

## The Stay at School Superheroes

Once upon a time there was a happy, colourful school. In this happy, colourful school, there were lots and lots of children and lots of adults too. It was a very lovely place to be. In this school there was a little boy called Charlie. Charlie loved going to his happy colourful school with all of his friends.

But one day, everything began to change. Charlie heard on the news that all the schools would have to close because of the BIG problem that was spreading around the world. At first he felt confused and worried about the BIG problem... but then he realised if school was cancelled it meant he could eat ice cream and watch movies all day long- AND he wouldn't have to do maths (his very least favourite subject). And when he thought about that, the problem didn't seem so big after all, in fact, he couldn't wait for school to be cancelled!

But then Charlie found out that school WASN'T cancelled for him and HE still had to go. That didn't seem very fair at all. He didn't understand. His mummy and daddy explained that they still had to go to work, because they had VERY special jobs to do, and that meant that Charlie still had to go to school so the grownups at school could take care of him.

So, on Monday morning Charlie went to school, just like normal. Except it was NOT normal. His happy, colourful school didn't feel very happy anymore, and it wasn't very colourful either. It was grey and empty and very, very quiet.

Charlie didn't like it. His friends weren't there and his favourite teacher wasn't there either. He even had to join a new class with children he didn't know. No one talked to each other very much and Charlie felt too muddled up inside to focus on his work. Everyone tried to carry on as normal but things weren't very normal at all.

He wished he could just go home, like all the other children. At lunchtime he sat by himself and ate his jam sandwiches quietly. He didn't have anyone to play with and he felt like crying. He was sad and lonely too. His new teacher saw him and went to sit down at his table.

"It's all a bit grey at the moment isn't it?" she said as she sat down.

Charlie looked up and nodded.

"Lots of children are feeling grey and muddled up right now, and that's OK".

Charlie nodded again, he WAS feeling all grey and muddled up. "I wish my friends would come back, maybe they would bring all the colours back with them. I wish the big problem would just go away." he said sadly.

"Well one day all of your friends WILL come back and the Big Problem will have gone away. All of the very best, cleverest people in the whole world are working hard to make that happen. But they need our help too. So I have something very important to tell you. Everyone in the whole world has been granted special superhero powers. Some people are Stay Home Superheroes, some are Stay at Work Superheroes and WE are Stay at School superheroes! And if we all work together and use our special superpowers we can help to save the world." Said his teacher, excitedly.

"But staying at school is a boring superpower!" said Charlie in a grump.

“Boring? No way! Your mummy and daddy are able to go to work and save lives and keep people safe and healthy, all because YOU are a Stay at School Superhero. They couldn’t do it without you. You’re helping to save the world- there’s nothing more powerful than that, and even better, you have the superpower to make this fun!”

Just staying at school and having fun could save the whole world? And he would be a real-life superhero? Charlie started to feel excited. He started to feel powerful too! He couldn’t wait to tell all the children in his class that they were Stay at School Superheroes just like him!


Charlie got to work quickly, using his Superhero creativity to think of all the ways he could make school feel colourful again. He could make a card for his teacher, draw a rainbow for the window, talk to someone new and make a new friend, tell a joke or play a fun game. And every time he used his Stay at School superpowers he noticed the school getting more and more colourful. In fact, it seemed like the whole world was getting more colourful. On his way home from school each day he saw all the beautiful rainbows in the windows and sometimes, when he passed by his best friend William’s house, he could see him waving, a big superhero smile on his face.

Charlie did miss playing with his old friends (especially William) and he missed his favourite teacher too. Sometimes he even forgot he was a superhero and school felt grey again. But his new superhero friends always reminded him whenever he forgot. No one felt like a superhero ALL the time after all. But whether he felt like it or not, Charlie was helping to save the whole world. He was very proud of himself. Charlie the Stay at School Superhero and all his new superhero friends worked hard together to help save the world, all by staying at school. And now you know, you can be a superhero too!

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