SCIENCE



Spotlight on Curriculum



WHY SCIENCE?

Science helps us to answer our biggest questions and to meet our most basic needs: from explaining the deepest mysteries of the universe to the structure of elementary particles that form atoms. The findings of science have fundamentally shaped every aspect of our world. Science drives innovation, creating new knowledge to help us solve current and future problems. All young people are entitled to a high-quality science education, to the curiosity it engenders and the understanding and the opportunity it brings.

Research review series: Science (February 2023)



We aim for our pupils to learn:

- about the **products** of science, such as atoms and cells, and are able to explain the material
 world and 'develop a sense of excitement and curiosity about natural phenomena'
- about the **practices** of science, and how scientific knowledge becomes established through scientific enquiry phenomena
- about scientific uses and its significance to society and their own lives
- how science education also provides the foundation for a range of diverse and valuable careers that are crucial for economic, environmental and social development



"Introducing children to science is like unlocking a treasure chest of wonder and curiosity; celebrating past discoveries and offering a gateway to explore what lies ahead."

CURRICULUM DESIGN

The Science curriculum is designed to assess what children know and remember over time, and is separated into the three disciplines: Biology, Physics and Chemistry.



Energy is a powerful and unifying abstract idea which is difficult to define.

Animals, humans and plants are made up of complex interacting systems in order to function.

Organisms
require a supply
of energy for
them to carry out
the basic
functions of life
and growth.

The Earth is a

complex of

interacting rock

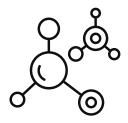
water, air and life.

The particle theory of matter is the abstract idea that helps develops an understanding of why materials

behave as they do.

A THRESHOLD CURRICULUM

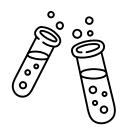
Threshold Concepts are carefully interleaved within the curriculum from EYFS to KS5 so that they are revisited and reinforced with different content and context attached to the concept over time.



Biology

- Animals, humans, and plants are made up of complex interacting systems to function.
- Organisms require a supply of energy for them to carry out the basic functions of life and growth.

The two threshold concepts in Biology are taught across the following 3 topics: Plants, Animals & Humans and Living Things & their habitats. The concepts stem from the idea that all living organisms are made from cells. Most organisms are multicellular (contain sophisticated systems to carry out the various life processes, which require energy.) Pupils develop an idea of how plants and animals can be grouped and categorised before exploring various parts and systems in plants and humans. Pupils start by identifying a variety of common animals, describing, and comparing their structure. This then leads to them grouping common animals into carnivores, herbivores and omnivores as well as identifying the major parts of the human body. Over time, pupils will explore in more depth the major body systems in humans, this also is linked to the concept of organism requiring energy. We take the opportunity to study the human digestive, circulatory, respiratory and skeletal systems as well as the importance of nutrition, a balanced diet and the impact of lifestyle choices. It is also explored using food chains, habitats, competition, as well as in plants, whereby plant structure, transport of materials, substances required for growth and the life cycle of a flowering plant are studied. We take the opportunity to study flowers, trees and plant growth in line with the changing seasons. Organisms also require energy to reproduce; this is explored in plants and animals whereby lifecycles, sexual and asexual reproduction are studied. We teach evolution and inheritance towards the end of primary, as being more conceptually difficult, pupils can use the knowledge they have gained over time to help build on the idea that plants and animals are classified which links to evolution.



Chemistry

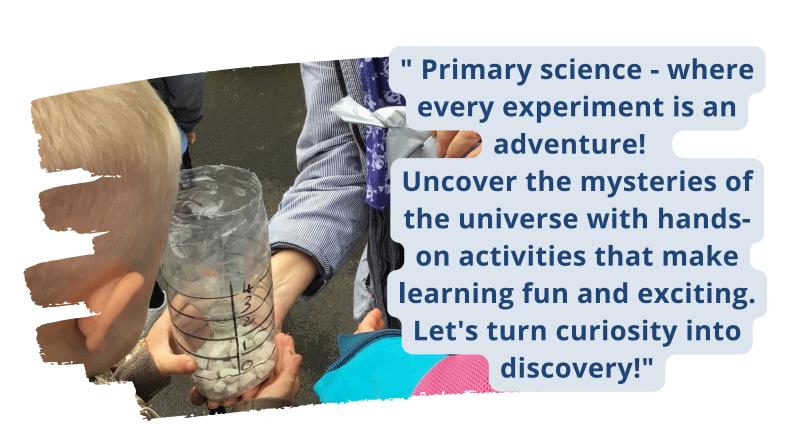
- The Earth is a complex of interacting rock, water, air and life.
- The particle theory of matter is the abstract idea that helps us to develop an understanding of why materials behave as they do.

