

Curriculum report to Governors Science

December 2023 Subject leader: David Polidano

Intent

At Christ Church School we aim to instil a love of science within our pupils. Science at our school supports our vision of *inspiring life in all its fullness* through its contribution to a wide breadth of curriculum and we believe that high-quality science education is essential for understanding and respecting the world around us. Science in our school aims to encourage curiosity and develop a sense of excitement, in order to make sense of the world in which we live and give children a strong understanding of the uses and implications of science, today and for the future.

Our science curriculum is designed with high expectations in mind and provides opportunities for children to acquire the knowledge and skills they need to make progress throughout their time here at Christ Church and prepare them for when they move on to secondary science. At Christ Church, we aim to build and expand every child's science capital, in the hope that more children will continue to enjoy science and progress into STEM careers in the future. Science learning begins in Early Years in 'Understanding the World' and our curriculum covers the specific disciplines of Biology, Chemistry and Physics and these are made explicit to children in upper Key Stage 2.

The key skills needed to work scientifically are embedded in all our science teaching and build sequentially through the school, ensuring that all children have the opportunity to question, observe, discover, conclude and evaluate (essentially an understanding of the nature, processes and methods of science). Children are taught how to use scientific equipment by working practically throughout both Key Stages and we aim to encourage the children to be enquiry-based learners who can pose their own questions and seek answers to these. Science is taught across the curriculum wherever possible, including within additional enrichment activities, providing essential exposure and understanding for the children of how science impacts our daily lives.





Implementation

- Y1-6 class teachers follow the National Curriculum and ensure the working scientifically skills are taught, revisited and embedded. This builds on the foundations for Science learning within the EYFS curriculum in Reception, such as through working towards the Natural World Early Learning Goal.
- In KS1 and KS2, the science skills are taught alongside and through learning the science content. Lessons are carefully planned to ensure skills and knowledge progression within each year group, as well as throughout the school. The curriculum is designed so that by end of Year 6, pupils have built solid working scientifically skills (disciplinary knowledge) and have secure knowledge of the science content (substantive knowledge).
- A range of enquiry types are planned, taught and built upon across the Science curriculum (grouping and classifying; noticing patterns, observations over time, fair and comparative testing, research and modelling).
- Class teachers deliver science lessons and help to draw out links between previous learning and other curriculum areas.
- Class teachers are supported by the science subject leader and receive CPD through staff meetings and tailored support. Teachers demonstrate strong subject knowledge.
- Both formative and summative assessment is used in science. Teachers will use formative assessment (including
 questioning, observing, feedback and marking) to help shape a lesson, direct learning, address misconceptions,
 provide feedback and adapt future lessons. Summative assessment is carried out at the end of each science topic and

assessment results shared with future class teachers and end of year assessments in both science content and working scientifically skills are reported to parents in end of year reports.

- Children use a wide range of relevant resources to help them with their learning and the curriculum is enriched through various trips and visits: e.g. Thames Explorer, Francis Crick Institute, Science Museum, Hampstead Heath Education Centre. These all help to enhance our children's science capital.
- Strong curriculum links with maths (handling data, light and reflection), geography (weather, seasons), DT (electrical circuits to build torches, forces to build cars), English (explanation texts, persuasive writing), history (fossils and evolution), art (pencil drawings of invertebrates and seeds) computing (fact pages, research), PSHE (healthy living) are utilised to consolidate prior science learning.
- All children are supported to acquire the intended knowledge and skills in science, through adaptive teaching in the classroom. Learning is adapted for children with SEND and scaffolded support is given where needed.
- Lessons are sequenced effectively, enabling progress throughout each topic within one year group and also across one topic over multiple year groups, where the topic is studied again and built on.

