



“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart” Colossians 3:23



## Life Cycles of Animals and Plants

Year 5  
Spring Term  
2

### Key knowledge:

To know that:

- Most animals reproduce by sexual reproduction.
- Sexual reproduction involves two parents where the sperm from the male fertilises the female egg. (RSE Summer)
- **All animals and plants have a life cycle**
- **Changes in the environment can impact the life cycle of animals and plants**
- **There are two types of reproduction: sexual and asexual**
- Most mammals, including humans, give birth to live young (e.g. babies or kittens) whilst others lay offspring as eggs (e.g. snakes and chickens)
- Some young undergo a further change before becoming adults e.g. caterpillars to butterflies. This is called a metamorphosis
- Examples of asexual reproduction are bulbs, tubers, runners and plantlets and this involves only one parent.
- Gardeners may force plants to reproduce asexually by taking cuttings.
- Sexual reproduction occurs through pollination, usually involving wind or insects.

### Key Vocabulary:

- **Life cycle:** the changes in a life of a living organism
- **Reproduction:** the process by which living things produce offspring
- **Sexual reproduction:** reproduction through combining cells from two different living organisms.
- **Asexual reproduction:** reproduction which does not require two 'parents' to reproduce.
- **Gestation period:** the time it takes for a living thing to develop in the womb before birth.
- **Pollination:** the transfer of pollen from one plant to another.
- **Germination:** the development of a plant from a seed.
- **Sperm:** the human male's sex cell
- **Fertilisation:** when two sex cells join together
- **Egg:** the human female's sex cell
- **Metamorphosis:** a process some animals go through to become adults. It is a series of physical changes. Metamorphosis is common in insects and amphibians. e.g. a caterpillar to pupa to a butterfly.
- **Plantlets:** a young plant
- **Embryo** - unborn or unhatched offspring
- **Adolescent** - a stage of life between being a child and being an adult
- **Adult** - a fully grown or developed animal or plant
- **Migration** - the movement of animals from one place to another

