



Wallace Hall 2-18, Station Road, Thornhill, Dumfriesshire, DG3 5DS

Tel: 01848 332120 (Main Office)/Tel: 01848 332140 (Primary Office)

Email: gw08officewallace@ea.dumgal.sch.uk (Academy)

Email: gw08officewallacehal@ea.dumgal.sch.uk (Primary)

Website: www.wallacehall.co.uk Facebook: Wallace Hall Academy, Primary and ELC

Twitter: https://twitter.com/WallaceHallSch Instagram (WHA only): wallacehallsch



Wallace Hall Academy, Primary and ELC

"Together we grow, learn and achieve"

Head Teacher: Barry Graham

September 2025

Welcome to Wallace Hall ELC's Newsletter

Welcome to all of our families, returning and new!

Purpose of the Newsletter

We will publish a newsletter once a term, to detail any significant changes and events in the ELC.

Communication

Class Dojo is used to inform families of upcoming events/changes to the setting, and the messaging function is used to communicate between home and the ELC. Urgent messages should still be called in to ensure they are passed on in sufficient time.

Your child has their own individual Learning Journal, where we record their progress and interests within the ELC. There is also a section for you to add your own contributions from home which we encourage.

A Learning Journals help sheet is available in the cloakroom.

Staffing

We have had a few changes in our staffing this term, so I have attached a 'meet the team' for you to familiarise yourself.

Your child's key worker will have been posted on their Learning Journal, however if you are not sure then feel free to ask a member of staff.

Nut Free School

This is a gentle reminder that we aim to be a nut free ELC. Please check anything that your child brings in their packed lunch does not contain nuts. This includes cereal bars and Nutella.

Winner of

Gold Rights Respecting Schools Awareness Award 2025

Silver Rights Respecting Schools Awareness Award 2023

D&G Rural Award Smarter Scotland

The SQA Star Award

Lantra School Project Award – 2013/2018/2020/2022/2025

Green Flag Award 2016/2018/2021/2023/2025

LEAF Award 2025

Scottish Education Award – Enterprise and Employability

World Teamwork Award Winners – World Robotics Festival

First Lego League Robotics Scottish/UK & Ireland Champions





Wallace Hall 2-18, Station Road, Thornhill, Dumfriesshire, DG3 5DS

Tel: 01848 332120 (Main Office)/Tel: 01848 332140 (Primary Office)

Email: gw08officewallace@ea.dumgal.sch.uk (Academy)

Email: gw08officewallacehal@ea.dumgal.sch.uk (Primary)

Website: www.wallacehall.co.uk Facebook: Wallace Hall Academy, Primary and ELC

Twitter: https://twitter.com/WallaceHallSch Instagram (WHA only): wallacehallsch



Wallace Hall Academy, Primary and ELC

"Together we grow, learn and achieve"

Head Teacher: Barry Graham

Illness/absence

Although it is not compulsory for a child to attend ELC, we still require to be informed if your child will not be in, please confirm the reason and when you expect them to be return. This is in line with our Duty of Care as practitioners. Please ask a member of staff if you would like to see any of our policies relating to this. We ask that you follow these to ensure your child is fit and well to be attending the ELC.

Can we also ask that you make us aware of anything your child may have even if there is no isolation period for it, such as head lice. Such things can spread quickly in an environment such as the ELC, so it's really important we are aware.

Weekly plans in the ELC.

We have decided to incorporate an element into each day of the week. These elements will change termly to ensure your child will experience them all depending on their days in ELC. These will be as follows;

Movement Monday – Starting the week off with lots of energetic activities in the gym hall, the garden or even the woods!

Trip Tuesday – We will be taking small groups of children out most weeks to new places relating to the children's current interests. A different group will go each time until everyone has had a turn, and as mentioned this will change termly to ensure all children get to take part.

Wellbeing Wednesday – On a Wednesday we will be focussing on gross motor development, so using lots of bikes, scooters, movements to encourage coordination and lots more!

To the woods Thursday – Mrs Marchbank and Mrs Clingen recently completed a Forest Kindergarten course. We will be taking the children out in blocks to do this, so by the end of the academic year each child will have taken part in this.

Feel Good Friday – On a Friday we would like to look at our mission to become more sustainable. We will be completing our recycling for the week, caring for our garden and surrounding environment, and discussing how we can become more eco-friendly at home.

