



Thursday 20th April 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Summer Term Update 1

Welcome back to the start of the Summer Term and one which, as its name would suggest, has seen a bit of drier weather. I hope it lasts.

Ofsted

To date we have still not received our final Ofsted report. I know some of you have been asking about this. It should be any day now and as soon as I am able to, I will make sure you all get to read it. Given the nature of the inspection – a short, ‘ungraded’ one - it will not be an extensive report and my experience suggests it will be rather bland.

Industrial Action

Next Thursday, the 27th April, the main teacher union, the NEU, is planning another day of strike action across England. Once again, I am able to confirm, at this stage, that we will be able to open to all pupils.

Attendance

Attendance at Whitehill is generally very good. By that I mean pupils on the whole do not have many days off. That being said, I still have to report to our Attendance Improvement Officer (AIO) and she looks closely at pupils whose attendance is beginning to cause concerns. Any child who has more than a 10% absence rate is deemed to be ‘persistently absent’.

Our AIO has asked me to touch base with one or two families where pupils appear to be having a significant number of days off and to this end, I will be writing to these families in the coming days to remind you of the importance of being in school as much as possible.

Residentials

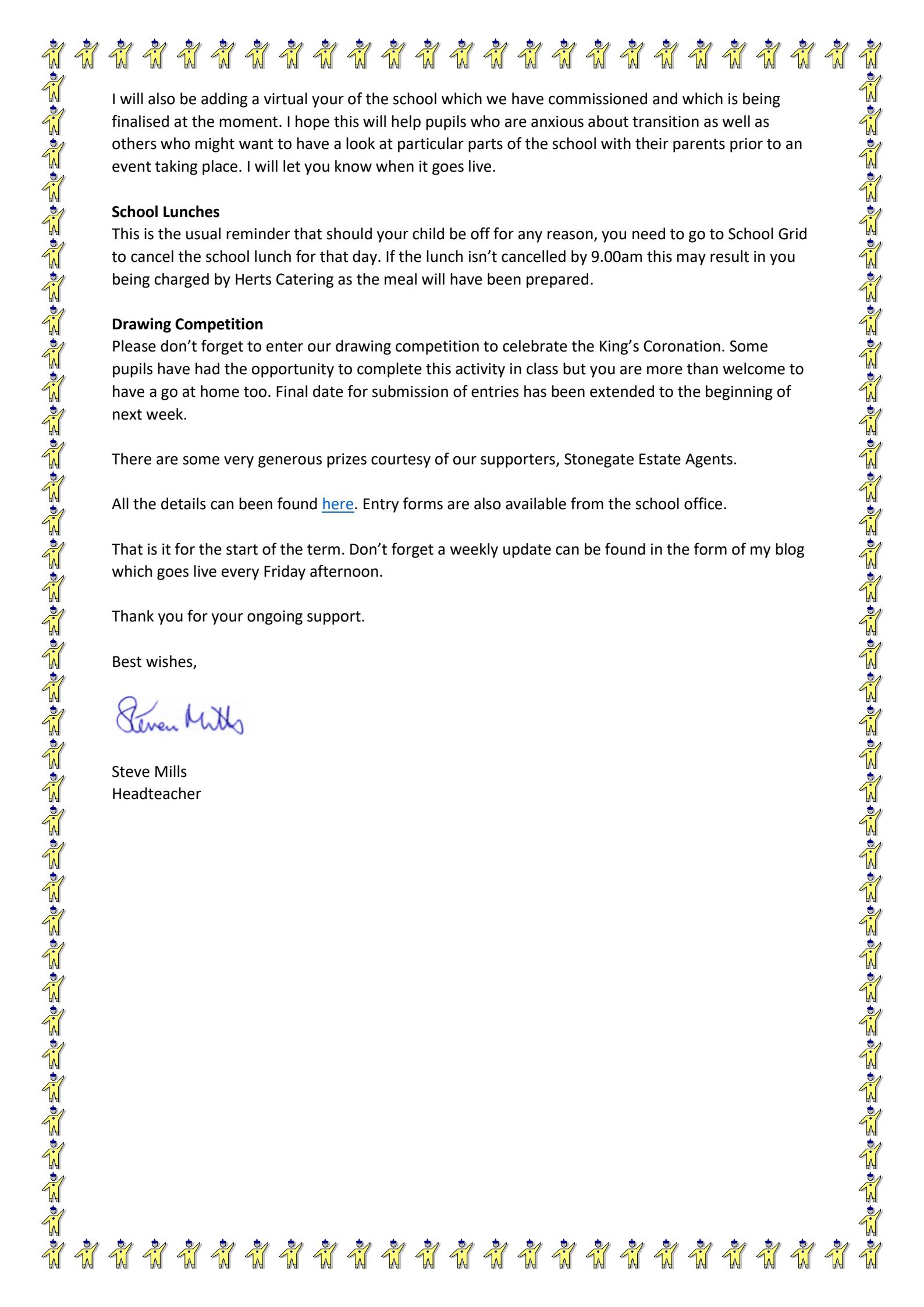
It won't be long before our Year 4 and Year 6 pupils are off on their residentials. Teachers will be communicating with those parents in a variety of ways in the coming weeks but to give you advanced warning, we have two separate twitter accounts for parents of pupils in these two year groups. They are @whitehillsj4 and @whitehillsj6. Parents of pupils in these year groups can apply to follow as they would our regular account and be kept abreast of what is happening on both of these trips. It just means our main account is not swamped with hundreds of photos.

As a reminder, the teachers cannot guarantee that every child will appear in a photo every day. The tweets are designed to show you that the cohort as a whole is having a great time and to give you a flavour of the activities taking place.

Year 4 parents have their final meeting this evening and Year 6 parents have been invited for a similar meeting on Monday. Both meetings start around 3.30pm.

School Website

I am currently updating some of the sections of our school website. The ‘Transition’ tab has been updated with new teacher welcome videos and in the coming days there will be further updates to the videos in this section.



I will also be adding a virtual tour of the school which we have commissioned and which is being finalised at the moment. I hope this will help pupils who are anxious about transition as well as others who might want to have a look at particular parts of the school with their parents prior to an event taking place. I will let you know when it goes live.

School Lunches

This is the usual reminder that should your child be off for any reason, you need to go to School Grid to cancel the school lunch for that day. If the lunch isn't cancelled by 9.00am this may result in you being charged by Herts Catering as the meal will have been prepared.

Drawing Competition

Please don't forget to enter our drawing competition to celebrate the King's Coronation. Some pupils have had the opportunity to complete this activity in class but you are more than welcome to have a go at home too. Final date for submission of entries has been extended to the beginning of next week.

There are some very generous prizes courtesy of our supporters, Stonegate Estate Agents.

All the details can be found [here](#). Entry forms are also available from the school office.

That is it for the start of the term. Don't forget a weekly update can be found in the form of my blog which goes live every Friday afternoon.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Best wishes,



Steve Mills
Headteacher