Progressions in Vocabulary – Science

Red – links to other Science topics

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| Working Scientifically | | | |
| EYFS | Years 1 and 2 | Years 3 and 4 | Years 5 and 6 |
| 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, present, 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 | | | |
| EYFS | Years 1 and 2 | Years 3 and 4 | Years 5 and 6 |
| tree, bush, herb, names of plants they see | 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  light, shade, Sun, warm, cool, water, space, grow, healthy, bulb, germinate, shoot, seedling names of plants in local habitats and micro-habitats | photosynthesis, pollen, insect/wind pollination, male, female, seed formation, seed dispersal (wind dispersal, animal dispersal, water dispersal), air, nutrients, minerals, soil, absorb, transport  classification, classification keys | life cycle, reproduce, sexual, fertilises, asexual, plantlets, runners, tubers, cuttings  flowering, non-flowering, mosses, ferns, conifers |
| Living Things and Their Habitats | | | |
| EYFS | Years 1 and 2 | Years 3 and 4 | Years 5 and 6 |
| plant, tree, bush, flower, vegetable, herb, weed, animal, names of plants and animals they see, name of a contrasting environment (e.g. beach, forest) | names of garden and wild flowering plants in the local area  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  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  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 offspring, reproduction, growth, baby, toddler, child, teenager, adult, old person, names of animals and their babies (e.g. chick/chicken, cat/kitten, caterpillar/butterfly) | 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  classification, classification keys, environment, habitat, human impact, positive, negative, migrate, hibernate herbivore, carnivore, omnivore, producer, predator, prey | life cycle, reproduce, sexual, sperm, fertilises, egg, live young, metamorphosis, asexual, plantlets, runners, cuttings  vertebrates, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, warm-blooded, cold-blooded, invertebrates, insects, spiders, snails, worms, flowering, non-flowering, mosses, ferns, conifers |
| Animals, including Humans | | | |
| EYFS | Years 1 and 2 | Years 3 and 4 | Years 5 and 6 |
| 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 | 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  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 | nutrition, nutrients, carbohydrates, sugars, protein, vitamins, minerals, fibre, fat, water, skeleton, bones, muscles, joints, support, protect, move, skull, ribs, spine  digestive system, digestion, mouth, teeth, saliva, oesophagus, stomach, small intestine, large intestine, rectum, anus, incisor, canine, molar, premolar, herbivore, carnivore, omnivore, producer, predator, prey | Puberty – look at PSHE vocabulary progression document too  life cycle, foetus, baby, child, adolescent, adult, reproduce, sexual, sperm, fertilises, egg, live young  heart, pulse, rate, pumps, blood, blood vessels, transported, lungs, oxygen, carbon dioxide, cycle, circulatory system, diet, drugs, lifestyle |
| Evolution and Inheritance | | | |
| EYFS | Years 1 and 2 | Years 3 and 4 | Years 5 and 6 |
| plant, tree, bush, flower, vegetable, herb, weed, animal, names of plants and animals they see, name of a contrasting environment (e.g. beach, forest) | leaf, flower, blossom, petal, fruit, berry, root, seed, trunk, branch, stem, bark, stalk, bud  light, shade, Sun, warm, cool, water, space, grow, healthy, bulb, germinate, shoot, seedling,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 | photosynthesis, pollen, insect/wind pollination, male, female, seed formation, seed dispersal (e.g. wind dispersal, animal dispersal, water dispersal), air, nutrients, minerals, soil, fossil, bone, flesh, minerals  environment, habitat, human impact, positive, negative, migrate, hibernate (Y4 - Living things and their habitats) herbivore, carnivore, omnivore, producer, predator, prey | life cycle, reproduce, sexual, fertilises, asexual, plantlets, runners, tubers, cuttings  offspring, sexual reproduction, vary, characteristics, adapted, inherited, species, evolve, evolution |
| Seasonal Changes | | | |
| EYFS | Years 1 and 2 | Years 3 and 4 | Years 5 and 6 |
| 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 | 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 |  |  |
| Materials | | | |
| EYFS | Years 1 and 2 | Years 3 and 4 | Years 5 and 6 |
| 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 | 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  opaque, transparent, translucent, reflective, non-reflective, flexible, rigid, shape, push/pushing, pull/pulling, twist/twisting, squash/squashing, bend/bending, stretch/stretching | 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) magnetic force, magnet, attract, magnetic material, metal, iron, steel  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 | thermal insulator/conductor, change of state, mixture, dissolve, solution, soluble, insoluble, filter, sieve, reversible/non-reversible change, burning, rusting, new material |
| Rocks | | | |
| EYFS | Years 1 and 2 | Years 3 and 4 | Years 5 and 6 |
|  | object, material, rock, brick, clay, hard, soft, waterproof, absorbent, rough, smooth, shiny, dull, see-through, not see-through  opaque, transparent, translucent, reflective, non-reflective | rock, stone, pebble, boulder, grain, crystals, layers, hard, soft, texture, absorbs water, fossil, bone, flesh, minerals, marble, chalk, granite, sandstone, slate, types of soil | Evolution |
| Light | | | |
| EYFS | Years 1 and 2 | Years 3 and 4 | Years 5 and 6 |
| Sun, sunny, light, shadow, shady, clouds, torch, see-through, not see-through, source, light source | senses, see, eyes  shiny, dull, see-through, not see-through  opaque, transparent, translucent, reflective, non-reflective | light, light source, dark, absence of light, surface, shadow, reflect, mirror, Sun, sunlight, dangerous | straight lines, light rays |
| Forces | | | |
| EYFS | Years 1 and 2 | Years 3 and 4 | Years 5 and 6 |
| 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 | flexible, rigid, shape, push/pushing, pull/pulling, twist/twisting, squash/squashing, bend/bending, stretch/stretching | 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 | force, gravity, Earth, air resistance, water resistance, friction, mechanisms, simple machines, levers, pulleys, gears |
| Sound | | | |
| EYFS | Years 1 and 2 | Years 3 and 4 | Years 5 and 6 |
| sound, noise, listen, hear, music, voices, bird song, traffic, sirens, thunder, high, low, loud, quiet, soft, volume, crackle, thunder, hum, buzz, roar | senses, hear, ear | sound, source, vibrate, vibration, travel, pitch (high, low), volume, faint, quiet, loud, insulation |  |
| Electricity | | | |
| EYFS | Years 1 and 2 | Years 3 and 4 | Years 5 and 6 |
|  |  | 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 | circuit diagram, circuit symbol, voltage |
| Earth and Space | | | |
| EYFS | Years 1 and 2 | Years 3 and 4 | Years 5 and 6 |
| Sun, Moon, Earth, star, planet, sky, day, night, space, round, bounce, float |  | light, light source, Sun, sunlight, dangerous | Sun, Moon, Earth, planets (Mercury, Jupiter, Saturn, Venus, Mars, Uranus, Neptune), spherical, Solar System, rotate, star, orbit, tilt, seasons |