

MY AUNTIE'S A



Hi, I'm Charlie!

I'm a pretty ordinary kid- I like to play video games, eat burgers and play basketball. I go for a walk once a day. Do my schoolwork at the kitchen table. And I don't see anyone from outside my house...

Oh yeah, that's right, I probably should have said, like every other kid round here I'm in lockdown.

I've not been to school for weeks. I've not seen my friends in forever. And if it wasn't for facetime I think I'd forget what my cousins look like!

And don't get me started on having my Mum as my teacher.

I miss real life. Like I R L. In real life. Not on the internet.

My Auntie Heather says she uses her daily walk to communicate with people. I thought she meant waving to her neighbours or going to post a letter, but...

I've got a secret.

My Auntie Heather is a VANDAL!

She told me, that in the 80's, artists in New York would use spraypaint to paint messages on trains. And those trains would travel across the city and artists at the other end would see the message and respond by painting back.

How amazing is that? There wasn't internet then and people didn't have mobile phones, some didn't even have phones in their houses, so they found their own way to keep in touch with each other. They had to do it at night, when it was dark so they wouldn't be caught.

Because some people said it was vandalism but Auntie Heather reckons its art.

It's called street art now and people don't just paint on trains. They paint on walls- pictures and messages for the world to see.

So during lockdown Auntie Heather is using her daily walk to create art. She loves all the rainbows people have been putting in their windows and she wants to keep spreading that positivity.

She wants to make people smile.

She put giant googly eyes on a statue to make people laugh and she tapes up positive messages on walls to make people smile.

I think we need more of that. We need things that make us smile. And messages to make us stop and think.

I think the worlds a little strange at the moment but if we can make each other smile and remember to be kind and care, even about people we've not met yet, then maybe it'll get a little better?

Nothings permanent.

It can keep changing.

Just like our world.

