**Science Vocabulary – National Curriculum, England**

Language is vital for communication and children enjoy learning new words.

Children should be able to use the vocabulary (and derivations from the key words listed below) of preceding topics as well as those listed for their current science topic that in the English national curriculum is separated by year group. All the vocabulary listed here is taken from the science curriculum or related subjects, such as mathematics.

Be aware that words may have multiple meanings and children may not realise that in different contexts a word might mean something a little different – such as explore, record, argument. Note that photosynthesis isn’t in the list simply because it’s not in the statutory primary curriculum.

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| **Science Topic** | **Year 1-2** | **Year 3-4** | **Year 5-6** |
| Working scientifically | experienceobservechangespatternsgroupingsortingclassifyingcompareidentify (name)datameasurerecordequipmentquestionstestinvestigateexploremagnifying glass / hand lenssamedifferent | developenquirypractical enquiryfair testcomparative testrelationshipsconclusionaccuratethermometerdata loggerestimatedatadiagramkey (identifying)tablechartbar chartresultspredictionsexplanationreasonsimilaritydifferencequestionevidenceinformationfindingscriteriavaluespropertiescharacteristics | variablesevidencejustifyaccuracyprecisionscatter graphsbar graphsline graphsargument (science) causal relationship |
| Animals incl humans | names of common animals: fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammalscarnivoresherbivoresomnivoreshumanbodysensesseehearfeelsmelltastehabitatlocal environmentpetwild animalinsectminibeastfoodeatheadneckbodyarmslegsearseyesnosemouthtonguehandsfeetfingerstoeselbowskneeshairteethgrowhealthyoffspringadultsyoungwaterairsurviveexercisehygieneeggchickchickencaterpillarpupamothbutterflytadpolefrogfrog spawnlambsheepcalfcowfoalhorse | nutritiondietskeletonmusclesprotectionsupportmovementbonesskullshelldigestive systemstomachsmall intestinelarge intestineoesophagustypes of teeth: molar, pre-molar, incisor, caninesaliva | pubertygestation periodcirculatory systemheartlungsblood vesselsbloodlifestylediseasewater transportationnutrient transportationoxygenairbreathingexercisedietdrugs |
| Plants | plantswild plantsgarden plantsevergreen treesdeciduous treescommon flowering plantsflowers vegetablesleaf/leavesflowerblossompetalstemtrunkbranchrootseedbulbbudgrowthgrowhabitatlocal environmentleaf fallwaterlighttemperaturehealthy growthsurvivesoilgerminatestages of growth | functionsnutrientsnutritionairtransport (water)life cyclepollination seed formationseed dispersalreproducefertiliser |  |
| Living things and their habitats (incl. evolution and inheritance) | pondgardenfieldparkwoodlandsea shoreriveroceanforestrainforeststonesrockslogsleaf litterhabitatmicro-habitatlivingdeadnot livingalivehealthyfoodfood chaindependsource of foodsheltergrowgrowthhealthy | environmentnon-flowering plants fernsmossesflowering plants grassesvertebrate animals: fish, birds, mammals, amphibians, reptilesinvertebrate animals: snails, worms, slugs, spiders, insectshuman impact – litter, deforestation, population increase, nature reserves | life cyclesreproductionlife processessexual and asexual reproduction (plants) root cuttingsclassificationmicroorganismsorganismsevolutionevolveadaptationvariationinheritinheritance |
| Materials | everyday materialswoodpaperplasticmetalglasswater rockbrickstonefabricmaterialfoilelasticdoughrubbercardcardboardclayobjectmake/madehard/softshiny/dullstretchy/stiffrough/smoothbendy/not bendywaterproof/not waterprooftransparent/opaqueabsorbent/not absorbentsquashtwistbendstretch |  | propertieshardnesssolubilitytransparencyelectrical conductivitythermal conductivitymagnetismdissolvesolutionsubstanceseparatingmixingfilteringsievingreversible changeburningrustingreactionsirreversible change |
| Rocks and soils |  | rocksoilfossilorganic mattergrainscrystalssedimentary rock |  |
| States of matter |  | solidliquidgastemperatureheat (heating)cool (cooling)water cycleevaporationcondensationmeltingfreezing |  |
| Earth and space | seasonsseasonal changespringsummerautumnwinterweathersunsunshinerainsnowsleeticefrostfogcloudhot coldstormskyearthnightday |  | solar systemplanets: Mercury, Venus, earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune, Uranusmoonstarsspherical bodiesrotationorbitsatellite |
| Electricity |  | electricitysimple circuitlight bulbcellwirebuzzerswitchmotorbatteryseries circuitconductorinsulator | voltagecomponentssymbolscircuit diagram |
| Forces |  | movemovementsurfacesforcespushpullcontactdistancemagnetbar magnetring magnethorseshoe magnetattractrepelpoles (of magnets)magnetic materials | gravityair resistancewater resistancefrictionleverspulleysgearssprings |

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| Light |  | lightdark (absence of light)reflectshadowopaquemirrorreflective surface | light sourcesperiscope |
| Sound |  | soundvibrationvibratepitchvolumeinsulation  |  |