Nature’s Principles of Harmony



A new way of looking at and learning about our world.

There is a deep mutual interdependence within the systems of nature, active at all levels. It sustains the individual components so that the great diversity of life can flourish within the controlling limits of the whole. In this way, Nature is rooted in wholeness.

HRH The Prince of Wales



Harmony Explained



Ashley Primary School.



A green school.



With over 500 children.

English Learning

- Phonics and spelling taught each week
- Handwriting taught each week
- Class reading for comprehension
- Real life stimulus for writing
- Grammar skills always linked to writing genre
- Regular role modelling
- Writing for purpose



Maths Learning

- Regular practice of number bonds and tables
- Lots of estimating
- Challenges to start each lesson
- Mixed ability grouping and same ability grouping
- Blocked learning on one concept e.g. 3 weeks
- Real life application
- Strong links to geometry





We want our children to love to learn.



And to experience the awe and wonder of life.



The school has lots of natural light.





Sustainability is at the heart of our learning - here student led energy monitoring.



Values underpin all that we do.

Honesty

Hope

Justice

Peace

Love

Compassion

Courage

Respect

Trust

Joy

Responsibility

Simplicity

Co-operation

Belonging

Unity

Truth

Which values mean most to you?



This is our Harmony Centre. Our learning is themed around Nature's principles of Harmony.



1. The Principle of the Cycle

Learning Nature's self-sustaining, self-limiting cycles.



Learning the food cycle from seed to fruit to seed.



Nurturing, watering, weeding what we grow.



Growing in increasing quantity.



Harvesting the outcomes of this work.



Preparing the food for school lunches.





Sharing this good food together.





Composting our food waste back into the soil…



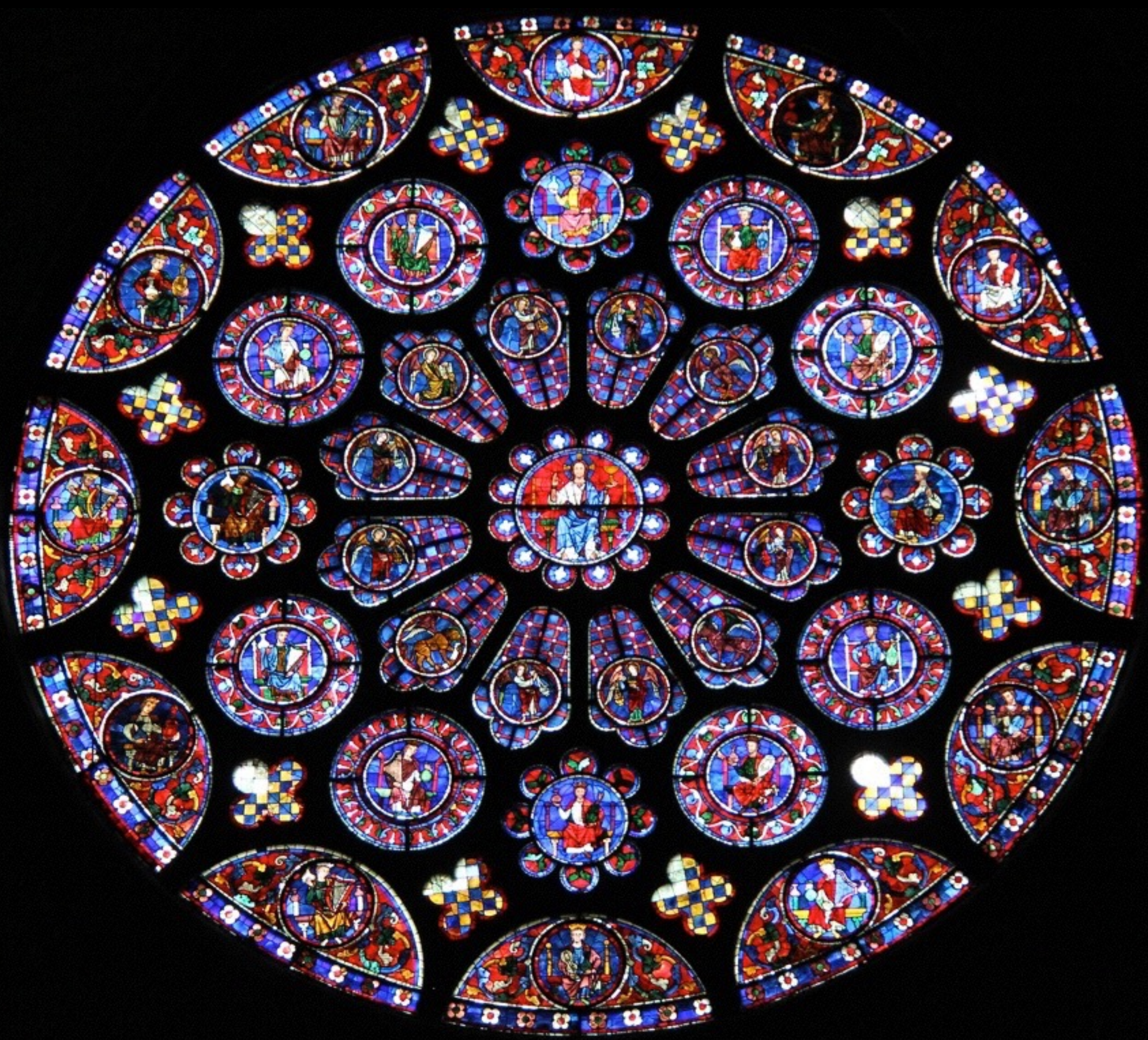
…to start the cycle again.

