Characteristics of Effective Learning			
Playing and Exploring - Engagement	Active Learning - Motivation	Creating and Thinking Critically - Thinking	
 Finding out and exploring ✓ Playing with what they know ✓ Being willing to 'have a go' ✓ 	 Being involved and concentrating ✓ Keeping on trying ✓ Enjoying achieving what they set out to do ✓ 	 Having their own ideas (creative thinking) ✓ Making links (building theories) ✓ Choosing ways to do things (critical thinking ✓ 	
Area of Science Areas of Development Matters and ELG being worked towards.	The knowledge and skills that the children will develop through Nursery and Reception	Vocab	
 Working Scientifically 3 and 4 year olds will be learning to: Communication and language: Understand 'why' questions, like: "Why do you think the caterpillar got so fat?" Be able to express a point of view and to debate when they disagree with an adult or a friend, using words as well as actions. Understanding the world: Talk about what they see, using a wide vocabulary. Children in reception with be learning to: Communication and language Learn new vocabulary. Ask questions to find out more and to check they understand what has been said to them. Articulate their ideas and thoughts in well-formed sentences. Working towards meeting ELGS: Listening, Attention & Understanding: Listen attentively and respond to what they hear with relevant questions, comments and actions when being read to and during whole class discussions and small group interactions; Make comments about what they have heard and ask questions to clarify their understanding; Hold conversation when engaged in back-and-forth exchanges with their teacher and peers. Participate in small group, class and one-to-one discussions, offering their own ideas, using recently introduced vocabulary; Speaking: Offer explanations for why things might happen, making use of recently introduced vocabulary 	I can understand why questions. I can talk about what I can see, hear and touch. I can ask questions about the world around them. I can observe using simple equipment with support. I can make simple predictions. I can perform simple tests with support. I can name common objects, animals and plants I can sort with support I can talk to an adult about what I have found out and with support, explain why some things occur.	Nursery: why, name, sort, Reception: Why, how, when, where, observe, equipment, test, name, group, explain, same, different, patterns, compare, sorting, question, test, magnifying glass	

from stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems when appropriate; Express their ideas and feelings about their experiences using full sentences, including use of past, present and future tenses and making use of conjunctions, with modelling and support from their teacher. Understanding plants 3 and 4 year olds will be learning to: Understanding the world: Plant seeds and care for growing plants. Understand the key features of the life cycle of a plant and an animal. Children in reception with be learning to: Explore the natural world around them. Working towards meeting ELG: The Natural World: Explore the natural world around them, making observations and drawing pictures of animals and plants	 Changes I show awareness of change and talk about what I notice using simple terms to describe. I understand that living things can change. I describe what I see, hear and feel whilst exploring inside and outside. Living things - Plants I can examine plants to find out more about them. I use my senses to explore. Living things - Conservation I can show care and respect for living things. Changes I understand through books and making close observations that living things can change. Living things - Plants I can use the correct basic scientific vocabulary to describe parts of plants. I can explain a simple lifecycle, E.g., sunflower, or oak tree. I can explain where some plants grow. Describing habitats and some microhabitats. I make close observations of plants in the natural world. I make comparisons and identify similarities and differences. I understand through books and observations that plants change, and I explain a range of lifecycles. Living things - Conservation I can show care and respect for living things and the environment in which they live. 	Nursery: plants, trees, grow, Reception: Plants, trees, grow, lifecycle, roots, stem, leaves, flower, trunk, branches, water, light, warmth/sun light, soil, wild flowers, garden plants, blossom, petal, seed, bulb, grow, habitat.
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Understanding animals and humans	Changes	Nursery: Animals, birds, fish, pets, farm, animals,
3 and 4 year olds will be learning to:	I understand that living things can change.	British animals, zoo animals, mini-beasts, body parts,
Understanding the world: Understand the key features	I describe what I see, hear and feel whilst exploring inside	
of the life cycle of a plant and an animal.	and outside.	Reception: Animals, birds, fish, amphibians, reptiles,
Working towards meeting ELG:	Living things – Animals	mammals, pets, British animals, farm animals, wild
Managing Self: Manage their own basic hygiene and	I can examine animals to find out more about them. I use my	animals, zoo animals, mini-beats. meat, plants, grass,
personal needs, including dressing, going to the toilet and	senses to explore.	carnivores, herbivores, omnivores, predator, prey, body
understanding the importance of healthy food choices.	Living things - Conservation	parts e.g. legs, arms, head, wings, fur, skeleton. Adult
The Natural World: Explore the natural world around	I can show care and respect for living things.	and baby animal, life cycle, egg, caterpillar, chrysalis,
them, making observations and drawing pictures of animals	Changes	cocoon, butterfly, water, food, air, hygiene, healthy,
and plants	I understand through books and making close observations	non- healthy. Germs. air, exercise. meat, potatoes,
	that living things can change.	fruit, vegetables, milk, cheese, see, hear, feel, smell,
	Living things - Animals	taste.
	I can use the correct basic scientific vocabulary to describe	
	parts of animals.	
	I can explain a simple lifecycle, E.g., butterfly, chicks, or	
	frogs.	
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	I can explain where a range of animals live. Describing	
	habitats and some microhabitats.	
	I make close observations of animals in the natural world. I	
	make comparisons and identify similarities and differences.	
	I understand through books and observations that animals	
	change, and I explain a range of lifecycles.	
	Living things - Conservation	
	I can show care and respect for living things and the	
	environment in which they live.	
Investigate living things	Changes	Nursery: pond, garden, woodland, seaside,
Working towards meeting ELG:	I understand that living things can change.	
The Natural World: Explore the natural world around	I describe what I see, hear and feel whilst exploring inside	Reception: Habitat, wild, wildlife, native, woodland,
them, making observations and drawing pictures of animals	and outside.	desert, ocean, seaside jungle, Arctic, Microhabitats,
and plants	Living things – Animals	log, stone, tree, leaves, soil, pond, garden, river, stones,
Know some similarities and differences between the	I can examine animals and their habitats to find out more	rocks, logs,
natural world around them and contrasting environments,	about them. I use my senses to explore.	
drawing on their experiences and what has been read in	Living things - Conservation	
class;	I can show care and respect for living things.	
	Changes	
	I understand through books and making close observations	
	that living things can change.	
	Living things - Animals	
	I can use the correct basic scientific vocabulary to describe	
	parts of animals.	

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	I can explain a simple lifecycle, E.g., butterfly, chicks, or	
	frogs.	
	I can talk about what plants need to survive and grow	
	healthily.	
	I can explain where a range of animals live. Describing	
	habitats and some microhabitats.	
	I make close observations of animals in the natural world. I	
	make comparisons and identify similarities and differences.	
	I understand through books and observations that animals	
	change, and I explain a range of lifecycles.	
	Living things - Conservation	
	I can show care and respect for living things and the	
	environment in which they live.	
Investigate materials	Changes	Nursery: wood, metal, plastic, paper, cardboard,
3 and 4 year olds will be learning to:	I show awareness of change, as I can talk about the	
Understanding the world: Use all their senses in hands-	differences between materials and changes that I notice	Reception: Wood, metal, plastic, paper, card board,
on exploration of natural materials.	using simple terms to describe.	water, float and sink, waterproof and not waterproof,
Explore collections of materials with similar and/or	I understand that materials can change.	strong and weak, hard, soft, recycle, not recyclable,
different properties.	I describe what I see, hear and feel whilst exploring inside	melting, glass, water, rock, brick, fabric, materials,
Talk about the differences between materials and	and outside.	shiny, dull, stretch, bend, twist, squash,
changes they notice.	Materials	Pollution, recycle, rubbish, environment, community.
Working towards meeting ELG:	I can explore collections of different materials with similar	ronanon, recycle, rubbish, environment, community.
The Natural World: Understand some important	and different properties.	
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processes and changes in the natural world around them,	I can name some common materials, e.g. sand, wood, glass,	
including the seasons and changing states of matter.	brick, clay, fabric etc with adult support.	
	I can describe and make comparisons between materials. I	
	can talk about the changes to materials that I notice.	
	Changes	
	I understand through books and making close observations	
	that materials can change.	
	Materials	
	I can name some common materials, e.g. sand, wood, glass,	
	brick, clay, fabric.	
	I can use language to describe common features of	
	materials, e.g. colour, texture, size	
	I can experiment with making changes to materials.	
	I can ask and answer 'how' and 'why' questions, such as how	
	things happened and how things work.	

