Hartford Primary School					
YEAR GROUP	Year 4	SUBJECT	Science: Electricity	TERM	Autumn (6 weeks)
National Curriculum STUDY	 Identify common appliances that run on electricity. Construct a simple series electrical circuit, identifying and naming its basic parts, including cells, wires, bulbs, switches and buzzers. Identify whether or not a lamp will light in a simple series circuit, based on whether or not the lamp is part of a complete loop with a battery. Recognise that a switch opens and closes a circuit and associate this with whether or not a lamp lights in a simple series circuit. Recognise some common conductors and insulators, and associate metals with being good conductors. 				
Prior Learning (What should they already know) Misconceptions	 Use of everyday materials (Y2) Scientific enquiry Some children may think: • electricity flows to bulbs, not through them • electricity flows out of both ends of a battery • electricity works by 			f a battery • electricity works by simply	
RETRIEVAL VOCABULARY	Metal, Glass, Ba	e end of a battery into the com ttery, Materials	NEW VOCABULARY	series, componer	or, insulator, filament appliance, nt, device, connectors, witch, variable, mineral, source

	Essential Learning for this	Suggested teaching tasks/approaches	New Knowledge – What I'm leaving the lesson with
	lesson		
LESSON	I can identify, name and group	Compile a list of appliances the children	Electricity is an essential part of modern life.
1	common appliances that run	identify as running on electricity. Provide	An electric appliance is a device that uses electricity to perform a
·	on electricity.	some real-life examples of appliances /	function.
		images.	The first electrical appliances, such as the iron, kettle and light
		Sort a variety of appliances into categories	bulb, were invented in the 1800s.
		(require electricity/does not require electricity).	Some electrical appliances use batteries and some are powered by
		Identify that some electrical appliance require	mains electricity.
		mains, while others use batteries.	
		(Useful images in Plymouth Lesson 1)	The parts of the bulb, filament, glass, case, stem and what they are
			made from and why this detail is important.

		observe light bulbs using a magnifying glass. Explore the components (filament, glass case, stem). Children label diagram of a bulb and begin to discuss the relevance and role of the different parts.	Misconception: that if something is powered by a battery, this is not an electrical appliance
LESSON 2	I can identify and name basic components in a simple electrical circuit and use them to build a series electrical circuit.	Label the parts of a circuit Allow children time to investigate how they will light the bulb Refer to the previous lesson and reference materials Exit: show some pictures of incomplete circuits. Identify if the bulb will work or not and explain why (Useful PP Slides in Plymouth Lesson 1)	Electricity and circuits are just about everywhere and a part of most of our daily lives. The basic elements of an electrical circuit are called components. A simple electrical circuit has to have an electrical source, such as a battery. A simple electrical circuit has to have wires for the electricity to flow through. A simple electrical circuit has to have a device, such as a bulb, buzzer or motor, that requires electricity to work. A complete electrical circuit is made when all components are connected together correctly. Wires must be connected to the positive and negative end of the battery in a complete loop. A series circuit is when all the components are in the same loop. Scientists try out different ideas in order to solve problems.
LESSON 3	I can solve problems and improve simple circuits. I can explain how to be safe around electricity	Remind the children that a circuit needs all the components to work. Allow children to use the components to problem solve e.g buzzers Useful PP slides included in Plymouth Lesson 2	A circuit will not work if it is not part of a complete loop with a battery. Buzzers only work if they are connected in the correct direction. To solve problems with circuits, scientists test whether they are connected correctly and whether the components work. Electricians check if circuits have been built incorrectly and with improper wiring. When we use electricity and electrical appliances, we need to follow rules to stay safe.
LESSON 4	I can explain how a switch is used to open and close a circuit.	Show a variety of switches. E.g. the button on a games console is a switch, a toggle is a switch etc Children need to understand that a closed switch completes the circuit	Switches are used to control circuits. Switches can break a circuit by making a space between components where the electricity cannot flow. Switches are used to turn bulbs, buzzers and motors on and off.

LESSON	I can sort materials into	Allow children time to create their own switch. In electrical circuits, switches are used to turn bulbs, buzzers and motors on and off. When the switch is closed, devices will not work. They will be off. Alex Make a simple circuit	Different types of switches are used to control many electrical appliances we use everyday. An electrical conductor is a material that allows electricity to pass
5	electrical conductors and insulators.	Allow children to complete circuits using a range of materials Ensure the children can explain why/not a bulb lights/a buzzer sounds. cell buzzer Choose a method of recording which materials are conductors and insulators.	through it easily. An electrical insulator is a material that does not allow electricity to pass through it easily. Metals are the best materials for conducting electricity. There are minerals that can conduct electricity when dissolved in water. Examples of electrical insulators are plastic, rubber, wood, glass and air.
LESSON 6	I can identify objects made from a range of metals and test for electrical conductivity	All metals and only metals conduct electricity? True or false? Give the children a pencil, sharpened at both ends. Ask them to predict what will happen if they include this in the circuit. Test it. Look at some of the objects used in our last lesson and recorded in the table. Allow children to test a range of metals in their circuits. What conclusions can they come to?	Metals are very useful materials, with properties such as strength, stiffness and electrical conductivity. Results of scientific enquiries can be recorded in different ways including charts and tables. All metals conduct electricity, but some metals are better electrical conductors than others. Materials are chosen for particular jobs based on their properties.

		Research the use of metals for specific jobs e.g. titanium in not a good conductor but copes with heat	
LESSON	To learn about the scientist	Children learn about the inventor Thomas	Thomas Edison was a famous scientist.
7	Thomas Edison and to know	Edison who invented the Electric Light Bulb.	
,	why he is famous.		He was an important inventor in history.
		Complete a fact file about Thomas Edison.	
			He was known for many different inventions but was most famous
		On Plymouth Science Lesson 4 helpful slide about different scientists related to different aspects of electricity.	for inventing an electric light bulb.
Helpful resources to reference		Plymouth Science	

According to the National Curriculum for England, electricity is not a required topic for Year 2 (Key Stage 1). It is formally introduced in Year 4 (Key Stage 2), where pupils are taught to construct simple series circuits and understand the function of components like bulbs, buzzers, and switches .<u>GOV.UK</u>

The Ofsted "Research Review Series: Science" emphasizes the importance of sequencing science content to build on pupils' prior knowledge and to address potential misconceptions. Introducing complex or abstract concepts too early can lead to misunderstandings that are difficult to correct later . GOV.UK

BBC Bitesize

Given that electricity involves abstract concepts such as current and circuits, introducing it in Year 2 may not align with pupils' cognitive development at that stage. Therefore, adhering to the curriculum's structure by introducing electricity in Year 4 ensures that students have the necessary foundational knowledge to grasp these concepts effectively.