



BURRADON COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL
SCIENCE PROGRESSION OF VOCABULARY
2026-2027



Seasonal changes:

Year group:	Key vocabulary:
Pre-school	Explore natural materials, indoors and outside
FS1	grow, shoot, die, dead (Nursery - Plants) egg, chick, bird, caterpillar, cocoon, chrysalis, butterfly, frog spawn, tadpole, froglet, frog, grow, change, die, names of animals and their young (Nursery - Animals, excluding humans)
FS2	spring, summer, autumn, winter, seasons, sunny, cloudy, hot, warm, cold, shower, raining, storm, thunder, lightning, hail, sleet, snow, icy, frost, puddles, windy, rainbow, animals, young, plants, flowers
Year 1	weather, sunny, rainy, raining, shower, windy, snowy, cloudy, hot, warm, cold, storm, thunder, lightning, hail, sleet, snow, icy, frost, puddles, rainbow, seasons, winter, summer, spring, autumn, Sun, sunrise, sunset, day length
Year 2	
Year 3	
Year 4	
Year 5	
Year 6	

Plants

Year group:	Key vocabulary:
Pre-school	Explore natural materials, indoors and outside
FS1	plant, leaf, stem, branch, root, bark, flower, petal, seed, berry, fruit, vegetable, bulb, plant, hole, dig, water, weed, grow, shoot, die, dead, soil, names of plants they grow
FS2	tree, bush, herb, names of plants they see (Reception - Living things and their habitats)
Year 1	leaf, flower, blossom, petal, fruit, berry, root, seed, trunk, branch, stem, bark, stalk, bud, names of trees in the local area, names of garden and wild flowering plants in the local area
Year 2	light, shade, Sun, warm, cool, water, space, grow, healthy, bulb, germinate, shoot, seedling names of plants in local habitats and micro-habitats (Y2 - Living things and their habitats)
Year 3	photosynthesis, pollen, insect/wind pollination, male, female, seed formation, seed dispersal (wind dispersal, animal dispersal, water dispersal), air, nutrients, minerals, soil, absorb, transport
Year 4	



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Year 5	
Year 6	

Living things and their habitats

Year group:	Key vocabulary:
Pre-school	natural, plant, animal, leaves, seeds, conkers, acorns, twigs, bark, shells, feathers, pebbles, stones, same, different, pattern plant, leaf, stem, branch, root, bark, flower, petal, seed, berry, fruit, vegetable, bulb, plant, hole, dig, water, weed, grow, shoot, die, dead, soil (Nursery - Plants)
FS1	plant, tree, bush, flower, vegetable, herb, weed, animal, names of plants and animals they see, name of a contrasting environment (e.g. beach, forest)
FS2	
Year 1	
Year 2	living, dead, never been alive, suited, suitable, basic needs, food, food chain, shelter, move, feed, water, air, survive, survival, names of local habitats (e.g. pond, woodland etc.), names of micro-habitats (e.g. under logs, in bushes etc.), conditions, light, dark, shady, sunny, wet, damp, dry, hot, cold, names of living things in the habitats and micro-habitats studied
Year 3	
Year 4	classification, classification keys, environment, habitat, human impact, positive, negative, migrate, hibernate
Year 5	life cycle, reproduce, sexual, sperm, fertilises, egg, live young, metamorphosis, asexual, plantlets, runners, cuttings
Year 6	vertebrates, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, warm-blooded, cold-blooded, invertebrates, insects, spiders, snails, worms, flowering, non-flowering, mosses, ferns, conifers

Animals, including humans

Year group:	Key vocabulary:
Pre-school	Explore natural materials, indoors and outside. Make connections between the features of their family and other families. Notice differences between people.
FS1	egg, chick, bird, caterpillar, cocoon, chrysalis, butterfly, frog spawn, tadpole, froglet, frog, grow, change, die, names of animals and their young, fur, feathers, scales, tail, wings, beak, claws, paws, hooves, swim, walk, run, jump, fly, patterns, spots, stripes, grow, change, baby, toddler, child, adult, old person, smell, taste, touch, feel, hear, see, blind, deaf



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FS2	names of animals, live, on land, in water, jungle, desert, North Pole, South Pole, sea, hot, cold, wet, dry, snow, ice, hair (e.g. black, brown, dark, light, blonde, ginger, grey, white, long, short, straight, curly), eyes (e.g. blue, brown, green, grey), skin (e.g. black, brown, white), big/tall, small/short, bigger/smaller, baby, toddler, child, adult, old person, old, young, brother, sister, mother, father, aunt, uncle, grandmother, grandfather, cousin, friend, family, boy, girl, man, woman
Year 1	head, body, eyes, ears, mouth, teeth, leg, tail, wing, claw, fin, scales, feathers, fur, beak, paws, hooves, names of animals experienced first-hand from each vertebrate group, parts of the human body including those within the school's RSE policy, senses, touch, see, smell, taste, hear, fingers, skin, eyes, nose, ears, tongue
Year 2	offspring, reproduction, growth, baby, toddler, child, teenager, adult, old person, names of animals and their babies (e.g. chick/chicken, kitten/cat, caterpillar/butterfly), survive, survival, water, food, air, exercise, heartbeat, breathing, hygiene, germs, disease, food types (e.g. meat, fish, vegetables, bread, rice, pasta, dairy)
Year 3	nutrition, nutrients, carbohydrates, sugars, protein, vitamins, minerals, fibre, fat, water, skeleton, bones, muscles, joints, support, protect, move, skull, ribs, spine
Year 4	digestive system, digestion, mouth, teeth, saliva, oesophagus, stomach, small intestine, large intestine, rectum, anus, incisor, canine, molar, premolar, herbivore, carnivore, omnivore, producer, predator, prey
Year 5	puberty, the vocabulary to describe sexual characteristics in line with the school's RSE policy
Year 6	heart, pulse, rate, pumps, blood, blood vessels, transported, lungs, oxygen, carbon dioxide, cycle, circulatory system, diet, drugs, lifestyle

