

## Wallace Hall Update – 27.08.20 - COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

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Public Health Phone Number: 01387 272724

NHS24 Phone Number: 111

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

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Dear Parent/Carer

### Whole School

Pupils have coped well this week with the additional measures which are in place in school to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and with the changes that have already been made since our return from lockdown.

Dumfries & Galloway Council, in partnership with NHS Dumfries & Galloway, have produced an 'advice for parents' document. If you haven't already received a copy of this it should be with you very soon. When we receive a copy we will put onto our website and on social media.

### **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.

### **Diarrhoea and Vomiting**

If your child is unwell with symptoms other than those relating to COVID-19 (high temperature, new persistent cough or loss of sense of smell and/or taste), please treat these as you would in normal circumstances, i.e. if they are well enough to attend school then they should attend (NB advice remains that pupils should not return to school for 48 hours after the last bout of vomiting or diarrhoea).

### **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. 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).

### **Eat Out to Help Out Scheme**

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020 is the last day of the government's Eat Out to Help Out scheme. This is the last day that your child(ren) can get a meal deal for £1.

### **Phase 2 Risk Assessment – Re-opening of Schools**

An updated copy of the full risk assessment will be uploaded to our website each Monday. 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 for the foreseeable and will upload a copy of the updated version (along with the date) to the website each week.

## Primary and ELC

### Thank you

Thank you for your support over the last two weeks as the children and staff have been settling into new routines. The ELC and Primary children have been absolutely brilliant; learning new routines, reconnecting with friends and school staff, and helping each other to stay safe and be happy.

### Water bottles

If your child is in P1 - P7, please provide your child with a full water bottle every day. Class teachers are encouraging children to take home their water bottles daily for washing and refilling. Children are able to refill water bottles at school too.

### PE

From next week, PE is able to resume inside. The primary children have been fantastic about embracing some of the drizzly weather in their PE lessons over the last couple of weeks, but from next Monday we will also be able to hold PE lessons inside. We will be following Scottish Government Guidelines to ensure that PE takes place safely.

Please continue to ensure that children are still dressed for the weather forecast for the day as they will still be spending lots of time outside.

## Academy

### Wearing of Face Covering in Secondary Schools

You will be aware that the Scottish Government announced on Tuesday of this week that it would be compulsory for secondary children and staff to wear face coverings in corridors and communal spaces. The reason for this is that it is more difficult to maintain social distancing in those areas and so another layer of protection has been introduced to help prevent the spread of the virus. So, from Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August, all staff and children in Wallace Hall Academy will be expected to wear a face covering when moving around the school. It is important that your child(ren) understands how they should wear a face mask – click on the link below to view a short video:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-53877292>

This video will also be shown to pupils at the start of P1 tomorrow and on Monday.

Every pupil and staff member should bring their own face covering to school each day. However, if your child(ren) forgets their face covering the school will have a supply of disposable masks and they can have one for that day. Those masks can be collected from ????

While staff and students can continue to wear face coverings if they wish to in the classroom, face coverings will not generally be necessary as there is greater scope for physical distancing and face coverings can have an impact on learning and teaching.

The Director Skills, Education and Learning will be sending out a document to parents which will provide more detail.

**If your child has a breathing difficulty or any other medical condition which makes them exempt from wearing a face covering please let the school know. This will prevent any misunderstandings.**

**PE**

In line with government policy indoor non-contact PE can take place from Monday 31st August. We will only be doing indoor PE in very poor weather and will carry out PE lessons outdoors as much as possible. Social distancing and the cleaning of equipment will be carried out during each lesson in line with guidelines produced by Education Scotland.

**2020 SQA Certificates**

Following the Deputy First Ministers announcement that all pupils are to be awarded the original estimates submitted by schools (or retain the grade awarded by the SQA if they upped our estimates) the SQA have communicated how this will be resolved. The SQA have shared the new grades they will be awarding to pupils with the school and allowed us to check them for anomalies. The next stage is for the SQA to print new certificates for those pupils whose grades have changed and these will arrive with pupils on Tuesday 8th September.