Impact

- Children enjoy science lessons in school and as homework activities. Children are interested in what they learn about and often continue to learn outside the classroom by doing their own research. Pupil voice shows that children find science exciting, interesting and relevant.
- All children develop their working scientifically skills to become better problem-solvers and work with increasing independence as they move through the school. Children learn to communicate effectively by presenting their findings in various different ways, with different audiences in mind.
- Children have a good knowledge of the key science curriculum content and can make connections across the curriculum. Children are able to identify topics that have been introduced in earlier year groups and understand how new learning builds on previous learning.
- Children have the opportunity to use a range of resources to carry out their work including scientific equipment and technology. Children's independence progresses throughout the school and they are given more opportunities to design their own investigations, select relevant equipment and consider how to record and present their findings.
- Children ask relevant scientific questions using subject-specific language. This Tier 3, subject-specific vocabulary is built on each year across the school, with opportunities to use this vocabulary orally, in their writing and through reading non-fiction texts.
- Science learning gives a chance for children to express views and opinions on topics which are important to them, e.g. climate change, plastics, sustainability, endangered animals.

Whole School Standards			
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Year 6 at the Linnean Society learning about species classification.

Approach to assessment in Science

Ongoing assessment:

Throughout all lessons, teachers check for understanding and assess whether children have met the learning intention or not. Lessons are designed to instil specific substantive knowledge or key disciplinary knowledge and skills. Children are identified who may need additional support or intervention of some kind, and this is given in a timely manner. Preteaching of key vocabulary may also be beneficial for specific children. Ongoing assessment is done through observation, discussion with pupils, questioning, marking work, and discussion with additional adults.

Summative assessment:

Key learning for each year group is identified in our key learning sheets for each topic. This also includes key vocabulary. Using a range of evidence including observation, work sampling, discussion with pupils and questioning, teachers make summative assessments against key standards and statements for all pupils. This is shared with parents in end of year reports. This data is also analysed and used to decide on future targets or areas of improvement in science.



Adaptive teaching case studies

Many pupils with SEND or additional individual needs can fully access our science curriculum without specific adaptations to teaching. These are two case studies where small but specific adaptations have supported pupil progress.

- Pupil on SEN register with cognition and learning needs sometimes struggled with understanding of tier 3 vocabulary related to science topics. This child received some pre-teaching of key words prior to lessons to ensure they were able to grasp new learning and access all learning.
- Pupil on SEN register with cognition and learning needs struggles at times to focus for longer periods of times, or process new

information without scaffolds. They were often assisted by an adult sitting with them, and were provided with key vocabulary word banks or visual cues to help them understand more difficult concepts.

Ofsted curriculum research review and Ofsted subject report- summary and response/reflection

The <u>Ofsted curriculum research review for Science</u> (June 2021) reviewed a wide range of relevant educational research into both primary and secondary science teaching and identifies factors which may contribute to high-quality science education. The Christ Church reflection on and response to the curriculum review is summarised in our Autumn 2022 curriculum leader report.

The <u>Ofsted subject report for Science: Finding the Optimum</u>, was published in February 2023. The subject report built on the research review, shared strengths and weaknesses in Science in schools and identified factors which support effective curriculums, pedagogy, assessment and systems in Science. Below are summarised some of the main recommendations and findings from the subject review, alongside our responses and, where relevant, next steps.

Seasonal changes

over the year.

Animals including Humans

recommendations and findings from the subject review, alongside our responses and, where relevant, next steps. Curriculum recommendations Our response – how does this align with our teaching and learning at Schools should: Christ Church? Including any next steps, where relevant. The Reception curriculum is the foundation for the Science knowledge Ensure that the curriculum is specific about the knowledge that children in and skills the children will cover in later year groups, e.g. Plants, space, light, seasonal changes, everyday materials, etc. Reception should learn about In Year 1, children draw on the knowledge gained in Reception and understanding the world. This knowledge should connect with what pupils go on to expand what they learn: Plants learn in Year 1 science. Children in Reception will observe plants growing. In Year 1, they will label the parts of plants, identify and name plants, and will observe plants growing from seeds, perhaps beginning to think about conditions needed. **Everyday materials** In Reception, children will discuss similarities and differences between different materials. In Year 1, they will specifically identify properties of different materials. They also begin to sort and group materials based on these properties.

