

# A Parent's Guide to EYFS in Seashells Class

*Helping your child belong, explore and thrive*

The **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)** is your child's first step into school life — a time of rapid learning, joyful discovery and growing independence. In Seashells Class, our curriculum is carefully designed to help children feel **anchored in their community**, develop a **sense of belonging**, and discover **a world to explore**, following the statutory EYFS Framework.

Your child will learn through play, enquiry, routines, exploration indoors and outdoors, and through meaningful interactions with adults and friends. Our long-term plan blends Reception and Year 1 learning so that every child progresses at their own pace.

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## What EYFS Helps Your Child Learn

The EYFS curriculum is built around **seven areas of learning**. Below, you'll see how Seashells class brings these to life across the year's themes — *Marvellous Me! Fire and Light, Amazing Animals, People Who Help Us, Beetles, Bugs and Butterflies, and Seaside Adventures*.

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## Communication & Language

Children learn to listen, share ideas, join in conversations and build vocabulary. Throughout the year they:

- Take part in 1:1, small-group and class discussions
- Listen to and retell stories
- Learn new vocabulary linked to topics such as animals, space, habitats and seaside adventures
- Ask and answer questions to deepen understanding
- Build confidence speaking to adults and peers

These experiences support the EYFS goal of becoming confident communicators who can express feelings, describe events, and use language to learn.

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## **Literacy**

A mixture of storytelling, phonics, Drawing Club, and purposeful writing helps your child become a reader and writer.

### **Reading & Phonics**

- Reception learn Set 1 sounds and begin blending.
- As they progress, they learn “special friends”, blend more complex words, and recognise common exception words.
- Children practise reading books closely matched to their phonics stage.

### **Writing**

Reception children learn to:

- Hold a pencil correctly
- Form letters
- Write their name
- Write simple CVC words and phrases

Year 1 children build on this through:

- Writing sentences with capital letters, full stops, and finger spaces
- Character and setting descriptions
- Instructions, poetry and information writing

Across the year, writing tasks link to class texts such as **Ruby's Worry**, **Star in the Jar**, **Saving Mr Hoot**, **The Extraordinary Gardener**, and **The Storm Whale**.

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## **Mathematics**

Through hands-on exploration, children gain strong number sense and problem-solving skills.

Reception explore:

- Numbers 0–20 and beyond
- Counting, comparing, subitising
- Shapes, patterns, and measures
- Time and sequencing events

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## Personal, Social & Emotional Development

Helping children feel safe, confident and ready to learn is at the heart of EYFS.

Throughout the year, children learn to:

- Make friends and work as part of a team
- Manage their feelings and understand others' emotions
- Build resilience and perseverance
- Try new challenges
- Solve problems together
- Look after themselves (hygiene, dressing, safety)

Themes such as **All About Me**, **People Who Help Us**, and **Belonging to a Community** support children in developing empathy, responsibility and self-awareness.

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## Physical Development

### Gross Motor Skills

Through outdoor play, apparatus, dance, gymnastics and team games, children develop balance, strength and coordination.

### Fine Motor Skills

Activities such as Dough Disco, threading, weaving, scissor skills, sewing and letter formation help prepare children for fluent writing.

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## Understanding the World

This area combines early science, history, geography, RE and technology.

Children explore:

- **Past and Present:** toys, personal history, family life
- **The Natural World:** animals, habitats, seasons, materials, plants and life cycles
- **People, Culture & Communities:** celebrations (Diwali, Hanukkah, Christmas), job roles, Fairtrade, maps and local places
- **Geography skills:** simple maps, compass directions, local fieldwork, oceans and continents
- **Science skills:** observing, sorting, classifying, asking questions

Visits and visitors — such as RNLI, Norfolk Wildlife Trust, vets, Fairtrade ambassadors and local walks — deepen real-world understanding.

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## Expressive Arts & Design

Children explore art, music, design and imaginative play through:

- Collage, paint, drawing and sculpture
- Artists such as **Giuseppe Arcimboldo, Eric Carle, Andy Goldsworthy**
- Designing and making (boats, textiles, crafts)
- Storytelling, role-play and dance
- Exploring materials, textures and colour mixing

Creativity is embedded in every topic, from making colour monster jars in autumn to beach art in summer.

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## What Makes Seashells EYFS Special?

Like the Geography guide you shared, the EYFS curriculum is built around themes, skills and experiences that grow across the year. Similarly, our focus is on helping your child:

-  **Feel a strong sense of belonging**
-  **Develop curiosity about the world**
-  **Build confidence and independence**
-  **Express themselves through play and creativity**
-  **Develop the language, social and academic foundations needed for Year 1 and beyond**

This mirrors the approach explained in your Geography guide — using “**golden threads**” of People, Place and Story to help learning feel connected, meaningful, and exciting.

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## How You Can Support EYFS Learning at Home

Just like in Geography, everyday curiosity makes a huge difference.

### **Easy ideas for home:**

- Share stories daily and talk about characters, settings and new words
- Count real-life objects (stairs, snacks, socks, cars...)

- Encourage independence (zips, pouring, tidying, choosing clothes)
- Notice nature: weather changes, insects, plants, birds
- Do simple craft activities to strengthen hand muscles
- Talk about feelings, friendships and problem-solving
- Explore your local area — beach, park, shops, library

Learning in EYFS is playful and powerful — and you are an essential part of it.