Inderstand movement, forces and magnets	Forces and Movement	Nursery: Magnets, push, pull
3 and 4 year olds will be learning to:	I can explore how things work, and I can talk about 'contact'	
Jnderstanding the world: Explore how things work.	forces such as pushes and pulls.	Reception: Magnets, forces, pushed, pulled, force, push
Explore and talk about different forces they can feel.	I can explore 'non-contact' forces such as gravity or	pull, move, movement,
	magnetism.	
	I describe what I see, hear and feel whilst exploring inside	
	and outside.	
	Forces and Movement	
	I notice links between cause and effect as I explore changes	
	such as speed, direction, shape or magnetism.	
	I can describe and make comparisons.	
Inderstand the Earth's movements in space	Seasonal Change	Nursery: Space, earth, moon,
Children in reception with be learning to:	I can talk about some natural features that I see and feel	
Inderstand the effect of changing seasons on the natural		Reception: Space, earth, moon, name of the planets,
vorld around them.	I can talk about the clothes that I need for different	shadows, Seasons, winter, spring, summer, autumn,
Norking towards meeting ELG:	seasons/ weather and why.	weather, sun, rain, snow, wind, cold, warm, hot, day
The Natural World: Understand some important	Seasonal Change	length, day light
processes and changes in the natural world around them,	I can name the four seasons.	
ncluding the seasons and changing states of matter.	I can order the four seasons.	
······································	I can describe about how the seasons can affect the natural	
	world and how things grow. e.g. acorns and conkers are found	
	in autumn and some trees have no leaves in winter.	
	I notice and describe seasonal weather patterns. I can ask	
	and answer 'how' and 'why' questions.	
Other areas of the EYFS that Science will enable the a		
Jnderstanding the world: Describe what they see, hear a	· · · ·	
Communication and language Engage in non-fiction books.		
isten to and talk about selected non-fiction to develop a c	deep familiarity with new knowledge and vocabulary	
	nd activities explain how things work and why they might happen	
Other areas of the EYFS that Science will enable the a		
	and respond to what they hear with relevant questions, comment	s and actions when being read to and during whole class
discussions and small group interactions;		
Nake comments about what they have heard and ask quest	ions to clarify their understanding:	
Hold conversation when engaged in back-and-forth exchan		
	discussions, offering their own ideas, using recently introduced v	ocabulary.
	se of recently introduced vocabulary from stories, non-fiction, rh	•
	ising full sentences, including use of past, present and future ten	
support from their teacher.		the and making use of conjunctions, with modeling and
11	ings and those of others, and begin to regulate their behaviour a	ccordinaly:
	ng appropriately even when engaged in activity, and show an abilit	

Building Relationships: Show sensitivity to their own and to others' needs.

Writing: Write recognisable letters, most of which are correctly formed;

Spell words by identifying sounds in them and representing the sounds with a letter or letters;

Write simple phrases and sentences that can be read by others.

Creating materials: Safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function;

What you might see children doing

- Sharing knowledge linked to scientific interests.
- Sharing books about the world, weather, the environment, growing, the human body etc.
- Talking about how we can look after our planet.
- Investigating how different materials can be used and changed.
- Growing plants from seeds and caring for plants.
- Talking about how we can look after our planet.
- Exploring how materials can be changed through cooking activities.
- Closely observing minibeasts and animals.
- Noticing and talking about the changing seasons.
- Investigating objects which float and sink during water play.
- Using basic scientific vocabulary.
- Explaining how they things will work or what will happen.
- Investigating and talking about how things change over time, for example, as ice melts.
- · Showing interest in and learning about life cycles.
- Recording the local weather.
- Recreates animal habitats through creative activities or role play.
- Representing science based learning in writing and creative and digital mediums.
- Starting to record scientific data using tallies and numerical/pictorial representations.
- Exploring how their body works during exercise.
- Investigating how magnets work by using magnetic construction kits.
- Using all their senses to explore food

Green = 3 and 4-year-olds Blue = Reception Black = ELG