MICRO-ORGANISMS – Year 6

Glossary

bacteria – micro-organisms that can be divided into two groups – **harmful or beneficial**

beneficial bacteria – these bacteria do useful jobs in our bodies and in our environment e.g. the bacteria in our digestive systems that help with the breakdown of food

cell – the building blocks of all organisms

decay – the process of rotting of plant and animal material that is caused by bacteria and fungi e.g. tooth decay, composting

disease – illness brought about by infection with micro-organisms

fungi – group of organisms that includes moulds and mushrooms. Some microscopic fungi can be harmful e.g. athlete's foot fungi, some are useful e.g. yeast

germ – a popular term for any micro-organism that makes you ill

good hygiene – behaviour that will reduce the risks of infection e.g. washing hands

harmful bacteria – these bacteria can cause illness and disease

illness – the symptoms of a disease, accident or injury

immunisation – a medical procedure that involves giving a body resistance to certain micro-organisms

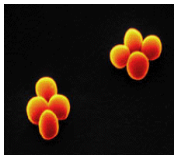
fungi

mould

yeast

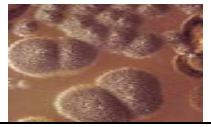
Microscope

Beneficial bacteria are useful to us

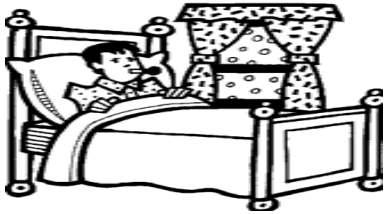


This **harmful bacteria** causes **infection** and makes you poorly.

Micro-organisms can only be seen under a strong microscope and are also known as **microbes**



Immunisation builds resistance to harmful micro-organisms and helps protect us from disease.



Germ is a popular term for micro-organisms which can cause **illness** and **disease**

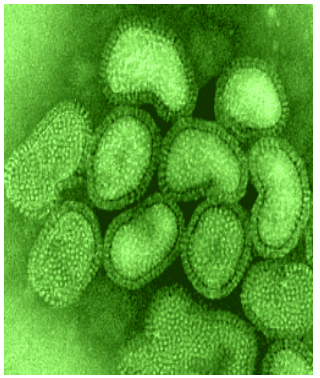
Edward Jenner

Edward Jenner was a doctor who discovered that infecting a patient with cow pox, prevented the patient from getting small pox. He was a pioneer in early vaccination and immunisation.
The picture below shows James Phipps being deliberately infected with cow pox. Jenner was carrying out a fair experiment

Washing hands is **good hygiene.**

A high speed photo of a sneeze

A **virus** is extremely small and causes illness. The picture below shows influenza, commonly known as **flu**



infection – the process by which harmful micro-organisms enter

microbe – another word for a micro-organism

micro-organisms – very small living organisms that can only be seen under a high powered microscope

microscope – an instrument that is able to magnify an image

mould – a fungi that assists in the process of decay – green moulds are visible on the surface of rotting fruits

multi-cellular organism – an organism that is made up of many cells e.g. humans, insects, fish etc.

single celled organism – an organism that is made up of only one cell e.g. yeast

virus – extremely small micro-organism (smaller than bacteria – a million in a row would measure only 5mm) that can only grow and reproduce within the cells of other organisms causing illness e.g. rhinovirus is micro-organism causing the common cold

yeast – a microscopic single celled fungi that produces carbon dioxide which is useful for making bread and beer