

My daughter will have gone back to school for a morning a week for 3 weeks before term finishes. She came home a different kid after the first session; suddenly more grown up and energised after regressing emotionally over the last few months as an only child. My partner and I work full time, now from home. This means that my daughter has only learned what she can teach herself from the work that school has put online for us to deliver. She has completely disengaged and my little swot could not care less about school. We now have a long summer without childcare for even more Roblox days and little interaction with kids her own age.

My work expects me to be working 100% in September, including some time in the work place, alongside all my UK colleagues This is also when the redundancies will start. These will, of course be felt disproportionately by women with children, but especially those in Wales if Wales keeps sending signals that power struggles are more important than the scientific evidence. By Christmas, Wales is likely to be hit hard when companies decide which offices to close. Our kids will be behind their UK peers in the UK state system and far behind all private school children who have been educated throughout. If there is another UK lockdown when flu season arrives, my daughter may completely disengage from a school that she attends for far less than even half of the time.

I am exhausted. I also cannot with good conscience stop my daughter playing with other kids in less safe environments than school for much longer. Groups of (good, kind hearted) older kids are already meeting in large groups. If the kids were in school, parents would be in a better position to enforce the lock down rules. My family may be forced to take turns with childcare with other families next term in order to work outside of the home, which will mean schools and year groups mixing. This will be far less safe for everyone as adults will have to mix far more to make it work.

Blended learning is NOT working for our family and it is not a long term solution. My employer is great, but patience will run out at some point and I'm desperately worried about being on the out list when cost cutting starts because I'm not as effective as my Scottish and English colleagues. It's hard enough being a working mother in normal times, but the current environment has hit women disproportionately.