

COVID update: As we have to keep all rooms really well ventilated in line with guidance, children are becoming chilly during lessons. Please can you make sure that all children come to school with a **NAMED** cardigan/jumper and it might be a good idea to have a **NAMED** plain black fleece/hoody that can be worn over the top. We take children out to play even in drizzle and light rain, so please send your child in with a **NAMED** coat.

General reminders and information:

PTA Meetings: Our PTA have some great events planned – for the whole family! They would like to introduce the new committee and share their fundraising plans with all parents. There will be two opportunities to join a virtual PTA meeting. Hopefully by offering different time slots we will be able to attract a wide number of parents. We are especially keen to get our new families actively involved. The first PTA meeting is on **Tuesday 6th October will be at 7pm** and then the second meeting will be on **Friday 9th October at 2pm**. The agenda for both meetings will be the same.

Please look out for the letter about a PTA Virtual **Halloween Balloon Race**. A virtual race works in the same way as a helium balloon race, but they fly around their own webpage rather than in the atmosphere; much more environmentally friendly!

Each Halloween themed balloon costs £2 and we would love you to buy as many as possible.



On Friday 23rd October 2020, all the balloons will be ‘released’ and left to fly around the virtual spooky island. Every hour each balloon travels between 1km and 20km. At the end of the race on Friday 30th October 2020 the 3 balloons which have travelled the farthest will win Amazon vouchers.

Once the race has started you can track your balloons on our own race page – www.balloonrace.com/NIFSPTA

To buy your balloons please make payment direct to the PTA Balloon Race account on the School Gateway. If you are able to buy more than one balloon, all you need do is to go back into the system and pay again. We will contact you with the nickname of your balloon so you can track its progress on the webpage. All monies must be received by **Friday, 16th October 2020** for inclusion in the race.

Flu vaccinations: Intra-Health are coming to school on **Tuesday 29th September** to administer the nasal flu vaccination for all our pupils. You will have received paperwork this week and it is very

important that this is returned to school before the date of the vaccinations. Given the current COVID situation, having this nasal flu spray is crucially important.

Bag2School: As a way to raise money for our PTA (Parent Teacher Association) we collect unwanted clothes, towels, bedding. These can be brought to school on **Monday 12th and Tuesday 13th October by 9am**. You can bring unwanted items in bin bags. The company Bag2School weighs the bags and then pays us per kilo. This is an excellent and easy way to raise funds. So start collecting old and unwanted clothing, towels and bedding.

Secondary School Applications: All our Year 6 pupils need to have made a decision about their Secondary School by **31st October**. Applications are completed via an online form on the MCC website. If parents want advice or guidance on this process, do please email me. I would urge Year 5 families to start visiting secondary schools this term too.

I am now taking appointments for a personalised Tour of our school for the Reception 2021 intake. Do spread the word amongst your friends!

Term dates: We have sent out the term dates for this year, earlier in the week. Whilst I appreciate not many of us will be travelling abroad in the holidays due to COVID restrictions, nevertheless it is important for you to know when terms starts and finishes and when we have our staff training days. The information is also on our website.

Yellow Brick Road Workshops: Our friends from Yellow Brick Road are now delivering COVID safe workshops that bring learning to life. Each class has a dance/drama/creative writing workshop booked over the course of the year. Please look out for the letters.

Astro Turf: We are very excited to announce that our field will be transformed into an all-weather astro-turf play area. The work starts on **Monday October 12th** and I ask for your cooperation during this 5 week build process. It will affect EYFS and Year 1 with social distancing made even harder as the field will be blocked off. Please be kind and considerate when dropping off and do use the MUGA to wait. We will still need to abide by the 'space and face' rule at school despite a lack of usable grounds.