Nova’s Guide to Marvellous Materials

Explore the world around you—what is it made of and why?

- **Materials like wood and metal are rigid, meaning they do not bend easily, whereas fabric is flexible and can be folded.**
- **A waterproof material, such as plastic or rubber, keeps water out, making it perfect for raincoats and wellington boots.**
- **If a material is absorbent, like a cotton towel, it soaks up liquid rather than letting it sit on the surface.**
- **Transparent materials allow light to pass through them, while opaque materials block light completely and create a shadow.**
- **We choose materials based on their properties; for example, a glass bottle is chosen because it is transparent and does not leak.**

Did you know? Did you know? Metals are excellent conductors of heat, which is why we use them to make cooking pans! However, they are also opaque, meaning you cannot see through them like you can with a clear plastic or glass window.

Key vocabulary: transparent · opaque · flexible · rigid · waterproof · absorbent · durable