

Wallace Hall Update – 27.05.21 - COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

Primary email address: gw08officewallacehal@ea.dumgal.sch.uk

Academy email address: gw08officewallace@ea.dumgal.sch.uk

Public Health Phone Number: 01387 272724

NHS24 Phone Number: 111

NHS Website: <https://www.nhsinform.scot/>

Dear Parent/Carer

WHOLE SCHOOL

COVID statistics in Dumfries and Galloway are currently low with only a small number of positive cases being recorded in the region. This is great news for us as we look forward to the easing of restrictions on 7th June and again on 28th. In school we need to maintain the focus of the mitigations that are in place in order to keep everyone safe. It is only 4 weeks and a day till the summer holidays and a well-earned break for all pupils and staff. We can only hope that the weather improves and we can all enjoy plenty of fresh air and relaxation.

It will be a busy four weeks though with plenty of things going on, albeit a very different end to the year than usual.

If your child shows any symptoms of COVID-19, please keep them at home and book a test and inform the school at the earliest opportunity. This also applies if anyone in the home has developed symptoms or has tested positive.

We would like to remind all parents/carers about the importance of all children using the identified safe route to school at the beginning and end of the day. Please stress to your child/children that they must only cross the roads leading to school with the appropriate crossing patrol person. Crossing without an adult's supervision at the old Primary School building on Station Road is not suggested by the school as this is not the designated safe crossing. We would encourage adults and children to use the safe route together. Younger children should be accompanied by an adult to support them to be safe on their journey to and from school.

Transport

Physical distancing is no longer required. Face coverings should be worn by all children and young people aged over 5, in line with the Government position on public transport. Car sharing with someone from another household continues to be strongly discouraged at this time.

PRIMARY AND ELC

Mitigations in place

- Adults maintain 2 metre social distancing at all times from other adults within the school building.
- Staff members wear face coverings when within 2m of a child or other adult and when moving around the building. Staff members can choose to wear a face covering at any time.
- Windows/doors are open to allow good ventilation.
- Good hand hygiene takes place with frequent hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Children work within 'class bubbles' and do not mix with other bubbles. This is maintained throughout the day, including during playtime and lunchtime. The ELC have two bubbles - the Sunshine room and the Rainbow room.
- Pupils who have PE should come to school in PE kit on those days. They will remain in PE kit all day.
- As per Education Scotland guidance, PE will continue to take place outdoors.
- Careful timetabling in the Primary minimises the number of staff who work between different bubbles.
- Enhanced cleaning.

- An asymptomatic testing programme is made available to all staff. Participation in the programme is encouraged but voluntary.

Drop Off and Pick Up

As before, schools may implement staggered start and finish times, to safely manage drop off and pick-up times. Given the ongoing stay at home message in place across Scotland, we would ask that, if possible, only one parent/carer comes to the school at drop off and pick-up times. In line with Government advice, we would ask you to maintain 2m physical distancing with other parents at the school gates. All schools will continue to restrict access to their grounds and/or buildings. As before, face coverings should continue to be worn by all adults (unless exempted) when they go to the school. **We would really appreciate it if all parents could ensure that they do not approach our staff at a distance of less than 2m.**

ACADEMY

Additional Inservice Days

Please note that the following additional Inservice Day has been arranged for Dumfries & Galloway SECONDARY Schools for this term:

Friday 11th June 2021

School will therefore be closed to Academy pupils on that day.

Mitigations

- **All** pupils and staff members must wear face coverings at all times in classes and around the building (people who are exempt for health reasons and for whom the school have written communication from a parent do not have to and also when people are actually eating or drinking they can remove their face coverings briefly).
- **In class pupils no longer have to maintain 2m social distancing from each other (from 12th April), although pupils should maintain 2m social distancing from staff members in class and at all times.**
- Pupils and staff should try to maintain 2 metre social distancing at all other times within the school building, in corridors and other communal areas.
- Seating at break and lunchtime will be in bubbles of S1-S2, S3-S4, S5-S6 to minimise mixing, as will playground arrangements.
- Be outdoors as much as possible - wear appropriate clothing for all weathers.
- **Pupils who have PE should come to school in school uniform (even if they have PE first thing) and bring PE kit with them. We are now allowed to use changing rooms so facilities will be available to all pupils to change in and out of PE kit.**
- As per Education Scotland guidance, PE will continue to take place outdoors.
- Keep windows/doors open to allow good ventilation - they should be open for at least 15 minutes before people come into class.
- Maintain good hand hygiene by washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and use hand sanitiser when soap and water isn't available.
- Always wipe down your workstation before and after use, in every class, using the anti-bacterial wipes provided.

