Science Overview



Every child a leader – Every chance taken – Every day counts

The national curriculum for science aims to ensure that all pupils:

Receive a high-quality science education, which provides the foundations for understanding the world through the specific disciplines of biology, chemistry and physics. Science has changed our lives and is vital to the world's future prosperity, and all pupils should be taught essential aspects of the knowledge, methods, processes and uses of science. Through building up a body of key foundational knowledge and concepts, pupils should be encouraged to recognise the power of rational explanation and develop a sense of excitement and curiosity about natural phenomena. They should be encouraged to understand how science can be used to explain what is occurring, predict how things will behave, and analyse causes.

- develop scientific knowledge and conceptual understanding through the specific disciplines of biology, chemistry and physics
- develop understanding of the nature, processes and methods of science through different types of science enquiries that help them to answer scientific questions about the world around them
- are equipped with the scientific knowledge required to understand the uses and implications of science, today and for the future

National Curriculum Knowledge

KS1	Lower KS2	Upper KS2						
 asking simple questions and recognising that they can be answered in different ways observing closely, using simple equipment performing simple tests identifying and classifying using their observations and ideas to suggest answers to questions gathering and recording data to help in answering questions 	 asking relevant questions and using different types of scientific enquiries to answer them setting up simple practical enquiries, comparative and fair tests making systematic and careful observations and, where appropriate, taking accurate measurements using standard units, using a range of equipment, including thermometers and data loggers gathering, recording, classifying and presenting data in a variety of ways to help in answering questions recording findings using simple scientific language, drawings, labelled diagrams, keys, bar charts, and tables reporting on findings from enquiries, including oral and written explanations, displays or presentations of results and conclusions using results to draw simple conclusions, make predictions for new values, suggest improvements and raise further questions identifying differences, similarities or changes related to simple scientific ideas and processes using straightforward scientific evidence to answer questions or to support their findings. 	 planning different types of scientific enquiries to answer questions, including recognising and controlling variables where necessary taking measurements, using a range of scientific equipment, with increasing accuracy and precision, taking repeat readings when appropriate recording data and results of increasing complexity using scientific diagrams and labels, classification keys, tables, scatter graphs, bar and line graphs using test results to make predictions to set up further comparative and fair tests reporting and presenting findings from enquiries, including conclusions, causal relationships and explanations of and a degree of trust in results, in oral and written forms such as displays and other presentations identifying scientific evidence that has been used to support or refute ideas or argument 						

Term	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Value	Resilience	Integrity	Democracy	Creativity	Gratitude	Diversity
Key Events	Black History Month (October) Mental Health Day Harvest Festival Show Racism the Red Card	Remembrance Day Anti-bullying Week World Kindness Day	Safer Internet Day	World Book Day		Sports Week Science Week

	Skills Progression – Working Scientifically – Disciplinary Knowledge								
	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6		
Units Covered	A1 Materials, floating, autumn trees, what happens at night? A2 What is iin the sky, planting bulbs Sp1 Materials, toys working, animals and plants Sp2 What is the moon, trees, animals and plants Su1 and 2 animals and plants	Plants (Summer 1&2) Animals including humans (Autumn 1&2) Everyday materials (Spring 1&2) Seasonal changes (Autumn, Spring and Summer)	Plants (Summer 1&2) Animals including humans Autumn 1 Uses of everyday materials (Spring 1&2) Living things and their habitats (Autumn 2)	Plants (Spring 2) Animals including humans (Autumn 1) Rocks (Autumn 2) Light (Summer 1 and 2) Forces and Magnets (Spring 1)	Animals including humans (Summer 2) Living things and their habitats (Summer 1) States of matter (Autumn 1) Sound (Autumn 2) Electricity (Spring 1&2)	Animals including humans (Summer 1) Living things and their habitats (Spring 2) Properties and changes of materials (Summer 2) Earth and space (Autumn 1&2) Forces (Spring 1)	Living things and their habitats (Autumn 1) Animals including humans (Autumn 2) Evolution and inheritance (Spring 1 and 2) Light (Summer 1) Electricity (Summer 2)		

