



### Plants

#### Year 1

In every year of their science curriculum, pupils will encounter plants, studying them in increasing depth. The PKC curriculum has been written and planned to give pupils many opportunities to revisit knowledge and clarify their understanding, whilst learning new and interesting content that increases in sophistication as they progress through the curriculum. This unit is an introduction to plants, how they grow, what function each part has, and which common plants grow around us. There is an emphasis on pupils learning to recognise and name common plants, it is helpful if you identify plants and trees growing in the local area and also those that are common in England. Where possible, bring plants and leaves into the classroom for pupils to study.

In this unit pupils will learn about the key parts of a plant including the roots, stem, leaves and flower. They will investigate how seeds germinate, using a fast growing seed such as cress. They will find out the conditions that seeds are unlikely to grow in, such as in the darkness or without moisture. Where possible, encourage pupils to grow plants within the classroom, from bulbs, cuttings or seeds, taking advantage of this unit being scheduled for the summer term. Encourage pupils to take responsibility for watering and caring for plants as they grow.

Pupils will learn about deciduous and evergreen trees, and will understand the differences between these two types of trees. They will link their knowledge from Seasons and Weather to the leaves of deciduous trees falling in autumn. Finally, pupils will look at the parts of plants that we eat, which will help them to prepare for learning about food and farming in Year 2. They will look at common fruit and vegetables and identify which part of the plant we eat, e.g. celery (root), spinach (leaves) etc.

This unit introduces botanists and pupils will be encouraged to think about what botanists do when they study plants. This important disciplinary knowledge will be built upon as pupils work through the curriculum.