Science Vocabulary Progression Table

At our school, we believe that developing a strong scientific vocabulary allows children to articulate their observations, ask deeper questions, and explain the wonderful world around them.

Year / Stage	Science Topic	Statutory Vocabulary (Must Know)	Non-Statutory Vocabulary (Recommended)
Year R *(Reception)*	**The Natural World / Materials / Seasons**	**Animals, plants, natural world, season, weather, environment**, life cycle, change.	Senses, explore, properties, floating, sinking, melt, freeze, healthy, seeds, grow, decay, habitat, mini-beasts.
Year 1	**Plants**	**Deciduous, evergreen, leaf, flower**, blossom, fruit, root, bulb, seed, trunk, branch, stem.	Grow, change, wild, garden, weed, tree, plant, soil.
	Animals, Including Humans	**Fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, carnivore, herbivore, omnivore**, head, neck, arms, elbows, legs, knees, face, ears, eyes, hair, mouth, teeth, sight, hearing, smell, taste, touch.	Beak, feathers, fur, scales, fins, tail, paws, claws, meat, plants.
	Everyday Materials	**Wood, plastic, glass, metal, water, rock**, hard, soft, stretchy, stiff, shiny, dull, rough, smooth, bendy, not bendy, waterproof, not waterproof, absorbent, not absorbent, opaque, transparent.	Brick, paper, fabric, elastic, foil, see-through, breakable.
	Seasonal Changes	**Autumn, winter, spring, summer**, rain, wind, snow, sun, day, night, light, dark.	Cloud, hot, cold, warm, freezing, forecast, shadow.
Year 2	**Living Things & Their Habitats**	**Alive, dead, never been alive, habitats, micro-habitats**, food chain, source of food, shelter, suitable, suitability.	Environment, adjust, depend, survive, mini-beasts, conditions, dark, damp, dry.
	Plants	**Seeds, bulbs, mature plant**, water, light, suitable temperature.	Germination, sprout, seedling, healthy, wilt, nutrients, warmth.
	Animals, Including Humans	**Offspring, adult, baby, toddler, child, teenager**, reproduction, growth, water, food, air, exercise, hygiene, balanced diet, nutrition.	Egg, chick, caterpillar, pupa, butterfly, lamb, sheep, energy, medicine, heartbeat, fitness.
	Uses of Everyday Materials	**Suitability**, squashing, bending, twisting, stretching.	Recycle, reuse, properties, choice, purpose.
KS1 Combined *(Y1 & Y2)*	**Working Scientifically**	**Observe, ask questions, identify, classify, sort, group**, test, record.	Notice, patterns, compare, contrast, chart, table, data, measure, equipment, magnifying glass.

The vocabulary taught is from the Department for Education's Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework and the National Curriculum for England [2014] [National Curriculum England Science]. It is split into two distinct tiers:

Statutory Vocabulary: These are the mandatory words and concepts embedded within the statutory curriculum objectives. Bold words represent the core scientific classifications and conceptual headers.

Non-Statutory Vocabulary: These are recommended terms that we introduce to give children the precise language they need