

# Key Stage 2-3 Transition - Science



At Newlands, we believe that "Science and everyday life cannot and should not be separated." We're thrilled to welcome your child into the exciting world of Science, this document is designed to help smooth their transition into Science, providing practical information and sparking curiosity. We're here to ignite their passion for exploration and understanding, both inside and outside the lab.

## Equipment

To ensure your child is fully equipped for their Science lessons, we ask that they bring the same equipment as for their Maths lessons. Please refer to the Key Stage Maths Transition document for more information.

We will provide necessary safety equipment for students, such as safety glasses and lab coats, when required.

However, we ask students **not** to bring water bottles to Science lessons. This is to prevent contamination from potentially harmful chemicals and biohazards present in the Science lab.

## Transition Activities

Please encourage your child to engage in science activities such as:

- **Nature walks:** Explore local areas like the Thicket and riverside, identifying wildlife. Free apps such as PictureThis can assist with identification.
- **Stargazing:** Observe the night sky and identify constellations and planets. Free apps like Star Chart can be helpful.
- **Museum visits:** Visit local museums such as the Royal Berkshire Hospital Medical Museum in Reading, and the Pitt Rivers and Natural History Museum in Oxford.
- **Science and Nature Documentaries:** Watch documentaries like The Planets and Blue Planet II on BBC iPlayer. Encourage your child to make connections with their existing science knowledge and write down questions to ask their Science teacher in September.
- **Science Games:** Play science games on BBC Bitesize KS2.
- **Practice Questions:** Complete questions from the KS2 Science "The Question Book" by CGP.
- **Home Experiments:** Conduct science experiments found on websites like Good housekeepings "45 Best Science Experiments for Kids to Do at Home or In School."

## Science Lessons and Homework

In Year 7, students will have six hours of Science per fortnight, covering a mix of Biology, Chemistry, and Physics topics taught by one or two teachers.

Science homework will be set once a week, with each assignment expected to take up to 20 minutes. Homework is assigned on Educake, for which your child will receive login details during the first few weeks of term. Students who miss their homework deadline will be assigned a lunchtime detention with the Head of Department to complete the outstanding work.

## Setting (Grouping)

Students in Years 7, 8, and 9 are taught in mixed-ability groups, similar to Art and Technology.

Students in Year 10 are placed into sets 1-4 based on assessments completed during their first few years.