



SAMMY SLOTH GOES BACK TO SCHOOL

Written and Illustrated by Rachel Cook



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Sammy is a sloth who lives at home in a tree,
he lives with his Mum and Dad, a family of three!



Sammy has been at home for such a long time now,
because of the Coronavirus, they have been in lockdown.



Mum and Dad have been the teachers,
they do spelling and sums at home,
Sammy really misses his friends,
they only talk on the phone.



They haven't left the tree for weeks, only
to go for a walk,
Then one day, Mum says to Sammy, 'sit
down, we need to talk.'

Mum said, ‘The people who make the decisions say it’s safe to go outside, tomorrow we’ll go back to school.’
“NOOOOOOOOOO!”, Sammy cried.



Suddenly Sammy felt some
aching in his tummy,
‘Maybe it’s the virus? I better
stay home with Mummy.’

Dad explained to Sammy that the
aching was just nerves,
That it was just butterflies causing a
big stir.



That night Sammy couldn't sleep as
thoughts filled his head,
Like, what if my friends don't remember
me, what if the virus spreads?

What if I forget how to spell, or how to do a sum?
What if my teacher thinks that I am really dumb?
What if Mum and Dad forget me while I am at
School?
What if I have no one to play with and I won't be
very cool?



The next morning, Sammy was really slow,
He didn't want to get up, he didn't want to go.
It was a beautiful day, so bright and sunny.
Dad made Sammy's favourite breakfast, ants and sticky
honey.

Mum had packed his lunch box and on it was his
name,
She said, 'you know, your friends will be feeling just
the same.
We know you're feeling worried and that is perfectly
okay,
You will feel better as you get through the day.'



Dad said, 'School may be a little different , we're not sure
exactly how it will go,

But there will still be so many things that you already
know.

Your teacher will be there to help you with anything you
need,

And when the day is over you'll come home to Mummy and
me.'



They all walked to school together and when they
reached the gates,
there was Sammy's teacher where she always waits.
With a great big smile she was waving him in, but
Sammy was scared and lowered his chin.



Mum knelt down and hugged him so tight,
She whispered softly 'it will be alright.'
He relaxed in her arms and felt less afraid,
And off down the path he walked and he waved.

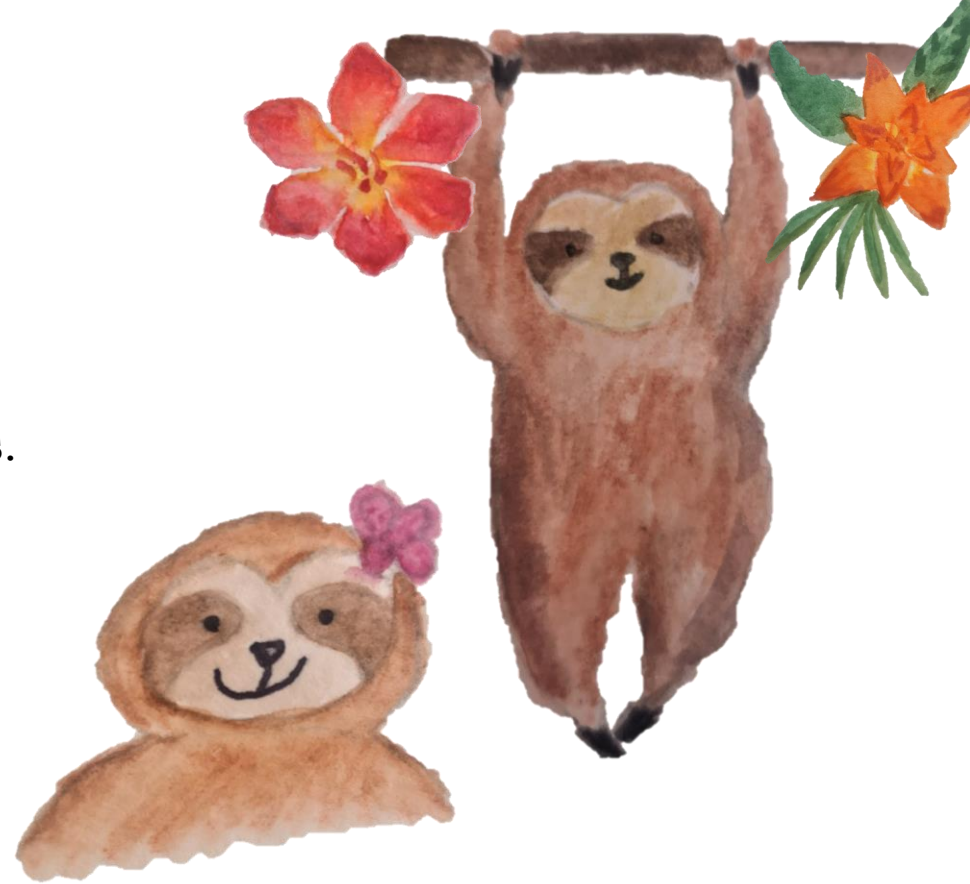
The school day started when the bell rang,
Sammy spotted his best friend, Stan!
Stan whispered, 'I have a tummy ache, and I don't
know why?'
Sammy said gently, 'It's okay Stan, it's just a butterfly'.



