

# Letters to the Library

**Describe yourself in a sentence or two, for example your age and occupation (or, if you do not have one, what you like to do). What is your household like?**

I am an occupational therapist. I am married and have two little girls, ages 3 and 1. I live here in Wallingford.

**What is your day to day routine like now? What has changed? What has not changed?**

I work part time and spend a majority of the rest of my time home with my children and husband. I used to spend my free time away from home- visiting friends, family, shopping, etc. That has changed drastically in the last year.

**What precautions have you taken against the virus? How have you prepared? Were there any difficulties (shortages, high prices etc.)?**

When the virus first became serious, my little one was 5 weeks old. We were already spending most of our time at home at that time. We took our older child out of daycare, and I worried that my husband, a firefighter and paramedic, would contract the virus at work. We decided he would be the only one to leave the house to go food shopping. I was concerned that there would be a shortage of baby wipes or diapers, with two in diapers we were going through a lot at the time; we managed fine and proudly did not hoard toilet paper.

**What have been the biggest challenges for you during this time?**

When we were in total shutdown I was so concerned that I would never see my parents again. It was so challenging being alone with a newborn and a toddler during my husbands 24 hour shifts- I had planned on my toddler going to daycare and our parents helping out for the first few months. Once things opened again, every family gathering was shadowed by the thought that we could all get very sick.

## **How have you stayed busy?**

Toddlers.

## **Have there been any positives to this situation?**

Yes- we have made our home into a place where we want to be. I also very much treasure family time without distraction. I don't need to run around and be busy. Weekends at home are wonderful, with the occasional event a treat.

## **What local Wallingford places/businesses do you miss most?**

The gym. We aren't comfortable letting our children back into the babysitting now that the mask requirements have been lifted.

## **How have you stayed social while social distancing?**

Zoom game nights!

## **What is the first thing you are doing when things go back to normal?**

Family BBQ!

**How did you celebrate the Holidays? Did you see family in person, digitally, or not at all?**

Very small group of family- those whom we were already interacting with, all on separate days.

**How will you be celebrating Wallingford's 350<sup>th</sup> Jubilee? If you were here for the 325th Jubilee, do you have any memories you would like to share?**

N/A

**What do you miss most about the Wallingford Public Library? What is the first thing you will be doing when you can come back into the building?**

The children's area! I finally took my toddler right before I had my youngest and she loved it. I was so looking forward to going there on maternity leave.