The ourcambridge team holds twice weekly wellbeing meetings on MS Teams so that we can catch up about non-work stuff and these are popular but we all missed the incidental day-to-day chat you have over the course of a day, the little funny stories and shared jokes or interests. Dan Ford, Business Analyst at UIS, suggested that Miro might be the solution.

The ourcambridge team runs a lot of workshops - we were using Miro as a collaboration tool for these and were starting to realise it’s potential. Participants could all be busy playing around on a Miro board at the same time, adding their ideas – it was a brilliant and inclusive way of drawing out everyone’s contributions. Dan’s helpful Miro video demonstrated some of the fun features and how easy it was to add comments, draw things and insert photographs. We set up a Miro board as a ‘social sandpit’ for the team so that we could have fun and play with the features. It turned out to be a great way to replace some of what we missed from the office.

The social sandpit quickly took off with the team, with very little need for direction or encouragement. They were all getting used to using Miro and enjoyed the opportunity to play around with it. The social sandpit provided a fun safe space to explore different functions without it mattering if anything went wrong. The board rapidly started to grow.

“I think it’s helping to fill in for the missing day-to-day chat for me. Like Claire mentioned about courgettes and I can pop up and say ‘Oh I’m growing courgettes too’ - I guess it’s a way of helping to grow those personal relationships.”

The board is constantly evolving. New frames can be added for new topics. So far we have: holiday snaps, over the weekend, pet corner, book and tv recommendations and hobbies to connect over. Colleagues can choose whether they wish to receive updates when people have added to the board, and can add comments on other people’s posts.

“I think it is a nice break from MS Teams and email because of the non-linear format and the ability to ‘play’ - adding pictures and drawings and moving things around. It provides a welcome break and a place to be a bit more creative. It’s fun watching it grow, a bit like a tree, over time.”

If you want to learn more, please contact us at ourcambridge@admin.cam.ac.uk