

Wallace Hall Update – 15.03.21 - COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

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NHS24 Phone Number: 111

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

Dear Parent/Carer

WHOLE SCHOOL

We have enjoyed welcoming most of our primary and ELC children back into school today and look forward to welcoming our secondary pupils in over the next few days.

There are Frequently Asked Questions on the Support DG website providing more information on the return to schools: [SupportDG - Dumfries and Galloway Council - Reopening of schools - Frequently Asked Questions \(dumgal.gov.uk\)](https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/supportdg)

Following some enquiries from parents around the testing of primary children, Test and Protect have provided the following information:

- Testing is not mandatory across Scotland. It cannot be enforced. Once a positive case has been identified, Test and Protect processes kick in. They identify all close contacts and these individuals are asked to isolate for the 10 day period. In doing so, this means any potential virus does not have the chance to spread. Therefore, it is safe for pupils to return to the classroom after this period (unless they have contracted COVID-19 and therefore Test and Protect processes would once again kick in). The offer of the additional testing was to provide further reassurance to parents. However, it was not mandatory. Therefore, all pupils who were asked to self-isolate are safe to return to Wallacehall Primary today.

There are a few key points that we want to remind Academy parents/pupils of before their return:

Health and Safety

We appreciate your support in ensuring that your child does not attend school if they are displaying COVID-19 symptoms. We ask for your support in reinforcing these messages with your child at home.

- **All** pupils and staff members must wear face coverings at all times in classes and around the building (people who are exempt for health reasons do not have to and also when people are actually eating or drinking they can remove their face coverings briefly).
- Maintain 2 metre social distancing at all times within the school building, between pupils and between staff.
- Be outdoors as much as possible - wear appropriate clothing for all weathers.
- Keep windows/doors open to allow good ventilation - they should be open for at least 15 minutes before people come into class.
- Maintain good hand hygiene by washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and use hand sanitiser when soap and water isn't available.
- Always wipe down your workstation before and after use, in every class, using the anti-bacterial sipes provided.

We advised you in December that all secondary pupils can now download the Protect Scotland App which helps Public Health to identify close contacts of anyone testing positive, who also has the App. We see this as

a positive move and one that will help to keep all of our pupils and staff members safe. This is of course optional but we would encourage all secondary pupils to do this. To find out more about the App please click on the following link:

<https://protect.scot/>

Asymptomatic Home Testing for Staff and Senior Phase Pupils

As part of the range of COVID-19 risk reduction mitigations in schools, an asymptomatic testing programme is being made available to all staff and senior phase pupils. Participation in the programme will be encouraged but voluntary. Regular testing will help to identify asymptomatic individuals in school environments at the earliest possible opportunity and ask them and their close contacts to self-isolate, thus minimising the likelihood of them passing on the virus. We are pleased with the high level of senior phase pupils who have opted in to taking the tests. This will really help towards Wallace Hall being a safer place to be for everyone.

We should have by now delivered or you have collected self-testing kits requested for your senior phase child(ren). From Monday 15th March pupils can collect further kits from the School Office.

For more information on the asymptomatic testing programme is available on the Support DG website: [SupportDG - Dumfries and Galloway Council - Asymptomatic Testing in Scottish Primary, Secondary and Special Schools, and ELC Providers \(dumgal.gov.uk\)](#)

Uniform – School Uniform **must** be worn by all children attending school, whether returning to class or to the Childcare Hub. Please ensure that your child also has a warm jumper with them which they can wear in class. We are required to have windows open for good ventilation. A waterproof jacket is also recommended as pupils will be outside whenever possible.

School Transport

School transport will resume for those who travel on a designated school transport service. Maintaining appropriate distancing is recommended and each passenger is required to sit on their own. Pupils are advised to sit alternately in window/aisle seats in each row of the vehicle or, on services where there are banks of three seats, one seat is left empty between passengers. Children and young people from the same family are permitted to sit next to each other.

Pupils who normally travel to school by other means – such as on service buses or on foot – are asked to make their own arrangements to ensure they arrive at school on time for their face-to-face session.

Pupils who arrive early for their session, or whose transport leaves after the end of the school day, are permitted to study in the socially distanced seating area in the assembly hall.

Study Class

Senior Phase pupils will be able to study in the Academy Library if they have free periods although we would encourage them to go home where possible. If they can't walk home then they have to make their own arrangements for transport.

Lunchtime

Normal school meal provision will be available or pupils can bring a packed lunch. Pupils can go down the street if they wish but they must maintain social distancing and wear face coverings when going into shops. However, we would encourage pupils to remain within the school grounds if possible.

Pre-ordering is essential. If your child(ren) want hot food at break they must pre-order it first thing in the morning. If they want food at lunchtime they will have to pre-order in the morning or at morning break. This can be done in the canteen.

Pre-orders will be collected from the Bailey Hall, except for the hot meal which should be collected from the serving hatch in the dining hall.

PE on return to school

Please be aware that, due to ongoing restrictions on indoor physical activities, all PE lessons will take place outside until the Easter holidays. Pupils should wear PE kit that is appropriate to the weather conditions.

The booklet is available to download from the SQA website and will be posted directly to your child w/c 15 March. You can stay up to date on the 2021 National Qualifications by visiting [sqa.org.uk/NQ2021](https://www.sqa.org.uk/NQ2021).