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**The Board of Management,
St. Mark's Senior National School,
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Thursday 25th February 2016

Dear Parents / Guardians,

This letter is to inform you of the fire which took place last Friday in St. Mark's S.N.S. and update you all on the steps taken by the Board of Management in the aftermath. The malicious fire started between midnight Friday 19th February and 1am on Saturday 20th February. The fire alarm activated and a representative from the security firm ADT was first on scene. We believe at least two fire tenders attended the school. The location of the fire was the administration block of the school. Gardai from Tallaght Garda Station attended the scene. They are currently pursuing their investigations. We are pleased to say the CCTV caught the lone culprit on camera and a copy has been passed to the investigating officers.

The Board of Management has engaged an Independent Chartered Loss Adjuster to advise and assist us in relation to the insurance claim. We can confirm that St. Mark's Senior National School hold an insurance against such events with Allianz Plc. We met with the insurers claims representatives on site last Tuesday 23rd February. We have agreed a broad programme of restoration and reinstatement with them. On the advice of our Chartered Loss Adjuster and in agreement with our insurers, we have engaged a specialist cleaning company, Glenbeigh Fire and Flood Ltd. They have extensive experience managing the recovery from such incidents within the insurance industry.

The remediation work on the school began on Tuesday. Unfortunately every area of the building has suffered from smoke contamination. Particles and residue have been detected on all surfaces and a large quantity of teaching equipment throughout the school. A Board of Management meeting was held last night, Wednesday 24th February with our loss adjuster to discuss the present position. **After careful consideration and with no alternative, the decision was taken that the school must remain closed for the health and safety of the children and staff.**

This situation will be reviewed by the Board on Friday the 4th March next, after further detailed consultation with our loss adjuster and Glenbeigh.

The remediation process is extremely time consuming and labour intensive. The fabric of each classroom requires cleaning along with the furniture, contents and teaching materials. In addition there are classrooms throughout the building which will require redecoration and replacement of ceiling tiles in certain cases. All electrical installations and alarm systems, I.T. equipment are being assessed for the extent of damage. The administration block and main reception area has been adversely affected.

Management are in daily liaison with our advisors and we are monitoring the progress of the operation. A further update will follow as soon as practicable. The Board of Management and staff of the school would like to acknowledge the forbearance and understanding of the parents and local community. We wish to thank everyone for the good wishes received, in particular our wonderful Parent Teacher Association. We understand the disruption and upset this unfortunate event has caused to all of our pupils, families and their daily lives. We look forward to reopening the school at the earliest possible time.

Your sincerely,

Marcus Ó Philbín
Marcus Ó Philbín
Chairperson

Richard Walsh
Richard Walsh
Principal