

the **LOCKDOWN** chats



By Kate & Jol Temple



Jimmy Cook

Hey Alice!
Do you want to do a Zoop call???



Alice Toolie

Not exactly.



Jimmy Cook

Why?



Alice Toolie

Let me think...



Jimmy Cook

Alice???



Alice Toolie

Still thinking...



Jimmy Cook

Do you want to do a Zoop call or not???



Alice Toolie

**I'm soooo bored of Zooping!
This Corona lockdown is definitely
the most boring thing that's ever
happened to anyone ever.**



Jimmy Cook

**That's not quite true, Alice.
The Tinea Pandemic of 1647 was no
fun at all. Millions of people had
mushrooms growing out of their feet
and were pretty much unable to walk
anywhere. Which was a problem
because cars, planes, bikes, scooters
and even rollerskates hadn't been
invented yet. So that was pretty bad...**



Alice Toolie

**Okay, so that's gross and I'm pretty
sure you made that up anyway.**



Jimmy Cook

**Did not. There was also the Tape
Worm Pandemic of 1302 where about
a billion people had worms and all
they could do was scratch their butts
all day. This isn't as bad as that!**



Alice Toolie

**So also not true and normally I'd like just
mute you, but since we're messaging
each other and I'm soooooo bored
and I literally have nothing else to do, I'll
keep talking to you. Besides I've already
chatted with everyone in the class.**



Jimmy Cook

Well thank YOU for saving the best until LAST Alice. Anyway, this lockdown isn't as bad as all THAT, I mean, it's given me the chance to get on with a few projects that I've been meaning to do for ages and frankly SCHOOL keeps getting in the way of all my good ideas. So, here are my top three corona projects:

Make a go-kart out of a wheelie bin and a plastic baby piano.

Invent a vaccine for coronavirus using chicken bones, marshmallow, kale and cheese stix.

Invent a new kind of wireless phone using toilet rolls and lasers.



Alice Toolie

Okay, so I don't want to be mean or anything, because since it's Corona it's really important to be supportive of everyone but I think I should tell you, there are a few MAJOR problems with those ideas. Firstly, you can't make a vaccine out of bones and candy or whatever... it's a bit more complicated than that, and I should know because I did win Science Girl of the Year for inventing a vaccine for BAD MOODS. And also some more bad news... good luck finding toilet rolls! All the panic buyers totally bought them all.



Jimmy Cook

Seriously! I don't get it. Do they all have runny poos? If I was going to be a panic buyer I'd never buy all that toilet paper. I'd just buy a million packets of apple fizzo dust and have a fizzo bath.



Alice Toolie

Yum! First of all, I would like never be a panic buyer because it's like totally selfish BUT if I was to buy a squillion of something it would definitely NOT be toilet paper. Also it doesn't make any sense, because you can't even eat toilet paper.



Jimmy Cook

**Actually you can.
But it tastes pretty bad.**



Alice Toolie

Yuck. It's so weird that there's a pandemic. It's like a rainy day that never ends.



Jimmy Cook

That's sort of true but it could be a lot worse. I actually caught a pandemic once before and it was really bad.



Alice Toolie

You did not.



Jimmy Cook

I did so! I caught the Spanish Flu and the Bubonic Plague from my baby sister's birthday party. There were all these snotty babies climbing on me and the next thing you know, I had a pandemic. And one time I caught the BLACK DEATH from Casper N.



Casper N.

**YOU DID NOT!
I didn't have the BLACK DEATH.
That was ring worm.**



Jimmy Cook

Hi Casper N.



Casper N.

Hi!



Alice Toolie

Hi Casper.



Casper N.

Hi!



Jimmy Cook

Hey Casper N? I thought you weren't allowed to use your mum's computer because she needs it for all the Zoop video calls.



Casper N.

True! But she's gone to the toilet so I've hijacked it! I'm so bored! My mum told me she couldn't be my homeschool teacher today because she has so many Zoop calls. So I had to be my own teacher.



Jimmy Cook

That actually sounds pretty awesome. Do you call yourself Mr Casper?



Casper N

Yep.



Alice Toolie

What are you even teaching yourself?



Casper N

This morning I did an advanced class in lying around scratching my butt followed by extension class in sliding down the stairs on your butt and then enrichment class in eating all the candy I could find... on your butt.



