

Seahorses Class – Our Curriculum

In Foundation Stage, we follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Framework, which supports children from birth to five years old.

Throughout the year, children work towards achieving the Early Learning Goals (ELGs), which describe the expected level of development by the end of Reception.

Learning is carefully planned across the seven areas of learning and development, which are broken down into 17 Early Learning Goals.

The Seven Areas of Learning

Prime Areas

- Communication and Language
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development

Specific Areas

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

These areas are woven together through exciting topics, purposeful play and meaningful experiences that encourage curiosity, creativity and independence.

Learning Through Play

Play is at the heart of everything we do in Seahorse Class.

Children learn through a carefully planned mix of:

- Adult-led teaching
- Child-initiated play
- Indoor and outdoor learning
- Investigation and exploration
- Stories, songs and rhymes
- Practical, hands-on experiences

Our enabling environment encourages children to ask questions, solve problems, work collaboratively and become independent learners.



Resilience



Resourcefulness



Reflectiveness



Reciprocity

Our Topics

Each half term, our learning is centred around an exciting theme that inspires exploration, discussion and hands-on experiences.

Autumn Term

 Autumn 1 – All About Me! (Houses and Homes)

 Autumn 2 – Celebrations

Spring Term

 Spring 1 – People Who Help Us

 Spring 2 – Everything Changes

Summer Term

 Summer 1 – Let's Explore

 Summer 2 – Far, Far Away

These themes provide meaningful opportunities for children to develop their knowledge and skills across all areas of the curriculum whilst following their own interests and curiosity.

Reading and Phonics

At Seahorse Class, we use the ELS (Essential Letters and Sounds) phonics programme to teach early reading and writing skills.

Each week, children learn new sounds through fun, engaging phonics lessons. Reading books sent home are carefully matched to the sounds your child has already been taught, allowing them to practise and develop confidence using their growing phonics knowledge. We greatly value the support of parents and carers in helping children become successful readers. Listening to your child read regularly, practising the sounds they have learned in school and revising the Harder to Read and Spell Words will make a significant difference to their progress. Even spending just a few minutes reading together each day helps to build fluency, confidence and a lifelong love of books.

Maths

In Seahorse Class, we follow the NCETM Mastering Number programme to build strong foundations in early number sense. Through daily, short and engaging activities, children develop confidence with counting, subitising, composition of numbers, and understanding number relationships. This secure grounding in number helps children become fluent and confident mathematicians as they progress through school.



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Alongside this, we explore Shape, Space and Measure through both adult-led activities and enhanced provision opportunities across our indoor and outdoor learning environments. Children are encouraged to apply their mathematical understanding in meaningful, hands-on contexts.

For example, in our continuous provision, children may explore capacity and volume through water play, using vocabulary such as *full*, *empty*, *nearly full* and *nearly empty*. They may compare containers, build structures, or investigate shapes in the environment, developing mathematical language and problem-solving skills through play and exploration.

Mathematics is woven throughout our day, helping children to see maths as practical, exciting and relevant to the world around them.

PE

Our PE lesson takes place **every Friday**.

Please ensure your child comes to school with their PE kit in a named bag. All items of clothing, including pumps or trainers, should be clearly labelled with your child's name. As part of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum, children are encouraged to develop their independence by changing themselves for PE, so clothing that is easy to manage helps build their confidence and self-care skills.

Homework

We value the important role that parents and carers play in supporting children's learning at home. Each half term, in addition to reading books to take home, children receive a Homework Challenge Grid linked to our current topic, offering a range of fun, practical activities that encourage children to continue their learning beyond the classroom. These activities are designed to promote creativity, curiosity and family involvement, allowing children to share their experiences and celebrate their achievements back at school.

Thank you for working in partnership with us to support your child's learning journey.



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Our Allenton Superheroes

Throughout the year, we encourage children to develop our school learning powers through our Allenton Superheroes.



Resilience

We keep trying, even when learning feels challenging.



Reflective

We think about what we have learned and how we can improve.



Resourceful

We use our knowledge, skills and resources to solve problems independently.



Reciprocity

We work together, help others and celebrate each other's successes.

These learning behaviours help children become confident, motivated and independent learners both in school and beyond.

Supporting Wellbeing

Zones of Regulation

In Seahorse Class, we use the Zones of Regulation to help children recognise, understand and manage their emotions.

Children learn that all feelings are normal and are supported to identify which 'zone' they are in using simple language and visual prompts. Together, we explore strategies to help us regulate our emotions, solve problems and become ready to learn.

This approach helps children to:

- recognise their emotions
- develop self-regulation
- build resilience
- make positive choices
- develop empathy towards others



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Welcome to Seahorse Class

We are incredibly proud of our Seahorse children and feel privileged to be part of the very beginning of their school journey. Every child is valued as an individual, and we are committed to helping them grow in confidence, curiosity and independence in a safe, nurturing and inspiring environment.

We look forward to working in partnership with you and sharing in all of the exciting learning, achievements and special moments throughout the year. Together, we will ensure your child has a happy, successful and memorable start to their school life.



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