Year 4 Science Long-Term Plan

Year 4 Autumn 1	
States of Matter	Pupils should be taught to: ▪ compare and group materials together, according to whether they are solids, liquids or gases ▪ observe that some materials change state when they are heated or cooled, and measure or research the temperature at which this happens in degrees Celsius (°C) ▪ identify the part played by evaporation and condensation in the water cycle and associate the rate of evaporation with temperature. *Pupils should explore a variety of everyday materials and develop simple descriptions of the states of matter (solids hold their shape; liquids form a pool not a pile; gases escape from an unsealed container). Pupils should observe water as a solid, a liquid and a gas and should note the changes to water when it is heated or cooled.* ***Note:** Teachers should avoid using materials where heating is associated with chemical change, for example, through baking or burning.* *Pupils might work scientifically by: grouping and classifying a variety of different materials; exploring the effect of temperature on substances such as chocolate, butter, cream (for example, to make food such as chocolate crispy cakes and ice-cream for a party). They could research the temperature at which materials change state, for example, when iron melts or when oxygen condenses into a liquid. They might observe and record evaporation over a period of time, for example, a puddle in the playground or washing on a line, and investigate the effect of temperature on washing drying or snowmen melting.*
Year 4 Autumn 2	
Animals, including humans	Pupils should be taught to: ▪ describe the simple functions of the basic parts of the digestive system in humans ▪ identify the different types of teeth in humans and their simple functions ▪ construct and interpret a variety of food chains, identifying producers, predators and prey. *Pupils should be introduced to the main body parts associated with the digestive system, for example, mouth, tongue, teeth, oesophagus, stomach and small and large intestine and explore questions that help them to understand their special functions.* *Pupils might work scientifically by: comparing the teeth of carnivores and herbivores, and suggesting reasons for differences; finding out what damages teeth and how to look after them. They might draw and discuss their ideas about the digestive system and compare them with models or images.*

Year 4 Spring 1	
Electricity	Pupils should be taught to: ▪ identify common appliances that run on electricity ▪ construct a simple series electrical circuit, identifying and naming its basic parts, including cells, wires, bulbs, switches and buzzers ▪ identify whether or not a lamp will light in a simple series circuit, based on whether or not the lamp is part of a complete loop with a battery ▪ recognise that a switch opens and closes a circuit and associate this with whether or not a lamp lights in a simple series circuit ▪ recognise some common conductors and insulators, and associate metals with being good conductors. *Pupils should construct simple series circuits, trying different components, for example, bulbs, buzzers and motors, and including switches, and use their circuits to create simple devices. Pupils should draw the circuit as a pictorial representation, not necessarily using conventional circuit symbols at this stage; these will be introduced in year 6.* ***Note:** Pupils might use the terms current and voltage, but these should not be introduced or defined formally at this stage.* *Pupils should be taught about precautions for working safely with electricity.* *Pupils might work scientifically by: observing patterns, for example, that bulbs get brighter if more cells are added, that metals tend to be conductors of electricity, and that some materials can and some cannot be used to connect across a gap in a circuit.*
Year 4 Spring 2	
Living things and their habitats	Pupils should be taught to: ▪ recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways ▪ explore and use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment ▪ recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things. *Pupils should use the local environment throughout the year to raise and answer questions that help them to identify and study plants and animals in their habitat. They should identify how the habitat changes throughout the year. Pupils should explore possible ways of grouping a wide selection of living things that include animals and flowering plants and non-flowering plants.* *Pupils could begin to put vertebrate animals into groups such as fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals; and invertebrates into snails and slugs, worms, spiders, and insects.* ***Note:** Plants can be grouped into categories such as flowering plants (including grasses) and non-flowering plants, such as ferns and mosses.*

	Pupils should explore examples of human impact (both positive and negative) on environments, for example, the positive effects of nature reserves, ecologically planned parks, or garden ponds, and the negative effects of population and development, litter or deforestation. *Pupils might work scientifically by: using and making simple guides or keys to explore and identify local plants and animals; making a guide to local living things; raising and answering questions based on their observations of animals and what they have found out about other animals that they have researched.*
Year 4 Summer 1	
Sound	Pupils should be taught to: ▪ identify how sounds are made, associating some of them with something vibrating ▪ recognise that vibrations from sounds travel through a medium to the ear ▪ find patterns between the pitch of a sound and features of the object that produced it ▪ find patterns between the volume of a sound and the strength of the vibrations that produced it ▪ recognise that sounds get fainter as the distance from the sound source increases. *Pupils should explore and identify the way sound is made through vibration in a range of different musical instruments from around the world; and find out how the pitch and volume of sounds can be changed in a variety of ways.* *Pupils might work scientifically by: finding patterns in the sounds that are made by different objects such as saucepan lids of different sizes or elastic bands of different thicknesses. They might make earmuffs from a variety of different materials to investigate which provides the best insulation against sound. They could make and play their own instruments by using what they have found out about pitch and volume.*
Year 4 Summer 2	
The Role of a Scientist	**Enrichment topic**