Winner of

Gold Rights Respecting Schools Awareness Award 2025

Silver Rights Respecting Schools Awareness Award 2023

D&G Rural Award Smarter Scotland

The SQA Star Award

Lantra School Project Award – 2013/2018/2020/2022/2025

Green Flag Award 2016/2018/2021/2023/2025

LEAF Award 2025

Scottish Education Award – Enterprise and Employability

World Teamwork Award Winners – World Robotics Festival

First Lego League Robotics Scottish/UK & Ireland Champions





Wallace Hall 2-18, Station Road, Thornhill, Dumfriesshire, DG3 5DS

Tel: 01848 332120 (Main Office)/Tel: 01848 332140 (Primary Office)

Email: gw08officewallace@ea.dumgal.sch.uk (Academy)

Email: gw08officewallacehal@ea.dumgal.sch.uk (Primary)

Website: www.wallacehall.co.uk Facebook: Wallace Hall Academy, Primary and ELC

Twitter: https://twitter.com/WallaceHallSch Instagram (WHA only): wallacehallsch



Wallace Hall Academy, Primary and ELC

"Together we grow, learn and achieve"

Head Teacher: Barry Graham

Focus Weeks

At Wallace Hall ELC, we follow a blended Frobelian and 'Planning in the moment' pedagogy. The purpose of this approach is for children to explore their environment, and when they spark an interest, the practitioner takes the opportunity to support their next steps.

As part of this, we have a focus week, usually once a term, for each child. During a two week period we complete observations and then share this with you in a scheduled meeting the following week. We then discuss progress and next steps, as well as any concerns you may have.

You will receive a letter a week in advance, which gives you an opportunity to share any thoughts ahead of your child's focus week.

Parental Engagement and Home Links

Lending Library

At the front entrance of the ELC, we have a lending library. Children are welcome to borrow a book for up to 2 weeks, which can be recorded in the yellow folder.

Story sacks

Every week, a selection of children will come home with a story sack. The story sacks will contain a book, along with resources to support it, such as a puppet, game or puzzle. Every child will have at least 1 story sack per term, if not 2 depending on the length of the term.

PEEP (Families learning together) sessions and Bookbug sessions – These sessions will be starting in the next few weeks, look out for more information soon!

ELC Uniform

Uniform order forms are available in the cloakroom. Our uniform is optional, and was introduced following feedback from parents/carers.

If you have any uniform that no longer fits/no one to pass down to, we would be happy to take these as we hope to start our own swap shop in the future.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Many thanks.

Judith Park
ELC Manager

Winner of

Gold Rights Respecting Schools Awareness Award 2025

Silver Rights Respecting Schools Awareness Award 2023

D&G Rural Award Smarter Scotland

The SQA Star Award

Lantra School Project Award – 2013/2018/2020/2022/2025

Green Flag Award 2016/2018/2021/2023/2025

LEAF Award 2025

Scottish Education Award – Enterprise and Employability

World Teamwork Award Winners – World Robotics Festival

First Lego League Robotics Scottish/UK & Ireland Champions





Wallace Hall 2-18, Station Road, Thornhill, Dumfriesshire, DG3 5DS

Tel: 01848 332120 (Main Office)/Tel: 01848 332140 (Primary Office)

Email: gw08officewallace@ea.dumgal.sch.uk (Academy)

Email: gw08officewallacehal@ea.dumgal.sch.uk (Primary)

Website: www.wallacehall.co.uk Facebook: Wallace Hall Academy, Primary and ELC

Twitter: https://twitter.com/WallaceHallSch Instagram (WHA only): wallacehallsch



Wallace Hall Academy, Primary and ELC

"Together we grow, learn and achieve"

Head Teacher: Barry Graham

Dates for your Diary!

Tuesday 16th September 2pm-3pm	Bookbug Bookbug will be restarting on this date and will continue on a weekly basis. This is open for everyone, and siblings are welcome to join you and your child too!
Thursday 18th September 2pm-3pm	PEEP PEEP (Families Learning Together) will be restarting on this date and will continue on a weekly basis. This is open for everyone, and siblings are welcome to join you and your child too!
Wednesday 8th October 9am-10am	Open Morning This is an opportunity for you to come and see what we have been up to this term, and spend some time with your child exploring their favourite parts of the Nursery.
Monday 13th – Friday 24th October	October Holidays The ELC will be closed during these dates and will re-open Monday 27 th October.
Thursday 30th October 9am – 11.30am	Halloween Party in ELC More information on this will be released nearer the time, however if your child does not normally attend ELC on a Thursday Morning, they are welcome to join us for that time.
Thursday 13th November	School Photos More information on this will be released nearer the time.
Wednesday 10th December	School Photos – Catch up day More information on this will be released nearer the time.
Wednesday 17th December 9.30am – 11.30am	ELC Christmas Party More information on this will be released nearer the time.
Tuesday 9th December 9am – 10.30am	ELC Christmas Craft Open Morning More information on this will be released nearer the time.

Winner of

Gold Rights Respecting Schools Awareness Award 2025

Silver Rights Respecting Schools Awareness Award 2023

D&G Rural Award Smarter Scotland

The SQA Star Award

Lantra School Project Award – 2013/2018/2020/2022/2025

Green Flag Award 2016/2018/2021/2023/2025

LEAF Award 2025

Scottish Education Award – Enterprise and Employability

World Teamwork Award Winners – World Robotics Festival

First Lego League Robotics Scottish/UK & Ireland Champions

