Today we received an email from Ms Love stating the covid situation in the school and possible knock on effects on pupils. The school admin and management is doing its best as always to keep it open for pupil’s normal learning activities. But in the worst case scenario, when the teacher’s absence rises due to covid positivity, then the school might shut for normal learning activities.

I have gone through Scottish government data and have summed up the numbers in the table below.

Covi-19 Data as of 5-09-2021 in Scotland

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Total # of hospital beds in Scotland | 13105 | Total Covid Patient in Hospital | 653(4.9%) | School Attendance percentage | 87.9% |
| Total ICU beds | 172 | Patients in ICU | 60(34.8%) | Planned Remote learning | 0.1% |
| Extendable capacity | 585 | Covid Related deaths | 0 | Non Corvid related Absence | 7.4% |
| Positivity in the country | 14.2% | Discharged Covid Patients from hospitals | 19171 | Covid Relate absence  | 4.7 |
| Positivity in Midlothian | 400+/100,000 as most of the country | Teacher’s Absence for covid reasons | No data available so far. |  |  |

According to The National on27th of August only one school in Scotland was closed due to Covid-19 reasons in Dumfries and Galloway.

Looking at these numbers, it does not look that the situation is that miserable. Our hospitals still have enough space to accommodate in case situation gets worse, which at the moment does not look that bad. People admitted in hospitals are being discharged home quicker than the first wave. This looks like the National initiative for vaccination has a real positive effect on population developing enough immunity to fight this virus.

Government and scientists are still debating whether kids under 12 should be immunized or not. We will let them reach to the conclusion.

We as the residents of Midlothian council are not worse than the rest of Scotland, as the only better areas from us are Orkney and Moray, where weekly positivity rate is less than 400 cases per 100,000 population.

Whole point of writing this to you all is, if in case the school reaches to breaking point and thinks about closing due to the teacher’s shortage. What we as parents and responsible residents of the Council area can offer School and Community to keep this service open for all our kids.

We may not be able to teach them in the classrooms, but we can support, look after and supervise them in the school play grounds. Having some time in the school play grounds, kids can go back to their homes and do their online learning.

We can at least do following things:

1: We, parents who can spare time to help school to run services for kids even for fewer hours should do so. This will help and support our younger population’s mental and physical health by allowing them to come to school to have time with their friends.

2: We all can do twice weekly LFD as per Scottish government guidelines, follow SOP’s while we are helping kids at school.

There is much more we can offer when we discuss in between school administration and parent council. But the aim is to support kids for their physical and mental health and wellbeing. As I personally think covid has drastic effects on our kid’s wellbeing.

I am up for any help during my free time and would advocate parent to do so if they can. This will be our community project for helping and supporting each other.

Dear Mr Tariq

I write following your letter to the School of September 6, which you requested be brought to the Parent Council.  I appreciated the thought and research in your letter, and, particularly, your strong motivation to see the best outcomes for all of our children at the School and to offer support to School staff.   As you rightly say, the pandemic and how we have all had to respond to it have impacted our children's lives in many ways, with disruption to their familiar routines.

I know that Mrs Love has already responded to your offer of support and your suggestions for what parent helpers might do.   I welcome these ideas.   One of the roles of the Parent Council is to support the School in a range of activities that relate to wellbeing.   If you were able, you would be welcome to participate in discussions.   The next meeting of the Parent Council is on September 23 at 6:30.   It will be held virtually, and zoom details will be available shortly.

Thank you again and best wishes

Madhu

Dr Madhu Satsangi

Chair, Roslin Primary School Parent Council.