

Progression in Vocabulary

The vocabulary included for Preschool and Reception are words that children should be exposed to. They should use some correctly in a scientific context.

The vocabulary included from Year 1 onwards are the words that children should know and use correctly in a scientific context. They should be able to define the specialist scientific vocabulary included.

The vocabulary in **red** is from other linked topics. The topic they come from is indicated.

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.

	Preschool	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Working scientifically	Look closely, observe, watch, touch, feel, smell, listen, same, different, compare, ask questions, record, sort, group.		Observe, changes, patterns, grouping, sorting, compare, same, different, identify (name), measure, data, record results, drawing, picture, table, tally chart, 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.		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.		variables, independent variable, dependent variable, control variable, evidence, justify, argument (science), causal relationship, accuracy, precision, scatter graphs, bar graphs, line graphs, force meter.	

	Plants
Preschool	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)

Progression in Vocabulary

	Living things and their habitats
Preschool	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 (Preschool - 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
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

	Animals, including humans
Preschool	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 in line with the school's RSE policy, 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

Progression in Vocabulary

	Evolution and inheritance
Preschool	natural, plant, animal, leaves, seeds, conkers, acorns, twigs, bark, shells, feathers, pebbles, stones, same, different, pattern (Preschool - 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

	Seasonal changes
Preschool	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 (Preschool - 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	

	Materials
Preschool	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

Progression in Vocabulary

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	

	Rocks
Preschool	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

	States of Matter
Preschool	
Reception	
Year 1	
Year 2	
Year 3	
Year 4	solid, liquid, gas, heating, cooling, state change, melting, freezing, melting point, boiling, boiling point, evaporation, condensation, temperature, water cycle
Year 5	
Year 6	

	Forces
Preschool	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	

Progression in Vocabulary

	Sound
Preschool	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
Preschool	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

	Earth and Space
Preschool	
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	

	Light
Preschool	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