

Progression in Vocabulary

Introduction

- The working scientifically vocabulary identified in the first table of this document should be taught through the topics in each year-group during practical work or scientific enquiry.
- The vocabulary in red is from other linked topics. The topic they come from is indicated.

Working scientifically

Year-group(s)	Vocabulary/Statement(s)
Nursery & Reception	look closely, observe, watch, touch, feel, smell, listen, same, different, compare, ask questions, record, sort, group
Years 1 & 2	observe, changes, patterns, grouping, sorting, compare, same, different, identify (name), measure, data, record results, drawing, picture, table, tally chart, present, pictogram, block chart, Venn diagram, ask questions, test, investigate, explore, equipment, resources, magnifying glass, hand lens, ruler, tape measure, metre stick, pipette, syringe, spoon, teaspoon, answer questions, interpret results, scientific enquiry, pattern seeking, comparative testing, observing over time, classifying, researching using secondary sources
Years 3 & 4	practical work, fair testing, relationships, accurate, thermometer, data logger, stopwatch, timer, estimate, data, diagram, identification key, chart, bar chart, prediction, similarity, difference, evidence, information, findings, criteria, values, properties, characteristics, conclusion, explanation, reason, evaluate, improve
Years 5 & 6	variables, independent variable, dependent variable, control variable, evidence, justify, argument (science), causal relationship, accuracy, precision, scatter graphs, bar graphs, line graphs, force mete

Science

Materials

Year – groups (s)	Vocabulary/Statement(s)
Nursery	mix, stir, cook, hot, oven, microwave, change, burn, melt, hard, runny, set, freeze, freezer, cold, blended, hard, soft, bendy, stiff, wobbly, wood, plastic, paper, card, fabric
Reception	ice, water, frozen, icicle, snow, melt, wet, cold, slippery, smooth, big, bigger, biggest, smaller, smaller, smallest, hard, soft, bendy, rigid, wood, plastic, paper, card, metal, strong, weak, hot, apply heat, waterproof, soggy, not waterproof, best, change, change back
Year 1	object, material, wood, plastic, glass, metal, water, rock, brick, paper, fabric, elastic, foil, card/cardboard, rubber, wool, clay, hard, soft, stretchy, stiff, bendy, floppy, waterproof, absorbent, breaks/tears, rough, smooth, shiny, dull, see-through, not see-through
Year 2	opaque, transparent, translucent, reflective, non-reflective, flexible, rigid, shape, push/pushing, pull/pulling, twist/twisting, squash/squashing, bend/bending, stretch/stretching
Year 3	rock, stone, pebble, boulder, grain, crystals, layers, hard, soft, texture, absorbs water, fossil, bone, flesh, minerals, marble, chalk, granite, sandstone, slate, types of soil (e.g. peaty, sandy, chalky, clay) (Y3 - Rocks) magnetic force, magnet, attract, magnetic material, metal, iron, steel (Y3 - Forces and magnets)
Year 4	solid, liquid, gas, heating, cooling, state change, melting, freezing, melting point, boiling, boiling point, evaporation, condensation, temperature, water cycle electrical conductor, electrical insulator, metal, non-metal (Y4 - Electricity)
Year 5	thermal insulator/conductor, change of state, mixture, dissolve, solution, soluble, insoluble, filter, sieve, reversible/non-reversible change, burning, rusting, new material
Year 6	

Science

Plants

Year – groups (s)	Vocabulary/Statement(s)
Nursery	plant, leaf, stem, branch, root, bark, flower, petal, seed, berry, fruit, vegetable, bulb, plant, hole, dig, water, weed, grow, shoot, die, dead, soil, names of plants they grow
Reception	tree, bush, herb, names of plants they see (Reception - Living things and their habitats)
Year 1	leaf, flower, blossom, petal, fruit, berry, root, seed, trunk, branch, stem, bark, stalk, bud, names of trees in the local area, names of garden and wild flowering plants in the local area
Year 2	light, shade, Sun, warm, cool, water, space, grow, healthy, bulb, germinate, shoot, seedling names of plants in local habitats and micro-habitats (Y2 - Living things and their habitats)
Year 3	photosynthesis, pollen, insect/wind pollination, male, female, seed formation, seed dispersal (wind dispersal, animal dispersal, water dispersal), air, nutrients, minerals, soil, absorb, transport
Year 4	classification, classification keys (Y4 - Living things and their habitats)
Year 5	life cycle, reproduce, sexual, fertilises, asexual, plantlets, runners, tubers, cuttings (Y5 - Living things and their habitats)
Year 6	flowering, non-flowering, mosses, ferns, conifers (Y6 - Living things and their habitats)

