

Dear Pak Blok,

I hope you and the committee of Yayasan Gotong Royong are doing well. We send our best regards and are praying for everyone's health and safety.

I'm writing to update you on the current situation in Yogyakarta under the COVID-19 pandemic as well as relay some information on how it has affected Roemah Kita's operations. Earlier today, the Ministry of Education, in Jakarta, announced that there has been a revision of a previous regulation on teaching and the learning process for all levels of education during the pandemic.

The children at Roemah Kita are still able to participate in the learning process despite the lockdown. The school has prepared weekly activities and modules for the different age groups of the children. Most of the parents come to the school to pick up the modules on Monday and submit a report of the previous week's activities to the teacher. For parents who are unable to come in person to school, they are given the modules either via text messages or via delivery by the teachers to their homes.

A home visit is also conducted by the teacher to monitor learning progress and health condition of the child. The home visits are done once in two weeks, since their homes are far from one another and teachers need sufficient time to prepare modules for the following week. We have 2 new additional children which make the total number of children is 20.

Last April, we have decided that the school fees for the months of April, May, and June will be paid voluntarily according to every parent's individual financial capacity at the time.. Around 40% of parents paid. Based on that experience so far we extend that policy for the coming months

In regards to the public health situation, there has been a spike in COVID-19 cases in Yogyakarta ever since the local government ordered an easing of restrictions. People have started to gather in the markets as they did before, selling food and going about their days as normal. Some of them do so without following strict health protocols. Last week, there were 64 new cases recorded in one day, the highest daily rate of infection so far. It has been quite a dilemma for the local government but the safety of the people should be the first priority. Yogyakarta is currently still within the red-orange zone which indicates a high prevalence of cases, while only some regencies are categorized in the yellow-green zone indicating a lower prevalence of cases.

Given the obstacles in learning from home system for teachers, children and parents, the Ministry of Education has announced that the state will be allowing schools to re-open in the yellow and green zones, for in-person teaching. The national curriculum has also been simplified to enable its use in practice. High schools are set to re-open first in August 2020, followed by elementary and junior high schools in September 2020. While kindergartens and playgroups are set to open in October 2020. Schools of all levels are expected to follow strict health protocols and need approval from local government, school principal and parents. However, there are still pro and con to this new regulation

We thank you for all your support thus far. It goes a long way and really makes a difference in our community.

Yogyakarta , August 9 , 2020

Best regards,

Ibu Bambang Soehendro