

Updated for 2025-26

Science Curriculum Map

Nursery			Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Understanding the World	Nursery - Development Matters (3- years	Science	Theme: Marvellous Me Theme: Let's Explore Autumn Name & identify body parts Observe & describe in words or actions the effects of physical activity on body Knows about the different seasons and the effect they have on plants, trees and wildlife. Observe growth and decay overtime.	Theme: Our Five Senses Theme: Wonderful Winter Children explore and use their senses in hands-on experiences Knows the effect of heating and cooling e.g. Chocolate, ice	Theme: Around the World Theme: Pirates- Ahoy there! Theme: Amazing Animals Begins to understand the need to respect and care for the natural environment and all living things. Understands the key features of the life cycle of an animal. Know the names of animal babies Know why some objects float & sink	Theme: New Life – Come outside Theme: Fantastic Food and Keeping Healthy Know the names of the basic parts of a plant & tree Understands that most plants start growing from a seed or bulb. Support and extend children's vocabulary: leaves, petals, roots, bulb, trunk, stem, seed, bulb. Know that sleep, food, hygiene is important for our health	Theme: Little Explores and Great Expeditions Children can talk about what they see, using a wide vocabulary. Begin to explore why things happen and how they work	Theme: Down at the bottom of the garden Explore different habitats outdoors, e.g. scent, colour & shape of flowers attracting bees Begins to understand that all plants need water & light to grow & survive Observe plants closely through a variety of means e.g. magnifiers & photographs

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Observational Checkpoint: Can children use their senses to explore? Can children make sense of their own life-story and family history? Can children understand the key features of the life cycle of a plant and an animal? Do children show an interest in different occupations? Can children talk about differences between materials and changes they notice? Can children talk about different countries in the world?

Reception			Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Understanding the World	Development Matters (4-5 years)	Science	All About Me – Senses, growth and change (humans)	Space/Christmas – planets, light	Dinosaurs – comparing and grouping	Once upon a time – growing plants, naming	Nature Detectives – farm visit, caterpillars to butterflies, contrasting Environments	Pirates – Floating and sinking, sea life

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Year 1	The Human Body and Senses Labelling human body parts and investigating associated senses	Changing Seasons (revisit throughout year) Describe weather and changes in plants and animals associated with different seasons	Identify Materials Choose appropriate packaging to protect a chocolate egg	Plants Make a plant identification kit for plants in the local area	Compare Materials Compare and group materials according to their properties	Types of Animals Plan a zoo containing a variety of different animals groups

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Year 2	Uses of Materials Design a nappy using appropriate materials	Living Things Design an information board for an exhibit comparing living, not living and never living things.	Changing Shape Create a structure that applies the skills and knowledge developed in the unit	Growing Plants (Involves seed germination and plant growth – planning implications) Create an information sheet for aliens about how plants grow	Habitats children to home animals to a suitable habitat using what they have learnt about their needs.	Feeding and Exercise Make a diet and exercise plan, considering food safety and hygiene guidelines
Year 3	Parts of Plants Create an explanation text to remember the parts of plants and their functions	Rocks and Soils Create scrapbook/ poster about rocks and soils	Light and Shadow Use knowledge of how shadows are formed and can change to present a shadow puppet play to F2 children	Magnets and Forces Make a tool that can move something on the floor far away from you	What Plants Need Produce a helpful hints and tips card for gardeners to describe what helps plants grow better	Movement and Feeding Use knowledge to build a model skeleton and label key bones of the body
Year 4	Electricity Design and make a functioning switch	Dangers to Living Things Evaluate the effect of building on pond life and how these changes could be alleviated	Changes of State Describe and explain the water cycle	Sound Describe how different sounds are made and heard	Grouping Living Things Identify, classify and compare living things in different habitats	Human Digestion Describe what happens to the food we eat

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Year 5	Earth and Space Take part in a debate – Does the Earth move?	Separating Mixtures Devise and explain a protocol to separate a mixture of 3 different materials	Forces Design a boat that is stable and moves through the water with least force	Materials Design an outdoor guinea pig shelter	Types of Change Design a recipe and explain and identify the changes that take place	Life Cycles Document the life cycle of a plant or animal in local environment/ offsite visit

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Year 6	Classifying Living Things Use knowledge of classification to classify 'strange creatures and weird plants'	Evolution and Inheritance Answer the question: How do living things evolve? (Secret science notebook)	Electricity Make a quiz with a working scoreboard	Light Explain why the shape of a shadow is the same as the object	Bodies How to stay healthy – multi-media health roadshow	Celebrations Review and revisit KS2 science – create a science newspaper, mime, lesson for younger children, a science song, a quiz, blog
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