To ask scientific questions	Show a natural curiosity about things around them	Be able to ask a Yes/No questions to aid sorting Ask one or two simple questions linked to a topic Ask simple questions and recognise that they can be answered in different ways	Identify a question to investigate from a scenario or choose a question from a range provided Ask simple questions and recognise that they can be answered in different ways including use of scientific language from the national curriculum	Ask relevant questions and use different types of scientific enquiries to answer them	Ask relevant questions and use an understanding of different types of scientific enquiries to best answer them	Be able to ask a range of Yes/No questions to aid sorting and decide which ways of sorting will give useful information Ask a range of questions recognising that some can be answered through research and others may not Plan different types of scientific enquiries to answer questions, including recognising and controlling variables where necessary	Ask a range of questions and identify the type of enquiry that will help to answer the questions. Ask further questions based on results
To plan an enquiry		Choose equipment to use and decide what to do.	Choose equipment to use and decide what to do and what to observe or measure in order to answer the question	Choose from a range of sources provided Decide what to measure or observe. Decide how often to take a measurement	Be able to put appropriate headings onto intersecting Venn and Carroll diagrams	Identify specific clear questions that will help to sort without ambiguity Choose suitable sources to use	Plan different types of scientific enquiries to answer their own or others' questions, including recognising and controlling variables where necessary
To make predictions	Children in EYFS/ KS1 are not expected to make scientific predictions, as they do not have the subject knowledge to do this. That does not mean that you should not ask children what they think may happen, but this will be based on experience or may simply be a guess.			Suggest what might happen Use results from an investigation to make a prediction about a further result	Use results from an investigation to make a prediction about a further result	Use test results to make predictions for further investigations	Use test results to make predictions for further investigations, using a subject rich vocabulary
To observe closely	Show a natural curiosity about things around them	Decide what to measure or observe. Decide how often to take a	Use simple equipment to observe closely including changes over time Decide what to	Make systematic and careful observations using equipment where appropriate	Make systematic and careful observations and where appropriate, take accurate	Take measurements, using a range of scientific equipment, with increasing accuracy and	Take measurements, using a range of scientific equipment, with

	measurement. Use simple equipment to observe closely	measure or observe. Decide how often to take a measurement.		measurements using standard units, using a range of equipment including thermometers and data loggers	precision, taking repeat readings when appropriate	increasing accuracy and precision, taking repeat readings when appropriate
To take measuremen ts	Take simple measurements on a standard scale, with support	When appropriate, measure using standard units where all the numbers are marked on the scale	Measure using standard units where not all the numbers are marked on the scale. Use thermometers to measure over time.	Measure using standard units where not all the numbers are marked on the scale, and take repeat readings where necessary Use data loggers to measure over time.	Measure using standard units, using equipment that has scales involving decimals	Measure using standard units, using equipment that has scales involving decimals
To gather/recor d results	Sort objects into two group using a basic Venn diagram or simple table Record data in simple prepared tables, pictorially or by taking photographs	Record data in simple, prepared tables and tally charts Sort objects and living things into two group using a basic Venn diagram or simple table	Record findings using simple scientific language presented in different ways Prepare own tables to record data	Record findings using simple scientific language, drawings, labelled diagrams, keys, bar charts, and tables Prepare own tables to record data, ensuring spacing and accuracy is used to present findings effectively.	Report and present findings from enquiries, including conclusions, casual relationships and explanations of and degree of trust in results, in oral and written forms such as displays and other presentations	Prepare own tables to record data, including columns for taking repeat readings, with high standard of measurement and presentation Report and present findings from enquiries, including conclusions, casual relationships and explanations of and degree of trust in results, in oral and written forms such as displays and other presentations

To present	Present what they		Present what they	Use ICT package to	Choose an appropriate	Create branching
results	have learnt		learnt verbally or using	present data as a	form of presentation,	databases (tree
	verbally or using		labelled diagrams	scattergram	including line graphs	diagrams) and keys
	pictures		Sort objects and living	0		
			things into groups	Present data in time	Choose an appropriate	Present what they
	Present what they		using intersecting	graphs	form of presentation,	learnt in a range of
	learnt verbally,		Venn and Carroll		including scatter	ways e.g. different
	using pictures or		diagrams		graphs	graphic organisers
	block diagrams		Present data in bar			
	Record data in		charts			
	simple prepared					
	tables, pictorially					
	or by taking					
	photographs					
To interpret	Talk about the	Answer their question	Be able to answer	Spot patterns in the	Be able to answer	Be able to answer
results	number of	in simple sentences	their questions using	data particularly two	their questions using	their questions,
	objects in each	using their	simple scientific	criteria with no	scientific evidence	describing the
	group i.e. which	observations or	language	examples e.g. there	gained from a range of	change over time
	has more or less	measurements		are no living things	sources	
	Be able to answer			with wings		Be able to answer
	their questions					their question,
	using simple			Refer directly to	Be able to answer	describing causal
	sentences			their evidence when	their questions	relationships
				answering their	identifying patterns	
				question		
Classify and	Identify and	Identify, group and	Gather, record,	Gather, record,	Record data and	Record data and
find patterns	classify	classify	classify and present	classify and present	results of increasing	results of increasing
			data in a variety of	data in a variety of	complexity using	complexity using
			way	ways to help in	scientific diagrams and	scientific diagrams
				answering questions	labels, classification	and labels,
			Be able to put		keys, tables, bar and	classification keys,
			appropriate headings		line graphs	tables, scatter
			onto intersecting Venn			graphs, bar and line
			and Carroll diagrams			graphs
			Be able to ask a range			
			of Yes/No questions to			
			aid sorting			