Science

Living things and their habitats

Year – groups (s)	Vocabulary/Statement(s)
Nursery	natural, plant, animal, leaves, seeds, conkers, acorns, twigs, bark, shells, feathers, pebbles, stones, same, different, pattern plant, leaf, stem, branch, root, bark, flower, petal, seed, berry, fruit, vegetable, bulb, plant, hole, dig, water, weed, grow, shoot, die, dead, soil (Nursery - Plants)
Reception	plant, tree, bush, flower, vegetable, herb, weed, animal, names of plants and animals they see, name of a contrasting environment (e.g. beach, forest)
Year 1	names of garden and wild flowering plants in the local area (Y1 - Plants) head, body, eyes, ears, mouth, teeth, leg, tail, wing, claw, fin, scales, feathers, fur, beak, paws, hooves, names of animals experienced first-hand from each vertebrate group (Y1 - Animals, including humans) weather, sunny, rainy, raining, shower, windy, snowy, cloudy, hot, warm, cold, storm, thunder, lightning, hail, sleet, snow, icy, frost, puddles, rainbow, seasons, winter, summer, spring, autumn, Sun, sunrise, sunset, day length (Y1 - Seasonal changes)
Year 2	living, dead, never been alive, suited, suitable, basic needs, food, food chain, shelter, move, feed, water, air, survive, survival, names of local habitats (e.g. pond, woodland etc.), names of micro-habitats (e.g. under logs, in bushes etc.), conditions, light, dark, shady, sunny, wet, damp, dry, hot, cold, names of living things in the habitats and micro-habitats studied light, shade, Sun, warm, cool, water, space, grow, healthy, bulb, germinate, shoot, seedling (Y2 - Plants) offspring, reproduction, growth, baby, toddler, child, teenager, adult, old person, names of animals and their babies (e.g. chick/chicken, cat/kitten, caterpillar/butterfly) (Y2 - Animals, including humans)
Year 3	photosynthesis, pollen, insect/wind pollination, male, female, seed formation, seed dispersal (e.g. wind dispersal, animal dispersal, water dispersal), air, nutrients, minerals, soil, absorb, transport (Y3 – Plants)
Year 4	classification, classification keys, environment, habitat, human impact, positive, negative, migrate, hibernate herbivore, carnivore, omnivore, producer, predator, prey (Y4 - Animals, including humans)
Year 5	life cycle, reproduce, sexual, sperm, fertilises, egg, live young, metamorphosis, asexual, plantlets, runners, cuttings
Year 6	vertebrates, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, warm-blooded, cold-blooded, invertebrates, insects, spiders, snails, worms, flowering, non-flowering, mosses, ferns, conifers