Chemistry is taught across the Materials topic. The concepts stem from the idea that all materials are made from atoms/particles and everyday materials behave in different ways, which can relate to simple physical properties and the arrangement of particles. The concept is more complex and increasingly abstract over the course of the curriculum, which prepares pupils for Chemistry at secondary school. Other aspects of chemistry are developed using the concept that earth's resources can occur because of natural phenomena. Pupils start by distinguishing between an object and the materials from which it is made, identifying everyday materials, describing their physical properties, being able to group materials based their properties and comparing the suitability of everyday materials for particular uses. The opportunity is then taken to look at the physical properties of rocks and rock, fossil and soil formation which links with the concept that earth is a complex of interacting rock water, air and life. As the topic progresses pupils look at the particle model of solids, liquids and gases and what happens to materials when heated or cooled and how evaporation and condensation are related to the water cycle. Pupils then begin to explore the nature of physical and chemical reactions as well as separating simple mixtures.

Physics

- Energy is a powerful and unifying abstract idea, difficult to define.
- Forces change the state of rest or motion of a body. They hold matter together and interplay between all objects

The two concepts in Physics are taught across a range of topics including Light, Sound, Electricity, Earth & Space and Forces & Magnets. Energy is a fundamental concept of physics that enables the explanation and prediction of many phenomena and contributes to the unification of the various branches of physics. Foundation lessons in Earth & Space and Electricity have been introduced to prepare pupils well for this highly abstract concept. The curriculum explores different forms of energy stores including electricity, sound and hearing and light and seeing. Pupils explore light, reflections and shadows before then being able to explain, referencing its properties. Pupils in KS2 learn how sounds are made, features of sound waves including pitch, amplitude and dissipation. Electricity includes common electrical appliances, constructing simple series circuits, common conductors and insulators, recognising components from circuit diagrams and investigating components in series circuits. Force is a useful idea because it is the key to explaining changes in the motion of an object or in its shape. Understanding forces help us to predict and control the physical world around us. Pupils study contact and non-contact forces including magnetism and magnetic materials. Contact forces are explored through air and water resistance. Levers, gears and pulleys also look how forces can be useful in everyday contexts Earth and Space adopts both concepts, since it involves the force of gravity, which influences many dynamic processes within the earth's interior, on and above its surface. Energy is transferred from the sun to Earth via electromagnetic waves, or radiation. The topics studied include the movement of the earth and other planets relative to the sun and its solar system, movement of the moon and explaining day and night. We take the opportunity to study earth and space in the winter months when nights are longer, and children can participate in observing the moon and stars at a reasonable time at home.



Clear end points identified with explicit teaching of threshold concepts and opportunities to promote careers.

Signature pedagogies referenced and expected outcomes identified.

Science Curriculum Rationale Primary Biology: Plants Think like a scientist (vocabulary/language/big ideas About the Units What knowledge and procedures need to be learnt by the end point? Children will use increasingly sophisticated language to identify, describe and explain The concept involves becoming familiar with different types of plants, their structure and They will be able to: reproduction. relate seasonal changes in the environment to their scientific understanding. describe how different parts of plants function. Which threshold concepts need to be emphasised?

