

Science Rationale

Year 4 Science- The Human Body

Using prior knowledge as a springboard to understand, children will return to the knowledge that some aspects of life on earth are too small to see. They will learn that we cannot see the building blocks of life, cells, without a microscope. Importantly, children will learn that cells make up tissue (e.g. muscle), which make up organs, which function in systems within our bodies.

Building on their knowledge of digestion, children will learn that food is broken down into small parts so that the nutrients can be absorbed into our cells. Returning to prior knowledge children will look again at human teeth. They will understand that most humans are omnivores, which means eating a mixed diet of plants and meat, and our teeth are shaped to accommodate such a diet. Crucial processes such as saliva production, chewing, production of digestive enzymes and gastric acid will be studied. They will learn that the small and large intestines absorb nutrients from food and that waste is passed out as faeces. Children will then study a healthy diet and the importance of vitamins and minerals. In this unit, knowledge of the importance of dental hygiene and avoiding sugary or acidic foods for general dental health will also be taught.

In this unit, children will begin to understand that there is a world of science around us that we cannot see. They will begin to understand that scientists look beyond the immediately visible to learn more about the world we live in.