

Wallace Hall Update – 22.12.21 - 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

Following on from the First Minister's most recent announcement yesterday, the plan is for schools to return as per the calendar. For us in Dumfries & Galloway, the first day of the new term will be Friday 7th January 2022.

There will be no noticeable changes for ELC and Primary children although there will be a few changes for Academy pupils. We will be reverting to double periods for all year groups which will mean pupils following a Week A and a Week B timetable and separate bells for S1/S2, S3/S4 and S5/S6 to minimise mixing in corridors.

On Friday 7th January pupils should go to their normal class Period 1 where they will be given copies of their new timetables.

If anything changes before the planned return we will let you know and will certainly email parents on or by Thursday 6th January 2022.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Stay safe.

Adherence to Current Measures

In her briefing last week, the First Minister emphasised the need for us all to return back to basics. We all need to strengthen current practices:

- **Wear face coverings** – ensuring that we wear face coverings in all designated areas
- **Hand and surface hygiene** – cleaning our hands and surfaces before use
- **Ventilation** – ensuring that any shared spaces are well ventilated

Testing and Isolation

We have just become aware of a change to the testing rule for those people who have had COVID-19. Up until now, people who have tested positive should not carry out LFT for 90 days. However, the instruction now is that you should resume LFT testing immediately after your 10-day isolation period.

If you or your child(ren) have symptoms of COVID-19, they should go for a PCR test and isolate until they receive the result. You can do so by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/get-tested-for-coronavirus/>

If the result of their PCR test is positive, they must isolate for 10 days.

If the result of their PCR test is negative, they can return to school **only if**:

- They are not displaying any symptoms
- **Nobody else in their household has tested positive or has symptoms**

In all instances you should follow the advice given by Public Health.

In her update, the First Minister made reference to the new Omicron variant. Cases of this variant are currently increasing across Scotland. If you are identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for Omicron, you must isolate for 10 days.

The First Minister emphasised the importance of regular testing. You can have the virus without displaying any symptoms. That is why regular testing is important. The First Minister asked that everyone takes a lateral flow test before every occasion when you intend to mix with other people e.g. going to someone's house, going to a restaurant, meeting others etc.

Lateral flow kits for Secondary pupils are distributed in school and for everyone else can be collected from any of our Community Testing sites, from your local pharmacy or ordered online www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests

All secondary pupils should test themselves twice each week, using the Lateral Flow Tests provided by the school. Please ensure you do a Lateral Flow Test before returning to school on Friday 7th January 2022 and record your result on the website (instructions are in the test kits).

Vaccination

The First Minister also emphasised that vaccination is the best protection against the virus. If anyone has not yet been vaccinated, it is not too late to do so.

Vaccinations for 12-15 and 16 & 17 year olds

12-15 year olds will be able to get the second dose of their vaccine in school during January. We will confirm the date with you when we have it.

- If your child hasn't had their vaccine, you can get information on how and where they can go by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.nhs.uk/vaccines/>