



Airyhall School



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Our Vision: To enable children to become Successful Learners, Confident Individuals, Responsible Citizens and Effective Contributors who will make a positive contribution to the world.

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December 2018 Newsletter

Staffing Update

We interviewed for an Early Years Practitioner at the end of November and have identified a preferred candidate. We will let you know the person's name as soon as references are checked and the necessary paperwork is completed with HR. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Dorothy Merrilees for all her hard work and dedication to her role – we would like to wish her well in her new venture.



Which encourages all staff to develop professionally.

Online Safety

With the holidays approaching it is likely that many of our children will be spending extra time on electronic devices. We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers of where they can access advice to help protect their children as well as, where possible, avoiding them accessing and using inappropriate language. The following sites, amongst many others, contain excellent advice:



Which encourages meaningful partnerships with parents/carers and the local community.

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>

<https://www.childnet.com/>

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

<https://pegi.info/>

The link below highlights advice on children using YouTube. We would urge parents/carers to pay close attention to what children are accessing on such sites and be mindful of potential inappropriate content and language.

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/youtube/#>

School Improvements Update

Numeracy and Mathematics

During our in-service day in November staff received training on using models and images to support the teaching of Numeracy concepts. We are very fortunate that our PTA helped us to purchase a large range of equipment (including tens frames, counting sticks, fraction cubes, Rekenreks) which can be used to support understanding of numeracy concepts amongst all learners. We have also updated our Numeracy and Mathematics Progression to include reference to possible models and images. We look forward to sharing with you some examples of how this equipment is being used in Term 3 and 4. We will be looking for feedback on how best to share this information with you in the new year.



Which encourages all staff to develop professionally.

Nursery

During the in-service day the Nursery Team made improvements to the outdoor learning area based on audits carried out. This term the Nursery Team also all attended training on 'Planning in the Moment' by Early Years expert Anna Ephgrave. We will continue to look at how we are developing our planning within the Nursery. We recently had a Quality Assurance visit from the local authority which focused on the learning environment. I am delighted to say that we received very positive feedback from our Pre-School Development Officer.



Which enables high quality teaching and learning to take place.

Celebrating Wider Achievements

We were pleased to read about our pupils' wider achievements in the Celebration Stars they completed as part of their Learning Journey. We would encourage pupils to complete these as often as they would like. Copies are available on our school website:

<https://airyhall.aberdeen.sch.uk/pupils/celebrating-wider-achievement/>



Which celebrates achievement both in and out of school.

Health & Wellbeing – Seasons for Growth

Mrs Alison Fraser and Mrs Fiona Littlejohn have been trained in the Seasons for Growth programme to help some children who are currently experiencing or have experienced loss through death, separation or divorce.



Which is inclusive and meets the needs of all learners.

The programme, "Seasons for Growth", takes the children through the seasons from Autumn to Summer to show how like the seasons, our feelings and experiences change over time. Through these sessions there will be discussions and activities which will allow the children to explore their loss and grief in a creative way, share their feelings and memories and develop coping strategies which will allow them to move on. The

children will learn respect and support for each other by keeping each other's experiences confidential and understanding they aren't alone in their feelings or experiences.

Miss Polson shared information about the "Seasons for Growth" programme during an assembly today. The programme is a self-referral process and children are asked to put themselves forward if they feel this is something that would help them and we will then consider whether we feel it is appropriate for them. If anyone feels they would like to discuss this further I would ask that you contact a member of the School Leadership Team.

Health and Wellbeing Progression

In addition to our work on Seasons for Growth, Staff have been continuing to develop our Health and Wellbeing Progression including the development of our Mental Health curriculum. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the PTA who agreed to fund some of the resources required to develop this area of our curriculum.



Which has the resources and knowledge required to effectively deliver a curriculum for the 21st Century.

Pupil Voice

We have a suggestion box within school where pupils are free to make suggestions which will be considered by one of our pupil groups. To develop this further, members of our Pupil Council will be devising an electronic 'suggestion portal'. Links to this suggestion portal will be added to our school computers and mobile devices in the new term.



Where children lead the learning, have a voice and are actively encouraged to make a valued contribution to the learning and opportunities which take place in their school.

Next Term

World of Work Week

We are planning to have our World of Work Week during the week beginning 4th February 2018. We will put out a letter asking for volunteers to come and speak to the children about their job and enable our children to continue to learn about the skills and knowledge required in different roles.



Which encourages meaningful partnerships with parents/carers and the local community.

Scottish Opera



We are delighted to be working with Scottish Opera again this year. They will be coming in to do workshops with the Primary 5 and Primary 6 pupils which will finish with a performance to parents/carers of '1719!', Scottish Opera's school



Which creates a wealth of opportunities for children to learn from and through.

show this year. The performance will take place on Tuesday 26th February 2019. Tickets (two per family) will be allocated nearer the time.

Important Dates

Date	Event
Monday 7 th January 2019	Term 3 Starts
w/b 4 th February 2019	World of Work Week
5 th February 2019	Safer Internet Day
Monday 11 th February 2019	Mid Term Holiday
Tuesday 12 th February 2019	In-Service Day – School Closed to Pupils
Wednesday 13 th February 2019	In-Service Day – School Closed to Pupils
Tuesday 26 th February 2019	Scottish Opera Performance to Parents/Carers (P5 & P6) Performance Starts: 14.30 Prompt (Doors Open: 14.15)
Wednesday 27 th February 2019	Open Afternoon
Wednesday 13 th March 2019 Thursday 14 th March 2019	Parent/Carer Interviews
Tuesday 19 th March 2019	Class Photographs (Tempest Photography)
Wednesday 27 th March 2019	Easter/Spring Concert (P3 & P4 Pupils)
Thursday 28 th March 2019	Nursery Pre Entry Visit for April Starts
Friday 29 th March 2019	Last Day of Term 3
Monday 15 th April 2019	First Day of Term 4
Friday 19 th April 2019	Good Friday Holiday
Monday 6 th May 2019	May Day Holiday
Tuesday 7 th May 2019	In-Service Day – School Closed to Pupils
Friday 5 th July 2019	Last Day of Term 4

Vision and Values

Throughout this newsletter you will see small images taken from our 'Vision and Values' poster. Our Vision and Values were created in collaboration with parents/carers, pupils and partners in 2016. A clearer copy of these can be found on our school website:

<https://airyhall.aberdeen.sch.uk/16-2/vision-and-values/>

