

The British School Science Progression of Skills March 2025

Science		EYFS	Key Stage 1		Lower Key Stage 2		Upper Key Stage 2	
Discipline	Topic area		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Biology	Animals including humans	<p>Pupils learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the natural world around them. • Understand the key features of the life cycle of an animal. • Know and talk about the different factors that support their overall health and wellbeing: regular physical activity, healthy eating, tooth brushing and having a good sleep routine. 	<p>Pupils learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 compare the structure of a variety of common animals (fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals including pets); • identify, name, draw and label the basic parts of the human body and say which part of the body is associated with each sense. 	<p>Pupils learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 types of food, and hygiene. 	<p>Pupils learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>Pupils learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>Pupils learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • describe the changes as humans develop to old age. 	<p>Pupils learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 water are transported within animals, including humans.
	Plants	<p>Pupils learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the natural world around them. • Understand the key features of the life cycle of a plant. 	<p>Pupils learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify and name a variety of common wild and garden plants, including deciduous and evergreen trees; 	<p>Pupils learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • observe and describe how seeds and bulbs grow into mature plants; • find out and describe how 	<p>Pupils learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify and describe the functions of different parts of flowering plants: roots, stem/trunk, 			

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant seeds and care for growing plants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify and describe the basic structure of a variety of common flowering plants, including trees. 	<p>plants need water, light and a suitable temperature to grow and stay healthy</p>	<p>leaves and flowers;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 			
	<p>Living Things and Their Habitats</p>	<p>Pupils learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the natural world around them. Begin to understand the need to respect and care for the natural environment and all living things. 		<p>Pupils learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 		<p>Pupils learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 in their 	<p>Pupils learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>Pupils learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> describe how living things are classified into broad groups according to common observable characteristics and based on similarities and differences, including micro-organisms,

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				<p>different habitats provide for the basic needs of different kinds of animals and plants, and how they depend on each other.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify and name a variety of plants and animals in their habitats, including microhabitats; • describe how animals obtain their food from plants and other animals, using the idea of a simple food chain, and identify and name different sources of food 		<p>local and wider environment;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things. 		<p>plants and animals;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • give reasons for classifying plants and animals based on specific characteristics.
	<p>Evolution and Inheritance</p>							<p>Pupils learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

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								and are not identical to their parents; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution.
Physics	Seasonal changes	<p>Pupils learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the natural world around them • Understand some important changes and processes in the natural world, including the seasons. • Understand the effect of changing seasons on the natural world around them. • Describe what they see, hear and feel whilst outside. 	<p>Pupils learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • observe changes across the 4 seasons; • observe and describe weather associated with the seasons and how day length varies 					
	Forces	<p>Pupils learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore and talk about different forces they can feel. 			<p>Pupils learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • compare how things move on different surfaces; • notice that some forces need contact between 2 		<p>Pupils learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explain that unsupported objects fall towards the Earth because of the force of gravity acting between the 	

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					<p>objects, but magnetic forces can act at a distance;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • observe how magnets attract or repel each other and attract some materials and not others; • compare and group together a variety of everyday materials on the basis of whether they are attracted to a magnet, and identify some magnetic materials; • describe magnets as having 2 poles; • predict whether 2 magnets will attract or repel each other, depending on which poles are facing. 		<p>Earth and the falling object;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify the effects of air resistance, water resistance and friction, that act between moving surfaces; • recognise that some mechanisms including levers, pulleys and gears allow a smaller force to have a greater effect. 	
	Light	<p>Pupils learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe what they see, hear and feel whilst outside. 			<p>Pupils learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recognise that they need light in order to see things and that dark is the absence of light; • notice that light is 			<p>Pupils learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recognise that light appears to travel in straight lines; • use the idea that light travels in straight lines to explain that objects are seen

