

Making a difference together



NEW HORIZONS  
PRIMARY SCHOOL





## Welcome to New Horizons Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Thank you for your interest in New Horizons Primary School; it gives me great pleasure to introduce you to our school.**

New Horizons Primary School has a wonderful family-feel and is full of smiles and positivity. Strong relationships are at the heart of our school; we know children learn best when they feel happy and safe. Staff work closely with parents to make sure that children thrive and can grow to become their best selves.

This prospectus has been created to give new families an insight into school life at New Horizons. Please also visit our website for this school and the Thinking Schools Academy Trust, as we are part of a network of schools working together to give children the very best start in life.

If you choose to send your child to our school, they will experience a curriculum which has been designed to foster a love of learning! We enrich the curriculum through activities and trips, helping them to gain a broader understanding of the world, making purposeful links to their learning. We work hard to make sure that they acquire knowledge – and remember it – because we know that this will set them up for their future learning and beyond.

As an accredited thinking school, we carefully consider how we teach our children to be effective independent learners. Our teachers use 'thinking tools' and children become more independent

in their learning because of them; and this builds their self-esteem. Teaching children how to learn has been proven to have a huge impact on accelerating their progress. In turn, this builds confidence and makes school a happy experience.

There is so much more that we would like to share with you about our school and indeed about our family of schools here in Portsmouth. We hope that you will visit us and choose to be part of our thriving community.



**Jack Jones,**  
Head of School





## Our Aspirations

We believe in making a difference to every child.

We want them to become their best self and so we help them to:

- Master Reading and number
- Remember knowledge
- Be healthy in body and mind
- Enjoy the Arts and culture
- Be digitally literate

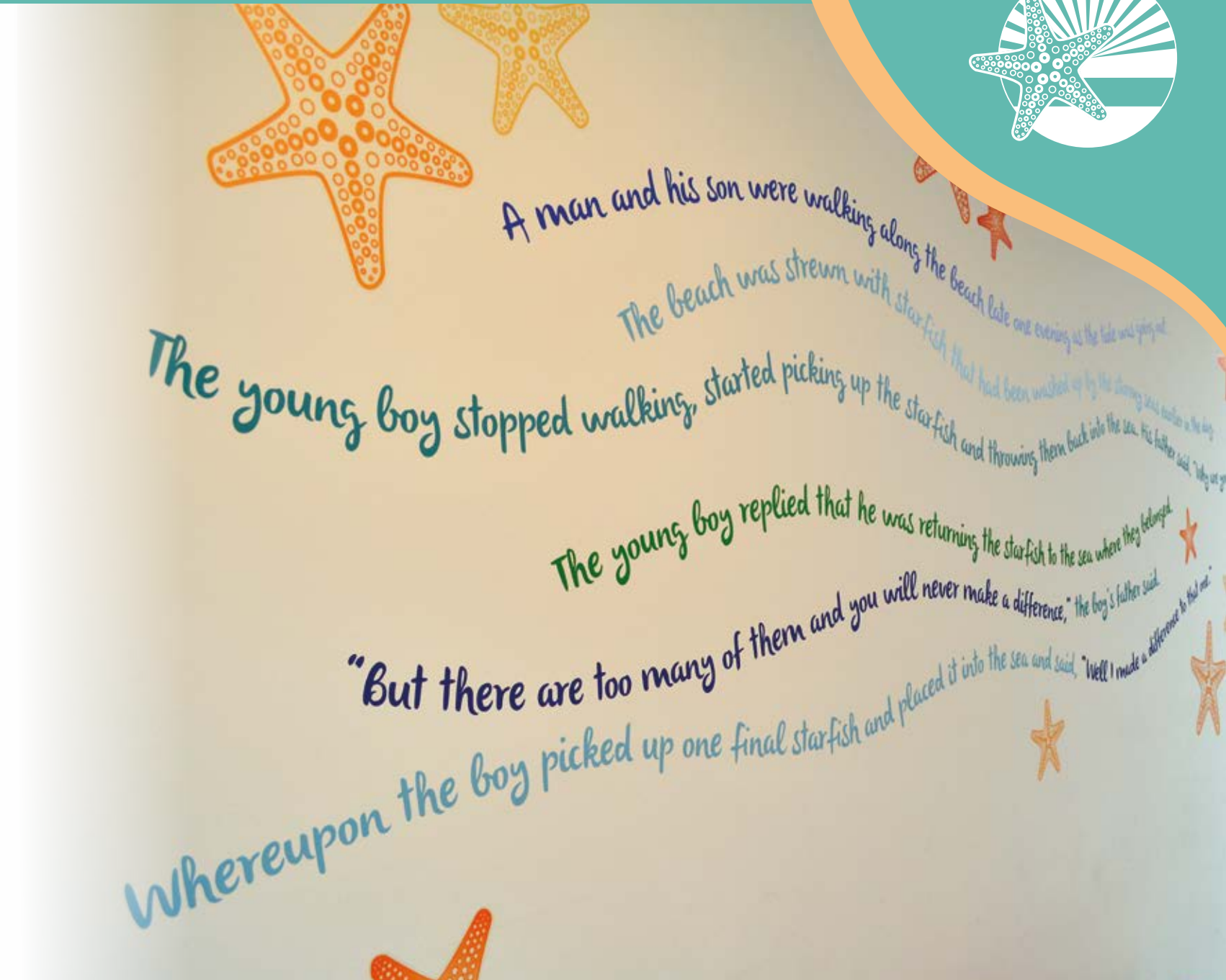


## Our Why

A man and his son were walking along the beach late one evening as the tide was going out. The beach was strewn with starfish that had been washed up by the stormy seas earlier in the day.

