

KS2 LOWER SCIENCE CURRICULUM OVERVIEW FOR PARENTS

Science in Lower Key Stage 2 helps children become curious and confident learners who ask questions about the world around them. They explore, observe and investigate to find out how things work, using evidence to explain what they see.

Throughout all topics, children will learn how to:

- Ask questions and think of ways to find answers.
- Carry out simple tests and investigations.
- Use tools such as thermometers, rulers and magnifying glasses to make accurate observations.
- Record what they see in drawings, tables or charts.
- Talk about what their results show and what they have discovered.



Biology

PLANTS

- Learn the different parts of a flowering plant and what each part does.
- Find out what plants need to grow well – such as light, water and nutrients.
- Explore how water moves through a plant.
- Discover how plants make new seeds through pollination and seed dispersal.

Children learn to observe and care for living things while understanding how plants grow and reproduce.

ANIMALS, INCLUDING HUMANS

- Learn that all animals, including humans, need food, water and air to survive.
- Find out where animals get their food and how they use nutrients for energy.
- Explore how skeletons and muscles help animals move and stay strong.

Children begin to understand what keeps living things healthy and active.



Chemistry

ROCKS AND SOILS

- Compare different types of rocks by looking at their colours, textures and patterns.
- Learn how fossils form and what they tell us about the past.
- Discover that soil is made up of tiny rock pieces mixed with once-living material.

This helps children understand the Earth beneath our feet and how it changes over time.

STATES OF MATTER (Chemistry)

- Learn that materials can be solid, liquid or gas.
- Watch how heating and cooling can change materials – for example, melting chocolate or freezing water.
- Explore evaporation and condensation and how they are part of the water cycle.

Children begin to understand how materials change and how water moves through nature.



Physics

FORCES AND MAGNETS

- Discover how things move on different surfaces.
- Explore how magnets attract and repel each other and which materials are magnetic.
- Find out about poles and how magnets are used in real life.

Children learn how forces and magnetism help things move and work.

LIGHT

- Find out that light helps us see and that darkness is the absence of light.
- Explore how light reflects off surfaces and how shadows are made.
- Investigate how shadows change size and shape during the day.

Children explore how light behaves and how it affects what we see.

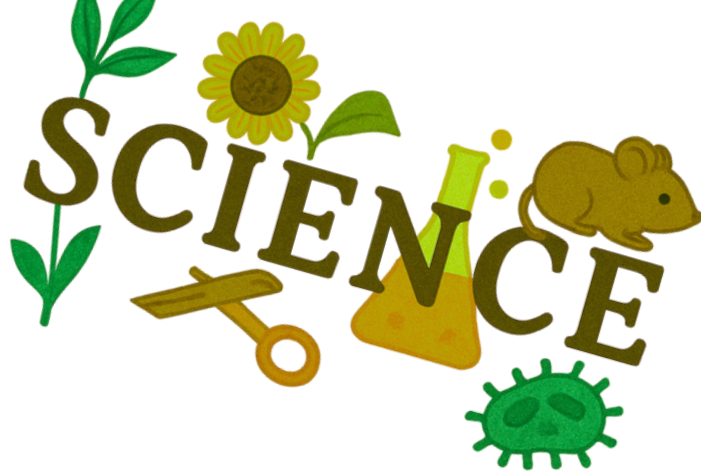
Science helps children:

- Ask thoughtful questions about the world around them.
- Develop skills in observing, predicting and testing.
- Use evidence to support ideas and explanations.
- Appreciate how science links to everyday life.



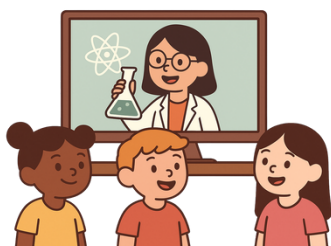
KS2L How can I help my child at home?

Your interest helps your child see science as a way of understanding the world around them.



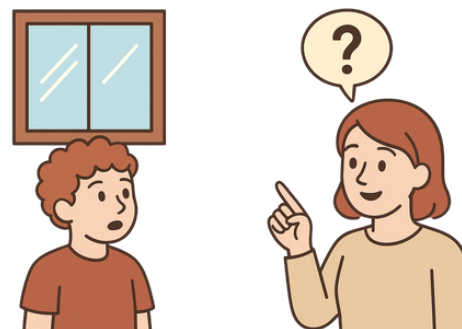
Explore the outdoors together
Look for plants, animals, rocks, or patterns in nature – talk about what you see and how things change through the seasons.

Ask “What do you think will happen if...?”
Encourage your child to make predictions and test ideas safely – curiosity is key!



Watch and discuss science programmes
Enjoy short documentaries or videos about space, nature, or inventions, and talk about what they discover.

Notice science in everyday life
Talk about forces when swinging, light and shadows at sunset, or materials used at home.



Try simple investigations
Grow seeds, test how things move down a slope, or explore what dissolves in water – no special equipment needed!

Use scientific language

Encourage them to use words like vibrate, reflect, absorb, melt, or evaporate when describing what they observe.