Animals, humans and plants are made up of complex interacting systems in order to explain why some plants survive better than others in certain conditions. Recognise the role of flowers in the life cycle of flowering plants. function. Organisms require a supply of energy to carry out the basic functions of life and to grow The earth is a complex of interacting rock, water, air and life. How will you assess if the knowledge and procedures have been secured? Regular recapping through progressive delivery of each unit Behave like a scientist (working scientifically/scientific enquiry) End of unit quizzes will provide strong evidence for factual recall. Assessment tasks will be Children will be given opportunities throughout each unit to investigate and experiment. They designed to demonstrate understanding and application of knowledge taught. Career links: Gardener, designer, farmer, agriculture Ask questions, which become increasingly more sophisticated and thoughtful Make observations; predicting and recording results (tables, tally charts, graphs, How will this link to other aspects of science and the wider curriculum? Primary Biology: Living Things Units (Y2-6) Geography (Y6): Biomes Use simple equipment such as a magnifying glass, petri dish, forceps Unit 3

Pupils explore the requirements of plants for life and growth and investigate the way in Unit 1 Unit 2 Across Units/Subjects It is important to revisit knowledge taught to help pupils organise new knowledge. Pupils will be able to relate knowledge of plants to studies of evolution and inheritance and to Pupils are able to identify and name a variety of common plants, including garden plants, Pupils identify and describe the functions of different parts of the flowering plant including Progression wild plants and trees (classified as deciduous and evergreen). Pupils are able to identify the which water is transported within plants. They recognise the role of flowers in the life roots, stems, leaves and flowers. They use Knowledge cycle of flowering plants, including pollination, seed formation and seed dispersal. grow and find out how plants need water, light and suitable warmth to grow and stay basic structure of these using words such as their studies of all living things root, stem/trunk, leaves and flowers. They use simple observation to describe how seeds diversity when studying Biomes in geography.

Progression of knowledge is clearly outlined to ensure pupil learning is built upon each time the theme is revisited. This avoids repetition of activity and promotes deep and transferable knowledge over time.

High quality teaching in Science is essential. Whilst individual teachers should be responsive to the needs of children, we will support our staff to be effective teachers of Science, by:

- unpacking the curriculum expectations and making progression clear, demonstrated on the curriculum journey pathway.
- engaging with high quality CPD to improve teacher subject knowledge and address misconceptions.
- Ensuring high expectations in Science, outlined as unit overviews.
- Providing opportunities for active learning, through the inclusion of 'Investigation Cards'
- Using relevant contexts and building on experiences familiar to pupils
- Providing opportunities for collaborative learning, within school and through transition visits
- Teaching for understanding and making connections across the curriculum and to everyday life.
- Accurately assessing the progress pupils make through weekly recaps and end of unit assessment tasks.

Our threshold concepts relate to three domains of scientific knowledge and explicitly teach disciplinary and substantive. The two are vital to eachother. For example, when 'thinking like a scientist' pupils need a depth of substantive knowledge (established scientific knowledge, such as knowing the parts of the plant or naming the planets in the solar system) in order to know how to establish and refine scientific knowledge, for example by carrying out practical procedures (described as disciplinary knowledge).



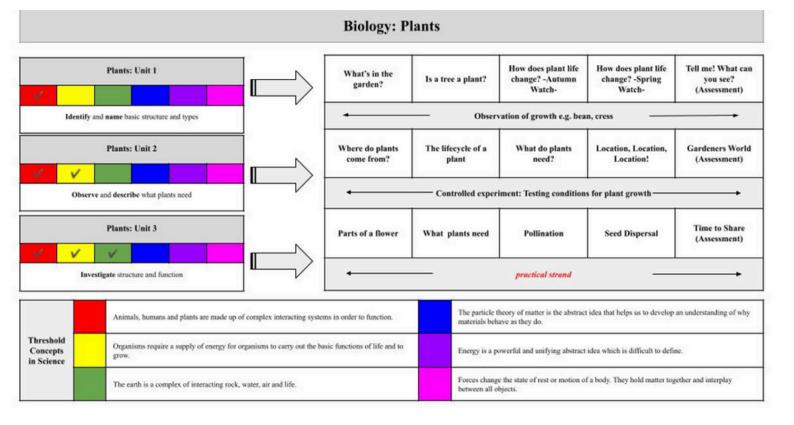
PLANNING FOR PROGRESSION

- Identify and name a variety of common wild and garden plants, including deciduous and evergreen trees.
- identify and describe the basic structure of a variety of common flowering plants, including trees.
- (seasonal change) observe changes across the four seasons
- observe and describe how seeds and bulbs grow into mature plants
- find out and describe how plants need water, light and suitable temperature to grow and stay healthy
- identify and describe the functions of different parts of flowering plants: roots, stem/trunk, leaves and flowers (moved from Y3)
- 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 ware from plant to plant
- grow) and how they vary from plant to plant

 investigate the way in which water is transported within plants
- explore the part that flowers play in the life cycle of flowering plants, including pollination, seed formation and seed dispersal.