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					<p>reflected from surfaces;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recognise that light from the sun can be dangerous and that there are ways to protect their eyes; • recognise that shadows are formed when the light from a light source is blocked by an opaque object; • find patterns in the way that the size of shadows change 			<p>because they give out or reflect light into the eye;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explain that we see things because light travels from light sources to our eyes or from light sources to objects and then to our eyes; • use the idea that light travels in straight lines to explain why shadows have the same shape as the objects that cast them.
	Sound	<p>Pupils learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe what they see, hear and feel whilst outside. 				<p>Pupils learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify how sounds are made, associating 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 		

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						<p>volume of a sound and the strength of the vibrations that produced it;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recognise that sounds get fainter as the distance from the sound source increases. 		
	Earth and Space						<p>Pupils learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • describe the movement of the Earth and other planets relative to the sun in the solar system; • 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. 	
Chemistry	Electricity					<p>Pupils learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify common appliances that 		<p>Pupils learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • associate the brightness of a lamp or the

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understand some important changes and processes in the natural world, including changing states of matter. • talk about differences between materials and changes they notice. • use all their senses in hands-on exploration of natural materials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • distinguish between an object and the material 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify and compare the suitability of a variety of everyday materials, including 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • compare and group materials together, according to whether they are solids, liquids 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • compare and group together everyday materials 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, 	
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							including metals, wood and plastic; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	
Working Scientifically	Comparative and fair testing.	<p>Pupils learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the natural world around them and ask some simple scientific questions. 	<p>Asking simple questions and recognising that they can be answered in different ways. Performing simple tests.</p> <p>Pupils learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explore the world around them, leading them to ask some simple scientific questions about how and why things happen; • begin to recognise ways in which they might answer scientific questions; • ask people questions and use simple secondary sources to find answers; • carry out simple practical tests, using simple equipment; • experience different types of scientific enquiries, including 	<p>Asking relevant questions and using different types of scientific enquiries to answer them. Setting up simple practical enquiries, comparative and fair tests.</p> <p>Pupils learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • start to raise their own relevant questions about the world around them in response to a range of scientific experiences; • start to make their own decisions about the most appropriate type of scientific enquiry they might use to answer questions; 	<p>Planning different types of scientific enquiries to answer questions, including recognising and controlling variables where necessary. Using test results to make predictions to set up further comparative and fair tests.</p> <p>Pupils learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • with growing independence, raise their own relevant questions about the world around them in response to a range of scientific experiences; • with increasing independence, make their own decisions about the 			

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			<p>practical activities; talk about the aim of scientific tests they are working on.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> recognise when a fair test is necessary; help decide how to set up a fair test, making decisions about what observations to make, how long to make them for and the type of simple equipment that might be used; set up and carry out simple comparative and fair tests. 	<p>most appropriate type of scientific enquiry they might use to answer questions;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> explore and talk about their ideas, raising different kinds of scientific questions; ask their own questions about scientific phenomena; select and plan the most appropriate type of scientific enquiry to use to answer scientific questions; make their own decisions about what observations to make, what measurements to use and how long to make them for, and whether to repeat them; plan, set up and carry out comparative and fair tests to answer questions, including recognising and controlling variables where necessary; use their test results to identify when further tests and observations may be needed; use test results to make predictions for further tests.
	<p>Observing and measuring changes over time.</p>	<p>Pupils learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> explore the natural world around them, making observations and drawing pictures of 	<p>Observing closely, using simple equipment.</p> <p>Pupils learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> observe the natural and humanly constructed world around them; observe changes over time; 	<p>Making systematic and careful observations and, where appropriate, taking accurate measurements using standard units, using a range of equipment, including thermometers and data loggers.</p> <p>Pupils learn to:</p>	<p>Taking measurements, using a range of scientific equipment, with increasing accuracy and precision, taking repeat readings when appropriate.</p> <p>Pupils learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> choose the most appropriate equipment to

