

11.1. Progression in Vocabulary

The teaching and use of appropriate vocabulary forms an important part of teaching learning. These age specific 'key word' lists identify the vocabulary that we expect teachers to be using. In addition, specific key words (must words) will be selected from these lists for each unit of work for inclusion in the knowledge organisers.

These lists will continue to be updated and refined on an annual basis.

11.2

EYFS Nursery	Vocabulary	Definition
	unique	One of a kind.
	spring	The season when temperatures start to rise and flowers start to grow.
	winter	The coldest season of the year.
	temperature	Measurement of heat.
	summer	The warmest season of the year.
	hydrated	Replacing fluids in the body.
	measure	A way of showing how much or great something is.
	sow	Planting a seed.

11.3

EYFS Reception	Vocabulary	Definition
	herbivore	An animal that eats plants.
	carnivore	An animal that eats other animals.
	fossil	Remains or impression of a plant or animal preserved in rock.
	environment	The surrounding where we live.
	pollution	Something in the environment that can be harmful.
	grow	To change in size or develop.
	experiment	A test done to discover something.
	compare	To note similarities and differences between things.
	materials	What something is made of.
	planet	A large, round mass of rock that moves in a circular path around the sun.
	star	A huge, glowing ball of gas.
	habitat	The natural home of a plant or animal.
	diet	The kinds of food that a human or animal eats.

11.4

Key Stage 1	Vocabulary	Definition
	Animals including humans	
	mammal	Mammals are animals that breathe air, grow hair or fur and feed on their mother's milk as a baby.
	amphibian	Amphibians live in the water as babies and on land as they grow older.
	carnivore	Animals that mostly eat other animals (meat).
	herbivore	Animals that only eat plants.
	omnivore	Animals that eat both other animals and plants.
	senses	Our body has five senses: sight, smell, touch, taste and hearing.
	offspring	The young of an animal.
	life cycle	The changes living things go through to become an adult.
	young	Offspring that has not reached adulthood
	diet	The food and water that an animal needs.
	exercise	A physical activity to keep your body fit.
	hygiene	How we keep ourselves and the world around us clean so we can stay healthy and stop germs spreading.
	Living things and their habitats	
	living thing	Living things are things (e.g. plants, humans and animals) that are alive.
	non-living thing	Things that are not alive and have never been alive.
	life processes	The things that all living things do. They move, breathe, sense, grow, make
	habitat	A natural home or environment for plants, animals and other living things.
	microhabitat	A very small habitat in places such as; under a rock, under leaves or on a branch.
	minibeast	A small creature like an insect, worm or spider.
	food chain	A food chain shows how each animal gets its food.
	food source	This is the place a living thing's food comes from.
	dependent	Many living things in a habitat depend on each other. This means they need each other for different things.

Key Stage 1	Vocabulary	Definition
	predators	Animals that eat other animals are called predators. The animals that they eat are called prey.
	reproduce	To make more animals and plants.
	Plants	
	deciduous	Trees that shed their leaves in winter; their leaves are usually wide and flat.
	evergreen	Trees that keep their leaves all year around; they often have leaves shaped like needles.
	leaves	The flattened part of a plant that is usually green and is attached by a stalk. Leaves help the plant to produce food.
	flowers	The seed-bearing part of a plant.
	petals	The brightly coloured part of the flower that attracts insects to pollinate the plant.
	fruits	The sweet and fleshy product of a plant that contains a seed. They are often eaten.
	roots	The part of a plant that attached to the ground and takes in water and nutrients.
	trunk	The main woody stem of a tree.
	stem	The stalk of a plant or shrub.
	branches	Part of a tree that grows out from the trunk.
	seed	The part of a plant that will grow into a new plant.
	germinate	When a seed forms a small root and/or shoot.
	reproduce	To make more animals and plants.
	Everyday materials	
	property	A characteristic of a material e.g. hard, bendy, shiny etc.
	group	Materials can be placed in groups based on their properties e.g. wood, metal, glass etc.
	changing materials	To squash, bend, twist, stretch, heat, cool, freeze, melt, boil.
	natural	When a material is used in its raw state e.g. wooden door.
	manufactured	When a raw material is made into a new one e.g. wood into paper.
	raw material	A material found in nature e.g. wood.

