



Science at Tweedmouth Prior Park First School

'Studying the physical and natural world through observation and experiment'

The study of science allows the curiosity within pupils to thrive. It engages and caters for all learners from hands on experience to observation to research and recording. Pupils learn how knowledge and understanding in science are rooted in evidence.

In science we aim to develop the children's knowledge and understanding of the world around them. We provide hands on experiences and opportunities to allow the children to discover, investigate and challenge theories. We use our enquiry based curriculum approach to encourage and deliver predictions, observations and analysis. Class teachers also carefully plan key questions and model use of key vocabulary at the appropriate level.

Once a week all classes are presented with an image captioned with a statement such as:

- What's going on?
- Zoom in Zoom out
- The big question
- Odd one out

This promotes discussion within class and encourages the children to think independently and share ideas which allows them to use scientific vocabulary within their explanations. This adapts and develops their thinking in the way they view the world around them.

In Nursery & Reception the children follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum and science is very much intertwined in everything they do. This includes technology, people and communities and the world. They explore science topics using their senses to develop their skills of observation, prediction and discussion. They make use of their environment and are flexible within their opportunities, for example bringing some snow, leaves or soil into the class to investigate, explore and make predictions.

In Key Stage 1 the children use practical, hands-on experiences, books, photographs and videos to look closely at the natural and humanly-constructed world and are encouraged to be curious and ask questions, and build on the foundation laid down in Early Years. They begin to write about their investigations and predictions.

In Lower Key Stage 2, the children broaden their scientific view of the world by exploring, talking about, developing and testing their ideas. They then use their evidence, scientific knowledge and understanding to justify and explain their findings using more complex scientific vocabulary. They begin

to record investigations at length and record findings and present their data in either graphs or charts in order to analyse findings. Data loggers will also be used in the next academic year.

We believe that with the experience of scientific processes and a wide range of topics the children will be well equipped to meet the challenges of science work in their future school years and life beyond. At Tweedmouth Prior Park First school we hold a science week every year. We enhance their learning by going on visits, inviting science experts in and becoming involved in many local and national initiatives.

We use ongoing teacher assessment to check children's knowledge and understanding by using the questions and the evaluation / assessment elements on our science curriculum mapping plans. We also complete marking and feedback sheets as evidence of teaching and learning in science.