

Airyhall Hub Aberdeen



Sibling smiles



Social distancing problem-solving



Creative fun



Digital learning



Thank you, Morrisons!



Active and Achieving at Airyhall!

As you enter the Airyhall Critical Childcare Hub in Aberdeen, you are greeted by the happy faces of children, ripples of laughter between staff and pupils and, if you're lucky, the sound of Zumba beats! It seems strange to think that only six weeks ago we were a random group of staff, children and parents who came together in such an uncertain time and now this has become our new Hub family.

The words of two of our children perfectly reflect the atmosphere here; "Airyhall Hub is amazing! It has great teachers. It has great friends. It has great lunches. My favourite thing is my friends!" (Hollie Breen, age 7), with Oliver Rore (age 5) going so far as to say, "I never want to leave here!" It is, indeed, a happy place.

Our provision is made up of 40 families and an incredible team of around 60 staff consisting of members of the Catering Service, Central Education Team, Cleaning staff, Deputes, Early Years Practitioners, Head Teachers, Janitorial staff, Pupil Support Assistants, Sport Aberdeen, Subject Specialists, Support Workers and Teachers. The team works hard to design a programme made up of fun, engaging and meaningful experiences for the children. We aspire to make the experience of working at the Hub an equally positive one for staff too, proving to be "well organised, very friendly and all the needs of the children are catered for" (Leah Low, Early Years Practitioner).

In between supporting digital learning set by children's own settings, the Hub has been a hive of activity ranging from child-led art projects and story writing to STEM challenges and mindfulness. In the infant area, some favourites have been "going to the gym and playing hide and seek outside" (Adam Duthie, age 5 years) and "colouring in, cutting paper and sticking things" (Ava Edmonstone, age 3 years). The staff at Sports Aberdeen have been great at keeping us active and healthy through fun games such as 'boogie-board bowling' and outdoor 'hungry hippos'.

With the sun shining, we have also been lucky enough to enjoy the spectacular Spring weather in our garden area, remembering to water the plants for our Airyhall Primary friends. We were also able to go on an Easter egg hunt, thanks to the Morrisons delivery on behalf of the Easter Bunny. Social distancing has been a daily topic (and challenge!) but, with a little help from Peter Crouch, the children have been creative in demonstrating their understanding of what this looks like in day-to-day life.

On the surface, the Hub is not much different to any other childcare setting. However, its heart comes from the amazing positivity that has flourished from its COVID-19 foundation. This has been thanks to the resilience, flexibility and dedication of the staff, as well as the adaptability and joy of our children. Our wonderful Key Worker families and community members have also been incredible in supporting us (especially through chocolate pick-me-ups!)



Airyhall Hub Song

Lyrics written by Primary 4 – S1 pupils

Please stay at home, not for too long,

It might feel wrong,

But we're all in this together,

Till this ends, until we meet once again.

(CHORUS)

CORONA!

I don't want to be at home,

It makes me alone,

*I've been thinking of our future,
And how it's gonna go.*

*I don't know why this happened,
But we're all at Airyhall,
We're trying our best
To help the NHS.
We're keeping our distance,
We're praying for our health,
When this virus leaves the Earth,
We'll remember our new friends.*

*We missed so much,
We're still so young,
So many things,
We haven't done.*

*Playing, PE, having fun,
Go outside and enjoy the sun,
I hope my memories will last,
So I won't forget the past.*

(CHORUS)

*We're happy to be here,
Let's give a big cheer,
When we meet our new teachers,
In the new year.*

*Making goofy videos,
Writing a new song,
Eating our lunch,
Whilst getting along.*

*Learning, smiling, laughing,
As we all speak,
As there's lots of positives,
About COVID-19.*

*As we're all here,
I just want to say,
I'm so grateful this is,
Where I spend my day!*

(CHORUS)

Repeat x 3 and fade