Comparative and fair testing		Perform simple tests	Perform simple comparative tests	Set up simple practical enquiries, comparative and fair tests Be able to compare objects based on more sophisticated, observable features. Present observations in labelled diagrams	Set up simple practical enquiries, comparative and fair tests	Take measurements, using a range of scientific equipment, with increasing accuracy and precision, taking repeat readings when appropriate	Take measurements, using a range of scientific equipment, with increasing accuracy and precision, taking repeat readings when appropriate, explaining why.
Conclude	expected to make o questions. They do	bservations, which w not have the subject	v conclusions. They are vill help them to answer knowledge to give annot draw scientific	Use observations and ideas to suggest answers to questions noticing similarities, differences and patterns Report on findings from enquiries, including oral and written explanations displays or presentations of results and conclusions Use results to draw simple conclusions, make predictions for new values and suggest improvements Identify differences, similarities or changes related to simple scientific ideas Use straightforward scientific evidence to	Report on findings from enquiries, including oral and written explanations displays or presentations of results and conclusions Use results to draw conclusions, make predictions for new values, suggest improvements and raise further questions Identify differences, similarities or changes related to simple scientific ideas and processes Use scientific evidence to answer questions or to support findings	Identify scientific evidence that has been used to support or refute ideas or arguments Use test results to make predictions to set up further comparative and fair tests Provide oral or written explanations for their findings	Identify and discuss scientific evidence that has been used to support or refute ideas or argument Use test results to make predictions to set up further comparative and fair tests, and predict results based on recent enquiries

	answer questions or to		
	support findings		

Substantive Knowledge Progression

	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Units Covered	The natural world around (Autumn, Spring and Summer)	Plants (Summer 1&2) Animals including humans (Autumn 1&2) Everyday materials (Spring 1&2) Seasonal changes (Autumn, Spring and Summer)	Plants (Summer 1&2) Animals including humans (Autumn 1) Uses of everyday materials (Spring 1&2) Living things and their habitats (Autumn 2)	Plants (Spring 2) Animals including humans (Autumn 1) Rocks (Autumn 2) Light (Summer 1) Forces and Magnets (Spring 1)	Animals including humans (Summer 2) Living things and their habitats (Summer 1) States of matter (Autumn 1) Sound (Autumn 2) Electricity (Spring 1&2)	Animals including humans (Summer 1) Living things and their habitats (Spring 2) Properties and changes of materials (Summer 2) Earth and space (Autumn 1&2) Forces (Spring 1)	Living things and their habitats (Autumn 1) Animals including humans (Autumn 2) Evolution and inheritance (Spring 1) Light (Summer 1) Electricity (Summer 2)
Knowledge Progression - Plants	Explore the natural world around them, making observations and drawing pictures of animals and plants Autumn 1&2, Spring 1&2, Summer 1&2	Identify and describe the basic structure of a variety of common flowering plants, including trees Identify and name a variety of common wild and garden plants, including deciduous and evergreen trees. Identify and name a variety of plants	Observe and describe how seeds and bulbs grow into mature plants Find out and describe how plants need water, light and a suitable temperature to grow and stay healthy Identify and name a variety of plants in their habitats, including microhabitats. (Y2 - Living things and their	Identify and describe the functions of different parts of flowering plants: roots, stem/trunk, leaves and flowers. Explore the requirements of plants for life and growth (air, light, water, nutrients from soil, and room to grow) and how they vary from plant to plant. Investigate the way in which water is		Describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals. (Y5 - Living things and their habitats) Spring 2	

