



Y6: Organisms Workshops with Mercedes (School Scientist-in-Residence), Autumn 2023

- LO: To explore what micro-organisms are and how they can be grouped.
- LO: To be able to identify and classify organisms in the local area.

This term, year 6 are learning about organisms. They started the session looking at diagrams of micro-organisms, and the way that they differed. They looked at some common bacteria, which can be helpful, like in food and our gut, as well as harmful, causing illnesses like food poisoning. They looked at common viruses and fungi too, including mushrooms, yeast and penicillium notatum (penicillin).



They then added yeast and sugar to water to see what happened, and watched as the mix grew! Whilst they waited, they played micro-organism top trumps, looking at some of the most common harmful micro-organisms. They learnt that fungi are much bigger than viruses and bacteria, with viruses being very small, and some illnesses are so common its impossible to count everyone that has it every year!

Then we looked at classifying organisms, focussing on creating classification keys to split animals and plants whilst also keeping the same classes and families together in our classification key. The easiest way to practice was by looking at the Confectionery Kingdom – classifying species within three families of confectionery (fruit sweets, fizzy lances, and plain chocolate). Once they had got the hang of making classification keys, they then did the same with organisms in the local area which they picked themselves. These included trees, dogs, cats, humans and worms!



Student voice

“I enjoyed using my knowledge of how to classify and work collaboratively with my friends.”
“It was fun and engaging. We got to learn about micro-organisms and about the bacteria that makes different diseases.”

“Why did the mushroom go to the party? Because he was a fungi!”

Kind regards, Miss Kelly & Mrs Hayes– Science co-ordinators

