



Prior learning to reactivate

This is the first time this subject is taught within the Primary Curriculum.

- The earth has seasons (Year 1)
- Night and day are controlled by the sun (Year 1)
- Earth is a big magnet (Year 3)

Key learning

The Earth and the planets rotate around the sun and each rotation is called a Year. A year varies on each planet.

The Moon is a satellite and orbits the Earth

The Moon has different phases and reflects the light from the sun.

The Earth, the moon and the sun are spherical bodies.

Our solar system has eight planets Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune, Uranus

The Earth rotates on an axis which causes day and night and the sun to appear to move across the sky.

Key vocabulary

Axis	An imaginary line about which a body rotates.
Celestial	Positioned in or relating to the sky, or outer space as observed in astronomy.
Heliocentric	Representing the sun as the centre of the solar system, the modern view of the solar system.
Moon	A natural satellite of any planet.
Orbit	The regularly repeated oval course of a celestial object around a star or planet.
Planet	A celestial body moving in orbit around a star.
Solar system	The collection of eight planets and their moons in orbit round the sun.
Star	A fixed luminous point in the night sky which is a large, remote body like the sun.
Sun	The star around which planets orbit.

SCIENTIFIC SKILLS

By the end of the year, children should be able to...

- Plan scientific enquiries to answer different questions, recognising and controlling variables where necessary
- Take measurements, using a range of scientific equipment
- Record data and results, using charts, tables, diagrams, keys and graphs
- Use test results to make predictions to set up further tests
- Report and present findings, drawing conclusions about results
- Identify scientific evidence which has been used to support or refute ideas

Opportunities for scientific enquiry within the unit:

- Comparing the time of day and night at different places on Earth through internet link and direct communication.
- Creating simple models of the solar system.
- Creating simple shadow clocks and sundials, calibrate to show midday and the start and end time of the school day.

