Y5: *Life Cycles* Workshops with Mercedes (School Scientist-in-Residence), Autumn 2022

- **LO:** To observe and compare the life cycles of animals in our local environment with other animals around the world
- **LO:** To compare how different animals reproduce and grow

This term, Year 5 have been learning about the life cycle of animals in their local environment and around the world. We started by defining some key words and ideas, such as the stages of a life cycle (birth, growth, reproduction, death), internal and external fertilisation, and categories of animals (such as amphibians, mammals and reptiles). We then looked at how different animals reproduce, grow and are born, making life cycle wheels and chatterboxes with key information to use to compare the different animals. We looked for similarities and differences amongst and across the different species of animals.

The students then took all their learnt knowledge and used it to play a game. Each child chose a different animal and were given 'more than/less than' questions (such as 'my animal would live for more than/less than 10 years') and split up into two groups. The groups then shared their animals before coming back together for the next question.

Finally, the tables competed in a final game. They were given a fact (e.g. 'this animal lays eggs') and had to name as many animals as they could that do this, getting one point per animal they could name. It became very competitive!

"I learnt that elephants can live for up to 60 years."
"Did you know termite queens can lay up to 10 million eggs a year!"
"I loved playing games to learn all the animal facts."

Kind regards, Miss Kelly & Mrs Wordsworth – Science Co-ordinators