



Loughton Curriculum: Scientists

Spring 2025

Welcome!

Welcome to our latest Loughton School newsletter - Loughton Scientists! Throughout the year so far, there have been many exciting subjects taught across the school. Year 3 have been learning about animals and humans. They have spent time looking at the human skeleton and comparing them to those of animals. Discovering what a well balanced diet and healthy eating looks like and even learning about the effects that different types of food and drink have on our teeth.



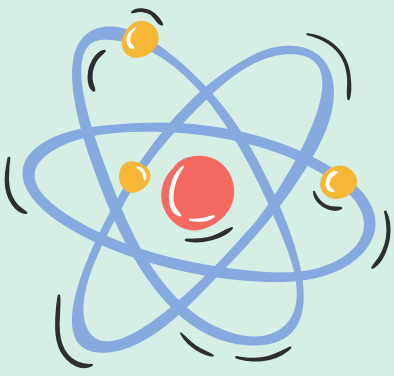
Meanwhile, year 4 have spent their time looking at changes of state, electricity and habitats. They have had fun learning about solid, liquids and gases, the water cycle and how to build a working circuit through the use of equipment and participating in experiments.

Year 5 have had a fantastic year so far as they have been learning about space - a subject that is very popular among the children. They even had the opportunity to visit the National Space Centre in Leicester.



In their final year at Loughton School, year 6 have been working extremely hard by revisiting their learning on light and electricity while also visiting new topics, such as, evolution and inheritance and adaptation.

All of the children are excited and enthusiastic when learning about our range of science topics across the school and we thank you for your continued support - The Loughton Scientists!



Whole School Science Day!

On Friday 28th February this year, Loughton School held a Science Day. It was very successful and extremely enjoyable. The day was a hive of scientific activity with 16 science activities taking place across the school. Each class, in its year group, rotated around the four classrooms and experienced a different science activity in each one. The teachers had chosen a science experiment and, as such, a great variety of scientific concepts and theories were tried and tested. They ranged from making butter to looking at DNA in finger prints, alkaline/acid testing with red cabbage dye to colouring insect prints to camouflage them, pendulum swing testing to the floating and sinking of objects – just to name a few. The children had to use the skills of predicting, experimenting, observing and evaluating their findings for each activity. For each activity, the teachers observed and listened to the children and chose a boy and girl that stood out as being an excellent scientist.

The children all belong to a house (Attenborough, Pankhurst, Shakespeare or Valentine) and each winning scientist earned a token for their house. The overall winning house on Science Day was PANKHURST. Great fun was had by all.



Upcoming learning in science for the Summer term.

Year 3:

Rocks, fossils and soils
Light and shadow
Forces and magnets

Year 4:

Digestive system
Sound

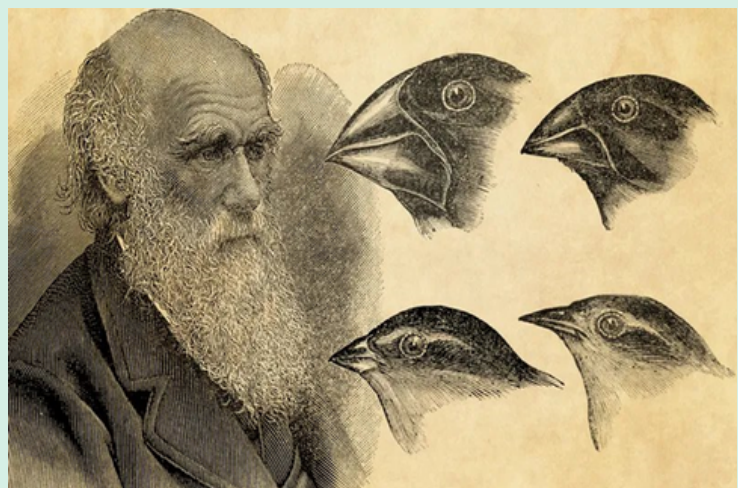
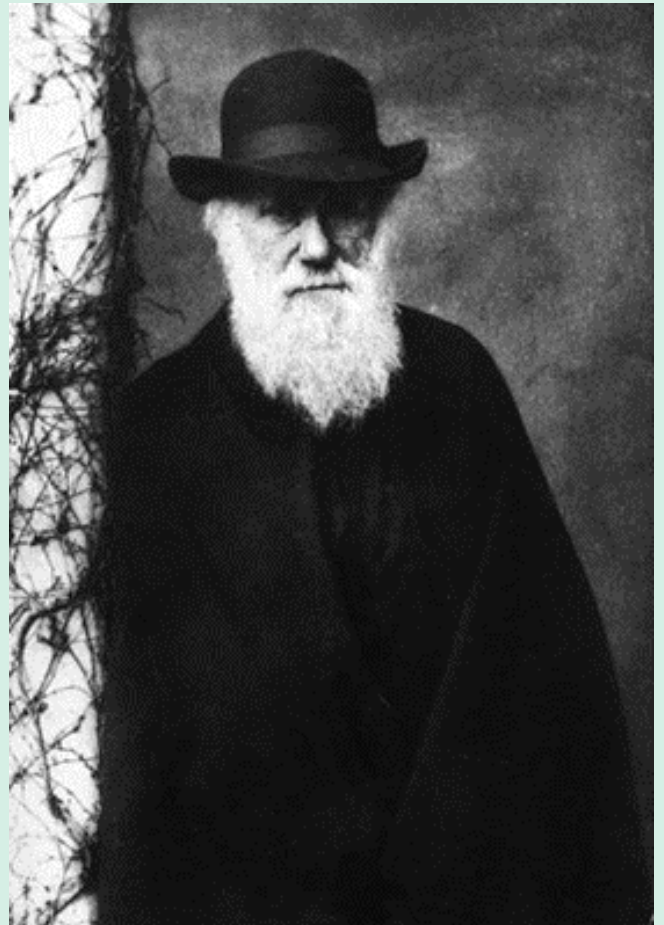
Year 5:

Life cycles
Reproductive system



Famous Scientists: CHARLES DARWIN

(1809 -82). Known for his theory of evolution by natural selection, Charles Darwin was an English scientist who studied nature. He describes his ideas in his important book, *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection* (1859). According to this theory, all living things are struggling to survive. The living things that have the most helpful traits for their environment tend to survive. These living things then pass along their helpful traits. For example, birds with a sharper beak than other birds might be more likely to survive and pass this trait on to others. Darwin's ideas have had a great impact on scientific thought.



Valentina Tereshkova

Russian-born, Valentina Tereshkova, was the first woman to travel to space. In 1963, she orbited the Earth 48 times in her space capsule, Vostock 6, in a mission that lasted just under three days. She later toured the world to promote Soviet science and also become involved in politics.

Top Facts about Valentina Tereshkova

- Tereshkova wasn't a trained pilot when she volunteered for the Soviet space programme. She was accepted because she was an amateur parachutist, having completed 126 jumps. Being an experienced parachutist was useful because, at that time, astronauts had to jump from their capsules seconds before they hit the ground after returning to Earth.
- Tereshkova launched into orbit on 16th June 1963. It was to be her only trip to space. She later became a test pilot and received a doctorate in Technical Sciences.

Key Women in Science



Useful websites for fun experiments to try at home:

<https://www.science-sparks.com/key-stage-2-science-experiments/>

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/blog/30-simple-science-experiments-for-kids-to-do-at-home>

<https://www.loughton.milton-keynes.sch.uk/page/?title=Science&pid=145>