	Biology Unit: Plants
	What does progression of knowledge look like?
Year	Progression of knowledge.
	Flowering plants have a root, stem, leaves and a flower
1	Trees can be deciduous which means the leaves are lost yearly- usually in the autumn Trees can be evergreen which means there are always leaves on the tree (leaves are continually replenished throughout the year Trees and plants have roots, stems and leaves but plants have a softer stem Trees are made of roots, trunk, branches and leaves. Grasses and ferns consist entirely of leaves. In autumn, the leaves on deciduous trees change colour, fruits and nuts fall to the ground. Farmers can harvest the crops In Spring, birds sing, trees produce leaves and flowers blossom and the landscape changes
	Trees are examples of plants
2	Plants can grow from seed or bulbs Seeds and bulbs germinate and grow into seedlings Seedlings grow into mature plants Plants need light, water, space, suitable temperature in order to grow Some plants grow best in full sun Some plants grow best in the shade Some plants need lots of water Some plants don't need much water Some plants don't need much water Some plants grow guicker than others.
3	Plants contain roots to absorb water and nutrients from the scill Plant cords also anchor the plant to provide support Plants contain a stemf trunk which is responsible for transporting water and nutrients around the plant. Plants contain flowers which contain the stamen, carpel, petal, ovule, sepal and stem Plants need light, water, space, suitable temperature in order to grow The level of nutrients required depends on the type of plant In sexts like bees and wasps transfer the pollen from the male part of a flower to the female part of other flowers Seeds can also be dispersed by wind, animal fur, animals eating them (and excreting them), in water and if the seed pod explodes The roots absorb water from the soil, the stem transports it to the leaves, water evaporates from the leaves which causes more water to be absorbed from the soil.
Key Stage 3 NC	Cells as the fundamental unit of living organisms, including how to observe, interpret and record cell structure using a ligh microscope The functions of the cell wall, cell membrane, cytoplasm, nucleus, vacuole, mitochondria and chioroplasts The similarities and differences between plant and animal cells Reproduction in plants, including flower structure, wind and insect pollination, fertilisation, seed and fruit formation and dispersal, including quantitaries investigation of some dispersal mechanisms. The role of leaf stomata in gas exchange in plants. The reactants in, and products of, photosynthesis, and a word summary for photosynthesis. The dependence of almost all life on Earth on the ability of photosynthetic organisms, such as plants and algae, to use surlight in photosynthesis to build organic molecules that are an essential energy store and to maintain levels of oxygen and carbon dioxide in the atmosphere The importance of glant reproduction through insect pollination in human food security

For each Science theme taught, the curriculum will be unpacked so that teachers are clear of the learning across all year groups. This is intended to promote a change of culture within Primary Science, whereby teachers have an awareness and understanding of the learning journey of pupils within scientific themes, rather than risking narrowly focusing on the learning expected of individual year groups. This will allow essential links and connections to be made within the learning. The six threshold concepts will underpin the learning within themes and across units. As pupils move through the primary years, their understanding of the concepts will develop, and they will be able to articulate the science with increasing confidence.





Lesson sequences are provided as a guide to ensuring sequential learning across a unit and within a particular aspect of science. This allows for agreed knowledge content and consistency. It also acts as a tool to quickly identify gaps in learning and recover lost learning over time.

TEACHER TOOLKIT



Location, Location

Children will learn that different plants are suited to different climates. They will understand that some plants live underwater, some in hot climates and some in colder climates.

Children will understand that some plants can survive in extreme conditions.