Key stage 1	Vocabulary	Definition
	twist	To bend and curl.
	stretch	To make longer and wider without tearing.
	bend	To force something straight into a curve or angle.
	squash	To crush or squeeze something so that it becomes flat or out of shape.
	rough	Something with an uneven surface.
	smooth	Something with an even surface.
	Seasonal changes	
	summer	The warmest season of the year.
	spring	The season after winter and before summer when vegetation starts to appear.
	autumn	The season after summer and before winter when trees lose their leaves.
	winter	The coldest season of the year.
	Sun	A sun is a star, a giant ball of hot gas. Our Sun makes life possible on Earth.
	day	A day lasts 24 hours and during this time the Earth spins once on its axis.
	season	The four seasons (autumn, winter, spring, summer) we experience on our planet are caused by the Earth's tilt as it rotates around the Sun.
	light	Light is the energy that allows us to see the world. A light source makes light by using another kind of energy (for example heat or nuclear energy).
	Moon	A moon is a celestial object that orbits the Earth.
	Working scientifically	
	data	A set of facts or measurements.
	compare	To consider the similarities and differences between objects.
	classify	To group items together that have similar features.
	observe	To notice or watch.
	describe	To draw or put in writing what you have observed.

Lower Key stage 2	Vocabulary	Definition
	Working scientifically	
	classifying	Grouping objects according to their properties or characteristics.
	conclusion	To make a judgment or decision based on facts and information gathered.
	evidence	Facts or information that supports whether something is true or not.
	fair test	A fair test changes only one thing when attempting to answer a scientific question.
	investigation	Researching or working systematically.
	prediction	A good guess about what you expect to happen in an investigation.
	relevant-	Closely connected or associated with an idea or object.
	systematically	Working methodically according to a plan.
	Electricity	
	appliance	A piece of equipment designed to do a particular job eg washing clothes.
	circuit	A complete and closed path along which electricity flows.
	cell	A battery.
	parallel circuit	A circuit in which the current divides into two or more paths.
	series circuit	A series circuit has one looped path along which the current travels.
	switch	A device for making and breaking the connection in an electric circuit.
	insulator	A substance or device which does not readily conduct electricity.
	conductor	A material or device that allows electricity to flow through it.
	Forces and magnets	
	pull	The force of attraction between two objects.
	repel	Force away.
	poles	The two ends of a magnet are known as the north pole and the south pole.

Lower Key stage 2

Vocabulary	Definition
force	A push or pull in a certain direction.
newton	A unit of force.
friction	The force between two surfaces that are trying to slide across each other.
magnet	A material that produces a magnetic force on a magnetic material such as iron.
magnetic	The force (push or pull) experienced by certain metals.
Light	
light source	Something that gives out its own light.
shadow	When light rays are blocked by something opaque.
reflect	When light bounces off a smooth shiny surface.
opaque	A material that does not let light pass through. You cannot see through it. It makes a dark shadow.
translucent	A material that allows light to shine through, although you cannot see through it clearly.
transparent	A material that you can see through perfectly clearly.
compass	An instrument that uses a magnetic needle to show where North is. It also shows the directions of East, South and West.
Plants	
nutrients	These substances are needed by a living thing to grow and survive.
fertilisation	When the male and female parts of the flower have mixed in order to make seeds for new plants.
stamen	The male parts of the flower. The stamen is made up of the anther and the filament. The filament holds up the anther. The anther makes pollen.
carpel (pistil)	The female parts of the flower.
sepal	A leaf-like structures that protect the flower and petals before they open out.
pollination	When pollen is moved from the male anther of a flower to the female stigma.
pollinator	Animals or insects which carry pollen between plants.
germination	When a seed starts to grow.

Lower Key Stage 2	Vocabulary	Definition
	Animals including humans i	
	mouth	The body opening through which an animal takes in food.
	oesophagus	the tube in the body that takes food from the mouth to the stomach.
	small intestine	The upper part of the bowels between the stomach and the large intestine.
	large intestine	The lower part of the bowels in which water is removed from digested food before it is passed out of the body as solid waste.
	rectum	The lowest end of the bowels down which solid waste travels before leaving the body through the anus.
	anus	The opening at the end of the alimentary canal through which solid waste leaves the body.
	digestive system	The organs in your body involved with the digestion of food.
	food chain	A series of living things that are connected because each group of things eats the group below it in the chain.
	Animals including humans ii	
	photosynthesis	The process by which green plants use sunlight, carbon dioxide and water to make nutrients.
	carnivore	An animal that eats only animals.
	herbivore	An animal that eats only plants.
	omnivore	An animal that eats plants and animals.
	skeleton	An internal or external framework of bone, cartilage, or other rigid material supporting or containing the body of an animal.
	muscle	Fibrous tissue in a body that has the ability to contract, producing movement.
	States of matter	
	solid	A solid retains its own shape. It is rigid and has a fixed volume.
	liquid	A liquid fits the shape of the container it's in. Liquids are not rigid and can be poured.

