



Wallace Hall 2-18, Station Road, Thornhill, Dumfriesshire, DG3 5DS

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Wallace Hall Academy, Primary and ELC

*"Together we grow, learn and achieve"*

Head Teacher: Barry Graham

November 2023

## Welcome to Wallace Hall ELC's Newsletter!

### Purpose of the Newsletter

We will publish a newsletter at least once a term, to detail any significant changes and events in the ELC.

### Appropriate clothing

As we are entering colder and wetter months, please could we remind you all to ensure your child comes to the ELC with the appropriate clothing, and also **plenty changes of clothes - you can never have too many socks!** It is also very helpful if your child's items are labelled with their name.

### Staffing

Having recently completed her qualification, Miss Park applied and secured the Manager's position within the ELC. We are now recruiting a permanent Depute Manager for the ELC and will inform you of this appointment in due course.

We have also welcomed a new student this year, Miss Currie. Miss Currie will be in the ELC for 3 week block placements throughout the year.

### Parent/carer sessions

PEEP taster sessions are being held Tuesday 14th and Thursday 16th November. Please speak to Mrs Marchbank for more information.

Mrs Clingan will also be beginning Bookbug sessions again. Sign-up sheets for these sessions will be available in the cloakroom.

Weekly stay and play sessions will commence w/c 20th November, and again a sign-up sheet will be available in the cloakroom.

We will be changing the days/times around each week to try and accommodate everyone's requests, so please have a look through all the sessions to hopefully find some that suit you and your family.

#### Winner of

Silver Rights Respecting Schools Awareness Award 2023

D&G Rural Award Smarter Scotland

The SQA Star Award

Lantra School Project Award – 2013/2018/2020/2022

Scottish Education Award – Enterprise and Employability

World Teamwork Award Winners – World Robotics Festival

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## Communication

We are still awaiting confirmation from the authority with regards to a replacement for Class Dojo.

Please can we ensure that you check the 'Wallace Hall' profile on Learning Journals for any updates in the ELC until we have a more appropriate platform.

If you are having difficulty accessing Learning Journals, or need help downloading the app to your device, please speak to a member of staff.

## Lending library & story sacks

At the front entrance of the ELC, we have a lending library. Children are welcome to borrow a book for up to 2 weeks, which can be recorded in the yellow folder.

Every week, a selection of children will come home with a story sack. The story sacks will contain a book, along with something to support it, such as a puppet, game or puzzle. Every child will have at least 1 story sack per term, if not 2 depending on the length of the term.

## ELC Uniform

Thank you to everyone who submitted an entry into our logo competition. We have chosen a winner with the help of the children, and will be able to reveal our new logo shortly!

We will have sample sizes and information on how to order the uniforms at our Christmas open afternoon.

**Please note this is a completely optional uniform, and there is no obligation to purchase anything.**

## Winter Wonderland

As Christmas will soon be upon us, we are getting ready to turn our ELC into a winter wonderland! Please see our 'dates in the diary' at the end of this newsletter for all the festive fun!

Normally at this time of year we would make decorations and gifts in nursery to sell for funds. This year, we will be selling one craft to raise funds for our trip to the Robert Burns Centre.

**These activities are completely voluntary, so if any parent/carer wishes their child not to take part in these festive activities, please let Miss Park aware in advanced as possible.**

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## Dates for your Diary!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch!

<p><b>Children in Need</b> Friday 17th November</p>	<p>ELC and Primary Pupils are invited to wear either spots or their pyjamas to school on this day, and bring in a donation. There will also be a colouring competition and activities in classes too.</p>
<p><b>Christmas Trip</b> Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December</p>	<p>We have an exciting opportunity this year to go and visit the Robert Burns Centre to watch a double feature of 'The Gruffalo's Child' and 'Stickman'. We are going to try and accommodate this as an optional trip, and more details will follow in the next week.</p>
<p><b>Christmas Lunch</b> Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December</p>	<p>If your child does not attend ELC this day for lunch, they are more than welcome to stay until 1:30pm. Please let a member of staff know by no later than <b>Friday 24th November</b>.</p>
<p><b>Christmas Party</b> Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December</p>	<p>We will be holding our Christmas party in the morning, children who do not attend the ELC on this day are invited in from 9.30am until 12 noon.</p>
<p><b>Open Afternoon</b> Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December – 1:30pm until 3pm</p>	<p>At our open afternoon, we are inviting you to make more crafts with your children, which you can then take home! We will not be charging a set fee for this, but a donation box will be displayed in the ELC, to raise money for our Nursery trip in the spring/summer.</p>
<p><b>A Hint of Christmas</b> Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December</p>	<p>To celebrate the end of term, children are invited to wear 'a hint of Christmas'. This might be some tinsel in their hair or a Christmas t-shirt or jumper.</p>

Many Thanks,

Judi Park  
ELC Manager

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