Science Knowledge and Skills Progression
2026 - 2027

	Nursery	Reception	Year 1 (A)	Year 2 (B)	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Working Scientifically Observing and questioning	Explore the natural world using their senses. Notice similarities, differences and changes.	Make observations and ask simple questions about the world around them.	Observe closely and ask simple scientific questions.	Ask questions and make simple predictions.	Ask relevant questions and identify different ways to answer them.	Ask increasingly specific scientific questions and identify variables.	Plan enquiries and identify variables to investigate.	Plan and justify enquiries, selecting the most appropriate approach.
Working Scientifically Recording and presenting	Talk about what they see and experience.	Record observations through drawings and discussion.	Gather and record simple data.	Record findings using charts and tables.	Present findings using tables, bar charts and labelled diagrams.	Present data using classification keys and line graphs.	Present data using graphs and identify patterns.	Select the most appropriate way to present and communicate findings.
Animals Including Humans (Biology)	Name body parts and talk about keeping healthy.	Describe how to keep their bodies healthy and active.	Identify and name common animals and their basic body parts.	Explain basic needs for survival and describe how animals grow into adults.	Explain the functions of skeletons and muscles.	Describe the digestive system and the functions of different teeth.	Describe life cycles and human development.	Explain how the circulatory system transports nutrients and oxygen around the body.
Plants (Biology)	Explore plants in the environment.	Identify familiar plants and describe what they need to grow.	Identify common plants and basic plant structures.	Explain what plants need to grow healthily.	Explain how water is transported and how pollination and seed dispersal occur.			

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Everyday Materials / Properties and Changes of Materials (Chemistry)	Explore materials using their senses.	Describe simple properties of everyday materials.	Identify and describe everyday materials.	Compare the suitability of materials for different purposes.			Explain dissolving, separating mixtures and reversible and irreversible changes.	
Seasonal Changes (Physics)	Notice different types of weather and seasonal changes.	Observe and describe changes in weather, seasons and daylight throughout the year.	Observe changes across the four seasons and describe how weather and daylight vary throughout the year.					
Living Things and Their Habitats (Biology)	Explore living things in the environment.	Identify similarities and differences between living things.		Identify habitats, microhabitats and simple food chains.		Classify living things using grouping criteria and classification keys.	Explain life cycles and reproduction.	Classify organisms, including microorganisms, using scientific criteria.

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Rocks (Chemistry)					Compare and group rocks according to their properties and explain how fossils and soils are formed.			
Light (Physics)	Explore light and dark in everyday experiences.	Describe how light helps us see and identify simple light sources.			Recognise light sources, explain how shadows are formed and investigate how light is reflected from surfaces.			Explain how light travels, how we see objects and how refraction can create phenomena such as rainbows.
Forces and Magnets (Physics)	Explore moving objects through pushing and pulling.	Describe simple pushes and pulls and their effects on objects.			Compare contact forces, investigate magnets and explain how magnetic forces act at a distance.		Explain the effects of gravity, air resistance and water resistance and use mechanisms to transfer forces.	

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States of Matter (Chemistry)	Explore water, ice and other materials through play.	Observe and describe simple changes such as melting and freezing.				Compare and group solids, liquids and gases and explain changes of state and the water cycle.		
Sound (Physics)	Explore and respond to sounds in the environment.	Identify and describe different sounds and how they are made.				Explain how sounds are made, how vibrations travel through a medium and how pitch and volume can be changed.		
Electricity (Physics)	Recognise that some objects need power to work.	Identify everyday objects that use electricity safely.				Construct simple series circuits and identify the function of their components, including conductors and insulators.		Explain how changing components affects the brightness of bulbs, the loudness of buzzers and the voltage within a series circuit.

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Earth and Space (Physics)	Notice day and night and changes in the sky.	Describe simple features of the day and night sky, including the Sun and Moon.					Describe the movement of the Earth, Moon and planets within the Solar System and explain how the Earth's rotation creates day and night.	
Evolution and Inheritance (Biology)								Explain how living things have changed over time through adaptation, inheritance and natural selection and recognise the work of key scientists.