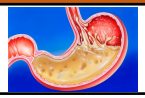
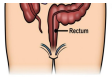
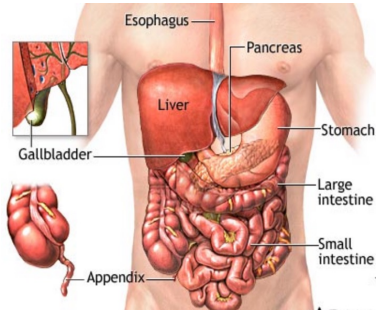
Knowledge Organiser: SUMMER 1

Year 4 Science: Animals including Humans: The Digestive System

Vocabulary	Meaning
organ	a part of a living thing which has a specific function
absorb	to take in or soak up liquid
digestive system	a group of organs that work together, allowing food to be ingested and nutrients to be absorbed into the body
oesophagus	the organ that connects your mouth to your stomach
gastric acid	the juice in the stomach that breaks down food into liquid
small intestine	joining the stomach, this is the tube where food passes and nutrients are absorbed into the blood
rectum	the final section of the large intestine where waste is removed
stomach	an organ containing gastric acid which helps start digestion
intestine	long tube running from the stomach to the anus
pancreas	organ that produces enzymes that help with digestion
anus	where the digestive system ends, waste leaves body
filter	to remove unwanted particles from a liquid
vitamins and minerals	nutrients needed in very small quantities (vitamins: mostly from food we eat, minerals: metal compounds)
milk teeth	our first set of teeth, from 12 months to 3 years old
adult teeth	our permanent teeth – from about 14 years old
wisdom teeth	the last four teeth to develop
calcium	a mineral needed for healthy teeth and bones
molar	a tooth used to crush and grind food

Mouth and teeth	Stomach and fundus	Small intestine	Rectum
			

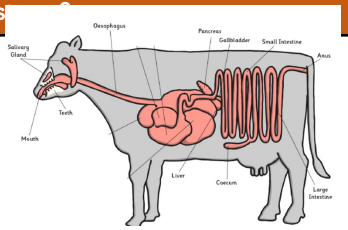
Key knowledge – The Human Digestive System



What happens to the food we eat?

Our stomach contains enzymes. These are important for breaking down the food so it can be absorbed by the body. After the stomach, the partially-digested food passes into the intestines where it begins to be absorbed.

Key knowledge – Why do different animals have different digestive sys



The cow has four stomachs. it undergoes a special digestive process to break down the tough and coarse food it eats. When the cow first eats, it chews the food just enough to swallow it. The food then goes to the third and fourth stomachs, where it is fully digested.