

Wallace Hall Update – 05.07.20 - COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

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

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

Primary Wordpress website: <https://whplearning.wordpress.com/>

S1-S3 Wordpress website: <https://wallacehalllearninghub.wordpress.com/>

Public Health Phone Number: 01387 272724

NHS24 Phone Number: 111

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

Dear Parent/Carer

We hope you are all well and staying safe. As tomorrow is a bank holiday we wanted to let you know that teachers may not be responding to ClassDojo or Teams queries. However, free school meals boxes will be delivered and the Childcare Hub will be operating as normal. Enjoy your long weekend.

Whole School

Home Learning Photos

Can you please continue to send your home learning photos to our school emails as we would like to share on social media? They are good inspiration for other pupils and families.

Visors for Staff Working in the NHS and Care Sector

Following our item last week where we told you that our staff had made around 1500 face visors for staff working in the care sector and the NHS we are now in a position to re-start production on Monday of next week, due to the donations we received. We are very thankful to those who made the donations. We have ordered materials and our staff are keen to get back to work. Please remember that you can request a supply of visors by contacting our school office, either by phone or by email.

Weekend Opening

We will not be open this weekend as we have no pupils booked into The Hub. However, if you have an emergency need for childcare we have staff volunteers on standby who would be happy to come in over the weekend if required. If that happens please contact us by email at gw08officewallace@ea.dumgal.sch.uk

Cancelled School Trips

We have begun contacting parents who are due a refund for a cancelled school trip. This contact has been made by Groupcall email and we would appreciate it if you could simply reply to that email rather than let us know in any other way.

The Battlefields trip has been rescheduled and the new dates are Saturday 21st to Thursday 26th November. Parents will have received a letter from Miss Stuart regarding this.

Free School Meals – Boxes or Cash Payment

Our Council is committed to supporting families throughout the year but in particular during COVID-19. As part of this support we have delivered over 70,000 Free School Meals to 1700 households but we are now extending the options available of providing Free School Meals with a direct cash payment option.

The Cash Payment is £35 every 2 weeks per child and allows families the flexibility to make their own arrangements to meet the needs of their child supporting families to make the best choice for their child. The payment of £35 is one of the highest amounts any Council in the UK is making to support families during COVID-19.

If you are eligible to receive free school meals for your child(ren) and would like the cash payment instead, please click on the following link to access the application form:

<https://lnks.gd/!eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpb9saW5rX2IkljoxMDAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjIjbiBGljayl9ImJ1bGxldGluX2IkljoiMjAyMDA1MDQyMDUwMDY0NDEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3N1cHBvcnRkZy5kdW1nYWw2Z92LnVrL0NWMtIzY2hvb2xtZWZscyJ9.TFO5xRorHMNJMa2LqTtzgZc2aRfi3-tz5xjlOK8ZG90/br/78194543844-l>

You need to register by 10.00pm on a Tuesday for a direct payment on a Friday. This is a rolling programme until schools return or the end of term. In the meantime you will continue to receive your Food Boxes. You only need to complete the form once per child. Thereafter, you will automatically receive the payments.

School Management Rota

Here is the school management rota for next week:

	Saturday (standby)	Sunday (standby)	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
w/c 09/05/20 Lead	G Arrowsmith	E Traill	A Meredith	K Bryden	J Carter	R Fulton	B Graham
Reserve	N Riley	J Steele	K Bryden	R Fulton	J Blair	B Graham	J Carter

Managers can be contacted via the school office between 9am-3pm. However, we would like to encourage everyone to contact us via the school email addresses, as above, as a first option. These will be monitored throughout the day.

Primary

Mrs McDiarmid

Unfortunately we have recently learned that Mrs McDiarmid has been diagnosed with breast cancer. She will be away from school for some time while she receives treatment. We know that the whole school community will be thinking of her and her family at this very difficult time, and will be wishing her a fast and full recovery.

ELC - P1 Transition

We will be sending out information about our virtual transition programme to parents and carers early next week. Apologies for the slight delay, we are adjusting to doing things virtually too!

Learning Conversation Records for P1-P7

Please look out for your child's Spring Learning Conversation Record which will be emailed to you over the course of next week. The Spring Learning Conversation Record is a reflection of the time your child was in school between the previous Learning Conversation evenings and the time when school closed. We hope that you will find them useful to learn about your child's progress and achievements over this time and to see their next steps. Unfortunately Learning Conversations have not been able to take place in the manner that we set out in the 'You said, We did' letter that was sent out in Term 3, and which we had hoped would improve the experience for children, parents/carers and teachers. We look forward to the very valuable face to face conversations we will have next time.

Academy

Senior Phase Pupils FAQ

We are currently working on a document to support pupils in the senior phase with questions they might have about volume of work, not being able to meet deadlines etc. It is anticipated that this will be sent out tomorrow and there will also be a copy placed on Teams and on our school website. This document will be added to as and when questions arise.

Duke of Edinburgh Award 2020

Obviously aspects of this award have been put on hold such as the expedition. However, there are still some things pupils taking part in this award could be doing to help them achieve their award. Mr McKenna is going to set up a Microsoft Teams page for the group which will give them information on things they could be doing for their Volunteering, Skill and Physical sections of the award. Pupils will be added to this automatically.

SQA and Estimates

Wallace Hall Academy and Dumfries and Galloway Council will be working closely together to ensure a fair and consistent approach for all young people. The SQA have also confirmed that they will carry out further checks to ensure this year's results are consistent with previous performance at school and national level. What this means is that the estimates a school submits may change as the SQA may adjust estimates where necessary. For that reason the region have decided that we will not be releasing any information on estimates to young people or parents, because the estimate may not be the final grade awarded by the SQA.

For further information on the Estimate Grade process please use the following links which the SQA have created to clarify the process for parents, carers and learners.

Parents and carers <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/93825.html>

Learners <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/93963.html>

Update on S6 Leavers Hoodies and Leavers' Booklet

Many thanks for all of the photos that have been sent in so far – not too many to go. If you didn't purchase a leaver's hoodie then can you please send a photo of you during lockdown to the school email address and Mrs Menzies will include that in the booklet she is making.