Living things and their habitats

We will learn…

Living things can be grouped according to different criteria (where they live, what type of organism they are, what features they have). For example, a camel can belong in a group of vertebrates, a group of animals that live in the desert, and a group of animals that have four legs. A classification key is a tool that is used to group living things to help us identify using recognisable characteristics.

The Linnaean system, named after Carl Linnaeus, has different levels where the number of living things in each group gets smaller and smaller, until there will just be one type of animal in the species group.

Micro-organisms are very tiny organisms where a microscope has to be used to see them. Examples of micro-organisms include dust mites, bacteria and fungi, such as mould. Some micro-organisms can be helpful in certain situations. Others can be harmful, and their spread needs to be controlled or contained.

Key vocabulary:

characteristics	The qualities or features that make them recognisable.
classification key	The system which divides things into groups or types
criteria	A factor on which something is judged.
micro-organism	A very small living thing which you can only see if you use a microscope
organism	A living thing.
species	A class of plants or animals whose members have the same main characteristics and are able to breed with each other.
vertebrate	A creature which has a spine.
invertebrate	A creature that does not have a spine, for example an insect, a worm, or an octopus.
adaptation	A change in structure or function that improves the chance of survival for an animal or plant within a given environment.

Investigations:

- Use classification keys to identify organisms in the local area.
- Grow microorganisms (mould) on bread!

Inspirational Scientists

Carl Linnaeus- developed a system of classifying and naming organisms

Chris Nelson – developed techniques to grow plants without harmful chemical

Working scientifically

In this topic we develop the following practical skills:

- ✓ Recording data and results of increasing complexity using scientific diagrams and labels, classification keys, tables, scatter graphs, bar and line graphs.
- ✓ Using test results to make predictions to set up further comparative and fair tests.
- ✓ Reporting and presenting findings from enquiries, including conclusions, causal relationships and explanations of and degree of trust in results, in oral and written forms such as displays and other presentations.