

Primary science – key vocabulary

Year 1 – key vocab

Plants	Leaf, flower, blossom, petal, fruit, berry, root, seed, trunk, branch, stem, bark, stalk, bud
Animals	Head, body, eyes, ears, mouth, teeth, leg, tail, wing, claw, fin, scales, feathers, fur, beak, paws, hooves
Senses	Senses, touch, see, smell, taste, hear, fingers (skin), eyes, nose, ear and tongue
Materials	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
Seasons	Weather (sunny, rainy, windy, snowy etc.), seasons (Winter, Summer, Spring, Autumn), sun, sunrise, sunset, day length, monsoon, khareef, thunder storm

Year 2 – key vocab

Living things and habitats	Living, dead, never been alive, suited, suitable, basic needs, food, food chain, shelter, move, feed, names of local habitats e.g. pond, woodland etc., names of micro-habitats e.g. under logs, in bushes etc.
Plants	As for year 1 plus - light, shade, sun, warm, cool, water, grow, healthy, germinate
Animals and humans	Offspring, reproduction, growth, child, young/old stages (examples - chick/hen, baby/child/adult, caterpillar/butterfly), exercise, heartbeat, breathing, hygiene, germs, disease, food types (examples – meat, fish, vegetables, bread, rice, pasta)
Materials	Names of materials – increased range from year 1 Properties of materials - as for year 1 plus opaque, transparent and translucent, reflective, non-reflective, flexible, rigid, shape, push/pushing, pull/puling, twist/twisting, and squash/squashing. Bend/bending, stretch/stretching

Year 3 – key vocab

Plants

Photosynthesis, pollen, insect/wind pollination, seed formation, seed dispersal – wind dispersal, animal dispersal, water dispersal

Light

Light, light source, dark, absence of light, transparent, translucent, opaque, shiny, matt, surface, shadow, reflect, mirror, sunlight, dangerous

Forces and magnets

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

Rocks and soils

Rock, stone, pebble, boulder, grain, crystals, layers, hard, soft, texture, absorb water, soil, fossil, marble, chalk, granite, sandstone, slate, soil, peat, sandy/chalk/clay soil

Animals and humans

Nutrition, nutrients, carbohydrates, sugars, protein, vitamins, minerals, fibre, fat, water, skeleton, bones, muscles, support, protect, move, skull, ribs, spine, muscles, joints

Year 4 – key vocab

Living things and habitats

Classification, classification keys, environment, habitat, human impact, positive, negative, migrate, hibernate

Animals and humans

Digestive system, digestion, mouth, teeth, saliva, oesophagus, stomach, small intestine, nutrients, large intestine, rectum, anus, teeth, incisor, canine, molar, premolars, herbivore, carnivore, omnivore, producer, predator, prey, food chain

Electricity

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

Sound

Sound, source, vibrate, vibration, travel, pitch (high, low), volume, faint, loud, insulation

States of matter

Solid, liquid, gas, state change, melting, freezing, melting point, boiling point, evaporation, temperature, water cycle

Year 5 – key vocab

Earth and Space

Earth, Sun, Moon, (Mercury, Jupiter, Saturn, Venus, Mars, Uranus, Neptune) spherical, solar system, rotates, star, orbit, planets

Materials

Thermal/electrical insulator/conductor, change of state, mixture, dissolve, solution, soluble, insoluble, filter, sieve reversible/non-reversible change, burning, rusting, new material

Forces

Force, gravity, Earth, air resistance, water resistance, friction, mechanisms, simple machines, levers, pulleys, gears

Animals including humans

Vocab to be decided alongside PSHE puberty topic

Living things and habitats

Life cycle, reproduce, sexual, sperm, fertilises, egg, live young, metamorphosis, asexual, plantlets, runners, bulbs, cuttings

Year 6 – key vocab

Electricity

Circuit, complete circuit, circuit diagram, circuit symbol, cell, battery, bulb, buzzer, motor, switch, voltage - NB Children do not need to understand what voltage is but will use volts and voltage to describe different batteries. The words cells and batteries are now used interchangeably

Light

As for year 3 plus straight lines, light rays.

Living things and habitats

Vertebrates, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, invertebrates, insects, spiders, snails, worms, flowering and non-flowering

Evolution and Inheritance

Offspring, sexual reproduction, vary, characteristics, suited, adapted, environment, inherited, species, fossils

Animals including humans

Heart, pulse, rate, pumps, blood, blood vessels, transported, lungs, oxygen, carbon dioxide, nutrients, water, muscles, cycle, circulatory system, diet, exercise, drugs and lifestyle