

Wallace Hall Update – 08.10.20 - COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

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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

We would like to thank all of our pupils and staff for their approach to the additional measures put in place in school and for adapting to them so well. We have made changes to those measures throughout the term and understand that it hasn't always been easy for them to understand the changes. There was always a concern that people would become complacent about the measures, both in school and in the community, however, we have found the opposite in school. As time has gone on everyone seems to be more at ease with the additional measures.

Thank you also to parents and carers for your patience and understanding as we have at times bombarded you with even more information than usual because of the pandemic. Please remember that if you have any questions or concerns either about COVID19 related information or measures or about how your child is being affected by them you should contact us to discuss those concerns. You can either email the school office email or, particularly if it is directly about your child, you can phone and ask to speak to their Principal Teacher of Pupil Support.

Yesterday the First Minister made an announcement about additional restrictions, mainly around the hospitality sector, over the next two weeks. As this coincides with our school holidays it will no doubt affect what some of you had planned to do. We do hope that everyone still manages to have a good break and that pupils return to school on Monday 26th October well-rested and ready for the challenges that a new term brings.

Our next planned email to parents will be on Thursday 29th October.

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 really appreciate it if you could keep us informed of any testing or test result, whether for our pupil or someone in their household.

Ventilation in School Buildings

Following the information we sent out last week regarding the need for windows to be open in classrooms, we would like to remind you to ensure your child(ren) brings 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

If you have been dropping off or picking up your child(ren) from the ELC or Primary, you will notice that we had put tape markers on the ground to enable social distancing measures. Unfortunately the tape has not been very successful, mostly due to the rainy weather. It is back to the drawing board for us and we will come up with an alternative as soon as possible.

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.

PRIMARY

Please find attached an end of term update from our Primary Deputes and a Recovery Curriculum document.

ACADEMY**SQA plans for session 2020-21**

On Wednesday the Deputy First Minister made an announcement regarding the assessment of National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses in session 2020-21. Please click on the link below to see the Deputy First Minister's speech in full:

<https://news.gov.scot/speeches-and-briefings/deputy-first-ministers-speech-on-sqa-awards-2021>

National 5 - There will be no external assessment of National 5 courses by either coursework or final exam. Instead an alternative certification approach will be adopted based on assessment evidence gathered throughout the year and relying on teacher estimates. The SQA will be working with schools during the year to ensure that the quality assurance around these assessments is robust which could include the sampling of work and feeding back to schools to ensure standards are maintained across Scotland.

Higher and Advanced Higher – There will be external assessment of Higher and Advanced Higher courses by coursework and final exam. It should be noted that some Higher and Advanced Higher courses do not have coursework components or a final exam and that some changes have been made to assessment on a subject by subject basis. The exam timetable has also been moved back from its usual late April start and will now run from Thursday 13th May to Friday 4th June. It should also be noted that the plans for assessing Higher and Advanced Higher courses may change in line with public health advice.

The full statement from the SQA and links to more detailed information regarding individual subjects and responses to the recent consultation can be found in the link below.

<https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/95281.html>

The SQA have also started to provide guidance on internally assessed courses, such as National 4, and they will continue to do so throughout the year. Please be assured that we will share further information with pupils and parents as appropriate during the year.