

Intent

At Hunslet Moor Primary School we recognise the importance of science in every aspect of daily life. We believe science should stimulate a child's natural curiosity and encourage a sense of awe and wonder in the world.

Through our science curriculum, we want our pupils to love science and develop the skills required so they can confidently explore and discover the world around them. We hope to show our pupils that there are no limits to what their ambitions are and encourage them to grow up excited to be our next generation of astronauts, forensic scientists, toxicologists or microbiologists!

As a school, we pride ourselves on ensuring a broad, balanced and diverse science curriculum which is accessible to all pupils, including those with SEND, EAL and Pupil Premium. Teachers, alongside the science lead, are always enthusiastic to plan enriching experiences to further promote a love of science, this includes trips and external visitors coming in to school to speak to our pupils. British Science Week is always a fantastic opportunity we take to immerse pupils in science, where we have themed days and exciting visitors join us, such as Alan Ames, the Birdman!

We are also fortunate to have a link with Rethink Food, who aim to educate young people on where food comes from, encourage them to eat healthy, fresh food and it introduces an alternative, sustainable method of food production through the use of a growing tower.

At HMPS, in addition to science, we recognise the importance of educating our pupils about all of the STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) and how they interlink. To support our pupils' knowledge and understanding, we have two STEM days each year. Our 'Standing on the Shoulders of Giants' STEM day ensures all children leaving HMPS have learnt about at least 7 great scientists, alongside 7 contemporary scientists who have built on their work. Our 'From ground to plate' STEM day builds on the pupils understanding of where food comes from and how versatile some foods are. These days provide opportunities to develop teamwork and problem solving skills as well as inspire pupils to want a career in STEM.

Implementation

At Hunslet Moor Primary School, science is taught weekly and we ensure our lessons are as practical and hands on as possible, as we believe this is how our children learn best.

Across KS1 and KS2 we follow the Switched on Science scheme, allowing us to ensure there is clear progression of scientific knowledge and skills as children move through school. However, we recognise the individuality of each pupil and teachers use their expertise to adapt the scheme to meet the needs of their cohort.

EYFS teach science through the Understanding the World strand of the EYFS curriculum and use Switched on Science to supplement the already exciting curriculum in place.

The science lead is responsible for mapping out and closely monitors the long term and medium term plans. Where possible, if science units make meaningful links to topics, it will be taught cross curricular, however, this is not always possible so, to ensure coverage, science is often taught as a standalone subject. Our science work is evidenced in class floor books, exercise books, and through photographs.

Each lesson allows children to apply the English and maths skills they have developed to represent and present their scientific understanding. It also develops their understanding of technology and computing and how these skills support scientists to conduct and record their work safely.

As a school, we are dedicated to developing our pupils' reading skills and we continue this in science. Our teachers always look for opportunities to use a book as a stimulus for their lessons. We have a vast range of science texts in the school and class libraries which pupils are able to access to develop their own knowledge, encouraging them to become independent learners.

To support the teaching of science, we have invested in a wide range of high quality resources and equipment. It is essential that children are provided with opportunities to explore and use a range of equipment so they can begin to plan and carry out their own experiments and investigations as they move through school. We currently have a growing tower on site, from Rethink Food, which allows us to grow plants all year round. Our children love to watch their plants grow and are always excited to have the opportunity to eat their produce.

Impact

Our science curriculum hopes to develop a working knowledge and ingrained understanding of scientific ideas and principles that our pupils can apply to their everyday lives and the world around them.

Teachers are HMPs are highly skilled at assessing our pupils' knowledge and identifying any gaps or misconceptions so they can be quickly addressed. In addition to the ongoing assessment for learning that takes place every lesson, the Switched on Science scheme also provides an end of unit assessment to assess the knowledge and skills pupils have retained over time.

At the end of each term, pupils are assessed on SONAR, our summative assessment tool, to carefully track and assess our pupils' scientific knowledge and skills. This is then closely monitored by the science lead, who will identify opportunities to further support pupils on their learning journey.

The science lead regularly carries out learning walks, book looks and pupil voice as well as monitoring of planning to ensure the teaching of science is consistently high across school.