

## Science at St Mark's

At St Mark's we believe that science education provides the foundations for understanding the world through biology, chemistry and physics.

Our Science curriculum fosters a healthy curiosity in children about our world and beyond and promotes respect for the living and non-living. We believe science encompasses the acquisition of knowledge, concepts, skills and positive attitudes.

Science is forever developing and therefore all pupils are taught essential aspects of the knowledge, methods, processes and uses of science. Through building up a body of key foundational knowledge and concepts, pupils are encouraged to recognise the importance of explanation and develop a sense of excitement about the world and curiosity about natural phenomena.

We want the children at St Mark's to be inquisitive and to question. They are given opportunities to help them to understand how science is used to explain what is occurring, predict how things will behave, and analyse causes. Science in our school is about developing children's ideas and ways of working that enable them to make sense of the world in which they live through investigation, as well as using and applying skills.

We understand that scientific vocabulary is key, which aids children's knowledge and understanding not only of the topic they are studying, but of the world around them.

At St Mark's we ensure that all children are exposed to high quality teaching and learning experiences within school and through trips, which allow children to explore their outdoor environment and locality, therefore developing their scientific enquiry and investigative skills. We have an amazing forest school area where the children thrive and are free to be at one with nature. It is here where they are able to notice patterns and change and dig deeper into living things seen from first hand experiences. Regular visits include local beaches and woodlands, RHS gardens at different times of year, the Eden Project, various science museums/attractions in Bristol, Camp Kernow which involves off-grid camping and foraging and Bodmin Recycling Centre. Visitors to the school have brought wildlife such as hedgehogs and birds of prey and artefacts from the mining industry. Through this children gain a greater insight into their local area, learning about how they can appreciate as well as nurture and support it.

We want children to develop an enthusiasm and enjoyment of scientific learning and discovery in order to continue to further develop their skills into the next stage of their education and life experiences.