Let it Grow
A study of plants, animals and humans
Overview of theme:

This unit has a scientific emphasis. We will be considering the requirements of plants and animals (including humans) for life and growth. We will investigate what plants need to live. We will also be looking at our own bodies and those of other animals, and identify the purpose of skeletons and muscles.

The intention is that by the end of the topic the children will understand the relationship between a plants structure and function: the idea that every part has a job to do. They will explore the requirements of plants for life and growth.

By the end of this unit they will also understand that animals, including humans, need the right types and amount of nutrition, and that they cannot make their own food; they get nutrition from what they eat. They will have identified that humans and some other animals have skeletons and will be able to describe what function the skeleton and muscles perform.

Planned visits and school workshops: Pizza Express- children will learn about where the different ingredients come from. They will make their own pizza. (3H and 3B went last term)

Useful information and reference for parents: www.edenproject.com www.kew.org www.wwt.org.uk

Homework linked to theme: Weekly maths and spelling homework. See homework grid.

Plant some seeds at home.
Cross-curriculum links and opportunities:

Subject focus of the theme: Science

| English including core text | Core Text ‘Helping Plants Grow Well’ by Dr Brian Knapp & ‘Plant Life’ by Miles Kelly  
|                            | Persuasive letter about keeping fit.  
|                            | Explanation text on plant life and growth.  
|                            | Persuasive writing about healthy eating |
| Mathematics                | Data handling – favourite foods  
|                            | Sort animals into a Venn and Carroll diagram |
| Science                    | Nutrition, Skeleton, Muscles, Plants |
| Art and design             | Still life and observational drawing. |
| Computing                  | Using Microsoft Publisher to publish a leaflet about healthy eating. |
| Design and technology      | Planting and growing seeds.  
|                            | Designing, making and evaluating a salad. |
| Geography                  | Where different foods and plants grow in the world depending on the climate. |
Sequence and structure to curriculum theme

Week 1: Let it grow!
We will introduce our topic by planting seeds, looking at the different parts of plants, identifying their functions and investigating the ideal conditions for growth. We will do some still life and observational scientific drawing. We will begin looking at explanation and information texts related to the topic, identifying common features and evaluating why some pieces of writing are more effective than others.

Week 2: Life Cycles of plants
We will learn about the life cycle of plants and in particular focus on seed germination and pollination. We will explore the requirements of a plant for living and growing, and investigate the way in which water is transported within plants.

Week 3: Healthy eating
We will learn about why different plants and foods grow in different climates, and how different amounts of light and water affect the types of plants able to survive and thrive. We will use some of the different foods we investigated to create our own small meal, and create some of our own recipes. We will be looking at the features of persuasive arguments, both verbal and written. We will continue looking at still life using different mediums such as charcoal, chalk and pastel.

Week 4: Classifying and grouping
We will look at different species of animals, classifying and grouping them depending on different factors. We will look at the skeleton and muscle structure of humans and identify why these are necessary for life. We will investigate the idea of nutrition in humans, and create a menu to support human growth.

Week 5: Skeletons and muscles
We will investigate the movement of humans and other animals and focus on particular functions of the skeleton and muscles and why these are important. We will write persuasive leaflets about healthy eating. We will be publishing them using Microsoft Publisher.

Children’s learning

- Understand what plants and humans need for life and growth.
- Know what the right type and amount of nutrition is.
- Have learnt the following key vocabulary; plant, flower, root, stem, trunk, leaf, air, light, water, nutrition, nutrient, soil, pollination, seed, skeleton, muscles