Children should know that:

- Some plants grow best in full sun and some in shade
- Some plants need lots of water and some don't
- Some plants grow quicker than others

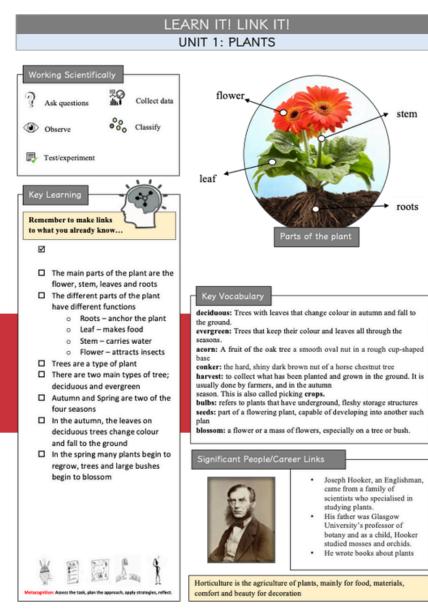
The purpose of the teacher toolkit is to inspire and equip our staff to be the best teachers of science they can be. The resources and guidance created, alongside bespoke CPD opportunities, will upskill teachers to deliver science with confidence. Whist a set standard will be outlined, and pace and progression set out, there remains a level of flexibility allowing teachers space to design their science narrative to reflect our own unique contexts.

By doing so, we aim to provide an agreed pathway through the curriculum with our other BCCET schools and therefore achieve consistency on entry to KS3.

The toolkit is intended to provide the necessary tools for schools to design outstanding science provision in their own unique contexts and surroundings. As such it will include:

- A Science Learning Journey, detailing when the sciences are taught, revisited and which
 threshold concepts are met along the way.
- Curriculum Rationale and supporting documents which outline progression through the units within a science theme.
- **Unit Overviews**, each divided into 5 stages of learning providing the expected knowledge learned. They are age appropriate and progressive in their content.
- **Investigation Cards** providing guidance on how to carry out accurate investigations to ensure high quality practical strands through which pupils develop the skills of working scientifically.
- **Misconceptions** document to teach through common errors and ensure accurate and precise scientific knowledge is learned.
- End of Unit Assessments: Knowledge quiz and presentation task
- **Learn it! Link it!** A reference tool intended for pupils to track and discuss their own learning throughout the unit.

LEARN IT! LINK IT!



A high-quality
science curriculum
not only identifies
the important
concepts and
procedures for pupils
to learn, it also plans
for how pupils will
build knowledge of
these over time.

DfE Review 2021

WORKING SCIENTIFICALLY

Investigation cards complement each unit. A This choice of investigation will form the basis of the practical strand for each unit. The Investigations relate directly to the skills outlined in the National Curriculum and are divided into:

- Asking questions
- Test hypotheses
- Gathering and recording
- Analysis
- Communication



What some pupils think	Notes
Soil is inert and it just holds the plant in its place	The soil contains the minerals that plants need for healthy growth. The soil also contains many other organisms that live inside the soil
Plants get all they need from "plant food"	Flast food provides nitrates that help plants make the proteins they need to grow. Soil also contains these nitrates and the decaying remains of plants and animals is what puts the nitrates into the soil. Plants do not have a digestle vegetmen so it is important not to refer to the nutrients, have a digestle vegetmen so it is important not to refer to the nutrients, minerals as food to avoid misconceptions later on. "Plant food" is often soid in garden centres or attached to a bunch of flowers but if you look at the labels you can see the usual minerals (NPK-Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium) that plants need for healthy growth.
Plants obtain their energy directly from the sun	Pupils often think that the sunlight is directly laiked to the plant growing. Photosymthesis requires sunlight his process releases glucore for the plant to use as an energy store! resource. In order for a plant to grow they need to make proteins (more complex molecules!) They combine the glucose with other molecules in order to make proteins. It is the protein that makes the plants grow, they need the sunlight to produce the glucose initially to make the proteins. This misconception often continues throughout KSS and KS4.
Leaves are mainly to catch and take in water	As pulls link water collecting and running off leaves they sometimes relate it to their function. The main function of a leaf is to carry out photosynthesis. Water is lost via the leaves in transpiration but water doesn't enter the leaves. Leaves have a waxy cutice on the surface of the leaf which actually prevents water loss and most of the water is lost from the unde-led of the feat. Leaves have many different sizes and shapes. The shapes of the leaves and help water to run off the leaves and fall directly or near to the base-thus providing water that can be absorbed intectly on rear to the base-thus providing water that can be absorbed intently to the size of the plant of the leaves and fall directly or near to the base-thus providing water that can be absorbed into the soil then taken up by the roots into the plant free. Tillionthip plants aspects (epiphyste or all plants), which do not require soil to grow. Water and nutrents are absorbed through their leaves and roots order for children to see the roots. Sometimes as the grow under's within the soil it can be difficult for children to visualise and therefore identify that they are an essential part of the plant.
Plants breathe in Carbon Dioxide and breathe out oxygen	This is a popular disconsignation as specifs are sometimes trught that imman breath engine and plants extended under letchers should avoid the word breathing at all times when discossing plants and need to be careful when comparing plants and almals in that way. Plants do not have lungs and therefore do not breathe. Humans and other animals breath to get organger into their body for respiration. In a plant this enteres through the leaves, they do not need lungs and therefore do not breathe. Plants do not need the plant this enteres through the leaves, they do not need lungs and therefore do not breathe. Pulps often this of animals only as living organisms rather than plants.
Plants take everything they need in from the roots	and animals. This knowledge can be strengthened when teaching about the 3 life processes. Plants can in water and mineral ions from the roots, but photosynthesis releases glucose for the plant. This glucose is required to make up lots of more complex molecules as well as being required for respiration. Without respiration the plants can not release energy in order to carry out the 7 processes (and would did not.)
Plants get their energy from the soil Sunlight helps plants grow by keeping them warm	See above note: Flasts do not need excessive warmth in order to grow. Some plants are well adapted to hot conditions but these plants usually have smaller leavest spikes to help reduce water loss. In warm conditions plants lose water. In a plant enzymes responsible for photosynthesis would denature at a high temperature and the resction would not court. All plants