Science

Animals including Humans

Year – groups (s)	Vocabulary/Statement(s)
Nursery	egg, chick, bird, caterpillar, cocoon, chrysalis, butterfly, frog spawn, tadpole, froglet, frog, grow, change, die, names of animals and their young, fur, feathers, scales, tail, wings, beak, claws, paws, hooves, swim, walk, run, jump, fly, patterns, spots, stripes, grow, change, baby, toddler, child, adult, old person, smell, taste, touch, feel, hear, see, blind, deaf
Reception	names of animals, live, on land, in water, jungle, desert, North Pole, South Pole, sea, hot, cold, wet, dry, snow, ice, hair (e.g. black, brown, dark, light, blonde, ginger, grey, white, long, short, straight, curly), eyes (e.g. blue, brown, green, grey), skin (e.g. black, brown, white), big/tall, small/short, bigger/smaller, baby, toddler, child, adult, old person, old, young, brother, sister, mother, father, aunt, uncle, grandmother, grandfather, cousin, friend, family, boy, girl, man, woman
Year 1	head, body, eyes, ears, mouth, teeth, leg, tail, wing, claw, fin, scales, feathers, fur, beak, paws, hooves, names of animals experienced first-hand from each vertebrate group, parts of the human body including those within the school's RSE policy, senses, touch, see, smell, taste, hear, fingers, skin, eyes, nose, ears, tongue
Year 2	offspring, reproduction, growth, baby, toddler, child, teenager, adult, old person, names of animals and their babies (e.g. chick/chicken, kitten/cat, caterpillar/butterfly), survive, survival, water, food, air, exercise, heartbeat, breathing, hygiene, germs, disease, food types (e.g. meat, fish, vegetables, bread, rice, pasta, dairy) living, dead, never been alive, suited, suitable, basic needs, food, food chain, shelter, move, feed, water, air, survive, survival (Y2 - Living things and their habitats)
Year 3	nutrition, nutrients, carbohydrates, sugars, protein, vitamins, minerals, fibre, fat, water, skeleton, bones, muscles, joints, support, protect, move, skull, ribs, spine
Year 4	digestive system, digestion, mouth, teeth, saliva, oesophagus, stomach, small intestine, large intestine, rectum, anus, incisor, canine, molar, premolar, herbivore, carnivore, omnivore, producer, predator, prey
Year 5	Puberty – the vocabulary to describe sexual characteristics (see PSHE topic of study) life cycle, foetus, baby, child, adolescent, adult, reproduce, sexual, sperm, fertilises, egg, live young (Y5 - Living things and their habitats)
Year 6	heart, pulse, rate, pumps, blood, blood vessels, transported, lungs, oxygen, carbon dioxide, cycle, circulatory system, diet, drugs, lifestyle

Science

Evolution and Inheritance

Year – groups (s)	Vocabulary/Statement(s)
Nursery	natural, plant, animal, leaves, seeds, conkers, acorns, twigs, bark, shells, feathers, pebbles, stones, same, different, pattern (Nursery - Living things and their habitats)
Reception	plant, tree, bush, flower, vegetable, herb, weed, animal, names of plants and animals they see, name of a contrasting environment (e.g. beach, forest) (Reception - Living things and their habitats)
Year 1	leaf, flower, blossom, petal, fruit, berry, root, seed, trunk, branch, stem, bark, stalk, bud (Y1 - Plants)
Year 2	light, shade, Sun, warm, cool, water, space, grow, healthy, bulb, germinate, shoot, seedling (Y2 - Plants) living, dead, never been alive, suited, suitable, basic needs, food, food chain, shelter, move, feed, water, air, survive, survival, conditions, light, dark, shady, sunny, wet, damp, dry, hot, cold (Y2 - Living things and their habitats)
Year 3	photosynthesis, pollen, insect/wind pollination, male, female, seed formation, seed dispersal (e.g. wind dispersal, animal dispersal, water dispersal), air, nutrients, minerals, soil (Y3 - Plants) soil, fossil, bone, flesh, minerals (Y3 - Rocks)
Year 4	environment, habitat, human impact, positive, negative, migrate, hibernate (Y4 - Living things and their habitats) herbivore, carnivore, omnivore, producer, predator, prey (Y4 - Animals, including humans)
Year 5	life cycle, reproduce, sexual, fertilises, asexual, plantlets, runners, tubers, cuttings (Y5 - Living things and their habitats)
Year 6	offspring, sexual reproduction, vary, characteristics, adapted, inherited, species, evolve, evolution

Science

Seasonal Change

Year – groups (s)	Vocabulary/Statement(s)
Nursery	grow, shoot, die, dead (Nursery - Plants) egg, chick, bird, caterpillar, cocoon, chrysalis, butterfly, frog spawn, tadpole, froglet, frog, grow, change, die, names of animals and their young (Nursery - Animals, excluding humans)
Reception	spring, summer, autumn, winter, seasons, sunny, cloudy, hot, warm, cold, shower, raining, storm, thunder, lightning, hail, sleet, snow, icy, frost, puddles, windy, rainbow, animals, young, plants, flowers
Year 1	weather, sunny, rainy, raining, shower, windy, snowy, cloudy, hot, warm, cold, storm, thunder, lightning, hail, sleet, snow, icy, frost, puddles, rainbow, seasons, winter, summer, spring, autumn, Sun, sunrise, sunset, day length
Year 2	
Year 3	
Year 4	
Year 5	
Year 6	

