

Science Curriculum

Intent, Implementation and Impact



At St Thomas More Primary School we value each child as an individual with a unique potential for learning. We strive to be an inclusive community where children grow, learn and achieve together in the presence of God. With a culture of equality, we aim to ensure that every child believes in themselves and are empowered to aim high.

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<p>At St Thomas More Science is engaging, interactive and relevant. We recognise the importance of science in every aspect of daily life. We give the teaching and learning of science the prominence it requires as one of the core subjects taught in Primary Schools. As an area of learning, Science is concerned with increasing all (including SEND) pupils' knowledge and understanding of our world, and with developing skills associated with science as a process of enquiry. It will develop the natural curiosity of the child, encourage respect for living organisms and the physical environment and provide opportunities for critical evaluation of evidence. We ensure that the Working Scientifically skills are developed and extended throughout children's time at the school so that they can apply their knowledge of science when using equipment, conducting experiments, building arguments and confidently explaining scientific concepts. The curriculum is designed to ensure understanding of prior knowledge is firmly established before progression to the next stage of their learning, both in substantive and disciplinary knowledge. Science at our school ensures the children have high levels of Science vocabulary and gain a clear understanding of how Science fits into their world. Children are encouraged to be independent Scientists</p>	<p>Our science curriculum is delivered in weekly protected lessons with engaging content that ensures the children remember the learning of both substantive and disciplinary knowledge. To ensure consistency and high quality of teaching and learning the staff are supported through CPD and resources that are aligned to the intent of our curriculum. Through low stakes assessments, such as activities in Explorify, the children are able to retrieve prior knowledge before building on it through their lesson with the new learning. Progress is measured by carefully tracking children's understanding of the concepts being taught and any gaps are addressed. The classroom environment supports children to learn with clear high-level vocabulary displayed to be referred to by staff during the lessons. Science lessons are engaging and active with children working cooperatively and remembering the learning rather than the doing. The lessons begin with recapping what the children already know and ends with a review of their learning that session. Clearly defined lesson objectives, layers of appropriate challenge and engaged pupils all lead to children being able to build upon and apply the knowledge they have learned.</p>	<p>The impact of our science offer at St Thomas More is that our children are engaged and interested in science with an excellent foundation of knowledge to go on to their next stage of learning. The curriculum means the children remember more and are able to apply their knowledge appropriately. The additional STEM opportunities outside their weekly discrete science lesson ensure that our children leave our school with a secure understanding of the significance of science in their everyday lives and an increased level of science capital. Children discuss their scientific learning well in lessons and are highly engaged by their science learning and enjoy it (pupil voice). Science is celebrated through community events such as a British Science Week, as well as regularly featuring in our daily updates to parents via ParentHub. Parents are also included in our children's science learning journey through open classroom events and curriculum newsletters. Children will know a range of Scientists, both modern and historic, and can explain how Science is relevant in the wider world.</p>

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<p>and curious about natural phenomena. They will build on prior knowledge as they move through the school, with lessons rich in oracy and high expectations around vocabulary and investigation. Children have a solid understanding of what it means to be a scientist through discrete teaching of the five lines of enquiry and the working scientifically skills. The children will be exposed to aspirational STEM visitors to ensure they have an opportunity to place their learning in the real world and grow their science capital.</p>		
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