Jimmy Cook

That's it. I'm enrolling.



Casper N

I've got to go, my mum needs the computer back!



Jimmy Cook

Wow. That kid goes to the best school.



Alice Toolie

Hmm. I don't think he's taking this very seriously. I for one don't plan on wasting any time. Just this morning, I did all my school work, I've written five chain letters, emailed all 23 of my best friends, posted 6 letters to lonely randoms and made up a dance about social distancing which I've uploaded to youtootube and already has 187 hits.



Jimmy Cook

Speaking of social distancing, I'm using two carrots to make long arms for typing.



Alice Toolie

That's got literally nothing to do with social distancing...



Jimmy Cook

I think you'll find it does, I'm about six meters away, nothing's going to get me from here.



Alice Toolie

Huh?? You can't 'get' a virus through the computer!!!



Jimmy Cook

That's what you think. One time Conrad caught x-ray vision from the computer but then he was playing MindCalf for 16 hours straight so maybe that had something to do with it.



Alice Toolie

Of course it does! Too much screen time is really bad for you, at least that's what my Mum said but then she ALSO said that's not true during Covid.



Jimmy Cook

My mum said the EXACT same thing. Usually my mum times every minute I'm even near a screen but these days she's totally encouraging it.



Alice Toolie

Same! Like today I've already had 15 group chats and spoken to like every one in the class (at least five times) and THEN worked my shift in a virtual café making virtual hamburgers and virtual milkshakes and after that I was pretty exhausted, because it's very stressful and those virtual customers can be VERY demanding, so then my Mum said I could watch a show to relax.



Jimmy Cook

Huh? 15 group chats??? I didn't get an invite.



Alice Toolie

**Oh yeah... soz about that.
But I have a reaIIIIIIIIIIly good reason.**



Jimmy Cook

What?



Alice Toolie

I didn't want to.



Jimmy Cook

That's actually really mean Alice.



Alice Toolie

I'm not trying to be mean but last time you were on the group chat you kept muting everyone and turning on that virtual background of a giant squid and pretending it was eating you alive.



Jimmy Cook

Ha! Yes that was a pretty good one.



Alice Toolie

It wasn't.



Jimmy Cook

Okay then, did you like the one where I was sitting on an Egyptian pyramid?



Alice Toolie

No.



Jimmy Cook

What about the one where I was sitting on an Aztec pyramid?



Alice Toolie

No.



Jimmy Cook

What about the one where I was sitting on a Babylonian ziggurat?



Alice Toolie

No (I have no idea what THAT is but it sounds gross). You know Zoop is not just about virtual backgrounds Jimmy. It's a very serious way of keeping us all connected.



Jimmy Cook

Umm... Seriously Alice???



Alice Toolie

**Ok it is about virtual backgrounds. It's just yours aren't really very... what's the word...
...good.**

My top three best virtual backgrounds are:

Sparkle rainbow panda castle

Underwater mermaid hotel

Science Girls virtual Covid lab

Anyway, it will be soooooo good to be back at school and not have to see your silly virtual backgrounds all the time.



Jimmy Cook

We can both agree that being back at school will actually be pretty amazing. I can't believe I'm actually saying that. I thought being on the computer all day would be amazing, but I guess some things are just better in real life. Like handball.



Alice Toolie

Totally! I can't wait for athletics carnival! I've been totally getting into exercise during corona so I'll probably get the gold medal in frisbee.



Jimmy Cook

Actually, I wouldn't be surprised at all if you got the gold medal. You know what I'm looking forward to the most?



Alice Toolie

No. Eating sandpit sand again?



Jimmy Cook

That's mean Alice. I was tasting the sand for scientific research.



Alice Toolie

**Fine.
So what is it anyway that you're looking forward to?
Driving me crazy?**



Jimmy Cook

**Book Week.
I'm really looking forward to Book Week.**



Alice Toolie

**Oh yeah. Book Week. Now you're talking.
Who are you going to come as this year?**



Jimmy Cook

I've got some ideas...



Alice Tool

Wait a sec, I'll Zoop you now...

Hang in there kids...

You'll be back at school soon.

And so will Alice and Jimmy...



Coming August 2020