The young boy stopped walking and, to the dismay of his father, started picking up the starfish and throwing them back into the sea. His father who was keen to keep moving said, "Why are you doing that, son?"

The young boy replied that he was returning the starfish to the sea where they belonged. The boy's father looked at him and said, "But there are too many of them and you will never make a difference." Whereupon the boy picked up one final starfish and placed it into the sea and said, "Well, I made a difference to that one."







## What is a Thinking School?

**The Thinking Schools Academy Trust, is a family of schools that work together to “transform the life chances” of all our children and young people. We share a common mission to nurture successful young people who are confident and can think and act independently.**

As an accredited thinking school and a member of the Thinking Schools Academy Trust, New Horizons Primary School takes pride in the unique approach we take to education: we provide our children with the skills and tools they need to think in a variety of ways and become lifelong learners. We believe that the best way to transform the life chances of our young people and help them achieve their aspirations is by shaping their minds, attitudes and habits through a framework of cognitive education that enables them to become the masters of their own destiny.

Our pupils are equipped with a bank of Thinking Tools designed to prepare them for a range of scenarios, dilemmas, and circumstances that they may face in life as part of modern society. The use of these Tools in our curriculum is supported by scientific and metacognitive research, and pupils are encouraged to apply their tools independently and use them to unlock new ideas. Our Thinking Tools include Thinking Maps and De Bono’s Thinking Hats. These tools are used consistently across all areas of our curriculum and support our children tremendously in their learning and personal growth.

The concept of ‘Being your Best Self’ is also at the heart of our approach to learning at New Horizons Primary School as part of our Thinking School ethos. Children are encouraged to strive to be and achieve their best and are given multiple opportunities to reflect on their learning and work on their personal development.







# A Nurturing and Safe Environment

**Children learn best when they are in an environment which makes them feel happy and safe. We pride ourselves on our high-quality learning environment which is calm, purposeful and promotes children's independence.**

We know that strong positive relationships with pupils must sit at the heart of all we do. We must know our children to be able to support them to be their best selves. There are high expectations of behaviour and everyone in the school community has a responsibility for maintaining a relaxed, calm and happy atmosphere. We recognise that all behaviour is communication and that sometimes children need support to make the right choices. Throughout the school, we will nurture children's social development, to support them to recognise and deal effectively with the different emotions they will experience. Through our school values we will equip our children with the skills which will enable them to be polite, confident, hard working members of society.

New Horizons Primary school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects staff and volunteers to share in this commitment. Staff work hard to maintain an environment where children feel safe and secure.



The curriculum is designed to ensure opportunities for children to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from abuse. Children know they can approach any of the adults in school if they are worried and that they will receive a consistent supportive response.







## Our Learning Heroes

**At New Horizons Primary School, we understand that learning is lifelong. We aim to develop children's self-awareness of how they learn and nurture positive attitudes to learning.**

At New Horizons Primary School, we understand that learning is lifelong. We aim to develop children's self-awareness of how they learn and nurture positive attitudes to learning. We equip children with a language for learning that is used in all classrooms across the school, this helps everyone to talk about and understand learning to learn. Each class has four learning heroes, which are fun characters that represent four learning skills: resilience, resourcefulness, reciprocity and reflectiveness.

Our learning heroes are shared with children through puppets, stories and real-life situations and demonstrate good learning behaviours that motivate and inspire our children. How well you learn is not a matter of how bright you are; it is a matter of experience and being helped to understand the way you learn. Learning to learn can be developed by everyone, there are no limits. Our friendly learning heroes ensure that children at New Horizons are successful, confident and aspirational learners.



Tough Turtle



Collaborative Crab



Solver Snail



Reflective Ray



## Little Thinkers New Horizons Site

Young children have spent a short time on the earth therefore much about it is a mystery to them. In a world dominated by technology, it is amazing that we can still be mesmerised by something that is not on a screen; something as wondrous as a shiny spider's web sparkling with dew upon a wet, Autumn morning. Our wonders will guide our adventures. We will seek out moments that wow and captivate children, causing their eyes to shine and their tongues to stick out in deep concentration.

### A Thinking Nursery

We are a 'Thinking' nursery. We provide wondrous experiences that stimulate children's senses so that the brain develops.

### Tailored Curriculum

As a part of the Thinking Schools Academy Trust, our 'curiosity' curriculum is planned by experienced teachers who understand the next stage of education and are committed to laying the very best foundations during the early years for their all-through thinking journey.

### Lighting Up Learning

We know that learning habits are vital for success. We grow 16 'habits of mind' which help children to become effective thinkers. These are based on the work of Art De Costa. In the Early Years, we focus on 5 of these;

Persisting; Questioning; Communicating clearly; Exploring with Wonder; and Thinking Interdependently.



**LITTLE THINKERS  
NURSERY  
& PRE-SCHOOL**









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PRIMARY SCHOOL



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