Science at a Glance

Bassingbourn Community Primary School · Reception to Year 6

This summary shows how pupils' scientific knowledge and skills develop as they move through the school. Our classes are mixed-age, so we share expectations at four points: the end of Reception, Year 2, Year 4 and Year 6.

Area	By the end of Reception children can:	By the end of Year 2 pupils can:	By the end of Year 4 pupils can:	By the end of Year 6 pupils can:
Working scientifically	Explore the world around them, notice what they see and talk about what has changed.	Ask simple questions, observe closely, carry out simple tests and record results in tables and pictograms.	Plan simple fair tests, measure using standard units, and record results in tables, bar charts and labelled diagrams.	Plan their own investigations, control variables, repeat readings and present results in line and scatter graphs.
Living things	Observe plants and animals, and notice how they grow and change.	Name common plants and animals, describe what they need to survive, and explain habitats and simple food chains.	Explain how plants grow and reproduce, group living things using classification keys, and build food chains.	Describe life cycles and reproduction, classify living things, and explain adaptation and evolution.
The human body	Talk about what helps them stay healthy, such as food, exercise and sleep.	Name parts of the body and the five senses, and explain why exercise, a balanced diet and hygiene matter.	Describe the skeleton, muscles and digestive system, and the role of teeth and a balanced diet.	Explain how the heart, blood and blood vessels work, and how lifestyle affects the body.
Materials	Notice how things change, such as ice melting or water freezing.	Name everyday materials, describe their properties and explain why they suit different uses.	Describe solids, liquids and gases, explain the water cycle, and compare rocks, soils and fossils.	Separate mixtures, explain reversible and irreversible changes, and compare materials by their properties.
Forces, Earth and space	Talk about the seasons and how the weather changes.	Describe the four seasons, and how weather and day length change.	Explain friction, and how magnets attract and repel.	Describe how the Earth, Moon and planets move, and explain gravity, air resistance and simple machines.
Light, sound and electricity	Begins in Key Stage 2	Begins in Key Stage 2	Build simple circuits, explain how shadows form, and describe how sounds are made and travel.	Explain how we see light, and how changing a circuit affects bulbs and buzzers.
Science in action	See themselves as scientists, asking questions about the world around them.	Learn about scientists such as Jane Goodall, and jobs that use science, such as weather reporters.	Learn about scientists past and present, such as Mary Anning, and why scientists work together.	Explore how scientific ideas change over time, from Copernicus to Darwin, and how evidence supports them.