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		<p>animals and plants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> describe their immediate environment using knowledge from observation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> use simple measurements and equipment; make careful observations, sometimes using equipment to help them observe carefully. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> make systematic and careful observations; observe changes over time; use a range of equipment, including thermometers and data loggers; ask their own questions about what they observe; where appropriate, take accurate measurements using standard units using a range of equipment. 	<p>make measurements and explain how to use it accurately;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> take measurements using a range of scientific equipment with increasing accuracy and precision; make careful and focused observations; know the importance of taking repeat readings and take repeat readings where appropriate.
	<p>Identifying, classifying, recording and presenting data.</p>	<p>Pupils learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> explore the natural world around them, making observations and drawing pictures of animals and plants. Know similarities and differences between the natural world around them and contrasting environments. 	<p>Identifying and classifying. Gathering and recording data to help in answering questions.</p> <p>Pupils learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> use simple features to compare objects, materials and living things; decide how to sort and classify objects into simple groups with some help; record and communicate findings in a range of ways with support; sort, group, gather and record data in a variety of ways to help in answering questions such as in simple sorting diagrams, pictograms, tally charts, block diagrams and simple tables 	<p>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.</p> <p>Pupils learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> talk about criteria for grouping, sorting and classifying; group and classify things; collect data from their own observations and measurements; present data in a variety of ways to help in answering questions; use, read and spell scientific vocabulary correctly and with confidence, using their growing word reading and spelling knowledge; record findings using scientific language, drawings, labelled 	<p>Recording data and results of increasing complexity using scientific diagrams and labels, classification keys, tables, scatter graphs, bar and line graphs.</p> <p>Pupils learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> independently group, classify and describe living things and materials; use and develop keys and other information records to identify, classify and describe living things and materials; decide how to record data from a choice of familiar approaches; record data and results of increasing complexity using scientific diagrams and labels, classification keys, tables, scatter graphs, bar graphs and line graphs.

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				diagrams, keys, bar charts and tables.	
	Pattern seeking	Pupils learn to: • explore the natural world around them.	Using their observations and ideas to suggest answers to questions. Pupils learn to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> notice links between cause and effect with support; begin to notice patterns and relationships with support; begin to draw simple conclusions; identify and discuss differences between their results; use simple and scientific language; read and spell scientific vocabulary at a level consistent with their increasing word reading and spelling knowledge at key stage 1; talk about their findings to a variety of audiences in a variety of ways. 	Using results to draw simple conclusions, make predictions for new values, suggest improvements and raise further questions. Reporting on findings from enquiries, including oral and written explanations, displays or presentations of results and conclusions. Pupils learn to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> draw simple conclusions from their results; make predictions; suggest improvements to investigations; raise further questions which could be investigated; first talk about, and then go on to write about, what they have found out; report and present their results and conclusions to others in written and oral forms with increasing confidence. 	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. Pupils learn to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> notice patterns; draw conclusions based in their data and observations; use their scientific knowledge and understanding to explain their findings; read, spell and pronounce scientific vocabulary correctly; identify patterns that might be found in the natural environment; look for different causal relationships in their data; discuss the degree of trust they can have in a set of results; independently report and present their conclusions to others in oral and written forms.
	Research using secondary sources.			Identifying differences, similarities or changes related to simple scientific ideas and processes. Using straightforward scientific evidence to answer questions or to support their findings. Pupils learn to:	Identifying scientific evidence that has been used to support or refute ideas or arguments. Pupils learn to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> use primary and secondary sources evidence to justify ideas; identify evidence that refutes or supports their ideas;

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none">• make links between their own science results and other scientific evidence;• use straightforward scientific evidence to answer questions or support their findings;• identify similarities, differences, patterns and changes relating to simple scientific ideas and processes;• recognise when and how secondary sources might help them to answer questions that cannot be answered through practical investigations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• recognise where secondary sources will be most useful to research ideas and begin to separate opinion from fact;• use relevant scientific language and illustrations to discuss, communicate and justify their scientific ideas;• talk about how scientific ideas have developed over time.
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