



## Topic: Science

Cycle A - Spring 2 – Year 5/6  
Micro-organisms



**Did you know ...**  
Not all microorganisms are harmful?  
Mushrooms are not a plant and are classed as fungi?

### New Vocabulary

Host	An animal or plant which an organism lives on or in
Replicate	Reproduce/make an exact copy of
Protozoa	Single-cell organisms that live in sea, water, soil and plants. They can be
Virus	A virus is a tiny infective microorganism that can replicate only within the living cells of an organism (host).
Fungus	Microorganism that reproduces from a parent cell. For example, yeast, mould and mushrooms.
Cell	The smallest unit that can live on its own and that makes up all living organisms
Microscopic	So small as to be visible only with a microscope.

**Career links:** Healthcare assistant, lab technician, microbiologists.

The knowledge you will learn in this topic is also used in food production (quality control analyst) and in environmental science.

### New Knowledge

Living things that cannot be grouped into plants and animals are called micro-organisms.

Microorganisms are microscopic organisms that can be found almost everywhere on Earth – including inside our bodies.

Microorganisms are too small to be seen with the naked eye and are only visible with a microscope.

Microorganisms include bacteria, fungus and virus. Not all microorganisms are harmful to us.

Viruses are harmful and common ones include influenza and coronavirus.

Bacteria grows and replicates by dividing in two so, unlike a virus, they do not need a host (a living thing to infect). Most bacteria are not harmful to us. A common bacteria include E.coli.

Common fungi include yeast, mould and mushrooms.

### Prior Learning:

In Year 1 and 2, pupils learnt that plants and animals including humans are all living things.

Pupils learnt that all living things need air, food, water and light to grow.

In Year 3 and 4, pupils learnt the benefits of good oral hygiene & dental flossing. They learnt the importance of washing hands to kill germs and bacteria that can be harmful to health and cause diseases (PSHE link)

Virus

Bacteria

Fungus

