



EDUCATION AUTHORITY SOUTH EASTERN REGION



# LONGSTONE SCHOOL

**Principal:** Mr I. Skarmoutsos B Sc PGCE MEd  
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Millar's Lane  
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4-01-21

Dear parents,

Happy New Year to you and your families from everyone in Longstone.

As you have already been informed, the Department of Education has announced that Special Schools will open as usual this week. Therefore, our school will be open to accept our pupils as planned, from Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January. This is a fast-moving situation and advice can change from one day to the next. We will continue to keep you informed via text and Parentmail.

At the moment, the infection rates in the community are particularly high and therefore we all need to ensure that we follow advice and guidelines put in place during the school day, but also outside school hours, in order to reduce the risk for all members of our school community and their families.

Please **DO NOT** send your child to school if they or a member of the household are displaying symptoms, are in the process of getting tested or if your child has been identified as a close contact to a positive case. May I also remind families that if you have travelled outside Northern Ireland during the holiday period, the latest guidance is that you should be self-isolating for 10 days. <https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/>

Please click on the following link for an overview on Public Health Advice: [https://cf69615d-4d1a-42fd-a5e7-e986e467759b.filesusr.com/ugd/024943\\_6d382f4164674e779eda10b22aca3144.pdf](https://cf69615d-4d1a-42fd-a5e7-e986e467759b.filesusr.com/ugd/024943_6d382f4164674e779eda10b22aca3144.pdf)

In addition, please have another look at the letter sent to you at the start of the academic term in relation to measures put in place by the school: [https://cf69615d-4d1a-42fd-a5e7-e986e467759b.filesusr.com/ugd/024943\\_3f5e044eb640462b8bd3d8fd718e555f.pdf](https://cf69615d-4d1a-42fd-a5e7-e986e467759b.filesusr.com/ugd/024943_3f5e044eb640462b8bd3d8fd718e555f.pdf)

I am aware that some families will be particularly worried especially if members of the household fall under the medically vulnerable category. If you wish you may contact us to discuss this further from Wednesday onwards. **Although communication and some activities will continue through the platforms already in place (Seesaw-Nursery, KS1, KS2) and Google Classroom (KS3 and KS4), we will not be able to provide both formal online/remote learning and in class learning at the same time.**



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Finally, may I ask for Parents/Guardians that collect and drop off children to ensure that face coverings are used in school grounds and that social distancing is observed at all times. Please do not stop and chat to other adults during these times as we are trying to avoid congestion and cross infection.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding during this challenging time. We will continue to risk assess in relation to all practices and inform you of any changes.

Kind Regards,

Ioannis Skarmoutsos (Principal, Longstone School)