Year 2 – Uses of Everyday Materials

Language for Learning
Through the activities in this topic, pupils should **understand and use key scientific words precisely** - spelling these words correctly. This includes - words with precise scientific meanings (e.g. weight and mass), words with different meanings in scientific and everyday contexts (e.g. drag) and words relating to scientific enquiry (e.g. variable).

Key Scientific Words

Key Word	Definition (Meaning)
Material	A substance that can be used to make something
Property	A characteristic of a material ('What it is like/does')
Suitable	Correct for a particular use
Unsuitable	Not correct for a particular use
Wood	A hard material that comes from trees
Metal	A solid material that is hard and shiny
Plastic	A man-made material that can be used to make lots of different shapes
Glass	A hard and brittle material used to make some drinking containers
Brick	A building material made from clay and used to build houses
Rock	A solid material that makes up part of the surface of the Earth
Paper	A material made from wood and made into thin sheets
Cardboard	A piece of thick, stiff paper
Squash	To crush or squeeze – so that a material becomes flatter or out of shape
Bend	To make a straight material into a curved or angled shape
Stretch	To make longer or wider

Key Concepts

The simple physical **properties** of everyday materials can make them **suitable** or **unsuitable** for particular uses

Plastic is a suitable material to use to make a cup for children – **it is waterproof**

Different materials can be used to **make the same thing**. As both **plastic** and **glass** are waterproof - they could both be used to make a cup for children. However, only plastic would be suitable as it **does not break easily**

Some materials can be used to **make more than one thing**. Metal can be used for **coins, cans and cars.**

People can think of **unusual** and **creative** uses for everyday materials. **Your teacher may help you to find out about people who have developed useful new materials**

The shapes of solid objects made from some materials can be changed by **squashing, bending, twisting** and **stretching**. **Plasticine** and **Play-doh** are examples of materials whose shape can easily be changed in this way.

If a plasticine or Play-doh shape is stretched - it becomes **narrower**.