

Dear Sun

Dear Sun,

I'm sending you a letter to say how grateful I am and to wish you a happy summer. And... because it's part of my homework. I wish I knew when your birthday is, but you probably don't even know yourself (you're over 4.6 billion years old and you're basically your own candle on the cake, only you can never blow it off, so maybe you wouldn't be crazy about birthdays).

I know we'll never really meet in person because you are so far away, and I'm only allowed to go to places around my neighbourhood, but I feel like we're close, we know each other. You're like a distant relative I've only ever seen in pictures who sends me a card on my birthday, though we never meet in person. So yes, you're like my uncle Steve maybe. Your name also starts with an s. Actually, you're in a lot of our holiday photos.

I wanted to say thank you because now it's our summer holidays (no school for almost two months!), and you're always out there these days, which means I can go to the park and play football, and I can go to the outdoor pool. If you weren't there I'd freeze in the water, and it wouldn't really be fun at all, and my parents wouldn't let me go out as much anyway. I don't know how the ducks manage to stay in the water for so long, especially in the winter (it might be the feathers? I'll ask my sister when she comes back from summer camp).

On a different note, thank you for being such a wonderful team player. At my school, you'd get lots of colourful stickers for that – some say “Well done!”, some are just cartoon characters smiling or giving a thumbs up. You and water really made the plants in our balcony grow, so I can see that working together is your thing. My class teacher, Ms Flora, gave us some pea and sunflower seeds on the last day of school. I was going to eat them, but she said they were for planting (by the way, I'm not weird, lots of people snack on sunflower seeds). Good job on making those grow! Especially the peas – I can already see the pods forming and the tendrils too; it's funny how they hold on to things.

Plants are so clever. They seem to like you too. Ms Flora says that you and plants have a special relationship called photosynthesis – that sounds like some kind of love.

Last but not least, thank you for making my mum so happy. I'm not sure what you've been doing, but she's ecstatic! See, I'm using big words like Ms Flora asked – “ecstatic” is one of the impressive adjectives I learned this year. Speaking of adjectives, here are some that we learned in school about you (wouldn't it be great if you could actually reply and tell me if you agree with these?): solar (okay, yes, that's obvious, but I have more, hold on to your sun hat), spherical (big adjective), radiating (sounds like “radiator”, probably because you're both hot), life-giving (Mum says this is very adult-sounding), powerful (yes!) and ancient (let's face it, you've been around for a loooooong time; you've seen all my relatives, even my great, great, great, great-grandparents).

So, that about sums it up. Ms Flora said our letter should be at least two hundred words long and we should send it to school before the end of the holidays. Now I'm off to the pool with some friends; we'll wave at you from our pizza-shaped floats.

Love,

Luna

PS: My name means “moon” in Spanish.

Another PS: Ms Flora, why do we need to do homework for our holidays?