

Wallace Hall Update – 02.10.20 - 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

Following the announcement by the First Minister last week we have been reviewing the measures we have in place. We will be reminding pupils and staff regularly of the measures:

- The wearing of face coverings on all public and school transport - this includes on school minibuses
- Hand washing and use of hand sanitiser
- Use of antibacterial wipes to clean your workspace in a classroom at the start and end of each class
- Social distancing between pupils and staff and between members of staff
- The wearing of face coverings in corridors and indoor communal areas (Academy)
- The wearing of face coverings when queuing in the canteen (Academy)
- Pupils should be outside at all times when weather permits (Academy)
- Indoor arrangements for pupils when the weather is poor (Academy)

We are sharing visual information on our social media platforms regarding the rules around COVID19 which have been developed with young people in mind. We hope that you and your child(ren) find these useful.

Testing for COVID-19 and Self-Isolating

Please remember that if your child(ren) are off school because they, or a member of your household, is being tested for COVID-19, you must let the school know of the result at the earliest opportunity, and at least **BEFORE** they return to school.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank any parents/carers who have kept their children at home if they have had any doubt about their symptoms or of anyone else in their household. We understand that it can be difficult to distinguish between some of the symptoms of COVID19 and the common cold or flu and we would rather you erred on the side of caution. That said, our attendance rates are much the same as they usually are for this time of year and we are very pleased about that.

Ventilation in School Buildings

We received guidance this week about ventilation in the winter months. It is recommended that windows and doors must be kept open, even during colder weather. There will, of course, be heating on during the school day but everyone is advised to bring a warm jumper which they will be allowed to wear in class when it is cold. However, school uniform must still be worn.

Social Distancing outside the Primary and ELC

Thank you to everyone for trying to maintain social distancing when picking up and dropping off children at the Primary and ELC. We know that it can be difficult at the primary gate, especially at the end of the day when it is very busy and when some parents are collecting more than one child. To assist you with this we will be putting down tape to mark 2m distancing when queuing at the ELC entrance. We will also be using tape to mark a zone just outside the primary gate. Please could parents refrain from entering this zone to help maintain 2m social distancing between children, parents/carers and staff. These will be put down as soon as possible and hopefully before the October break.

Safe Route to School

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. Younger children should be accompanied by an adult to support them to be safe on their journey to and from school.

Wearing of face coverings on public/school transport and in shops

All pupils, over the age of 5 **must** wear a face covering when travelling on either public or school transport, **including school minibuses**. They **must** also wear face coverings when they are both queuing to get in, and inside any shops. Please ensure that your child(ren) has an appropriate face covering and explain that there are vulnerable people around who may be at a higher risk if they were to catch the COVID 19 virus. Anyone with breathing difficulties or another medical reason for not wearing a mask is exempt. Please let us know if this is the case for your child(ren).

Phase 2 Risk Assessment – Re-opening of Schools

An updated copy of the full risk assessment will be uploaded to our website **regularly**. This is a working document and we welcome any feedback from parents on this. If you have any concerns regarding the health & safety of your children, please do get in touch with us via the school email addresses. We will be reviewing it on a weekly basis and will upload a copy of the updated version (along with the date) to the website **when changes are made**.