Waterloo Primary School Science Curriculum 2026–2027

Pathway	Development throughout the year
Pre-formal developmental curriculum	Communication and interaction; cognition and sensory exploration; attention and engagement; play and social development; physical and sensory development; independence and early learning behaviours. Personalised learning through routines, play, sensory experiences and meaningful interactions. Progression follows the school's Pre-formal Developmental Progression Framework, individual starting points and EHCP outcomes.

Early Years science across the six learning blocks

Year	LB1	LB2	LB3	LB4	LB5	LB6
Nursery 2	Explore natural materials indoors and outdoors.	Repeat actions with an effect; explore natural phenomena in the setting and on trips; choose suitable clothing for the weather.	Explore materials with different properties; experiment with actions that have an effect.	Develop curiosity, appreciation and respect for living things; investigate materials using all the senses.	Explore natural phenomena in the setting and on trips; develop curiosity, appreciation and respect for living things.	Develop fascination, curiosity and respect for living things; imagine what different materials could be used for.
Nursery 3–4	Compare baby photographs with how children are now; discuss similarities and differences.	Explore natural materials and weather through the senses; learn about hibernation. Make boats and compare materials; observe ice/snow and predict warming changes; collage. Texts: The Enormous Turnip; When It Rains. Develop weather vocabulary.	Investigate pushes and pulls with trains/cars; explore how real trains work; use wind-up and friction toys; blow boats across water with straws.	Plant and care for seeds; explore life cycles and care for nature; name adult/baby farm animals; visit a farm. Texts: Farmyard Hullabaloo; Farmer Duck; Rosie's Walk; What the Ladybird Heard. Taste UK farm produce; discuss healthy eating.	Explore what happens when a gingerbread man is put in water; compare materials and describe changes.	Describe observations using varied vocabulary. Animal/senses texts: Dear Zoo; We're Going on a Lion Hunt; Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?
Reception	Discuss factors supporting health and wellbeing.		Texts: Jack and the Beanstalk; The Enormous Turnip; What Can You See in Spring? Develop spring, gardening, seasons and life-cycle vocabulary; question and explain processes, including frog life cycles. Plant a bean and keep a diary; discuss plant needs. Spring walks and nature hunts: seasonal change, flowers, insects and spiders. Healthy eating: fruit salads/smoothies.		Follow children's interests through experiments and describe outcomes. Compare Handa's Surprise with local journeys, weather and animals. Explore sun care and keeping bones healthy.	

Ongoing Nursery learning Nursery 2: explore the changing outdoor environment throughout the year. Nursery 3–4: floating and sinking through continuous provision; describe weather and suitable clothing.

Continuous provision and co-play Water: floating/sinking, capacity, movement, flow and change. Sand: textures, wet/dry properties and change. Construction: forces, balance, stability and materials. Outdoors: seasons, weather, plants, animals and natural processes. Mud kitchen: mixing, dissolving and cause/effect. Creative: textures, joining and physical changes. Investigation: magnifiers, magnets, mirrors and natural objects. Small world: animals and habitats. Snack/routines: healthy bodies, hygiene, food and senses. Gardening: growth and plant needs. Music: exploring sound.

Science units across the six learning blocks

Year / pathway	LB1	LB2	LB3	LB4	LB5	LB6
Year 1	Everyday Materials	Autumn and Winter	Amazing Animals		Spring and Summer	Plants
Year 2	Uses of Materials	Animals and survival	Habitats		Protecting the Environment	Plants and Growth
Phoenix + Orion Cornerstones	Electrical Circuits and Conductors	States of Matter	Grouping and Classifying	Food and the Digestive System	Sound	Forces and Magnets
Year 3	Skeletons, Muscles and Nutrition	Rocks and Fossils	Light and Shadows		Plants' Needs for Survival	Forces and Magnets
Year 4	Teeth and Digestion	States of Matter	Living Things and Environments		Sound	Electricity
Year 5	Earth and Space	Forces	Materials		Life Cycles	Growing Older
Year 6	Light	Classification	Evolution and Inheritance		Electricity	Circulatory System and Lifestyle