

Science Vocabulary and definitions.

Light



Year 3	
Darkness	Partial or total absence of light.
Energy	“The ability to do work” how things change and move. It’s everywhere around us and takes all sorts of forms
Light source	Produces energy which is visible. The Sun is the planet’s major natural source of light.
Man-made	Made or caused by human beings
Natural	Existing in or derived from nature; not made or cause by humankind.
Reflection	The throwing back of a body or surface of light, heat or sound without absorbing it.
Reflective	Providing a reflection; capable of reflecting light.
Scattered	The way light behaves when it interacts with a medium that contains particles or the boundary between different mediums where defects or structures present.
Shadows	A dark area or shape produced by a body coming between rays of light and a surface.
Straight lines	A line with no bends or curves.

Year 6	
Absorbed	Of energy or another substance taken or soaked up.
Angles of incidence	The angle between a ray incident on a surface and the line perpendicular (at 90-degree angle)
Iris	The coloured tissue at the front of the eye that contains the pupil in the centre.
Lens	A clear disc in the eye that focuses light. A curved structure at the front of the eye, behind the pupil.
Media	Plural of medium
Medium	A substance which transfers energy, or light
Prism	A glass or other transparent object in the form of a prism, especially one that is triangular with reflecting surfaces and that separates white light into a spectrum of colours.
Refraction	When light passes from one medium to another and changes direction
Retina	A layer at the back of the eyeball that contains cells sensitive to light, which trigger nerve impulses that pass via the optic nerve to the brain, where a visual image is formed.
Spectrum	The visible spectrum of light. The seven colours of the spectrum are red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet.
Translucent	A material that will allow light to pass through it but objects on the other side will not be clearly seen.