

Wallace Hall Update – 16.08.21 - 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

We hope all pupils, parents and staff have enjoyed a slightly longer than usual summer holiday and that everyone is ready for the term ahead. Although we have now progressed to beyond Level 0 in Scotland, the advice for schools is that we continue with all of the mitigations that were in place in June. The only changes are to the rules around self-isolation and now pupils will only be asked to self-isolate if they are actually in close contact with another person who has tested positive, rather than for it to be a whole class. And now, if the close contact receives a negative PCR test result, they can come out of isolation.

Please click on the link below to view a letter to parents from Dr Gillian Brydson, Director Skills, Education and Learning:

https://645e8b6e-becd-4bbd-988d-5cb7cd92fae4.filesusr.com/ugd/92da19_138943d465de43c9840759497aeee60d.pdf

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.

PRIMARY AND ELC

Letters will be sent to ELC and Primary parents on Wednesday with more specific details about arrangements.

Mitigations in place

- Adults maintain a minimum of 1 metre social distancing at all times from other adults within the school building.
- Staff members wear face coverings when within a minimum of 1m 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.
- Pupils who have PE should come to school in PE kit on those days. They will remain in PE kit all day.
- PE will continue to take place outdoors where possible but the guidance now says that indoors PE is okay.
- 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.
- Primary aged children are no longer required to wear face coverings on school/public transport.

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 **a minimum of 1m** 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 1m.**

Free School Meals for P1-P4

From August 2021 P1-P4 children will all be entitled to free school meals. Children will order in classes as normal.

ACADEMY**Young Scot Cards**

Pupils are encouraged to use their Young Scot Cards to purchase food and drinks from the canteen. S1 pupils should have received a Young Scot Card from their Primary School prior to the Summer Holidays and an email from the Council that explains how to set this up. If your child has not received either of these then please contact our school office who will help you with this. In the meantime, pupils can use cash in the canteen to purchase items.

Transport to school on Thursday 18th August

Pupils that are entitled to a bus pass that are travelling on school transport will not require a pass on the first day of school. Passes will be distributed to pupils when they are in school on Thursday.

If any pupils/parents are unsure of where the drop off/pick up is for the bus then please contact the School Transport Department at the Council. All buses are Council run and therefore they will have the most accurate information.

New S1 pupils

We understand that our new S1 pupils will be experiencing a mixture of nerves and excitement ahead of their first day of secondary school. Please be assured that there will be staff outside school and in the playground to meet pupils on the first day. We would ask S1 pupils to remain in the playground when the bell goes at the start of the day. From here we will assign each class a group of S6 buddies who will assist all pupils in getting to their classes for the first few days. Pupils will also be supported to get on the correct bus at the end of the day.

If pupils have any questions before starting with us on the Thursday, please remind them to use the Microsoft Teams that were set up before the Summer. On this platform pupils can ask questions and a member of staff will respond. If parents have any questions please contact the school on Wednesday and a member of staff will be able help.

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 1m social distancing from staff members in class and at all times.**
- Pupils and staff should try to maintain 1 metre social distancing at all other times within the school building, in corridors and other communal areas.
- 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.**
- **PE will continue to take place outdoors where possible but the guidance now says that indoor PE is okay.**
- 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.
- **Secondary pupils must wear face coverings on school/public transport.**

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

All secondary pupils should test themselves, using the Lateral Flow Tests provided, on Wednesday 17th August, prior to returning to school on Wednesday 18th August 2021. If you need test kits you can collect from the school office on Wednesday 17th August between 8.30am-4pm.

We have been advised that the number of test results being registered on the website has reduced significantly across the country prior to the summer holidays. We aren't sure whether this means that people aren't taking the tests or whether they are but are forgetting to register their results online. The number of new cases in Dumfries and Galloway remains stubbornly high. It is therefore vital that we all take responsibility and ensure we are doing everything possible to keep ourselves, and others, safe.

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.

If 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

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 most likely be in Dumfries. 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. Close contacts will be required to have a PCR Test and will need to isolate until they have a result. If the result is negative they will no longer need to self-isolate.

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)