



St Paul's C of E Primary School – Knowledge Organiser

Name of Topic

Lights and shadows

Year Group

3

Key Vocabulary and Spellings

1	light	Light is a form of energy that moves in straight lines.
2	dark	Dark is the absence of light.
3	reflection	The return of light from a surface.
4	shadow	A shadow is the dark shape made when something blocks light.
5	spectrum	When light hits an object some wavelengths are absorbed by that object and some are reflected. Light of different wavelengths looks like different colours.
6	refraction	Refraction happens when light changes direction, or bends, when it moves from one material to another.
7	concave	A shape that curves inwards.
8	convex	A shape that curves outwards.
9	transparent	Light can go through.
10	opaque	Light cannot go through/is blocked.

Top 5 Topic Facts

1	Dark is the absence of light.
2	Light travels in a straight line. When light hits an object, it is reflected (bounces off). If the reflected light hits our eyes, we can see the object.
3	The speed of light is 299,792,458 meters per second .
4	The moon is not a light source because it does not make its own light. We can see the moon because light from the sun reflects off it (bounces off it) back to the earth.
5	Shadows are formed by the blockage of light by an opaque object.



Key Investigations/Questions

1	What is light? What is darkness?
2	How are shadows formed?
3	What is a reflection? How are reflections created?