Working Scientifically

Biology

Pupils should be taught to:

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Working scientifically

During Years 3 and 4, pupils should be taught to use the following practical scientific methods, processes and skills through the teaching of the programme of study content:

- asking relevant questions and using different types of scientific enquiries to answer them
- setting up simple practical enquiries, comparative and fair tests
- making systematic and careful observations and, where appropriate, taking accurate measurements using standard units, using a range of equipment, including thermometers and data loggers
- gathering, recording, classifying and presenting data in a variety of ways to help in answering questions
- recording findings using simple scientific language, drawings, labelled diagrams, ,keys, bar charts, and tables
- reporting on findings from enquiries, including oral and written explanations, displays or presentations of results and conclusions
- using results to draw simple conclusions, make predictions for new values, suggest improvements and raise further questions
- identifying differences, similarities or changes related to simple scientific ideas and processes
- using straightforward scientific evidence to answer questions or to support their findings.

Animals, including human

- identify that animals, including humans, need the right types and amount of nutrition, and that they cannot make their own food; they get nutrition from what they eat
- identify that humans and some other animals have skeletons and muscles for support, protection and movement.
- describe the simple functions of the basic parts of the digestive system in humans
- identify the different types of teeth in humans and their simple functions.
- Construct and interpret a variety of food chains, identifying producers, predators and prey

Plants

- identify and describe the functions of different parts of flowering plants: roots, stem/trunk, leaves and flowers
- explore the requirements of plants for life and growth (air, light, water, nutrients from soil, and room to grow) and how they vary from plant to plant
- investigate the way in which water is transported within plants
- explore the part of flowers play in the life cycle of flowering plants, including pollination, seed formation and seed dispersal.

Living things and their environment

- recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways
- explore and use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment
- recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things

Rocks

Chemistry

- compare and group together different kinds of rocks on the basis of their simple physical properties
- recognise that soils are made from rocks and organic matter
- describe in simple terms how fossils are formed when things that have lived are trapped within rock.

States of matter

- compare and group materials together, according to whether they are solids, liquids or gases
- observe that some
 materials change state
 when they are heated or
 cooled, and measure or
 research the
 temperature at which
 this happens in degrees
 Celsius (°C),
- identify the part played by evaporation and condensation in the water cycle and associate the rate of evaporation with temperature.

Physics

Pupils should be taught to:

Electricity

- identify common appliances that run on electricity
- construct a simple series electrical circuit, identifying and naming its basic parts, including cells, wires, bulbs, switches and buzzers
- identify whether or not a lamp will light in a simple series circuit, based on whether or not the lamp is part of a complete loop with a battery
- recognise that a switch opens and closes a circuit and associate this with whether or not a lamp lights in a simple series circuit
- recognise some common conductors and insulators, and associate metals with being good conductors

Forces and magnets

- compare how things move on different surfaces
- notice that some forces need contact between two objects but magnetic forces can act at a distance
- observe how magnets attract or repel each other and attract some materials and not others
- compare and group together a variety of everyday materials on the basis of whether they are attracted to a magnet, and identify some magnetic materials
- describe magnets as having two poles
- predict whether two magnets will attract or repel each other, depending on which poles are facing

Light

- recognise that they need light in order to see things and that dark is the absence of light
- notice that light is reflected from surfaces
- recognise that light from the sun can be dangerous and that there are ways to protect their eyes
- recognise that shadows are formed when a light source is blocked by a solid object
- find patterns in the way the size of shadows change

Sound

- identify how sounds are made, associating some of them with something vibrating
- recognise that vibrations from sound travel through a medium to the ear
- find patterns between the pitch of a sound and features of the object that produced it
- find patterns between the volume of a sound and the strength of the vibrations that produced it.
- recognise that sounds get fainter as the distance from the sound source increases.