**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 | experience  observe  changes  patterns  grouping  sorting  classifying  compare  identify (name)  data  measure  record  equipment  questions  test  investigate  explore  magnifying glass / hand lens  same  different | develop  enquiry  practical enquiry  fair test  comparative test  relationships  conclusion  accurate  thermometer  data logger  estimate  data  diagram  key (identifying)  table  chart  bar chart  results  predictions  explanation  reason  similarity  difference  question  evidence  information  findings  criteria  values  properties  characteristics | variables  evidence  justify  accuracy  precision  scatter graphs  bar graphs  line graphs  argument (science)  causal relationship |
| Animals incl humans | names of common animals: fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals  carnivores  herbivores  omnivores  human  body  senses  see  hear  feel  smell  taste  habitat  local environment  pet  wild animal  insect  minibeast  food  eat  head  neck  body  arms  legs  ears  eyes  nose  mouth  tongue  hands  feet  fingers  toes  elbows  knees  hair  teeth  grow  healthy  offspring  adults  young  water  air  survive  exercise  hygiene  egg  chick  chicken  caterpillar  pupa  moth  butterfly  tadpole  frog  frog spawn  lamb  sheep  calf  cow  foal  horse | nutrition  diet  skeleton  muscles  protection  support  movement  bones  skull  shell  digestive system  stomach  small intestine  large intestine  oesophagus  types of teeth: molar, pre-molar, incisor, canine  saliva | puberty  gestation period  circulatory system  heart  lungs  blood vessels  blood  lifestyle  disease  water transportation  nutrient transportation  oxygen  air  breathing  exercise  diet  drugs |
| Plants | plants  wild plants  garden plants  evergreen trees  deciduous trees  common flowering plants  flowers  vegetables  leaf/leaves  flower  blossom  petal  stem  trunk  branch  root  seed  bulb  bud  growth  grow  habitat  local environment  leaf fall  water  light  temperature  healthy growth  survive  soil  germinate  stages of growth | functions  nutrients  nutrition  air  transport (water)  life cycle  pollination  seed formation  seed dispersal  reproduce  fertiliser |  |
| Living things and their habitats (incl. evolution and inheritance) | pond  garden  field  park  woodland  sea shore  river  ocean  forest  rainforest  stones  rocks  logs  leaf litter  habitat  micro-habitat  living  dead  not living  alive  healthy  food  food chain  depend  source of food  shelter  grow  growth  healthy | environment  non-flowering plants  ferns  mosses  flowering plants  grasses  vertebrate animals: fish, birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles  invertebrate animals: snails, worms, slugs, spiders, insects  human impact – litter, deforestation, population increase, nature reserves | life cycles  reproduction  life processes  sexual and asexual reproduction (plants)  root cuttings  classification  microorganisms  organisms  evolution  evolve  adaptation  variation  inherit  inheritance |
| Materials | everyday materials  wood  paper  plastic  metal  glass  water  rock  brick  stone  fabric  material  foil  elastic  dough  rubber  card  cardboard  clay  object  make/made  hard/soft  shiny/dull  stretchy/stiff  rough/smooth  bendy/not bendy  waterproof/not waterproof  transparent/opaque  absorbent/not absorbent  squash  twist  bend  stretch |  | properties  hardness  solubility  transparency  electrical conductivity  thermal conductivity  magnetism  dissolve  solution  substance  separating  mixing  filtering  sieving  reversible change  burning  rusting  reactions  irreversible change |
| Rocks and soils |  | rock  soil  fossil  organic matter  grains  crystals  sedimentary rock |  |
| States of matter |  | solid  liquid  gas  temperature  heat (heating)  cool (cooling)  water cycle  evaporation  condensation  melting  freezing |  |
| Earth and space | seasons  seasonal change  spring  summer  autumn  winter  weather  sun  sunshine  rain  snow  sleet  ice  frost  fog  cloud  hot  cold  storm  sky  earth  night  day |  | solar system  planets: Mercury, Venus, earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune, Uranus  moon  stars  spherical bodies  rotation  orbit  satellite |
| Electricity |  | electricity  simple circuit  light bulb  cell  wire  buzzer  switch  motor  battery  series circuit  conductor  insulator | voltage  components  symbols  circuit diagram |
| Forces |  | move  movement  surfaces  forces  push  pull  contact  distance  magnet  bar magnet  ring magnet  horseshoe magnet  attract  repel  poles (of magnets)  magnetic materials | gravity  air resistance  water resistance  friction  levers  pulleys  gears  springs |

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| Light |  | light  dark (absence of light)  reflect  shadow  opaque  mirror  reflective surface | light sources  periscope |
| Sound |  | sound  vibration  vibrate  pitch  volume  insulation |  |