Curriculum progression – Science



	Nursery	Year R	1 – 2 Phase	3 – 4 Phase	5 – 6 Phase
Ask questions	• Comments and asks questions about their familiar world.	• Answer 'how' and 'why' questions about their experiences and in response to stories and events.	• Ask simple questions and recognise that they can be answered in different ways.	• Ask relevant questions and use different types of scientific enquiries to answer them. • Set up simple practical enquiries, comparative and fair tests.	• Plan different types of scientific enquiries to answer questions. • Recognise and control variables where necessary. • Explore and talk about their ideas; asking their own questions about scientific phenomena.
Monitoring and recording		• Make observations of animals and plants and explain why some things occur, and talk about changes.	• Observe closely, using simple equipment. • Perform simple tests. • Identify and classify. • Gather and record data to help in answering questions.	• Make systematic and careful observations. • Take accurate measurements using standard units, using a range of equipment (e.g. thermometers and data loggers). • Record findings using simple scientific language, drawings, labelled diagrams, keys, bar charts and tables. • Gather, record, classify and present data in a variety of ways to help in answering questions.	• Take accurate measurements, using a range of scientific equipment with increasing accuracy and precision. • Take repeat readings when appropriate to consider fair tests. • Record data and results of increasing complexity using scientific diagrams and labels, classification keys, tables, scatter graphs, bar and line graphs.



Concluding		• Talk about the features of their own immediate environment and how environments might vary from one another.	• Use their observations and ideas to suggest answers to questions. • Use age-appropriate scientific language. • Begin to notice patterns and relationships.	• Identify similarities, differences or changes related to simple scientific ideas and processes. • Report on findings from enquiries, including oral and written explanations, displays or presentations of results and conclusions. • Use straightforward scientific evidence to answer questions or support findings. • Begin to look for naturally occurring patterns and relationships. • Use, spell and read scientific vocabulary correctly.	• Identify scientific evidence that has been used to support or refute ideas or arguments. • 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. • Draw conclusions based on their data and observations, use evidence to justify their ideas and use their scientific knowledge to explain their findings. • Use, spell, read and pronounce scientific vocabulary correctly.
Evaluating	• Talks about why things happen and how things work.	• Children know about similarities and differences in relation to places, objects, materials and living things.		• Use results to draw simple conclusions, make predictions for new values, suggest improvements and	• Use test results to make predictions to set up further comparative and fair tests.



				raise further questions. • Begin to recognise when and how secondary resources might help them to answer questions that cannot be answered through practical investigation.	• Recognise that scientific ideas change and develop over time.
Plants	• Can talk about some of the things that they have observed: such as plants, animals, natural & found objects.	• They make observations of animals and plants and explain why some things occur, and talk about changes. • Children know about similarities and differences in relation to places, objects, materials and living things.	*Making New Plants* • 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. • 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.	*How plants make food* *How plants reproduce* • 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.	
Materials	• Can talk about some of the things that they have observed: such as plants, animals, natural & found objects.	• Children know about similarities and differences in relation to places, objects, materials and living things.	*Describing materials* *Changing materials* • 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. • Identify and compare the suitability of a variety of everyday materials, including	*Solids liquids and gases* *Mixing and separating them* • 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.	*Making new substances* • 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,



			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.		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.
Animals including humans	• Can talk about some of the things that they have observed: such as plants, animals, natural & found objects.	• Make observations of animals and plants and explain why some things occur, and talk about changes.	*Animal Survival* *Animal life cycles* • Identify and name a variety of common animals including fish,	*Animals, skeletons and movement* *Digestion* • Identify that animals, including humans, need the right types	*Circulation* • Identify and name the main parts of the human circulatory system, and describe the functions of the



		• Know about similarities and differences in relation to places, objects, materials and living things.	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. • 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	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.	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.



			humans of exercise, eating the right amounts of different types of food, and hygiene.		
Forces	• Talks about how things happen and why things work. • Explore and talk about different forces they can feel.			*Magnets* • Compare how things move on different surfaces notice that some forces need contact between 2 objects, but magnetic forces can act at a distance. • 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,	*Forces that oppose motion* • Explain that unsupported objects fall towards the Earth because of the force of gravity acting between the Earth and the falling object. • 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.



				depending on which poles are facing.	
Variation and Evolution	• Developing an understanding of growth, decay and changes over time. • Show concern for living things and the environment.	• Talk about the features of their own immediate environment and how environments might vary from one another.	*Habitats* • 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 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	*Living things* • 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 local and wider environment. • Recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things.	*Classification and evolution* • Describe how living things are classified into broad groups according to common observable characteristics and based on similarities and differences, including micro-organisms, plants and animals. • Give reasons for classifying plants and animals based on specific characteristics. • 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



			and name different sources of food.		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.
Light and sound				• Recognise that they need light in order to see things and that dark is the absence of light. • Notice that light is reflected from surfaces • 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.	*How light behaves* • Recognise that light appears to travel in straight lines. • Use the idea that light travels in straight lines to explain that objects are seen because they give out or reflect light into the eye. • 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. • 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 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.
Earth and space	• Can talk about some of the things that they have observed: such as plants, animals, natural & found objects.	• Knows about similarities & differences in relation to materials and living things.		*Rocks and Soils* • Compare and group together different kinds of rocks on the basis of their appearance and simple physical properties.	*Space and Gravity* • Describe the movement of the Earth and other planets relative to the sun in the solar system.



				• 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.	• 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.
Seasonal changes	• Comments & asks questions about some of the things they have observed such as plants, animals and natural objects.	• Looks closely at similarities, differences, patterns and change in nature. • Understands some important processes and changes in the natural world around them, including the seasons.	*Seasons* • Observe changes across the 4 seasons. • Observe and describe weather associated with the seasons and how day length varies.		
Electricity				*Making electrical circuits* • Identify common appliances that run on electricity. • construct a simple series electrical circuit, identifying and naming its basic parts,	*Controlling electrical circuits* • Associate the brightness of a lamp or the volume of a buzzer with the number and voltage



				including cells, wires, bulbs, switches and buzzers. • Identify whether or not a lamp will light in a simple series circuit, based on whether or not the lamp is part of a complete loop with a battery. • Recognise that a switch opens and closes a circuit and associate this with whether or not a lamp lights in a simple series circuit. • Recognise some common conductors and insulators, and associate metals with being good conductors.	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 on/off position of switches. • Use recognised symbols when representing a simple circuit in a diagram.