Evolution and inheritance

Year group:	Key vocabulary:
Pre-school	
FS1	
FS2	
Year 1	
Year 2	
Year 3	
Year 4	
Year 5	
Year 6	offspring, sexual reproduction, vary, characteristics, adapted, inherited, species, evolve, evolution



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Materials

Year group:	Key vocabulary:
Pre-school	Explore materials with different properties. Explore natural materials, indoors and outside.
FS1	mix, stir, cook, hot, oven, microwave, change, burn, melt, hard, runny, set, freeze, freezer, cold, blended, hard, soft, bendy, stiff, wobbly, wood, plastic, paper, card, fabric
FS2	ice, water, frozen, icicle, snow, melt, wet, cold, slippery, smooth, big, bigger, biggest, smaller, smallest, hard, soft, bendy, rigid, wood, plastic, paper, card, metal, strong, weak, hot, apply heat, waterproof, soggy, not waterproof, best, change, change back
Year 1	object, material, wood, plastic, glass, metal, water, rock, brick, paper, fabric, elastic, foil, card/cardboard, rubber, wool, clay, hard, soft, stretchy, stiff, bendy, floppy, waterproof, absorbent, breaks/tears, rough, smooth, shiny, dull, see-through, not see-through
Year 2	opaque, transparent, translucent, reflective, non-reflective, flexible, rigid, shape, push/pushing, pull/pulling, twist/twisting, squash/squashing, bend/bending, stretch/stretching
Year 3	
Year 4	solid, liquid, gas, heating, cooling, state change, melting, freezing, melting point, boiling, boiling point, evaporation, condensation, temperature, water cycle
Year 5	thermal insulator/conductor, change of state, mixture, dissolve, solution, soluble, insoluble, filter, sieve, reversible/non-reversible change, burning, rusting, new material
Year 6	

Rocks and soils

Year group:	Key vocabulary:
Pre-school	Explore materials with different properties. Explore natural materials, indoors and outside.
FS1	natural, shells, pebbles, stones
FS2	
Year 1	
Year 2	
Year 3	rock, stone, pebble, boulder, grain, crystals, layers, hard, soft, texture, absorbs water, fossil, bone, flesh, minerals, marble, chalk, granite, sandstone, slate, types of soil (e.g. peaty, sandy, chalky, clay)



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Year 4	
Year 5	
Year 6	

Light

Year group:	Key vocabulary:
Pre-school	repeat actions that have an effect.
FS1	light, torch, bulb, lamp, spotlight, shiny, bright, brighter, brightest, Sun, shine, glow, mirror
FS2	Sun, sunny, light, shadow, shady, clouds, torch, see-through, not see-through, source, light source
Year 1	
Year 2	
Year 3	light, light source, dark, absence of light, surface, shadow, reflect, mirror, Sun, sunlight, dangerous
Year 4	
Year 5	
Year 6	straight lines, light rays

Forces and magnets

Year group:	Key vocabulary:
Pre-school	Repeat actions that have an effect.
FS1	object, float, sink, water, up, down, top, bottom, push, pull, magnet, spring, squash, bend, twist, stretch, turn, spin, smooth, rough, fast, slow
FS2	float, sink, up, down, top, bottom, surface, move, roll, drop, fly, turn, spin, fall, fast, slow, faster, slower, fastest, slowest, further, furthest, wind, air, water, blow, bounce
Year 1	
Year 2	
Year 3	force, push, pull, twist, contact force, non-contact force, magnetic force, magnet, strength, bar magnet, ring magnet, button magnet, horseshoe magnet, attract, repel, magnetic material, metal, iron, steel, poles, north pole, south pole



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Year 4	
Year 5	force, gravity, Earth, air resistance, water resistance, friction, mechanisms, simple machines, levers, pulleys, gears
Year 6	

Sound

Year group:	Key vocabulary:
Pre-school	Repeat actions that have an effect.
FS1	sound, noise, loud, quiet, high, low, music, bang, blow, pluck, soft, hard, fast, slow, names of instruments
FS2	sound, noise, listen, hear, music, voices, bird song, traffic, sirens, thunder, high, low, loud, quiet, soft, volume, crackle, thunder, hum, buzz, roar
Year 1	
Year 2	
Year 3	
Year 4	sound, source, vibrate, vibration, travel, pitch (high, low), volume, faint, quiet, loud, insulation
Year 5	
Year 6	

Electricity

Year group:	Key vocabulary:
Pre-school	Repeat actions that have an effect.
FS1	battery, plug, socket, electricity, wire, sound, light, move
FS2	
Year 1	
Year 2	
Year 3	
Year 4	electricity, electrical appliance/device, mains, plug, electrical circuit, complete circuit, component, cell, battery, positive, negative, connect/connections, loose connection, short circuit, crocodile clip, bulb, switch, buzzer, motor, conductor, insulator, metal, non-metal, symbol



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Year 5	
Year 6	circuit diagram, circuit symbol, voltage

Earth and space

Year group:	Key vocabulary:
Pre-school	explore and respond to different natural phenomena in their setting and on trips.
FS1	
FS2	Sun, Moon, Earth, star, planet, sky, day, night, space, round, bounce, float
Year 1	
Year 2	
Year 3	
Year 4	
Year 5	Sun, Moon, Earth, planets (Mercury, Jupiter, Saturn, Venus, Mars, Uranus, Neptune), spherical, Solar System, rotate, star, orbit
Year 6	