

Wallace Hall Update – 29.10.20 - 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

We hope that you all had a good October break and had a good rest. We know that the Scottish Government have announced today that we are in Level 2 of the new COVID restrictions and we expect that more guidance will follow in the coming week. We will share any information with you as we get it. However, the information so far is that schools will remain open so that will hopefully mean very few changes for us.

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 before the holidays 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. **We have now received a stronger tape which we hope will be more successful. Our janitors will set out the markings on the next dry day! In the meantime, please be aware of social distancing guidelines.**

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**Staggered end to the school day**

Following an enquiry from a parent about the need for staggered pick ups from school, we wanted to clarify that we are following guidelines from the Scottish Government who have stated the following:

In line with the scientific advice, in both primary and secondary settings, wherever possible, efforts should be made to keep children and young people within the same groups for the duration of the school day. Consistent groups reduce the likelihood of direct transmission, allow for quicker identification of those who need to self-isolate and may reduce the overall number of children, young people and staff who need to isolate in the event of a positive test or COVID-19.

Drop off/pick up

The arrangements for parents/carers to drop off and collect children and young people require careful consideration, to ensure that large gatherings of people can be avoided and physical distancing between adults and children of different groupings is maintained.

We did investigate a number of alternatives prior to schools re-starting, including using different drop-off and pick-up points and using a one-way system through the playground. However, after careful consideration and consultation with the Education H&S Team, the system we implemented of staggered drop-offs and pick-ups was deemed to be the one with the least amount of risk.

We do feel, however, that we could reduce the time between P1-P3 and the remainder of the school leaving at the end of the day to 5 minutes, rather than 10. So from Monday 2nd November, the pick-up times for P1-P3 will be 3.05 pm and for P4-P7 will be 3.10 pm. These changes will be kept under review.