

It was my birthday just after they announced that we were in lockdown!



March 2020; we were told to go and work from home due to the Covid pandemic, it won't be long we thought, maybe a couple of months! How wrong was we, here we are a year later! It was my birthday just after they announced that we were in lockdown, that was a fun one!!

John (husband) is a teacher, so he still had to work, but of course the children, 3 and 6 were not at school or nursery, so they were at home with us, thankfully John's school were accommodating, and he worked the days I did not.

Although one nightmare time was when we had the 3 year old at home isolating due to a covid case at nursery, and within 2 days the 6 year old was sent home to isolate due to a covid case in his bubble at school, so plans had to be made to work around this, which we dealt with, both changing working hours etc. Thankfully both ADS and John's school were accommodating to this! Then came home schooling.....now that was difficult, especially with a 3 year old wanting our attention and with us working too. Anyway, we won't get into that, it may take some time!!

Admin slowly got used to working from home, nothing we could not really do from home. I managed to grab anything I thought I would need from the office before we had to vacate the premises! Admin just go in to Spring Bank once a week to undertake admin and security tasks. Lisa and I support each other and have regular supervisions/catch up meetings. I do believe the admin service has continued to run effectively without any loss of accuracy during these strange times!! We have adapted to it all well, we have had to!!

Working remotely has its up's and down I feel. The lack of travel time is a bonus, and not been stuck in traffic, and once I have finished for the day I can just walk downstairs, versus battling traffic home etc, and been home at a reasonable time! Although I do miss seeing colleagues face to face and having the little chats with people as they come in to the admin room to utilise the photocopier etc. I am glad

that we got Teams before all this began, so we can have meetings through that and see people's faces! Telephone conversations are simply not the same!

I had also taken on Health & Safety and as part of this role, I had to run the Level 2 and 3 Health & Safety training. I had only sat in on the training been undertaken in a classroom environment a couple of times, not delivered the training myself in a classroom, and then I had to deliver it on Teams!!!! I was scared....I had to adapt the whole presentation to Teams and then deliver it through Teams. The first session was a nightmare as the videos didn't work, but we found out why, and it was rectified for the next training. I got good feedback from the attendees, so it was all good!

I do feel that been pushed into this way of working has made us look/re-think some of the ways we do things i.e., is there any need to print everything that we do, probably not, waste of time and paper!

Hopefully, we are going to come out of the other side very soon and get back to the office in the near future!

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