

26/02/2021

Dear Parents,

I hope you and your families are safe and well. As you are aware the Department of Education has begun its phased reopening of schools and St. Mark's Boys National School will be reopening for children from Junior Infants- 2nd class on Monday 1st March 2021.

Our Covid-19 Response Plan has been reviewed and updated in accordance with Department of Education, HSE, NPHE and HSPC guidelines. This new document has been formally ratified by our Board of Management on 11/02/2021 as have our arrangements for our initial phased reopening of the school.

As well as ensuring your son does not attend school if he has any symptoms of Covid-19, the above-named statutory bodies have been very clear that any child who is not feeling themselves or is 'off form' from their usual presentation should not be sent to school for any reason. We ask that you work with us to ensure we can keep St. Mark's a safe place to work and learn daily. Please keep your son at home if you feel he needs to take any medication or he is not himself. If your son is not 100% in school, staff will ring you to collect your child immediately in the interests of everyone's health and safety.

Dropping off and collection

We are continuing our procedures for dropping off and collecting as were in place prior to the closure. Masks must be worn at drop off and collection. Please do not congregate around the school gate. If walking please wait across the road by the overflow car park and leave space between you and other families. If you are dropping your son to school in a car please wait in your car until the pedestrian gate is opened by a staff member.

Your son's class bubble will attend school during the times outlined below.

Drop off time: 8.45am

**Collection time: 2.30
pm**

Please be prompt with drop off and collection. If for any reason your son may be ill during the day, we will need you or an emergency contact to be available to collect as quickly as possible. If you need to update emergency contact details please email your son's teacher.

Contacting the school

Should you need to contact the school for any reason please email your son's teacher, Mr Carroll on his work email markstmarks1@gmail.com or email the office on stmarkscork@gmail.com and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Lunches

Lunches will be provided as normal. As you are aware we operate a healthy eating policy in St. Mark's where children can bring in one fun sized treat on a Friday. Milk and water will be available in school.

Return to Education Forms

We are required to receive a 'Return to Education form' from you prior to your son returning to school from any absence/closure.

Please click on the following link to fill out the form; <https://forms.gle/p7ivGJ9J9V5DdRYg6>

If I do not receive the completed form before Monday morning, I cannot let your son attend school.

I understand that this is a strange time for everyone and I again would like to thank you for your understanding to date and thank you in advance for your support in following the above procedures. We really look forward to seeing the boys back in school having fun, learning and staying safe.

Kind regards,

Johanna Carroll

Principal