Rocks

Year – groups (s)	Vocabulary/Statement(s)
Nursery	natural, shells, pebbles, stones
Reception	
Year 1	object, material, rock, brick, clay, hard, soft, waterproof, absorbent, rough, smooth, shiny, dull, see-through, not see-through (Y1 - Everyday materials)
Year 2	opaque, transparent, translucent, reflective, non-reflective (Y2 - Uses of everyday materials)
Year 3	rock, stone, pebble, boulder, grain, crystals, layers, hard, soft, texture, absorbs water, fossil, bone, flesh, minerals, marble, chalk, granite, sandstone, slate, types of soil (e.g. peaty, sandy, chalky, clay)
Year 4	
Year 5	
Year 6	Evolution (Y6 - Evolution and Inheritance)

Science

Light

Year – groups (s)	Vocabulary/Statement(s)
Nursery	light, torch, bulb, lamp, spotlight, shiny, bright, brighter, brightest, Sun, shine, glow, mirror
Reception	Sun, sunny, light, shadow, shady, clouds, torch, see-through, not see-through, source, light source
Year 1	senses, see, eyes (Y1 - Animals, including humans) shiny, dull, see-through, not see-through (Y1 - Materials)
Year 2	opaque, transparent, translucent, reflective, non-reflective (Y2 - Uses of everyday materials)
Year 3	light, light source, dark, absence of light, surface, shadow, reflect, mirror, Sun, sunlight, dangerous
Year 4	
Year 5	
Year 6	straight lines, light rays

Forces

Year – groups (s)	Vocabulary/Statement(s)
Nursery	object, float, sink, water, up, down, top, bottom, push, pull, magnet, spring, squash, bend, twist, stretch, turn, spin, smooth, rough, fast, slow
Reception	float, sink, up, down, top, bottom, surface, move, roll, drop, fly, turn, spin, fall, fast, slow, faster, slower, fastest, slowest, further, furthest, wind, air, water, blow, bounce
Year 1	
Year 2	flexible, rigid, shape, push/pushing, pull/pulling, twist/twisting, squash/squashing, bend/bending, stretch/stretching (Y2 - Uses of everyday materials)
Year 3	force, push, pull, twist, contact force, non-contact force, magnetic force, magnet, strength, bar magnet, ring magnet, button magnet, horseshoe magnet, attract, repel, magnetic material, metal, iron, steel, poles, north pole, south pole
Year 4	
Year 5	force, gravity, Earth, air resistance, water resistance, friction, mechanisms, simple machines, levers, pulleys, gears
Year 6	

Science

Sound

Year – groups (s)	Vocabulary/Statement(s)
Nursery	sound, noise, loud, quiet, high, low, music, bang, blow, pluck, soft, hard, fast, slow, names of instruments
Reception	sound, noise, listen, hear, music, voices, bird song, traffic, sirens, thunder, high, low, loud, quiet, soft, volume, crackle, thunder, hum, buzz, roar
Year 1	senses, hear, ear (Y1 - Animals, including humans)
Year 2	
Year 3	
Year 4	sound, source, vibrate, vibration, travel, pitch (high, low), volume, faint, quiet, loud, insulation
Year 5	
Year 6	

Electricity

Year – groups (s)	Vocabulary/Statement(s)
Nursery	battery, plug, socket, electricity, wire, sound, light, move
Reception	
Year 1	
Year 2	
Year 3	
Year 4	electricity, electrical appliance/device, mains, plug, electrical circuit, complete circuit, component, cell, battery, positive, negative, connect/connections, loose connection, short circuit, crocodile clip, bulb, switch, buzzer, motor, conductor, insulator, metal, non-metal, symbol
Year 5	
Year 6	circuit diagram, circuit symbol, voltage

Science



Earth and Space

Year – groups (s)	Vocabulary/Statement(s)
Nursery	
Reception	Sun, Moon, Earth, star, planet, sky, day, night, space, round, bounce, float
Year 1	
Year 2	
Year 3	light, light source, Sun, sunlight, dangerous (Y3 - Light)
Year 4	
Year 5	Sun, Moon, Earth, planets (Mercury, Jupiter, Saturn, Venus, Mars, Uranus, Neptune), spherical, Solar System, rotate, star, orbit
Year 6	