

Helping our children understand their world through science

At Menston Primary School, we want every child to feel curious, confident and inspired as they learn about the world around them. Our science curriculum gives children the knowledge and skills to explore, question and explain natural phenomena, preparing them for life in an ever-changing world.

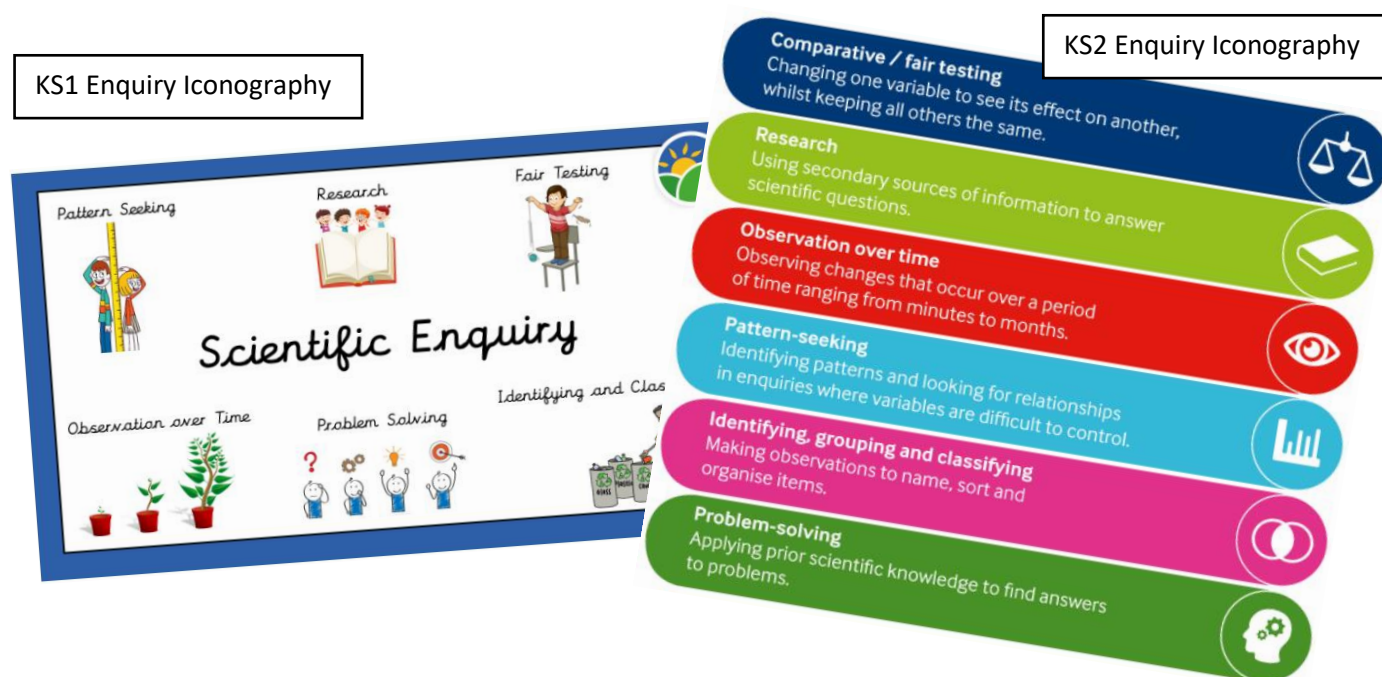
Our Vision

Our school vision, *"Making the world a better place,"* is at the heart of our science learning. Children discover how science shapes everyday life and how it can be used to solve global challenges, helping them grow into thoughtful, responsible citizens.

What Science Looks Like at Menston

Science is taught from EYFS to Year 6, starting with exploring the natural world and building up to understanding key concepts in biology, chemistry and physics. Our curriculum follows the National Curriculum and is carefully sequenced so children build knowledge step by step.

Every unit combines knowledge-rich content with opportunities to work scientifically through enquiry. Children learn to investigate using five main enquiry types, plus problem solving skills:



Developing Substantive Knowledge

Substantive knowledge is the core content of science: facts, concepts and vocabulary about living things, materials, forces, energy and the Earth. Our curriculum ensures children learn and remember important knowledge about topics such as plants, animals, states of matter, electricity and space. This knowledge builds year on year so pupils understand how scientific ideas explain the world.

Developing Disciplinary Knowledge

Disciplinary knowledge is about thinking like a scientist: understanding how scientific knowledge is developed and tested. Children learn to plan and carry out investigations, make observations, take measurements, analyse data and draw conclusions. They also learn that scientific ideas change over time as new evidence emerges, preparing them for future learning in KS3 and beyond.



Linked to Our Curriculum Drivers

- **Equality, diversity and tolerance:** Children learn about diverse scientists and global scientific challenges, fostering respect and inclusion.
- **Creativity and critical thinking:** Pupils ask questions, test ideas and solve problems through practical enquiry.
- **Global citizenship:** Science helps children understand sustainability, health and environmental impact.
- **Future-thinking:** Strong links with STEM develop digital skills and raise awareness of future careers.
- **Wellbeing:** Outdoor learning and hands-on investigations support curiosity and confidence.

Curriculum Enrichment in Science

At Menston Primary, we want children to understand how science is used in the real world and how it shapes the future. Alongside our science lessons, we provide a range of enrichment opportunities to bring learning to life, build cultural capital and raise aspirations in STEM.

Each year, children take part in our Menston Science Week, which includes exciting experiences such as a birds of prey show for all year groups and a Science Meet and Greet event. These events help children see science in action and learn about a wide range of STEM-related careers. We are grateful to members of our local community who volunteer their time to support these experiences.

We enhance science learning through educational visits that help bring learning to life, such as visits to Harlow Carr to support learning about plants and to Tropical World to deepen understanding of animals. We continue to develop our programme of trips and visitors to inspire curiosity and extend children's understanding of science.

What Children Leave Us Knowing

By the end of Year 6, our pupils can:

- Explain key scientific concepts clearly
- Use scientific vocabulary accurately
- Plan and carry out different types of enquiry
- Record and interpret data using tables, graphs and diagrams
- Understand how science influences everyday life and future choices

We want children to be excited by science and the world of opportunities within STEM, nurturing curiosity, confidence and knowledge so they leave Menston Primary as young scientists ready to make the world a better place.