		in their habitats, including microhabitats Summer 1&2	habitats) Summer 1 & 2	transported within plants. Explore the part that flowers play in the life cycle of flowering plants, including pollination, seed formation and seed dispersal Spring 2			
Knowledge Progression - Animals including humans	Explore the natural world around them, making observations and drawing pictures of animals, body parts and plants Spring 1&2 Summer 1&2	Identify and name a variety of common animals including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals Identify and name a variety of common animals that are carnivores, herbivores and omnivores Describe and	Notice that animals, including humans, have offspring, which grow into adults Find out about and describe the basic needs of animals, including humans, for survival (water, food and air) Describe the importance for humans of exercise, eating the right amounts of different	Identify that animals, including humans, need the right types and amount of nutrition, and that they cannot make their own food; they get nutrition from what they eat Identify that humans and some other animals have skeletons and muscles for support, protection and movement	Describe the simple functions of the basic parts of the digestive system in humans Identify the different types of teeth in humans and their simple functions Construct and interpret a variety of food chains, identifying producers, predators and prey	Describe the changes as humans develop to old age Describe the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird (Y5 - Living things and their habitats) Describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals. (Y5 - Living	Identify and name the main parts of the human circulatory system, and describe the functions of the heart, blood vessels and blood Recognise the impact of diet, exercise, drugs and lifestyle on the way their bodies function Describe the ways in which nutrients and
		compare the structure of a variety of common animals (fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals, including pets) Identify, name,	types of food, and hygiene Autumn 1	Autumn 1	Summer 2	things and their habitats) Summer 1	water are transported within animals, including humans Describe how living things are classified into broad groups according to common observable

		draw and label the basic parts of the human body and say which part of the body is associated with each sense Autumn 1&2				characteristics and based on similarities and differences, including microorganisms, plants and animals (Y6 - Living things and their habitats) Give reasons for classifying plants and animals based on specific characteristics (Y6 - Living things and their habitats) Autumn 2
Knowledge Progression - Living things and their habitats	Explore the natural world around them, making observations and drawing pictures of animals and plants Autumn 2		Explore and compare the differences between things that are living, dead, and things that have never been alive Identify that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited and describe how different habitats provide for the basic needs of different kinds of animals and plants, and how they depend on each other Identify and name a variety of plants and	Recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways Explore and use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things, including plants, in their local and wider environment Recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things Construct and interpret a variety of	Describe the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird Describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals Spring 2	Describe how living things are classified into broad groups according to common observable characteristics and based on similarities and differences, including microorganisms, plants and animals Give reasons for classifying plants and animals based on specific characteristics Recognise that living things produce offspring of the

microhal Describe obtain th plants ar animals, of a simp and iden different food Notice th including have offs grow into	including pitats how animals eeir food from id other using the idea ile food chain, tify and name sources of hat animals, humans, spring, which o adults (Y2 - including	food chains, identifying producers, predators and prey (Y4 - Animals, including humans) Summer 1	same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents (Y6 - Evolution and inheritance) Identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution (Y6 - Evolution and inheritance) Autumn 1
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Knowledge Progression - Evolution and inheritance							Pupils should be taught to: recognise that living things have changed over time and that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago; recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents; identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their
							environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution Spring 1
Knowledge Progression - materials	Understand some important processes and changes in the natural world around them, including the	Everyday Materials Pupils should be taught to: distinguish between an object	Uses of Everyday Materials Pupils should be taught to: identify and compare the suitability of a variety of everyday	Link - Rocks Pupils should be taught to: compare and group together different kinds of rocks on the basis of their	Link - States of Matter Pupils should be taught to: compare and group materials together, according to whether they are solids, liquids	Link - Properties and Changes of Materials Pupils should be taught to: compare and group together everyday	

c	seasons and	and the material	materials, including	appearance and	or gaços:	materials on the	
c s n A S	changing states of matter Autumn 1&2 Spring 1&2 Summer 1	from which it is made; identify and name a variety of everyday materials, including wood, plastic, glass, metal, water, and rock; describe the simple physical properties of a variety of everyday materials; compare and group together a variety of everyday materials on the basis of their simple physical properties Spring 1&2	wood, metal, plastic, glass, brick, rock, paper and cardboard for particular uses; find out how the shapes of solid objects made from some materials can be changed by squashing, bending, twisting and stretching Spring 1 & 2	appearance and simple physical properties; describe in simple terms how fossils are formed when things that have lived are trapped within rock; recognise that soils are made from rocks and organic matter Autumn 2	or gases; observe that some materials change state when they are heated or cooled, and measure or research the temperature at which this happens in degrees Celsius (°C); identify the part played by evaporation and condensation in the water cycle and associate the rate of evaporation with temperature Autumn 1	haterials on the basis of their properties, including their hardness, solubility, transparency, conductivity (electrical and thermal), and response to magnets; know that some materials will dissolve in liquid to form a solution, and describe how to recover a substance from a solution; use knowledge of solids, liquids and gases to decide how mixtures might be separated, including through filtering, sieving and evaporating; give reasons, based on evidence from comparative and fair tests, for the particular uses of everyday materials, including metals, wood and plastic;	
						demonstrate that	

