

Science in Year 2

In the first years of schooling, much of the science curriculum is based around real-life experiences for children. This includes everyday plants and animals, as well as finding out about different materials and the four seasons. There are likely to be lots of opportunities for exploring scientific ideas both in the classroom and the local surroundings.

Scientific Investigation

Children are encouraged to carry out their own observations and experiments to further their scientific understanding. In Year 2 this may include learning to:

- Use scientific apparatus to make observations, such as magnifying glasses
- Collect information about what they have seen
- Make links between observations and their scientific understanding

Living Things and their Habitats

- Compare the difference between things which are alive, which are dead, and which have never been alive
- Understand that different animals are suited to different habitats
- Identify some plants and animals in different habitats
- Describe how animals feed on other plants or animals

Habitats are simply the different types of places living things are found. This can range from the vast, such as oceans and rainforests, through to local features such as rock pools, or to the small, such as under a single log.

Plants

- Describe how seeds or bulbs grow into plants
- Understand that plants need water, light and a suitable temperature to grow

Animals including Humans

- Notice that all animals have offspring which grow into adults, including humans
- Know about the basic survival needs of animals, such as food, water and air
- Describe the importance of exercise, healthy diet and hygiene to humans

Everyday Materials

- Identify and compare the uses of different materials including wood, metal, plastic, glass, brick, rock, paper and cardboard
- Find out how some solid objects can be changed by squashing, bending or stretching

Parent Tip

Growing your own plants or flowers at home can be an exciting – if slow – process for children to take part in. Why not try some quick-growing seeds such as cress or mustard, as well as something more substantial planted in the garden, and watch how the processes of growth are similar for all plants?

At certain times of year you may also be lucky enough to witness some of the growth cycle in animals, such as tadpoles in a pond, or lambing season at the local farm.

