

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Autumn Update 4**

We are definitely well and truly up and running and the pupils are engaged in their learning. I have managed to visit several classrooms over the course of the week to date and seen engaged and happy pupils.

I have two specific updates for you relating to times when a pupil may have to self-isolate and also our upcoming consultation evenings.

#### **Blended Learning**

Should a child not be able to attend school for any period of time due to the fact they have been asked to self-isolate, we still want them to be able to access the learning taking place in their classroom.

When we become aware that a child is off for this reason, their class teacher will have an open Google Meet link in their Google Classroom. This will allow them to join in the lesson via a digital device at home. The class teachers will also upload any related resources to the Classroom.

This has proved to be very successful to date and even enables the isolating pupil to chat with his or her peers during the independent or small group tasks.

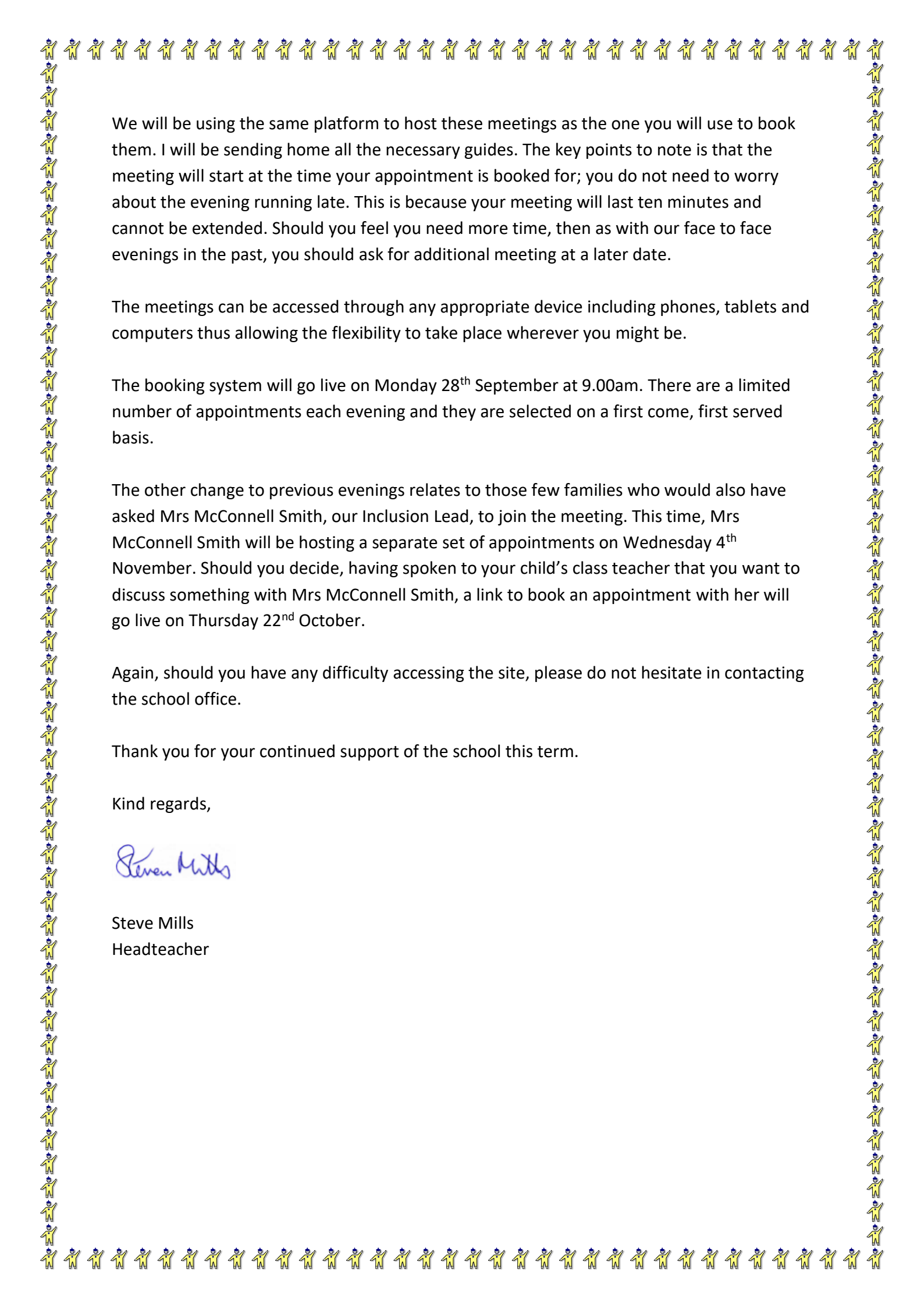
Clearly, the teachers will need to be aware that a child is off for shielding reasons and is well themselves. Once you have informed the school office this is the case, Mrs Lanni or Mrs Cook will inform the teacher. Time will then be needed to initiate the online engagement and therefore, depending upon when we hear, it might not be until the start of the second day of absence.

If a child is off through ill health they would obviously not be expected to participate and the live lesson link would not be available.

If you have any questions or difficulties accessing the lesson, please contact the school office or email me at [consult@whitehill.herts.sch.uk](mailto:consult@whitehill.herts.sch.uk).

#### **Consultation Evenings**

I will shortly be sending home the information about booking your consultation evening appointments with your child's class teacher which will take place over three evenings; Thursday 15<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October. This term, all of these meetings will take place virtually.



We will be using the same platform to host these meetings as the one you will use to book them. I will be sending home all the necessary guides. The key points to note is that the meeting will start at the time your appointment is booked for; you do not need to worry about the evening running late. This is because your meeting will last ten minutes and cannot be extended. Should you feel you need more time, then as with our face to face evenings in the past, you should ask for additional meeting at a later date.

The meetings can be accessed through any appropriate device including phones, tablets and computers thus allowing the flexibility to take place wherever you might be.

The booking system will go live on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September at 9.00am. There are a limited number of appointments each evening and they are selected on a first come, first served basis.

The other change to previous evenings relates to those few families who would also have asked Mrs McConnell Smith, our Inclusion Lead, to join the meeting. This time, Mrs McConnell Smith will be hosting a separate set of appointments on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November. Should you decide, having spoken to your child's class teacher that you want to discuss something with Mrs McConnell Smith, a link to book an appointment with her will go live on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

Again, should you have any difficulty accessing the site, please do not hesitate in contacting the school office.

Thank you for your continued support of the school this term.

Kind regards,



Steve Mills  
Headteacher