



# Mossbank Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I am sure that you will have seen the article on the Shetland News website regarding a report from yesterday's Council meeting. It states that schools could be considered for 'Mothballing' if they are below 20% capacity. No schools were named in the original report but it is my understanding that in the two-hour debate, a councillor asked for the capacities of all schools.

Five were given with a number below 30% capacity. Councillors then wanted to know which ones, Mossbank was among the five, we are currently at 29% capacity. The media then instantly shared this online.

It is important to read the following:

*'Members stressed that the agreed threshold would only be the trigger for starting discussions.*

*Chairman Davie Sandison's motion made it clear that the views of the community would be "the start and end" of the process. "We do not proceed unless we have the support of the community," he added.'*

At present our school roll, including ELC is 63 pupils. It would be physically impossible to include these in any other North Mainland school at present. We have fallen foul of the measure chosen to assess the viability of a school, we are in the fortunate position of having plenty of space – we therefore are under capacity although our roll has increased over the last 5 years, we are now not far away from three teachers.

I would like to stress that I had no previous knowledge of this. I am very disappointed that the article was published prior to head teacher's being given the opportunity to discuss this with their Link Officers or Parent Councils. I am sorry for any un-necessary upset or worry this may have caused.

I hope that this reassures you all about the future of our school and allows parents and the community to remain confident in supporting us.

Kind regards,

Jennifer Christie

Headteacher

