Life Cycles

Links

Reception: Learning about being healthy, growing and how our bodies respond to exercise.

Year 1: Human bodies: learn about the name of different body parts.

Year 2: Animals and life cycles – observe and describe changes in animals over time.

Year 3: Categorise different animals based on their skeletal type. Plants – explore reproduction in plants.

Year 4: Use classification keys to describe different things and their living habitats.

Key Knowledge:

- One of the features of life is **reproduction**.
- Animals reproduce sexually. Plants reproduce sexually and asexually.
- Plants and animals go through many changes throughout their lives.
- Different types of animals reproduce differently, from laying eggs to giving birth to live young.

Key vocabulary:

- **Reproduce/ reproduction:** when a plant or an animal creates an offspring (child).
- **Asexual reproduction:** When something reproduces without the need of male and female. It produces a copy of itself that is almost genetically identical.
- **Sexual reproduction:** When reproduction requires a male and a female to mate to produce offspring (children).
- **Mammal:** An animal that is warm blooded. They have fur or hair and give birth to live young. They reproduce sexually. It is a vertebrate.
- **Bird:** A warm blooded, egg-laying vertebrate with feathers and wings. Can usually fly.
- **Fish:** A cold-blooded animal with gills that lives and breathes in water. It has no limbs. Reproduces sexually and lays eggs in water. Vertebrae.
- **Amphibian:** A vertebrate animal that has a larval stage that has gills then grows to breathing out of water. Frogs, toads, salamanders and newts. Also axolotls.
- **Insect:** Invertebrates. A three-part body. Six legs. Lay and hatch eggs. Shed their skin. They reproduce sexually.
- **Reptile:** A vertebrate animal that is cold blooded. They have dry scaly skin. They reproduce sexually. They lay eggs on land.
- **Life cycle:** The series of changes a creature or plant goes through throughout its life from conception to death.
- **Fertilise:** when male and female cells come together to produce the basis for life.