The Principle of the Cycle

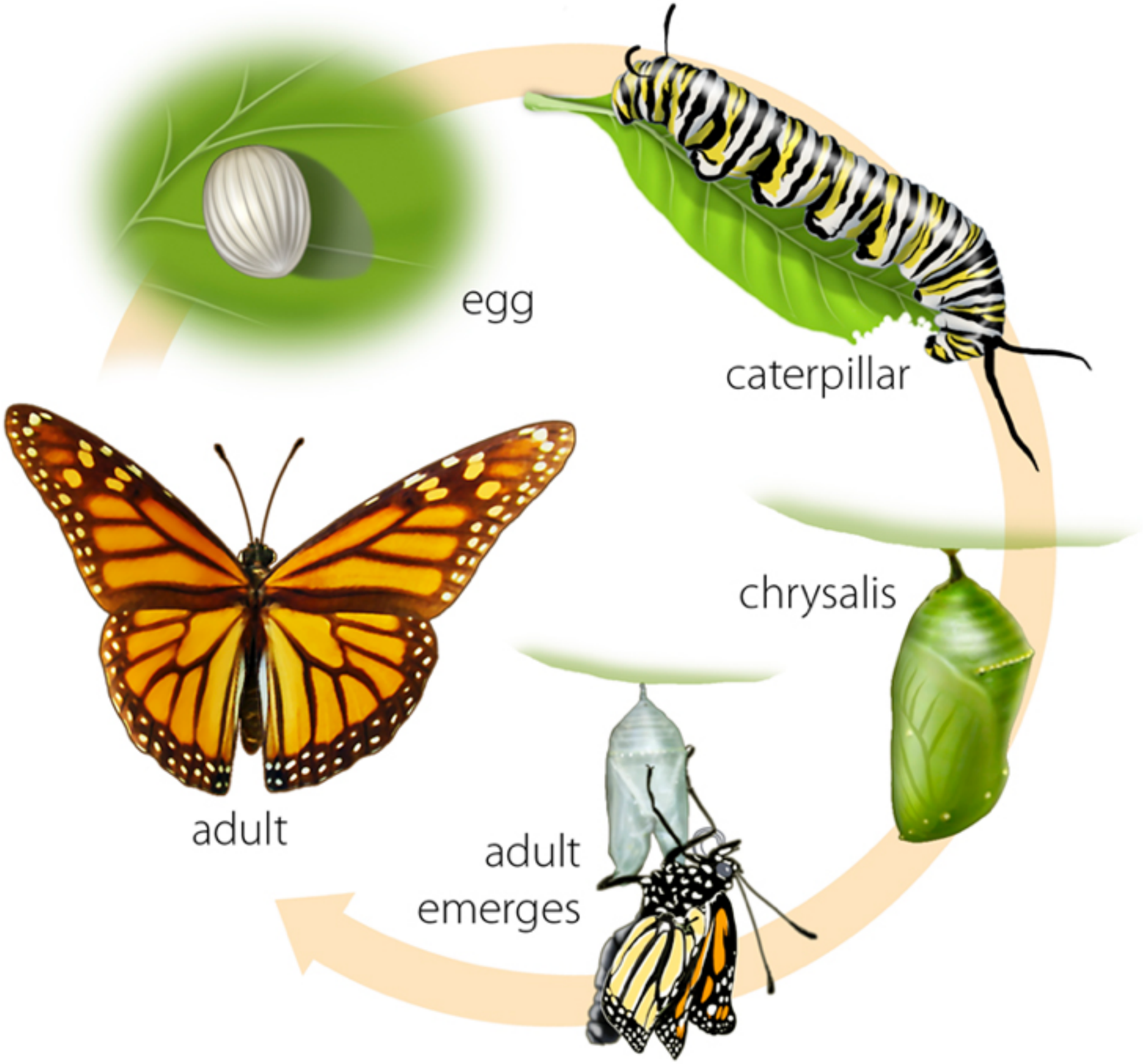
Learning that Life works in Cycles

- The Life Cycle of Farm Animals - Year R
- The Life Cycle of Plants - Year 1
- The Cycle of Stories Passed On - Year 2
- The Cycle of Trees through the Seasons - Yr 3
- The Cycles of the Solar System - Year 4
- The Water Cycle - Year 5
- The Cycle of Life of the Arctic Inuit - Yr 6
- Cyclical Systems are Sustainable Systems









Learning to live within limits.

<u>The Principle of the Cycle from a 9 year old's perspective</u>

The word cycle means there is no beginning or end.

In a cycle, life carries on and on and on. Everything is as it should be.

If anything goes wrong with a cycle, catastrophic consequences will occur.

The principle of the cycle reminds us how to work with the cycle of the seasons.

The water cycle is a vital cycle.

We need to find ways to protect the cycle.

Without the water cycle, there would be no rain. We would have no plants or vegetables.

The principle of the cycle means everything working in harmony in a cycle that repeats and repeats again and again.

The Principle of the Cycle



How much can we link learning to the cycles and seasons?



2. The Principle of Interdependence

Connecting learning together to make it make sense.



When we learn about bees...



We appreciate how everything links together.



We see how bees play an essential role in pollination.



We enjoy the fruits of this work.



It is a wholly interconnected system.



And the honey is the healthy outcome of this system.



Bees remind us of the importance of systemic thinking.



Trees in woods and forests work interdependently, too.

Teaching through Enquiries

Joining up learning to make it make sense

Reception - Aged 4 and 5 - Experience

What makes me special? - Celebrating individual uniqueness