We advised you in December that all secondary pupils can now download the Protect Scotland App which helps Public Health to identify close contacts of anyone testing positive, who also has the App. We see this as a positive move and one that will help to keep all of our pupils and staff members safe. This is of course optional but we would encourage all secondary pupils to do this. To find out more about the App please click on the following link:

<https://protect.scot/>

Asymptomatic Home Testing for Staff and ALL SECONDARY Pupils

We have been asked to highlight the importance to all pupils and staff of continuing to carry out your twice weekly lateral flow tests. The number of cases in secondary schools across the country has increased since the return to school on 12th April and we need to do everything we can to prevent transmission within school and within our community. Please click on the link below for an update from Scottish Government:

https://645e8b6e-becd-4bbd-988d-5cb7cd92fae4.filesusr.com/ugd/92da19_edcb0dd0c874481997f606a338f4a660.pdf

As part of the range of COVID-19 risk reduction mitigations in schools, an asymptomatic testing programme is being made available to all school staff and secondary pupils. Participation in the programme will be encouraged but voluntary. Regular testing will help to identify asymptomatic individuals in school environments at the earliest possible opportunity and ask them and their close contacts to self-isolate, thus minimising the likelihood of them passing on the virus. This will really help towards Wallace Hall being a safer place to be for everyone.

you have not already signed up for the self-testing kits for your child(ren) you can do so by clicking on the link below to see a copy of the correspondence and then completing the Microsoft Form link within it:

https://645e8b6e-becd-4bbd-988d-5cb7cd92fae4.filesusr.com/ugd/92da19_b9086bcc88c34f64be9eb362a5c6a551.pdf

We have had an excellent response from our pupils so far. We would encourage you to complete the consent form and submit to the school so your child(ren) can help to protect themselves and all of our school community as well as their own families. Additional kits will be given out to S1-S3 pupils fortnightly, during their Health and Wellbeing lessons. S4-S6 pupils can collect further kits from the school office as and when they are required. Please help us by encouraging your child(ren) to continue to take the test twice weekly. It is important that we continue to do everything we can to protect everyone in our community.

If you don't have an Outlook account you can access the form via your child's Glow account. If you are having trouble completing the form please contact the school office.

If your child tests positive on their Lateral Flow Test and you register their result, they will be contacted by someone from NHS Test and Protect and invited to go for a PCR Test. That will be at Mountainhall Treatment Centre in Dumfries (A&E entrance at the OLD hospital). The PCR Test is more accurate and you will usually have a result within a few hours. It is important that your child and all members of the household self-isolate until the PCR Test result is confirmed. If it is positive you will again be contacted by someone from NHS Test and Protect who will advise you of your isolation dates and ask you for more information on close contacts.

More information on the asymptomatic testing programme is available on the Support DG website: [SupportDG - Dumfries and Galloway Council - Asymptomatic Testing in Scottish Primary, Secondary and Special Schools, and ELC Providers \(dumgal.gov.uk\)](https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/support-dg/asymptomatic-testing)

Other Information**S6 Leavers Ceremony**

On Thursday 10th June, there will be a leavers' ceremony for current S6 pupils. This will consist of a meal, prize giving, informal prize giving and musical interludes. Unfortunately, due to current Covid restrictions, parents are unable to be in attendance. The cost of the evening for pupils is £10 and it starts at 7pm.

There will be no Awards Ceremonies for other yeargroups as we are unable to bring everyone together or to invite parents into school, whilst adhering to the social distancing measures.

Change of Timetable

The new timetable will begin on Monday 7th June. All classes in the Academy will move up a year group and begin working on next year's courses.

P7 to S1 Transitions

We are pleased to say that we have had notification this week about which types of transition events can take place, within the COVID guidelines. Letters will come out to P7 parents next week.

SQA Assessments

As assessments finish at different times across the subjects we have agreed with teachers that the following can happen once assessments finish in their subject:

- If pupils are continuing with the subject at a higher level, they can be given text books and resources to focus on during their classes.
- If pupils are not continuing with the subject they can use the time in those classes efficiently by revising for assessments they still have to complete in their other subjects.
- Finally, if the pupil is finished all their assessments and are going to leave school then they can collect a leavers form from the school office, complete this and then leave school.

Pupils may be asked to come back into school if there are any other assessment procedures that require to be completed.

Please click on the link below to see letters sent by Jim Brown, Head of Education, quality and Learning, which explains the procedures in place in schools to determine fair provisional results for senior phase pupils:

Parent Letter:

https://645e8b6e-becd-4bbd-988d-5cb7cd92fae4.filesusr.com/ugd/92da19_a60a9ddd889240f38a0fd78203de2612.pdf

Pupil Letter:

https://645e8b6e-becd-4bbd-988d-5cb7cd92fae4.filesusr.com/ugd/92da19_d1a8c70569ca4a6390765f5052ee6dae.pdf

If pupils who have finished, or almost finished their assessments are in school, they must attend all classes.

GLOW Account – School Leavers ONLY

The following message was sent to all S4/5/6 pupils from our Local Authority this week:

*If you are **due to leave school this summer**, please be made aware that your Glow account will be removed from **29th July 2020**.*

*Given that your access will be removed from 29th July 2020 (if you're leaving), you must ensure you do **at least** the following **before** 29th July 2020:*

1. Update your email address on any websites you've signed up to with your Glow Email e.g. Employers, College, University
2. Forward any emails you wish to keep to your own personal email address e.g. Joe.Bloggs@outlook.com
3. Download any OneDrive content you wish to keep

4. *Download any other content you wish to keep*

If there are any queries/issues, please reply to this email.

If you're leaving, good luck in your future and stay safe.

If your child(ren) are planning to leave school this summer, please ensure they have followed the instruction stated above and in their email.