



Dear Parent/Carer,

We would like to give you an outline of the exciting science that your child will be learning at school this year. Science is used every day in all sorts of ways and we hope this information will help you see that there is a lot of science at home and in the local environment as well as at school. Science is about making sense of the world around us by exploring why things happen and how things work. Our aim is to encourage your child to engage in a range of 'hands on' experiences so that they develop, use and apply their understanding and skills. Your child will be doing some experiments at school and some activities at home, all of which will develop their understanding of science and help them to become increasingly independent learners.

We use *Hodder Cambridge Primary Science*, a high quality textbook series, to support our teaching of the *Cambridge Primary Science Curriculum Framework*, an internationally recognised curriculum. This series will help your child master key ideas ways of thinking and working, to become independent scientific thinkers. Your child will not only develop their knowledge of scientific facts and processes but be challenged to apply these to real life contexts and science problems in the real world.

Science is exciting and we believe accessible to all, it is through interesting and motivating approaches that we believe learners will become enthusiastic about science both at school and at home. Through this school and home partnership your child will be able to share their newly developed confidence and passion about the science they have learned.

We have included an outline of the content and aims for each year and also some suggestions on how you can support your child with their learning.

Yours,

Rosemary Feasey and Deborah Herridge

Series Editors

Appendix 1

Content and aims of each year's material

Appendix 2

Supporting your child with their learning

1. Be excited about science and enjoy science with your child.
2. Be positive about science and encourage your child to talk about the science that they are learning. They could share some of the ideas they have been learning about and show you some of the experiments they have been doing.
3. Do science together, it can be great fun as well as help your child to learn science in a relaxed way and appreciate that doing and learning science can happen anywhere, including at home.
4. Help with science tasks when your child asks for help, but avoid giving them the answers. Encourage them to think logically about the problem and use what they know; it is the process of thinking like a scientist in the homework task that is important.
5. When assisting with science homework, encourage your child to think about science around the home and your local area, such as your garden, local park or other environment. Help them to find examples of science in the things that they do, see and use.
6. Science can be a lot of fun and very interesting; children find the world fascinating and will enjoy researching information using books, computers and even T.V. programmes. Take time out to share their interests and encourage them to talk about what they have found out with you and become experts together.
7. Look for opportunities to talk about science at home in everyday activities from chatting about how cheese melts when cooking, why some foods are more healthy than others to how to be safe when using electrical appliances.
8. Support and encourage your child at all times, give praise for all efforts especially if a child is struggling with a topic or concept. Scientists need to learn to persevere, and children in the primary school are learning to work like scientists, so encourage your child to be positive and talk through or try out their ideas using everyday materials in your home. Have fun learning about how things work, such as magnets, or how plants grow by planting seeds together.
9. Praise your child for their good thinking, interesting ideas or making links between science ideas such as materials and objects in the home. Be excited when they demonstrate something, even if it might take them a few times to get it to work.
10. When you are out with your child encourage them to observe and talk about the world around them, whether it is observing birds nesting, talking about pollution or the effect of weather on the environment. Become a partner in their learning, be interested and fascinated alongside your child, share in the feeling of awe and wonder in the world and how scientists work to improve our lives.
11. Families who talk about and explore science together have fun! Be curious alongside your child, encourage your child to ask questions such as 'What if.....' 'How does.....?'
12. Talk about science in the news, such as discoveries, major weather or environmental events such as floods, volcanic eruptions or medical breakthroughs.
13. Offer opportunities for your child to explore science through books, magazines, T.V. programmes and even visits to local science centres, zoos and nature reserves. This will help broaden and deepen your child's interest and understanding in science.