Which stories do we love and why? - Building our values through stories
What lives outside our classroom? - Understanding the world around us

Year 1 - Aged 5 and 6 - Diversity & Difference

How have our toys changed over time? - Learning about traditional wooden toys
What is my favourite wildflower and why? - Growing and appreciating wildflowers
Why do I like to be beside the seaside? - Caring for our seasides and sea

Year 2 - Aged 6 and 7 - Community

How can I find the best way to travel? - Finding eco-friendly means of transport
Why are bees so brilliant? - Appreciating the interdependence of all life
Why do I think dinosaurs became extinct? - Understanding extinction today

Teaching through Enquiries

Joining up learning to make it make sense

Year 3 - Aged 7 and 8 - Earth

Why was the Roman army so successful? - Achieving great things together
Why are our local woodlands so important to us? - Learning the value of woodland
Why should we protect the rainforest? - Celebrating the biodiversity of rainforests

Year 4 - Aged 8 and 9 - Fire

Where does our food come from? - Understanding local, seasonal, organic food
How can we build community? - Exploring ways to make our community well
What can the Ancient Egyptians teach us? - Learning how to live within limits

Year 5 - Aged 9 and 10 - Water

What journey does our river take? - Conserving water, keeping our rivers clean
Why is biodiversity so important? - Learning to appreciate of our local biodiversity
What story does an Indian image tell? - Trying to find a solution to plastic waste

Year 6 - Aged 10 and 11 - Wind

What can we learn from life on the Home Front? - Developing food growing projects
Is Antarctica worth protecting? - Linking climate change to fossil fuel energy use
What will I learn about leadership in Chamonix? - Building our leadership potential

The Principle of Interdependence

Everything is connected.