 Ensure that enough time is built into the curriculum for pupils to learn and remember key knowledge. It is important that pupils are helped to see how this knowledge connects with what they already know about science, so that they build connected knowledge. and begin classifying animals based on their animal class. The research states that "There were a small minority of primary schools where pupils went for entire half terms without learning science. This is a concern because science is a core subject of the national curriculum, and pupils benefit from regular opportunities to revisit and build on their knowledge so that it is not forgotten." We acknowledge that our curriculum model focuses the main part of our Science teaching in one half of the academic year. However, we have fully reviewed our curriculum structure in light of the Ofsted subject review, including checking what children knew and remembered of previous topics and are confident in continuing this model which provides a faster pace of learning and joined up CPD and enrichment opportunities and also addresses teacher work load concerns. We ensure children continue to rehearse key Science knowledge and skills throughout the year in a number of planned ways: spaced retrieval activities and games, low-stakes quizzes, key knowledge organisers sent home, morning work, homework. Key working scientifically skills are also rehearsed throughout the year in

In Reception, children will identify that there are four seasons, and begin to think about some differences between them. In Year 1, the children will carry out enquiries to see how plants change over the course of a year. They will also look at difference in the length of day

In Reception, children will begin to recognise main body parts, observe basic life cycles of insects, match some infant with adult animals and begin to think about the importance of physical activity and health. In Year 1, children will build on this learning, thinking about the five senses and the body parts associated with them, begin thinking about diet and that some animals are herbivores, omnivores or carnivores,

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Ensure that the curriculum identifies and	planned opportunities in other subject areas, such as geography and maths. See Target 1 below: Ensure that science skills and knowledge are continued to be focused on in first half of academic year. We have carefully considered and mapped out the working scientifically skills, and highlighted when classes will explicitly focus on learning.
sequences the disciplinary knowledge that pupils need to work scientifically. This should not be limited to learning about scientific techniques, data analysis or fair tests. It should include developing their knowledge of all areas of working scientifically, including different types of scientific enquiry, such as pattern seeking, and concepts such as evidence and accuracy.	skills, and highlighted when classes will explicitly focus on learning these. We have also mapped out pupils' practical experience of the different enquiry types and provide ongoing training for teachers on these. This disciplinary knowledge is rehearsed in other lessons and other subjects as well, such as in geography or maths lessons. This can be found in our science curriculum pack.
Ensure that all pupils have enough opportunities to take part in high-quality practical work that has a clear purpose in relation to the curriculum. At secondary school, this should include laboratory work, fieldwork and teacher demonstrations.	Our children take part in practical work in every year group. We have identified key enquiries to ensure that all five enquiry types are covered from Year 1-Year 6. In Reception, the children will carry out a range of enquiries based on their topics. Some suggestions for Secondary schools in the research are also part of our planned curriculum through the primary age range. E.g. In Year 1, the children carry out fieldwork to identify different plants in the local area and in Year 5, laboratory work is carried out when the children visit the Francis Crick Institute. See target 2 below: Continue to improve, add to and refine wider enrichment activities to complement the planned Science curriculum, continuing to increase child enjoyment and engagement in science.
Ensure that the science curriculum is planned to take account of what pupils learn, particularly in mathematics.	Our curriculum is designed to take into account what the children have learnt in other subject areas, especially maths, as well. In most cases we have aligned our curriculum planning so that skills have been taught in maths prior to them being used within Science. However, we are aware that some disciplinary knowledge required for science needs to be taught explicitly before it appears in the maths curriculum, e.g. Venn Diagrams do not appear in the maths curriculum until Year 8. However, children as young as Reception or Year 1 will be taught how to use these to sort data.
Pedagogy and assessment recommendations	Our response – how does this align with our teaching and learning at
Schools should:	Christ Church? Including any next steps, where relevant.
 Ensure that, during explanations, teachers regularly connect new learning to what pupils have already learned. This includes showing pupils how knowledge from different areas of the curriculum connects. Ensure that pupils have a secure knowledge of what has been taught, before moving on to more content. This should include checking whether pupils have specific misconceptions 	We have identified key knowledge in each year group and each topic. Teachers can refer to the science pack, and look back on previous times a topic has been taught to ensure they are aware of what has been covered. Teachers make wide-ranging, relevant links to prior knowledge in other curriculum areas and to children's wider prior general knowledge and interests too. When teaching this new information, teachers will link it to children's prior learning, ensuring there are no misconceptions or gaps that need to be addressed.
 Ensure that appropriate teaching and learning approaches are selected for specific content. 	Teachers are aware that science content needs to be taught in a specific way. For example, key knowledge and working scientifically skills need to be taught before children can carry out an enquiry. Equally, certain topics need to be taught before others. For example, in Year 4, states of matter needs to be taught before sound, so that children are aware that sound waves will travel differently in solids, liquids and gases. In Year 5, forces need to be taught before Earth and space, so pupils can understand gravity. See Target 3 below: Continue to ensure all teaching staff, including new teachers, ECTs and those working in new year groups, are confident to

