.

My love to you all,

Andrew Pyle



Hello Students and Adults



Matt here at Killy saying Hello Japan ! !

I really hope everyone is ok, and keeping safe during this scary time for the world, Life has changed in Scotland a lot over the last three weeks, and this has led to some of your trips to Scotland being cancelled, This I understand is very Sad for you, and also for Andrew and myself, But as we all know its peoples health and safety at the moment that is MOST important ! I hope and look forward to seeing some groups of students in the summer months.

I have been busy working on Jobs to help improve and fix Killy, The kitchen has two new cookers and new cupboards, its looking good. The BIG tree that we cut down at the gate, has taken a lot of work to cut up and sort out, the garage at the wood shed that we built doors for last year, is now nearly full of wood ! I have included some pictures for you to look at. Now the sun is coming out in Scotland the grass is growing and is needing cut, and the summer jobs have started for me, and hopefully when students arrive this year the grounds will be looking beautiful for you to enjoy.

I am feeling very lucky to be at Killy during this time, I just need to go to Tesco once a week, Tesco very strange now, very controlled and only one person per house allowed in at a time, and you have to follow a floor plan as you walk around the shop, very strange.

As mentioned I hope everyone in Japan and at the Kinokoni Schools is ok safe and well !

See you Soon !

Matt

