

Wallace Hall Update – 14.01.21 - 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

Despite the difficult start to the week with the online platforms not working as expected, it has quietened down much more quickly than expected. We are encouraged by the response from pupils and the amount of work completed/submitted. Please get in touch with the school if you or your child are having any problems with their online learning.

ICT Access

If your child(ren) does not have access to a device like a computer, laptop or tablet at home please email the school to let us know. We will try to help with this. We don't have any stock left in school so will have to put a request to the Authority. This will take a little longer but we will hopefully be able to respond within 3 days to let you know if your request has been authorised and, if so, when you can collect it.

Childcare Hub

If your child(ren) have been attending The Hub this week you will have received a letter from Dr Gillian Brydson, Director, Skills, Education and Learning, either withdrawing your place(s), confirming that your place(s) will be continuing or withdrawing your place(s) with an option for you to appeal and in that case you would have to complete another form and provide supporting letters from your employers. The letters explained clearly the reasons why the Scottish Government are trying to ensure that the number of pupils and adults attending schools is kept to a minimum.

We know that some parents will be disappointed by this change to the childcare arrangements and you may find it difficult to carry out your own job at home whilst supporting your own children with their home schooling. We hope, however, that you will understand the reasons for this change.

If you haven't yet applied for a place for your child in The Hub, please do so only if you have no alternative. Your application will have to be made to the Local Authority and will go through the same process as explained above.

Please click on the link below to view Dr Gillian Brydson's video and further information:

<https://supportdg.dumgal.gov.uk/article/20769/Schools-and-childcare>

PRIMARY

A separate ELC and Primary update will be sent to parents by the end of tomorrow.

Remote Learning

Links to home learning for all groups are below:

Please find link below to the ELC remote learning arrangements:

https://645e8b6e-becd-4bbd-988d-5cb7cd92fae4.filesusr.com/ugd/92da19_bf284c6ca24c498b8dde282cd70255e3.pdf

Please find link below to the Primary remote learning arrangements:

https://645e8b6e-becd-4bbd-988d-5cb7cd92fae4.filesusr.com/ugd/92da19_e9b2f0d67bd14dd996facb5da8dc6768.pdf

Please find link below to Purple Mash letter:

https://645e8b6e-becd-4bbd-988d-5cb7cd92fae4.filesusr.com/ugd/92da19_031234dbc0934433971bddfa5d80c524.pdf

ACADEMY

S2 Options

S2 parents are reminded that S2 into S3 option forms should be completed using the Microsoft form which was emailed out last week.

If you have any issues using this form, original forms can be scanned or photocopied and sent back to the school office email address.

The deadline for the return of forms is Friday 22nd January.

A link to the Microsoft form is below:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQTctawUZKfGW-M0Cu5xKr6PRB0ChToJUNU5ZR0hLV05RSVkxS1NYM1YzM0oyMUJHVy4u>

S3 reports

S3 reports were due to be sent out to parents on Thursday 28th January, however due to the current lockdown, there will be a delay in these being sent.

We are endeavouring to have these emailed to parents by Friday 5th February.

SQA update

After the First Minister's announcement that schools would be closed until the start of February the SQA have been reviewing their certification plans for this academic session. They released a statement earlier this week to indicate that they are looking at multiple options for the certification of pupils this year. A link to the full statement from the SQA is shown below.

<https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/96362.html>

What they have asked, and this was echoed by the Local Authority, is that schools, teachers and pupils should focus on the remote learning and teaching so that when assessments do take place later in the session then pupils are as ready for them as possible. Pupils will not return and start prelims straight away, there will be a chance for classroom learning to take place first. As such, we would welcome your continued support from home in helping your child(ren) engage with the remote learning and please do not hesitate to contact the school should you have any questions. We will of course keep you up to date with any further announcements from the SQA.

Remote Learning

Remote Learning began on Monday the 11th of January and will run for the period of the school closure. As with the last lockdown, pupils in S1-3 will be set tasks through Satchel One and pupils in S4-6 will be set tasks through Teams. Tasks and methodology will vary depending on the subject, year group and level and teachers will decide how to set work based on the needs of the pupils within that class.

Timetable

We have made some changes to the way in which learning activities will be set for pupils. Pupils should aim to follow their normal timetable from home (continuing with the Week A, Week B format). Monday 11th January starts with a Week B timetable. This means that on each day pupils will be set work for the three subjects they would have had that day, had they been in school. Teachers will be online at the same time as their timetabled classes to support pupils.

For example, if a pupil has a timetable on a Wednesday of:

Period 1+2 – Maths

Period 3+4 – Physics

Period 5+6 – Art

They should try to follow that timetable where possible. Some teachers may set work on that day or they set work at the start of the week to cover more than one lesson but they will still be online at their timetabled times to support pupils' learning. If you would like a copy of your child's timetable please phone the office and one can be emailed to you.

Period times will be (pupils may not need to be online for all this time but teachers will be available):

Monday

P1 - 9.15 - 10

P2 - 10 - 11.30

P3 - 11.50 - 1.20

P4 - 2.00 - 3.40

Tuesday - Friday

P1 - 9.15 - 10.50

P2 - 11.20 - 1.10

P3 - 2.00 - 3.40

Pupils should try to be online at the time of their normal class but if this is not possible then do not worry. All tasks, learning materials and resources will be saved for pupils to access later if required. This is a slight increase in work from the last lockdown but we feel pupils, staff and parents are more prepared this time

round and ultimately this will be beneficial for pupils' attainment, particularly for those sitting SQA qualifications this year. Furthermore, we hope this will give pupils more structure.

There will be no work set for Electives, Health and Wellbeing classes or Senior Core PE during the school closure period.

All teachers will review how pupils are getting on and amend the amount of work set, based on the progress being made and feedback from pupils. Please encourage pupils to speak to their teacher if they are struggling.

Setting up Teams and Satchel One

All S4-6 pupils should already be assigned to Teams for their classes and should be aware of how to use the platform. However, if any support is required then please email the school office and someone will get in touch.

For Satchel One, pupils should be able to log in through their Glow Accounts and parents have an individual login that allows them to track the tasks their pupil has. For assistance with Satchel One a lot of queries can be answered by going to <https://help.satchelone.com/en/>

If this doesn't help then please email the school office and we will be able to help you.

Support

We are aware that some pupils understandably struggled with Home Learning during the last lockdown and also we are aware that the last lockdown had a significant impact on the mental health of pupils, particularly with stress and anxiety. We have identified a number of pupils who we feel could benefit from support either with home learning, organisation or mental health and someone from school will be in touch to offer support, this is entirely optional and we will respect the wishes of pupils and families with this.

However, our support is not limited to a select group. Our Health and Wellbeing page of our website has a number of useful resources and links that may help pupils and/or parents/carers in supporting their children's wellbeing. There are also contact details for our PTs of Pupil Support, who can be contacted at any time for any pupil or family that requires support. The link to the page is <https://www.wallacehall.co.uk/health-wellbeing>

We have also produced a Frequently Asked Questions document regarding Home Learning which can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2LwXGIm>

Finally, we are aware how difficult a period this will be both academically and mentally for pupils and families. Please get in touch with the school if you feel there is anything we can do and we shall do our best to help.