

EYFS Science

Scientific enquiry drives all planning. “Science enquiry is what children do in order to answer a scientific question about the world around them.” (Joe Turner et al)

Science sessions are planned in line with class topic areas where possible. Additional science sessions are planned to ensure that the children are able to develop key scientific skills and gain the desired scientific knowledge.

Across the term, the children access tasks teaching these key scientific skills:

- Observe over time
- Identify and Classify
- Pattern Seek
- Research
- Fair Test

Reception science planning is led by the children. They have the opportunity to explore ideas that are of an interest to them. This can be within the umbrella of a topic title, but they are also given the chance to explore their own interests. Below are the details of some of the topics typically covered in the reception class but these can and often do change. What remains consistent, is the opportunity to explore the key skills listed above.

An example of an EYFS science overview can be seen below.

EYFS – Reception Science Planning Overview		Examples of how to support	Autumn 1 and 2		
Topic Area	ELG Focus		Science Enquiry Focus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observe over time • Identify and Classify • Pattern Seek • Research • Fair Test 	Knowledge to be assessed	Activity – see weekly plans
Nocturnal Animals Autumn 2	Understanding the World – Natural World:	Explore the natural world around them, making observations and drawing pictures of animals and plants. Know some similarities and differences between the natural world around them and contrasting environments, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class. Understand some important processes and changes in the natural world around them, including the seasons and changing states of matter.	Research Questioning – do all nocturnal animals eat the same thing? Why do owls have beaks, claws and big eyes? Identify and classify – assessment task. Classify according to features – nocturnal / not nocturnal Flight / not flight	Names of nocturnal animals What does nocturnal mean? Be able to name key body parts of animals covered – and identify how they catch or get their food. Extension – physical features of a nocturnal animal that enable them to hunt / catch food.	Hedgehog visit Hawking about Writing task – linked to knowledge Grouping animals – classify task
Birds Spring 1		Big Bird watch project - 7 January to 14 February 2025.	Observe over time / pattern seeking. What do the birds like to eat? Where in the garden are the bird feeders visited the most? Research – making bird feeders	Names birds Tally charts	Make and put out bird feeders Jan – continuous provision tally charts
Winter Wonderland Autumn 2	Understanding the world Describe what they see, hear and feel whilst outside.	Encourage positive interaction with the outside world, offering children a chance to take supported risks, appropriate to themselves and the environment with in which they are in.	Observe over time – link to senses Fire – research How to safe around fire and how to take the risk to complete jobs with fire.	Vocab linked to sensed – feel, touch. Freeze – what does it mean? Water has gone solid. Fire	Ice balloons – observation task Jan Research – fire safety Fire rules Sparklers / fire pit Winter W