 Ensure that assessment checks whether pupils remember the substantive and disciplinary knowledge they have learned in previous years. This includes checking that they can use their substantive and disciplinary knowledge to select, plan and carry out different types of relevant scientific enquiry. Formative assessment is used regularly by teachers to assess prior knowledge so they can build on this or address misconceptions or any gaps in learning. Teachers can follow the information on key learning sheets to ensure this is secure. Children's knowledge of working scientifically skills is reported in end of year reports and analysed by the subject leader. This data is shared with class teachers, so they can see which children may need more or less support.

appropriately sequence and interleave substantive and disciplinary

Systems at school and subject level Schools should:

expertise.

Create a systematic and continuous approach to developing the science expertise of staff and leaders. This should align with the school's curriculum and take account of any specific needs and

Our response – how does this align with our teaching and learning at Christ Church? Including any next steps, where relevant.

The science subject leader regularly attends LA network meetings and CPD sessions run by the Francis Crick centre. This information is then shared with all teaching staff, allowing them to develop their own science teaching knowledge and expertise. This also aligns with our science curriculum, as set out in our science pack.

See Target 3 below: Continue to ensure all teaching staff, including new teachers, ECTs and those working in new year groups, are confident to appropriately sequence and interleave substantive and disciplinary science knowledge.

 Support subject leaders to prioritise curriculum time for teaching key scientific knowledge. In some schools, the focus is on making sure that pupils learn and remember what has been taught, so that they develop increasingly sophisticated and connected scientific knowledge. However, too many subject leaders and teachers feel pressured to cover content and move on. We have highlighted key knowledge we would like children to leave each year group with, rather than expecting them to remember everything they are taught. This key learning is set out on our Key Learning sheets and revisited as part of spaced retrieval activities. We have highlighted that children need to be taught this knowledge, and key working scientifically skills, before they can carry out investigations to answer enquiry questions. We also want our children to be able to make links between the key scientific knowledge they are taught.

Last year's key developments and successes in 2022/23:

1. Continue to build on good practice from across the school with spaced retrieval and assessment activities to ensure consistent use of key knowledge sheets to support this

All teachers to use key knowledge sheets consistently as part of regular spaced retrieval activities and as assessment activities, providing important information regarding next steps and any gaps to address. All children have a good grasp of identified key knowledge.

22/23 target achieved: All key knowledge sheets were updated and sent home at the end of each science unit. Staff CPD was run to discuss these with teachers. Children were able to remember the key facts, as assessed through spaced retrieval activities.

 Continue to investigate and refine wider enrichment activities to complement the planned Science curriculum to ensure these remain at 21/22 levels

All children are able to build on and enrich their Science learning outside the classroom or with visiting specialists.

22/23 target achieved: Work with the Francis Crick Institute was continued for both in-school class workshops and Year 5 visit to the institute. A range of class trips were carried out to Hampstead Heath and Linnean Society. Whole school eco week also provided several opportunities for Science enrichment and building on learning in the

classroom. Could further refine by looking for other workshops or providers for upcoming year.