			dissolving, mixing and changes of state are reversible changes; explain that some changes result in the formation of new materials, and that this kind of change is not usually reversible, including changes associated with burning and the action of acid on bicarbonate of soda Summer 2	
Knowledge Progression - Seasonal changes	Pupils should be taught to: • observe changes across the 4 seasons; • observe and describe weather associated with the seasons and how day length varies. Autumn 1&2 Spring 1 / Spring 1&2 Summer 1&2			
Knowledge Progression - Rocks		compare and group together different kinds of rocks on the basis of their appearance and simple physical properties describe in simple		

			terms how fossils are formed when things that have lived are trapped within rock recognise that soils are made from rocks and organic matter Autumn 2		
Knowledge Progression- Earth and Space	What is in the sky? Understand that there are many other planets in our own Solar System and beyond. Learn about the Moon.			Pupils should be taught to: describe the movement of the Earth and other planets relative to the sun in the solar system;	
	Autumn 2 Spring 2			describe the movement of the moon relative to the Earth; describe the sun, Earth and moon as approximately spherical bodies;	
				use the idea of the Earth's rotation to explain day and night and the apparent movement of the sun across the sky	

			Autumn 1&2	
Knowledge	What happens	recognise that they		recognise that light
Progression -	at night?	need light in order to		appears to travel ir
Light	Children will be	see things and that		straight lines;
	taught about	dark is the absence of		
	day and night.	light;		use the idea that
				light travels in
	Autumn 1	notice that light is		straight lines to
		reflected from		explain that
		surfaces;		objects are seen
				because they give
		recognise that light		out or reflect light
		from the sun can be		into the eye;
		dangerous and that		
		there are ways to		explain that we se
		protect their eyes;		things because lig
				travels from light
		recognise that		sources to our eye
		shadows are formed		or from light
		when the light from a		sources to objects
		light source is blocked		and then to our
		by an opaque object;		eyes;
		find patterns in the		use the idea that
		way that the size of		light travels in
		shadows change		straight lines to
				explain why
		Summer 1		shadows have the
				same shape as the
				objects that cast
				them
				Summer 1
Knowledge	What floats?	compare how things	explain that	1
Progression -	Buoyancy.	move on different	unsupported	
Forces		surfaces;	objects fall towards	

	How does my			the Earth because of	
	toy work?	notice that some		the force of gravity	
	What makes it	forces need contact		acting between the	
	move?	between 2 objects,		Earth and the falling	
	Children will be	but		object;	
	taught about	magnetic forces can			
	the forces of	act at a distance;		identify the effects of	
	pull and push.			air resistance, water	
		observe how magnets		resistance and	
	Autumn 1&2	attract or repel each		friction, that act	
	Spring 1&2	other and attract		between moving	
	Summer 1	some materials and		surfaces;	
		not others;		,	
		,		recognise that some	
		compare and group		mechanisms	
		together a variety of		including levers,	
		everyday materials		pulleys and gears	
		on the basis of		allow a smaller force	
		whether they are		to have a greater	
		attracted to a magnet,		effect	
		and identify some			
		magnetic materials;		Spring 1	
		magnetic materials,		opini6 -	
		describe magnets as			
		having 2 poles;			
		predict whether 2			
		magnets will attract or			
		repel each other,			
		depending on which			
		poles are facing			
		poles are idenig			
		Spring 1			
Knowledge			identify how sounds		
Progression -			are made, associating		
Sound			some of them with		
			something vibrating;		
			recognise that		

			vibrations from sounds travel through a medium to the ear; find patterns between the pitch of a sound and features of the object that produced it; find patterns between the volume of a sound and the strength of the vibrations that produced it; recognise that sounds get fainter as the distance from the sound source increases. Autumn 2	
Knowledge Progression - Electricity	How does it move? Children will be taught that some toys need batteries/ electricity. Autumn 2 Spring 1&2 Summer 1		identify common appliances that run on electricity; construct a simple series electrical circuit, identifying and naming its basic parts, including cells, wires, bulbs, switches and buzzers; identify whether or not a lamp will light in a simple series circuit, based on	associate the brightness of a lamp or the volume of a buzzer with the number and voltage of cells used in the circuit; compare and give reasons for variations in how components function, including the brightness of bulbs, the loudness of buzzers and the

		being good conductors Spring 1&2	
		recognise some common conductors and insulators, and associate metals with	
		this with whether or not a lamp lights in a simple series circuit;	Summer 2
		battery; recognise that a switch opens and closes a circuit and associate	use recognised symbols when representing a simple circuit in a diagram
		whether or not the lamp is part of a complete loop with a	on/off position of switches;