Lower Key Stage 2

Vocabulary	Definition
gas	Fills all the available space and can be compressed.
evaporation	The process of heating water, or another liquid, so it turns into a gas.
condensation	The process of cooling water vapour (steam), or another gas, so it turns into a liquid.
water cycle	The water cycle shows the continuous movement of water within the Earth.
Rocks	
sedimentary rock	Rocks formed by sediment that is deposited over time, usually as layers at the bottom of lakes and oceans.
igneous rock	Rock formed when magma cools and solidifies, it may do this above or below the Earth's surface.
metamorphic rock	Rocks that have been changed over time by extreme pressure and heat.
permeable	Allowing liquid or gas to pass through it.
fossil	The remains or impression of a prehistoric plant or animal embedded in rock and preserved in stone form.
palaeontologist	A person who studies fossil plants and animals.
soil	A black or dark brown material typically consisting of a mixture of organic remains, clay, and rock particles.
loam	A fertile soil of clay and sand containing humus.
Living things and their habitat	
vertebrate	An animal with a backbone.
invertebrate	An animal without a backbone.
deciduous	A tree that sheds its leaves in winter.
classification	Arranging plants and animals into groups according to their similarities.
habitat	The natural home of an animal, plant or other organism.
food chain	A series of organisms, each dependent on the next as a source of food.
food web	A series of interlocking food chains.

Lower Key Stage 2	Vocabulary	Definition
	Sound	
	sound	Vibrations that travel through the air or other matter and can be heard when they reach a person's or animal's ear.
	loudness	The production of much noise.
	pitch	How low or high a sound is.
	vibration	Rapid back and forth movement.
	vacuum	A space devoid of any matter.
	devoid	Entirely lacking or free from.

Upper Key Stage 2	Vocabulary	Definition
	Working scientifically	
	continuous data	Data which can take any values. Examples include time, height and weight.
	discrete Data	Data that can only take certain values. E.g. the number of children in a class.
	enquiry	A question, an investigation or the process of seeking information.
	variable	Something that changes or can be changed.
	controlled Variables	The things in an investigation that are kept the same.
	dependent Variable	The think that is being measured in an investigation.
	independent Variable	The one thing you change in an investigation.
	conclusion	A summary of an investigation.
	Electricity	
	components	A component is any device in an electric circuit that transfers electrical energy into another form.
	conductor	A material or device that conducts or transmits heat or electricity.
	current	The flow of electrons in a circuit is known as a current.
	electrons	Electrons are small particles with a negative electric charge.
	insulator	Any material that keeps energy such as electricity, heat, or cold from easily transferring through is an insulator.
	resistance	A measure of the degree to which a substance impedes the flow of electric current induced by voltage.
	volts	Volts and Watts are both related to energy transfers in an electric circuit. The voltage of a power supply is a measure of the energy it gives.
	amp (ampere)	Unit of electrical current.
	cell	A device that changes chemical energy into electrical energy.

Upper Key Stage 2	Vocabulary	Definition
	Evolution and inheritance	
	adaptation	The process of change by which an organism or species becomes better suited to its environment.
	evolution	The process by which different kinds of living organisms are believed to have developed from earlier forms during the history of the Earth.
	fossil	The remains or impression of a prehistoric plant or animal embedded in rock and preserved in petrified form.
	generation	A set of members of a family regarded as a single step or stage in descent.
	inherit	Derive (a quality, characteristic, or predisposition) genetically from one's parents or ancestors.
	palaeontology	The branch of science concerned with fossil animals and plants.
	theory	A system of ideas intended to explain something.
	Animals including humans i	
	arteries	Tubes in your body that carry oxygenated blood from your heart to the rest of your body.
	blood vessels	The tube-like structures that carry blood through the tissues and organs. Veins, arteries and capillaries are the three types of blood vessels.
	capillaries	Capillaries are very tiny blood vessels — so small that a single red blood cell can barely fit through them. They connect your arteries and veins.
	circulatory system	A system which includes the heart, veins, arteries and blood transporting substances around the body.
	deoxygenated blood	Deoxygenated blood is blood where most of the oxygen has already been transferred to the rest of the body.
	nutrients	Substances that help animals and plants grow.
	oxygenated blood	Oxygenated blood has more oxygen. It is pumped from the heart to the rest of the body.
	veins	A tube in your body that carries deoxygenated blood to your heart from the rest of your body.
	Living things and their habitats i	
	vertebrate	Animals that have a backbone.

