



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)

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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 2024

Welcome to Wallace Hall ELC's Newsletter!

A warm welcome to all our new families who have joined us, and welcome back to our returning families!

Purpose of the Newsletter

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

Communication and Online Learning Journals

Currently we are using the communications section on Learning Journals to get in touch with parents throughout the day. This is not sent directly through to us like Class Dojo used to so please could we ask for you to call the ELC for anything urgent.

Please can we ensure that you check the 'Wallace Hall' profile on Learning Journals for any updates in the ELC.

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.

If you are having difficulty accessing Learning Journals, or need help downloading the app to your device, please speak to a member of staff.

Staffing

You will be able to see our staffing team and their roles on our 'meet the team' which has been linked at the end of this newsletter.

We would like to welcome Miss Robertson and Miss Gray to our staffing team for this session.

As we have moved to a larger capacity this session I will be based in the office more. I will still be in and out of the playroom to see the children, but this will give more flexibility should you wish to have a chat about any queries and concerns.

Handbook

We have updated our handbook! For this has been linked at the end of this newsletter if you would like to have a look. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask a member of staff.

Winner of

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D&G Rural Award Smarter Scotland

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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, the reasoning and when you expect them to be back. This is in line with our Duty of Care as practitioners. You will find our absence procedure linked at the end of this newsletter, along with national guidance for isolation periods for illnesses. 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.

Appropriate clothing

As we are entering colder and wetter months, please could we remind you all to ensure your child comes to the ELC with the appropriate clothing, and also plenty changes of clothes - you can never have too many socks! It is also very helpful if your child's items are labelled with their name.

ELC Uniform

If you would like more information or an order form for uniform, please speak to myself or Miss Hiddleston.

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.

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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 – These will run every Thursday 2pm-3pm, with our first session beginning Thursday 19th September. Sign-up sheets will be available in the cloakroom. We only have limited space so please could I ensure that you sign up on the sheet provided to avoid disappointment! Until the October holidays these sessions will be tasters, and 6 week blocks will commence in term 2.

Bookbug sessions – These will run every two weeks initially on a Tuesday afternoon 2pm-3pm with our first session beginning Tuesday 17th September. Sign-up sheets will be available in the cloakroom. We only have limited space so please could I ensure that you sign up on the sheet provided to avoid disappointment!

Purchasing additional hours

Recently, we have been approved by the Local Authority to offer additional hours to families at a cost. More information is linked below.

If you would like to purchase additional hours for your child, please contact EarlyYearsSupport@dumgal.gov.uk

Links to...

Meet the team! - [Meet the team](#)

Additional hours information - [Additional Hours - letter](#) [Q&A](#)

Handbook - [Handbook](#)

Absence Procedure - [Attendance procedure](#)

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Dates for your Diary!

<p>Parent Council AGM</p> <p>Monday 16th September 7pm Wallace Hall Academy Library</p>	<p>At Wallace Hall, we have a 2-18 Parent Council, who meet to discuss matters concerning the entire school body.</p> <p>We are looking for some parents from the ELC to join the committee as representatives.</p> <p>If you would like any more information, please do not hesitate to ask!</p>
<p>Open Afternoon</p> <p>Tuesday 8th October 2pm-3pm</p>	<p>Come along to our open afternoon to see what we have been exploring this term!</p> <p>Doors will be open from 2pm, and you are welcome to bring your child with you if they are not with us on a Wednesday afternoon. Sign-up sheets will be posted in the cloak room in the next few weeks.</p>
<p>Halloween Party</p> <p>Thursday 31st October</p>	<p>We will be holding our Halloween party in the morning. Children who do not attend the ELC on this day are welcome to come in from 9.30am until 12 noon.</p> <p>Dressing up is of course encouraged but not necessary!</p>

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

Many thanks.

Judi Park
ELC Manager

Wallace Hall ELC

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