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Wallace Hall Academy, Primary and ELC
"Together we grow, learn and achieve"

Head Teacher: Barry Graham

7th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

ELC - Remote Learning commencing 11th January

We hope that you have had an enjoyable festive break and we look forward to starting the new term. Following the announcement from the Scottish Government regarding remote learning provision from 11th January, we have formulated the details of what we plan to provide from Monday 11th January until Friday 29th January. At present, we understand that the ELC will reopen for face to face learning on Monday 1st February.

The only exceptions are for children of key workers and vulnerable children in the ELC, Primary and Academy who will be able to attend in person from Wednesday 6th January. Details regarding registration for key worker children were emailed to these parents separately.

How to Contact Us:
The main form of communication with the ELC staff will be messages on ClassDojo. If you would like to share photos of, or information about, your child's learning at home with the ELC team please do so by messaging. Photos can be taken using the app, or uploaded, to a ClassDojo message.

Information will be shared about how to upload home learning straight into your child's portfolio on ClassDojo, which will remain with your child when they move into Primary 1.

If you do not have access to Class Dojo and wish to speak to the ELC staff or share learning from home, please get in touch by contacting the school office by email:
gw08officewallacehal@ea.dumgal.sch.uk.

ELC staff will be available between 8:30am and 3:30pm. They may not be able to respond straight away, but will aim to respond as soon as they can. If you contact us outside these times, it may be the next day before we are able to respond.

Miss Weir and Mrs Meredith can be contacted as usual regarding any queries or concerns that parents and carers may have. Please phone or email the office to get in touch. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you need technical help and we will try to support you as much as we can.

Please note that Class Dojo is available as an app for smartphones and can be accessed on the Play Store/Apple Store.

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Learning experiences for children in the ELC
We know that all the children in the ELC love to learn through play and that they are doing this all the time whether this is at nursery, at home, or when they are out and about. Nursery staff will upload three play-based activities to ClassDojo each day to support your child's learning in numeracy and literacy, and to develop their curiosity and creativity. The ELC team will also share a story each day.

You will also receive a log in to Purple Mash, an award-winning educational website, for your child by email. Your child will be able to access a number of child-friendly online activities and tools to help their learning using the 'Mini-Mash' area of the website. This can be accessed at any time. The ELC and Primary school have recently purchased this subscription and we would like to thank the Parent Council for their generous contribution towards purchasing this online resource. A letter introducing Purple Mash has been emailed separately. The following link takes you to the login page for Wallace Hall Primary and ELC: https://www.purplemash.com/sch/wallacehallprima

We would encourage families to approach this remote learning experience in a way that works best for your individual circumstances, there is no best way or set way to do remote learning. We also know that your child may like to do the play-based activities differently to the ways that have been suggested! Please follow your child's interests, let them lead their learning and have fun!

Online Safety
It is important that parents continue to monitor their child's activities when they are using the internet to support their safety. From time to time, video links using our school's YouTube account and external video links may be provided to support learning experiences. As part of some web pages, links are provided to other sites on the Internet. While we make every endeavour to ensure that the information on these sites is accurate, ultimate responsibility for their content, lies with the authors of the sites concerned, and not with the school. Wallace Hall ELC, Primary and Academy cannot be held responsible for material on any linked site. Please see links below from 'Think u know' which provides some useful family activity ideas for discussing online safety themes.

https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Who-are-we/
https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/globalassets/thinkuknow/parents/family-activity-sheet---viewing-videos-online.pdf
https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/globalassets/thinkuknow/documents/thinkuknow/parents/pdf/parent-pdf/activity-sheet-social-media.pdf

We are extremely thankful for the parental support and engagement we receive from all of you and would ask that this continues throughout our time away from the Wallace Hall building.

We look forward to seeing the children when the school building reopens, and to welcoming our new starters.

Yours sincerely

Miss Laura Weir, Nursery Manager
Mrs Anna Meredith, Depute Head Teacher (ELC and P1-3)