3. Ensure all teaching staff, including ECT and new staff members, are confident to appropriately sequence and interleave substantive and disciplinary science knowledge.

Both substantive and disciplinary knowledge are built progressively and sequenced so as to support each other. Pupil progress in both areas is assessed to be at least good across the school, with children knowing and remembering more of the planned science curriculum.

22/23 target achieved: Delivered multiple CPD sessions to staff following science leads training to share information and ideas. Teachers were more confident in teaching science, especially working scientifically and science enquiries due to this. New science curriculum pack gave more ideas for how to teach substantive and disciplinary knowledge over units. Completed multiple lesson visits and gave feedback to staff.

Key targets and actions moving forward (development priorities for 2023/24):

Target and intended outcome	Planned actions (including dates where applicable)		
1. Ensure that science skills and knowledge are	Spaced retrieval sessions in 1st half of year to focus on		
continued to be focused on in first half of academic	disciplinary as well as substantive knowledge.		
year.	Non-fiction books from previous year's topics to be available		
Intended outcome: All children to continue building on	and in use in the classrooms.		
and refining their working scientifically skills and	Potential for science trips/workshops in 1st half of year to		
recapping on prior learning, even when science lessons	recap or pre-teach – with focus on working scientifically skills.		
are not explicitly happening.	Use of working scientifically skills in other subject areas such		
	as maths or geography (as set out in Science curriculum pack).		
2. Continue to improve, add to and refine wider	Crick workshops to take place across the school in summer		
enrichment activities to complement the planned	term. Year 5 to visit Crick Institute for enrichment with		
Science curriculum, continuing to increase child	support provides for planning other Science trips, where		
enjoyment and engagement in science.	appropriate. Use local science leader network as good		
Intended outcome: All children are able to build on and	resource for ideas.		
enrich their Science learning outside the classroom or	Continue to use the Royal Institution enrichment		
with visiting specialists, supporting them to remember	opportunities and additional opportunities such as Young		
more of the planned curriculum.	Engineer scheme.		
	Continue to promote equipment loans across the school.		
	Investigate other workshops or trips that will add to and		
	complement the already excellent science teaching.		
3. Continue to ensure all teaching staff, including new	Staff CPD on sequencing and interleaving both areas of		
teachers, ECTs and those working in new year groups,	science learning.		
are confident to appropriately sequence and	Specific support from Science leader for newer staff/staff in		
interleave substantive and disciplinary science	new year groups, if needed.		
knowledge.	Attending science leads CPD/network meetings		
Intended outcome: Both substantive and disciplinary			
knowledge are built progressively and sequenced so as			
to support each other. Pupil progress in both areas is	Monitoring through lesson visits, review of planning, pupil		
assessed to be at least good across the school, with	voice and assessment data.		
children knowing and remembering more of the			
planned science curriculum. Staff are confident in the			
teaching of science.			

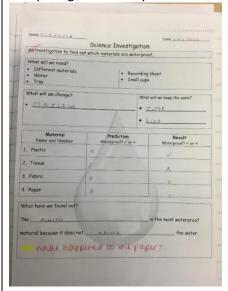
Work sampling - Disciplinary knowledge: Working scientifically

Planned progression in one enquiry type: Comparative or Fair Testing.

Taught within the context of a range of science content.

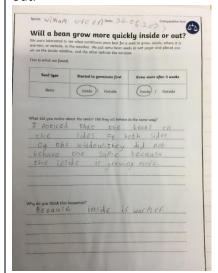
Year 1

Comparing how waterproof different materials are.



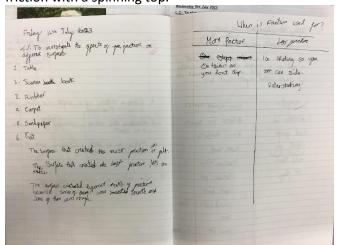
Year 2

Comparing whether a bean will grow more quickly inside or out.



