



# Lowerhouse Junior School

## Science Overview Sheet



### Year 4 – Digestive System and Teeth



**Rationale:** Teaching about the Digestive System and Teeth in Year 4 Science is essential for understanding human biology. It helps students learn how their bodies process food for energy and growth. This knowledge promotes healthy eating habits, dental care, and an appreciation for bodily functions, fostering lifelong health awareness.

**Substantive Knowledge:**

- Describe the simple functions of the basic parts of the digestive system in humans
- Identify the different types of teeth in humans and their simple functions
- Construct and interpret a variety of food chains, identifying producers, predators and prey

**Disciplinary Knowledge:**

- Classifying
- Researching

**Overview:**

**Lesson 1:** What are the points of the digestive system?

**Lesson 2:** What functions do the parts of the digestive system have?

**Lesson 3:** What types of teeth do we have and why?

**Lesson 4:** How does the digestive system work together (investigation)?

**Lesson 5:** What do different animals eat, including humans?

**Lesson 6:** How can we sort prey, predators and producers?

**Key Vocabulary:**

**Digestive system:** The group of organs that work together to break down food into nutrients that the body can use for energy, growth, and repair.

**Digestion:** The process by which food is broken down into smaller components that can be absorbed by the body.

**Mouth:** The opening in the face where food is ingested and initial digestion begins through chewing and saliva.

**Teeth:** Hard, bony structures in the mouth used for biting and chewing food.

**Saliva:** A watery fluid produced by the salivary glands in the mouth that helps moisten food and begins the digestion of carbohydrates.

**Oesophagus:** The muscular tube that connects the throat to the stomach, allowing swallowed food to pass through.

**Stomach:** A sack-like organ where food is mixed with digestive juices and broken down into a semi-liquid form.

**Small intestine:** The long, coiled tube where most digestion and absorption of nutrients occur.

**Large intestine:** The wider, shorter tube where water is absorbed from the remaining indigestible food matter, and waste is formed.

**Rectum:** The final section of the large intestine, where waste is stored before being expelled from the body.

**Anus:** The opening at the end of the digestive tract through which waste is expelled from the body.

**Incisor:** The front teeth used for cutting food.

**Canine:** The pointed teeth used for tearing food.

**Molar:** The large, flat teeth at the back of the mouth used for grinding food.

**Premolar:** The teeth located between the canines and molars, used for crushing and grinding food.

**Herbivore:** An animal that primarily eats plants.

**Carnivore:** An animal that primarily eats meat.

**Omnivore:** An animal that eats both plants and meat.

**Producer:** An organism, typically a plant, that produces its own food through photosynthesis.

**Predator:** An animal that hunts and eats other animals.

**Prey:** An animal that is hunted and eaten by predators.

**Most Children will be able to:** • sequence the main parts of the digestive system • draw the main parts of the digestive system onto a human outline • describe what happens in each part of the digestive system • point to the three different types of teeth in their mouth and talk about their shape and what they are used for • name producers, predators and prey within a habitat • construct food chains • use diagrams or a model to describe the journey of food through the body explaining what happens in each part • record the teeth in their mouth (make a dental record) • explain the role of the different types of teeth • explain how the teeth in animal skulls show they are carnivores, herbivores or omnivores • create food chains based on research