ASSESSMENT

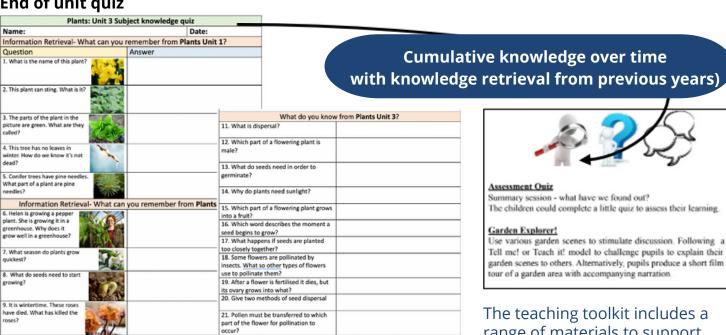
Assessment is 'embedded' within the design

Opportunities to know where pupils are with their learning and to identify and address any gaps.

- Teachers and pupils are clear on the purpose of assessment. There is clarity about what is being assessed.
- · Assessment is not overly burdensome on teachers' time in relation to marking, recording or feedback.
- Feedback is focused on the science content and not on generic features. Teachers have sufficient subject knowledge to be able to do this.
- Pupils regularly retrieve knowledge from memory to help them remember and organise their knowledge. This is coupled with feedback. Teachers think carefully about what pupils are being asked to retrieve and whether this prioritises the most important content.

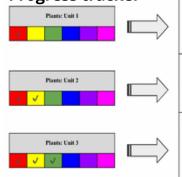
DfE Science Subject Review, 2021

End of unit quiz



Progress tracker

10. Plants need a source of glucose to grow. Who the plant make this?



- identify and name a variety of common wild and garden plants, including deciduous and evergreen
- identify and describe the basic structure of a variety of common flowering plants, including trees
- (seasonal change) observe changes across the four seasons

22. Describe what happens during plant

- observe and describe how seeds and bulbs grow into mature plants find out and describe how plants need water, light and suitable temperature to grow and stay healthy
- identify and describe the functions of different parts of flowering plants: roots, stem/trunk, leaves and flowers (moved from Y3)
- 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 transported within plants
- explore the part that flowers play in the life cycle of flowering plants, including pollination, seed formation and seed dispersal.

The teaching toolkit includes a range of materials to support with assessment. A progress tracker is used to assess pupils starting points and progress. Ending each unit there is the opportunity to assess through a subject knowledge guiz and an end of unit task. Throughout, the aim is to assess pupils ability to think like a scientist by choosing, building and linking knowledge as they work through a unit, complete a unit and progress on to other units.