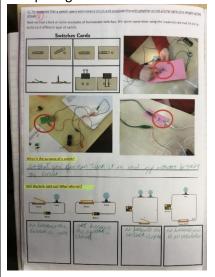
Year 3

Comparing which materials will have more or less friction with a spinning top.



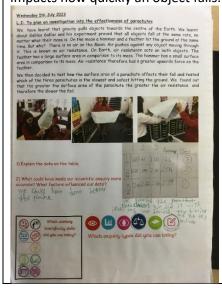
Year 4

Comparing different switches to see which would work.



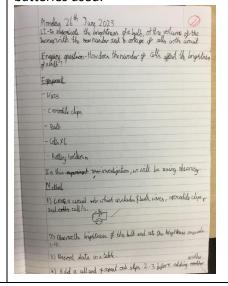
Year 5

Comparing surface area of a parachute to see if it impacts how quickly an object falls.



Year 6

To compare the brightness of a bulb and the quantity of batteries used.

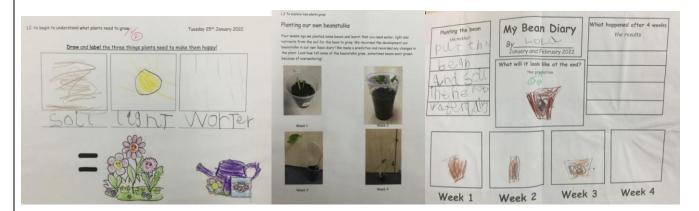


Work sampling

Plants – example of planned progression in substantive Science learning through the school

Reception

Reception thought about what plants might need to grow, then planted and observed their own bean plants as part of their topic on Jack and the beanstalk.



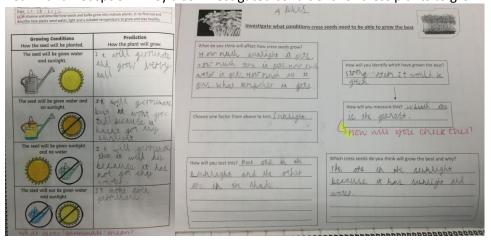
Year 1

Identify and label main parts of a flowering plant. Use an identification key to identify plants in their local environment, then describe plants and some of their main parts.



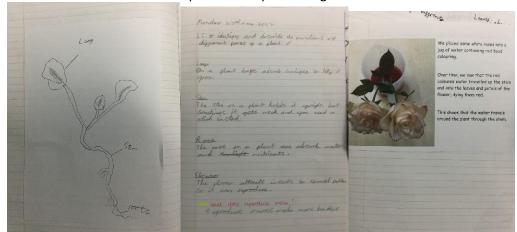
Year 2

Considered what bean plants would need to grow well, and made predictions based on their prior knowledge from Year 1 and Reception. They also Investigated conditions for cress plants to grow.



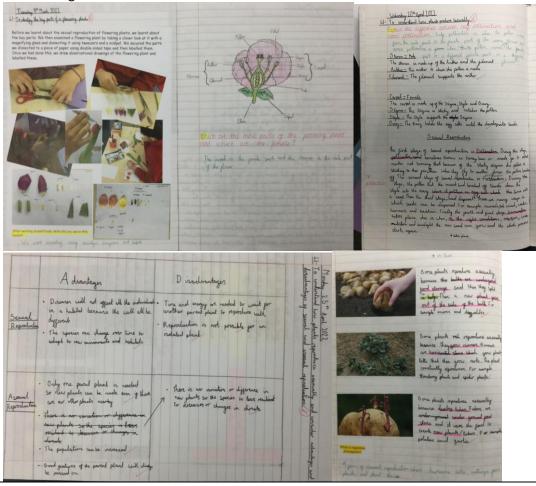
Year 3

Labelled the main parts of a flowering plant and learnt about the function of each of these. Children then observed how water travels to different parts of the plant using coloured water.