Stan had a huge smile and said 'OH, I'VE MISSED YOU!'
The school work was easy, there were no big issues.
Breaktime came and Sammy's friends came to play,
all of a sudden those butterflies flew away.



As the day went on, Sammy had so much fun,
He almost forgot how much he missed his Mum.
Before he knew it, the school day was at an end,
Sammy didn't want to say goodbye to his friends.



When he saw his Mum, he ran out to hug her,
nestled his face in her soft cosy fur.
All the way home Sammy told her what he had done,
Mum was so happy that he'd had so much fun.



That night Sammy laid his head on his leafy pillow,
and he thought to himself... I can't wait for tomorrow.



**This story was written for all of the amazing children
who have had their little world turned upside down in
the last few months.**



Children, just like adults, may be worried or anxious about returning to school following the Coronavirus Pandemic. This short story about Sammy the Sloth facing his fears of returning to school is a sweet story to read with your child and opens up opportunities for discussion around how they may be feeling, focussing on the familiar amidst the unknowns.



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Coming back to school in a bubble!



A book for children, created and shared by Shere Infant School & Nursery
Written and illustrated by Kezia Matthews





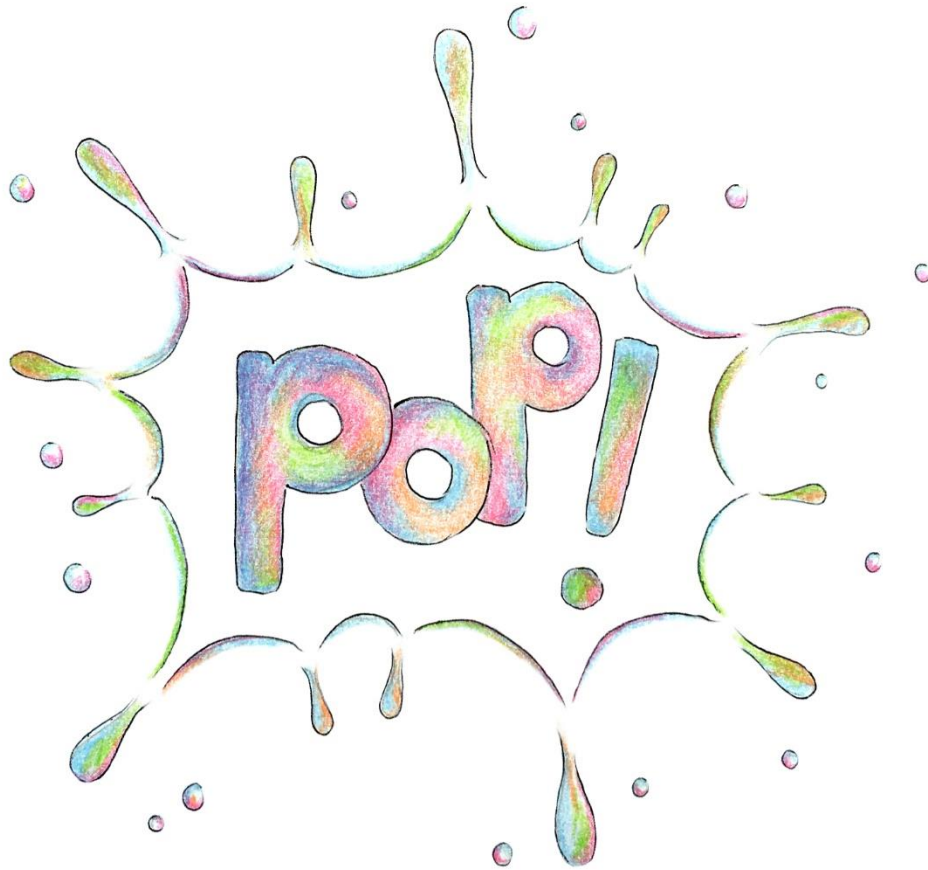
Welcome Back!

We're so excited that you're coming back to school soon!

We can't wait to see you!

Things will be a little bit different when you come back,
so this book will help you to understand what it is going to be like.

What does coming to school
in a bubble mean?



Don't worry, coming to school in a bubble
doesn't mean we will put you
in an actual bubble!

A bubble is just a small group of people who
will spend their time together at school.

You can think of it as a team!

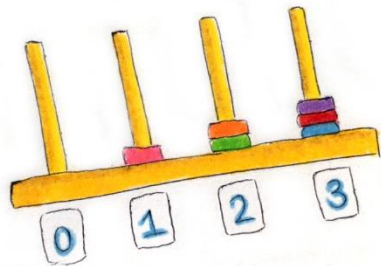


It will include some of your friends and one or
two grown ups you will already know
from school.

