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Wallace Hall Academy, Primary and ELC

"Together we grow, learn and achieve"

Head Teacher: Barry Graham

August 2026

Welcome to Wallace Hall ELC's Newsletter

Welcome back 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 Journal help sheet is available in the cloakroom, and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask a member of our staff.

ELC Uniform

We are currently setting up our uniform ordering system online. Until we have this in place we are no longer accepting uniform orders, however we have a swap shop in place if you would like to have a look at some of our pre-loved uniforms.

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 has been posted on their Learning Journal, however if you are not sure then feel free to ask a member of staff.

Blue Bags in ELC

Each child has their own blue bag in ELC to store changes of clothes and season appropriate items such as hat, gloves, sunglasses etc.

Please fill this bag with such items for your child to ensure they can be changed if necessary. Spare clothes also never go wrong, you can never have too many socks! Unfortunately we do not have the space to accommodate additional backpacks so please ensure you take these 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

Scottish Education Award – Enterprise and Employability

World Teamwork Award Winners – World Robotics Festival

First Lego League Robotics Scottish/UK & Ireland Champions

School Sport Award 2025-2027 Primary – Gold Award

School Sport Award 2025-2027 Secondary – Silver Award

LEAF Award 2025



OFFICIAL

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, we also need to know why they are absent and when you expect them to be back. 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.

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.

Snack and Lunch

The ELC provide all snacks and lunch, funded by the Scottish Government. If you would prefer your child brought a packed lunch, please ensure it follows our healthy eating guidelines. We are 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.

Please do not leave snacks in your child's bag, as this can often cause upset when the child is unable to eat said snack in ELC.

Water Bottles

We encourage your child to bring a water bottle into the ELC to ensure they stay hydrated throughout the day. We must also insist that bottles only contain water, and not milk, juice or any fizzy drink. Children have open access to milk and water in the ELC, and we do not encourage anything other than milk or water during their session.

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, more information coming soon!

Term 1 Dates for your Diary!

Tuesday 22nd September Numeracy Stay, Play and Learn 9am - 10am	We would like to invite you into the ELC for a morning of fun, showing you how we incorporate numeracy into our provision.
Monday 5th October School photo day	ELC children will have their photo taken first thing in the morning. If your child does not attend ELC that day but you would like them to have their photo taken, please inform Miss Park and then bring your child to the main office for 9.30am. Family photos will be taken throughout the day, and you MUST ensure you have notified the school you would like a family photo in order for us to make arrangements.
Friday 9th October Last day of term	The ELC will be closed from Monday 12 th October, and will re-open Monday 26 th October.

2026/27 Provisional Dates for Your Diary

This is the first year we have released the whole year dates, so please be aware these are provisional.

Term 2	Monday 26th October - First day back Wednesday 28th October (Morning) - Halloween Party Friday 20th November - Photo day catchup (This is individual photos only) Thursday 10th December - Christmas Craft Morning Friday 18th December (Morning) - Christmas Party The ELC will then be closed for the Christmas holidays, and we will return on Wednesday 6 th January.
Term 3	Wednesday 6th January - Welcome back! Thursday 18th and Friday 19th February - ELC closed for staff training Thursday 25th March - Easter Craft Morning The ELC will then be closed for Easter break, and will re-open Monday 12 th April.
Term 4	Wednesday 12th May (Morning) - Sports Day Friday 28th May - ELC will be closed for a staff training day Monday 31st May (Morning) - Literacy Stay, Play and Learn W.C 7th June - Various trips Thursday 1st July (Morning) - Pre-school Graduation Friday 2nd July - ELC closed for the summer holidays

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

Many thanks.



Miss Judi Park
ELC Manager