

KS2 Science Curriculum - Autumn Term 2026

Microbes, Disease & Defence • Rocks & Soils | 14 × 45-minute sessions

Wednesdays: 9 September – 16 December 2026 | Half term: 26–30 October

Week	Date	Topic	Lesson	Curriculum objectives
1	9 Sept	Microbes, Disease & Defence	Meet the Microbes!	Understand what microorganisms are and that they are too small to see with the naked eye. Introduce bacteria, viruses and fungi. Recognise that microorganisms exist almost everywhere and that most are not harmful.
2	16 Sept	Microbes, Disease & Defence	Helpful or Harmful?	Explore how microorganisms can be both useful and harmful. Investigate their roles in food production, decomposition and medicine. Understand that only some microorganisms cause disease.
3	23 Sept	Microbes, Disease & Defence	How Do Germs Spread?	Understand how microorganisms can spread through touch, droplets, contaminated food and surfaces. Investigate how easily contamination can spread. Identify ways to reduce transmission, including effective handwashing and hygiene.
4	30 Sept	Microbes, Disease & Defence	Our Incredible Immune System	Understand that the body has natural defences against harmful microorganisms. Explore the roles of skin, mucus and white blood cells. Explain at an age-appropriate level how the immune system identifies and fights infection.
5	7 Oct	Microbes, Disease & Defence	Vaccines: Training Our Defences	Understand the basic principle of vaccination and how vaccines prepare the immune system to respond to particular diseases. Explore how vaccination has helped prevent and control infectious diseases.
6	14 Oct	Microbes, Disease & Defence	Antibiotics & the Discovery of Penicillin	Understand that antibiotics can treat bacterial infections but do not work against viruses. Learn about Alexander Fleming and the discovery of penicillin. Understand why antibiotics need to be used appropriately.
7	21 Oct	Microbes, Disease & Defence	Disease Detectives: Stop the Outbreak!	Apply knowledge of microorganisms, transmission and prevention to investigate a fictional outbreak. Interpret evidence to identify how an infection may be spreading. Recommend and justify measures to control the outbreak.
8	4 Nov	Rocks & Soils	Remarkable Rocks: What's Beneath Our Feet?	Understand that rocks are naturally occurring materials. Observe and compare rocks according to properties including appearance, hardness, permeability and durability. Explain why particular rocks are suited to different uses.
9	11 Nov	Rocks & Soils	How Are Rocks Made?	Identify the three main types of rock: igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic. Understand how each forms. Identify examples of common rocks and relate some of their properties to the way they formed.
10	18 Nov	Rocks & Soils	The Rock Cycle	Understand that rocks can change from one type to another over very long periods. Explore heating, cooling, weathering, erosion, deposition and pressure. Construct and interpret a simple rock-cycle diagram.
11	25 Nov	Rocks & Soils	Fossils: Clues From the Past	Understand how fossils form, particularly within sedimentary rock. Explore different types of fossils and what they can tell us about organisms and environments from the past. Sequence the stages of fossil formation.
12	2 Dec	Rocks & Soils	Weathering & Erosion: Breaking Up the Earth	Distinguish between weathering and erosion. Investigate how water, ice, changing temperatures and living things can break down rocks. Understand how weathered material can be transported and deposited.
13	9 Dec	Rocks & Soils	Super Soil: More Than Just Mud!	Understand how soil forms from rock and organic material. Identify components of soil. Compare different soil types and properties such as drainage and water retention. Explain why healthy soil is important for living things.
14	16 Dec	Rocks & Soils	Precious Rocks, Crystals & Gemstones	Understand that rocks are made from minerals and explore how crystals form.

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Scientific skills developed: scientific enquiry • observation and comparison • interpreting evidence • identifying patterns • classification • explaining scientific processes • applying knowledge to real-world situations.