Year 5

As part of living things and habitats topic – dissected a flowering plant, and identifying main parts using their prior knowledge. Children then learnt about asexual and sexual reproduction of plants, considering advantages and disadvantages of each.



2022/23 Enrichment of our Science curriculum

Healthy living workshops linked to PSHE learning

Healthy Living with A Life

As part of our PSHE learning about keeping healthy and safe, Years 2 and 3 took part in a fun morning of workshops exploring Healthy Living with A Life.

They explored different work stations relating to food, exercise, water and sleep and then took part in a fun fitness session in the playground.



Whole-school PSHE week, linking to heathy lifestyles



https://christchurchschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Y4-PSHE-Keeping-Healthy-and-Safe.pdf
https://christchurchschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Y5-PSHE-Keeping-Healthy-and-Safe-1.pdf
https://christchurchschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Y6-PSHE-Keeping-Healthy-and-Safe.pdf
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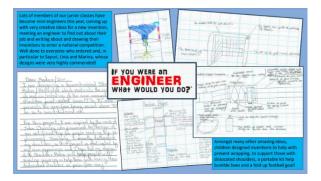
Whole-school Eco Week, linking to sustainability and environmental issues



Trips and workshops linked to our science learning

https://christchurchschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Y6-trip-to-Linnean-Society-July-2023-1.pdf https://christchurchschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Francis-Crick-Science-workshops-June-2023.pdf https://christchurchschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Y2-Heath-habitats-trip-June-2023.pdf https://christchurchschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Y5-trip-to-the-Francis-Crick-Institute-June-2023.pdf

Young Engineers



Pupil voice

Pupil voice discussions in Autumn 2023 demonstrated that:

Children could talk about what they learnt in the previous year group:

Y3 - In Year 2, we learnt about plants. We also did this in Y1

Y4 – In Year 3, we learnt about rocks and soils – the three types of rock: igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic.

Y5 – In Year 4, we learnt about states of matter and electricity. For States of Matter we looked at ice and chocolate to see which would melt quicker. We made houses with working electric circuits

Y6 – In Year 5, we learnt about the gravitational pull of the Earth and how if you do sky diving, gravity will pull you down but air resistance slows your descent. We learnt about space and the solar system

Children in upper KS2 were able to remember specific working scientifically skills

Y5 - collecting data and displaying data

Y6 – presenting data and research, making and using hypotheses

KS2 children could remember specific enquiry types they had carried out in previous year group:

Y3 – We watched plants grow and looked for patterns

Y4 – We compared rocks to see if they were permeable or impermeable

Y5 – Researching weather stations. Comparative test with melting. Observing eggs over time

Y6 – Fair testing. Observing over time

The children could discuss how their new learning builds on prior knowledge - e.g. in relation to plants

Y2 – In reception we learnt about the beanstalk and grew plants

Y3 – We learnt about bulbs in Y2 after we had learnt about parts of a plant in Y1

Y4 – In Y2 we learnt about life cycles of plants

Y6 – In Y1 we learnt about parts of a plant, in Y2 we grew plants and observed them. In Y5 we then dissected a flower to see the parts in a real plant.

They could talk about how they are helped to remember what they learn in science:

Y4 – we do things for homework

Y5 – songs in assembly.

Y6 – in other classes' assemblies, we remember what we have learnt. We also go on trips. Experiments are memorable.

What makes our curriculum provision for Science exceptional and beyond the expected?

- Relationship with the Francis Crick Institute for resources, CPD and enrichment
- Use of Hampstead Heath education centre and Heath in general for enrichment, as well as use of world class museums such as Science Museum, Royal Observatory and Royal Institution
- Clear progression of skills taught in each year group, building on what children have previously learnt, for both substantive and disciplinary knowledge

Key points for discussion with governors about this report

- Sharing of work sampling with reference to where knowledge and skills have clearly been built on throughout the school
- Updating governors on links with Francis Crick provision
- Share key targets for development
- Discussion of curriculum structure and how learning is recapped and kept up in first half od year (response to Ofsted subject report)