You might not have all of your friends in your
bubble, but you will have some of them.

Your bubble will do all of their activities together.

You will sing together, relax together,
think together...



...work together...



...create together...



...eat together...



...and play together.

Your bubble will have some space inside and some space outside. It will be all yours.

None of the children in the other bubbles will come into your bubble space, and you won't go into their bubble space.



Even though we won't be spending time with the children in other bubbles, if we see them we can wave and shout 'hello'!

When you arrive at school we will say
goodbye to all of the grown ups at the gate.

Then we will lock the gate to make sure we
are all safe.



Then we will go into school together.

We will hang up our coats and wash our
hands for 20 seconds.

Can you remember how to wash your hands?



This will make sure that we all start our day
with clean and healthy hands.

To start our day we will sing our new song together in a circle and share our thoughts and worries.
Your friends and grown up will try to help you if you are feeling sad or worried about anything.



Your grown up will tell you about the plan for the day.
There will be lots of time to play with your friends.
We will try to play outside as much as we can if the weather is nice.

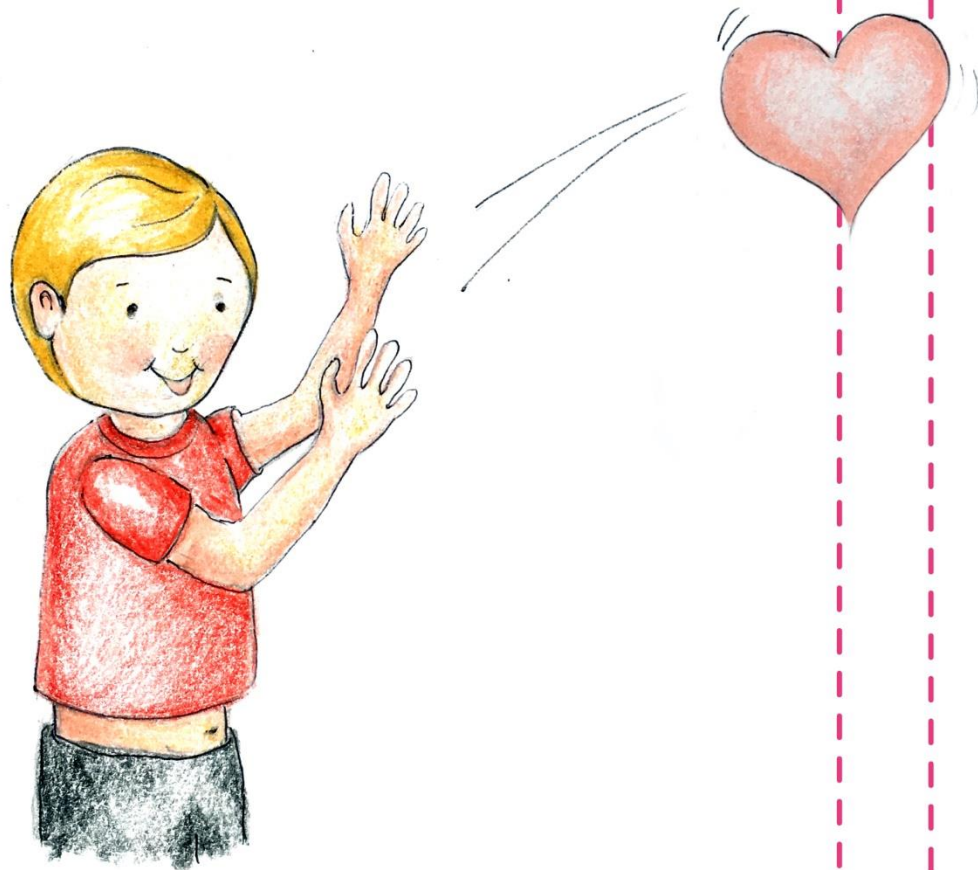
Being clean is extra important at the moment so we can keep everyone healthy.
We are all going to be super cleaners!



Playing can get very mucky, but some dirt is so small we can't even see it!
So we will all be careful to clean toys after we have used them ready for the next person
and we will wash our hands more often to make sure we are taking care
of ourselves and our friends as best we can.

You have been staying in your houses for a long time now so you will really be looking forward to seeing your friends!

Coming back to school is the first step to us all being back together.



To begin with we will try not to get too close to our friends. We will play together but we will try not to hug and kiss and hold hands with each other yet.

There are lots of games we can play and things we can do without having to get too close.



At the end of the day we will share a story together and say goodbye.



We won't see each other as often as we are used to
but that will make our time together extra special.

We are going to make sure that we have a lovely time in our bubbles.
And one day soon we hope that we can pop all of the bubbles and have a huge hug!



Won't that be a lovely thing to look forward to?

This book has been created to ease the anxieties of children everywhere who are returning to school in a bubble.
If you think it could help in your setting please feel free to share it whilst ensuring that the school and author are both credited.

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