

Science at Mark First Academy

Intent

At Mark, we believe that science should spark curiosity, wonder and excitement about the world around us. As a village first school, we use our rich local environment - our field, outdoor classroom, and wider community - as a starting point for discovery, helping children see themselves as scientists from the very beginning of their learning journey.

Our science curriculum is designed to:

- **Nurture curiosity** by encouraging children to ask questions, explore, and develop a sense of wonder about natural phenomena.
- **Build knowledge and skills progressively**, so children develop secure scientific understanding and the ability to work scientifically.
- **Make learning meaningful** by linking science to everyday life, local contexts, and children's own experiences.
- **Promote outdoor learning**, using our village and surroundings as a living classroom where children can observe, investigate, and discover.
- **Encourage collaboration and resilience**, giving children opportunities to work together, test ideas, and learn from mistakes.
- **Lay strong foundations** for future learning by developing inquisitive, confident learners who are ready for the next stage of their education.

Through science, we aim to inspire our children to see the importance of caring for the environment, valuing the world around them, and recognising that they too can make a difference.

Implementation

We follow the PLAN scheme of work throughout school, from pre-school and reception, through to Year 4, ensuring a clear progression for all children.

In Reception, children explore the world through observation, planting, water experiments, and outdoor activities, fostering curiosity with adult and child-initiated science.

In Key Stage 1, they build on enquiry skills by planning and conducting practical investigations about animals, plants, seasonal changes, forces, and materials, often through weekly or block lessons. Year 2 students begin predicting and reflecting on experiments to prepare for KS2.

In Key Stage 2, children undertake more complex investigations, including planning, analysing, and evaluating their work. Topics cover sound, light, electricity, life cycles, food chains, the digestive system, skeletons, the water cycle, and rocks, with lessons taught weekly or in blocks.

Impact

- Children will develop scientific knowledge through concrete experiences
- Children will develop conceptual understanding of science disciplines
- Children will confidently create and answer scientific questions
- Children's scientific vocabulary, as well as their critical and creative thinking skills will develop.

- Children will be excited and curious about natural phenomena.
- There is a clear progression of outcomes from Reception through to Year 4.