Upper Key Stage 2	Vocabulary	Definition
	characteristics	Special qualities or appearances that make an individual or group of things different to others.
	classify	To sort things into different groups.
	taxonomist	A scientist who classifies different living things into categories.
	key	A key is a series of questions about the characteristics of living things. A key is used to identify a living thing or decide which group it belongs to.
	bacteria	A single-celled microorganism.
	micro-organism	An organism that can only be seen using a microscope, e.g. bacteria, mould and yeast.
	species	A group of animals that can reproduce to produce fertile offspring.
	Light	
	light	A form of energy that travels in a wave from a source.
	light source	An object that makes its own light.
	reflection	When light bounces off a surface, changing the direction of a ray of light.
	refraction	When light bends as it passes from one medium to another. E.g. Light bends when it moves from air into water.
	incident ray	A ray of light that hits a surface.
	reflected ray	A ray of light that has bounced back after hitting a surface.
	prism	A prism is a solid 3D shape with flat sides. The two ends are an equal shape and size. A transparent prism separates out visible light into all the colours.
	transparent	Describes objects that let light travel through them easily, meaning you can see through the object.
	translucent	Describes objects that things let some light through, but scatters the light so we can't see through them properly.
	spectrum	A band of colours.
	rainbow	An arch of visible colours in the sky.

Upper Key Stage 2	Vocabulary	Definition
	Forces	
	gravity	The force that attracts a body towards the centre of the Earth.
	friction	The resistance that one surface or object encounters when moving over another.
	upthrust	The upward force that a liquid exerts on an object floating in it.
	air resistance	A type of friction between air and another material.
	water resistance	A type of force that uses friction to slow things down that are moving through water.
	gears	A rotating part in a machine it has teeth cut around its edge.
	pulleys	A wheel with a groove through which a string runs.
	levers	A rigid bar resting on a pivot, used to move a heavy or firmly fixed load with one end when pressure is applied to the other.
	Animals including humans ii	
	gestation	The process in which babies grow inside their mother's body before they are born.
	gestation Period	The time during which an embryo develops inside their mothers' body.
	embryo	An unborn or unhatched offspring in the process of development.
	foetus	An offspring of a human or other mammal before it is born that follows the embryo stage.
	fertilisation	The process of causing an egg or seed to start to develop into a new young animal or plant by joining it with a male cell.
	species	A set of animals or plants in which the members have similar characteristics to each other and can breed with each other.
	adolescent	A young person in the process of developing from a child into an adult.
	toddler	A young child who is just beginning to walk.
	womb	A muscular bag with a soft lining where a baby develops until its birth.

Upper Key Stage 2	Vocabulary	Definition
	Earth and Space	
	axis	An imaginary line about which the Earth rotates.
	rotate	Move in a circle round an axis or centre.
	orbit	The curved path of an object round a star, planet, or moon.
	solar	Describes something that is related to the Sun.
	Solar system	Consists of the Sun and everything that orbits it such as the planets, moons, and asteroids.
	lunar	Describes something that is related to the Moon.
	spherical	Having the form of a sphere
	waxing	The time period when the new Moon begins its orbit and we see more and more of the Moon, this is called waxing.
	waning	The time period after a full Moon when we start to see less and less of the Moon.
	Properties and changes of materials	
	hardness	The quality of being difficult to bend, cut, or break.
	solubility	The ability to be dissolves, especially in water.
	transparent	Allowing light to pass through so that objects behind can be distinctly seen.
	conductivity	The degree to which a material conducts electricity.
	magnetic	Capable of being attracted by a magnet or taking on the characteristics of a magnet.
	filter	A device that removes unwanted particles from a liquid or gas.
	evaporation	The process of turning from liquid into a gas.
	dissolving	To cause a solid to become incorporated into a liquid so as to form a solution.

Upper Key Stage 2	Vocabulary	Definition
	Living things and habitats ii	
	mammal	A warm-blooded animal that has hair or fur. The females secretes milk for the nourishment of the young, and (typically) gives birth to live young.
	reproduction	The production of offspring.
	insect	A small invertebrate that has six legs and generally one or two pairs of wings
	amphibian	A cold-blooded vertebrate that has gill-breathing young and lung breathing adults.
	bird	A warm-blooded egg-laying vertebrate that has feathers, wings, a beak, and typically is able to fly.
	offspring	An animal's young.