- The Natural World Outside Our Classroom - Yr R
- The Seaside Ecosystem - Year 1
- Bees, Pollination, Ecosystem Well-Being - Year 2
- Fairtrade Food from Africa - Year 3
- Our Community - Year 4
- The Ocean World - Year 5
- The Antarctic Ecosystem - Yr 6
- Seeing the Joined-up-ness of Life



<u>The Principle of Interdependence from a 10 year old's perspective</u>

When a system is interdependent, it works together. It's like interlocking fingers that stay together no matter what.

Interdependence means that a natural life form relies on another life form for survival.

Interdependence means that everything and everyone has a role to play.

Interdependence is like scales that balance. If something happens to upset the balance, the scales will tip.

Interdependence means depending on each other and building community.

Interdependence means that every change a person makes has an effect.

Ecosystems teach us interdependence.

The Principle of Interdependence

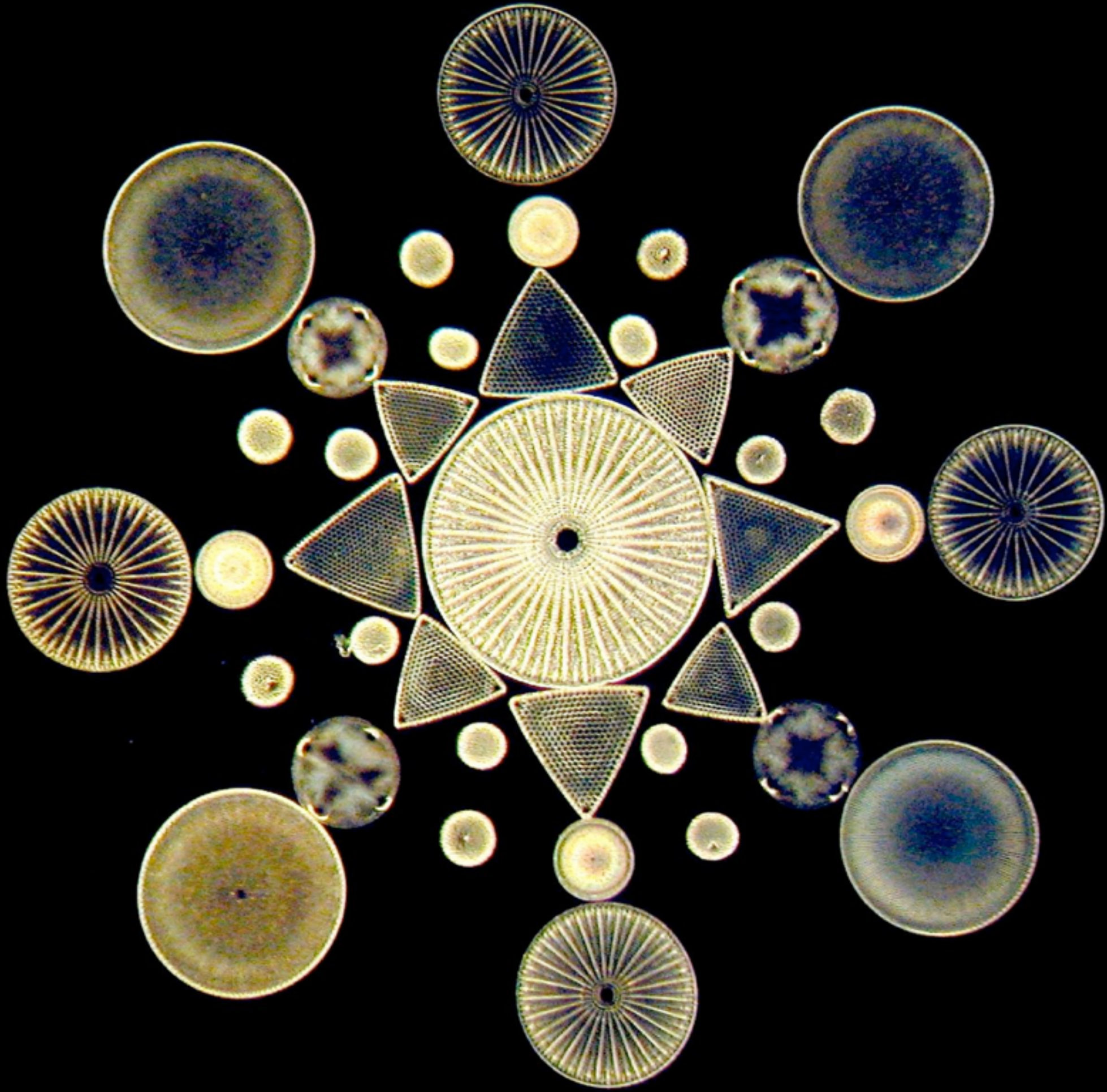


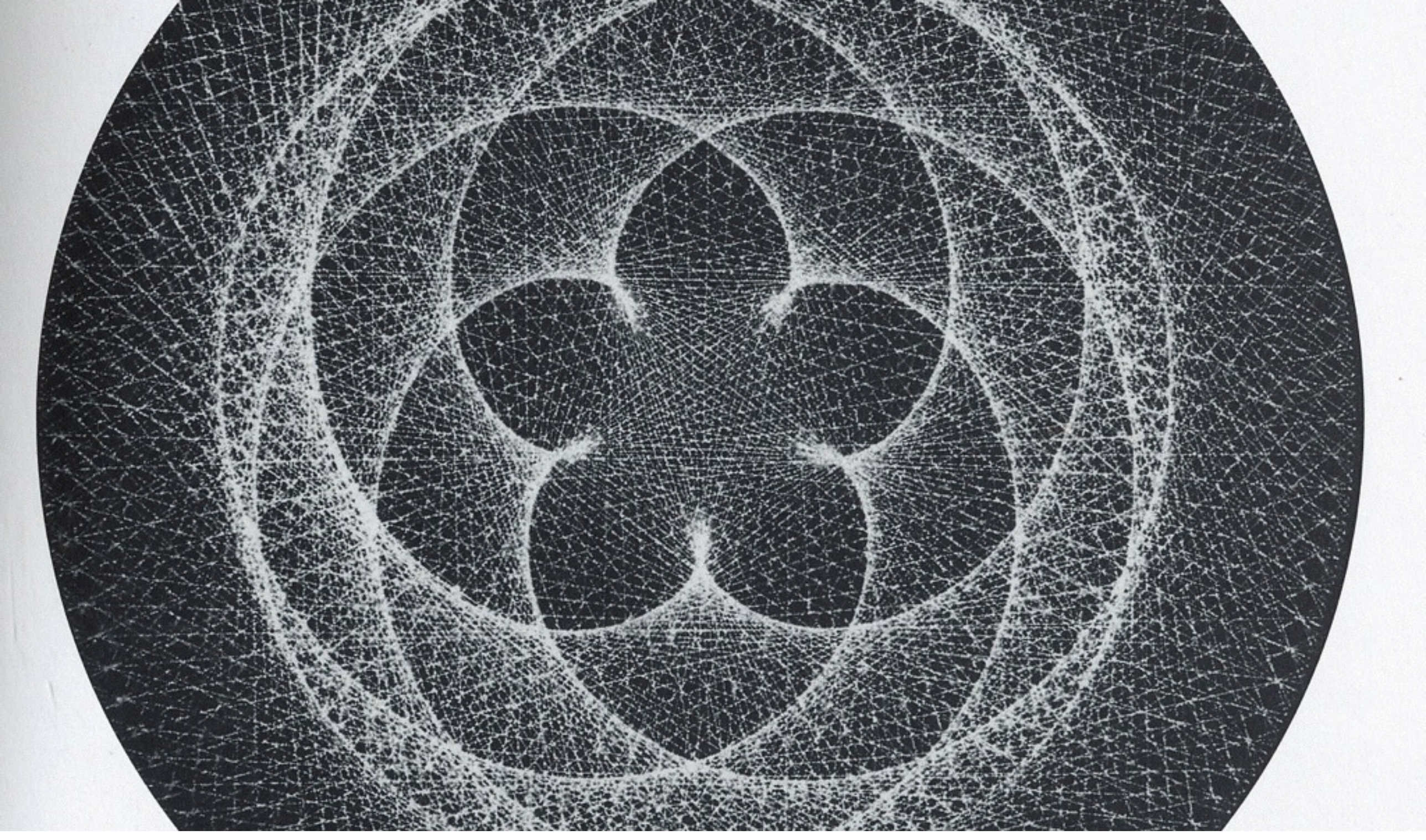
How much can we link learning together so it makes sense?



3. The Principle of Geometry and Beauty

Understanding the patterns and beauty of Nature.





Geometry teaches us a new way of seeing the world.



It helps us to understand the patterns of Nature.





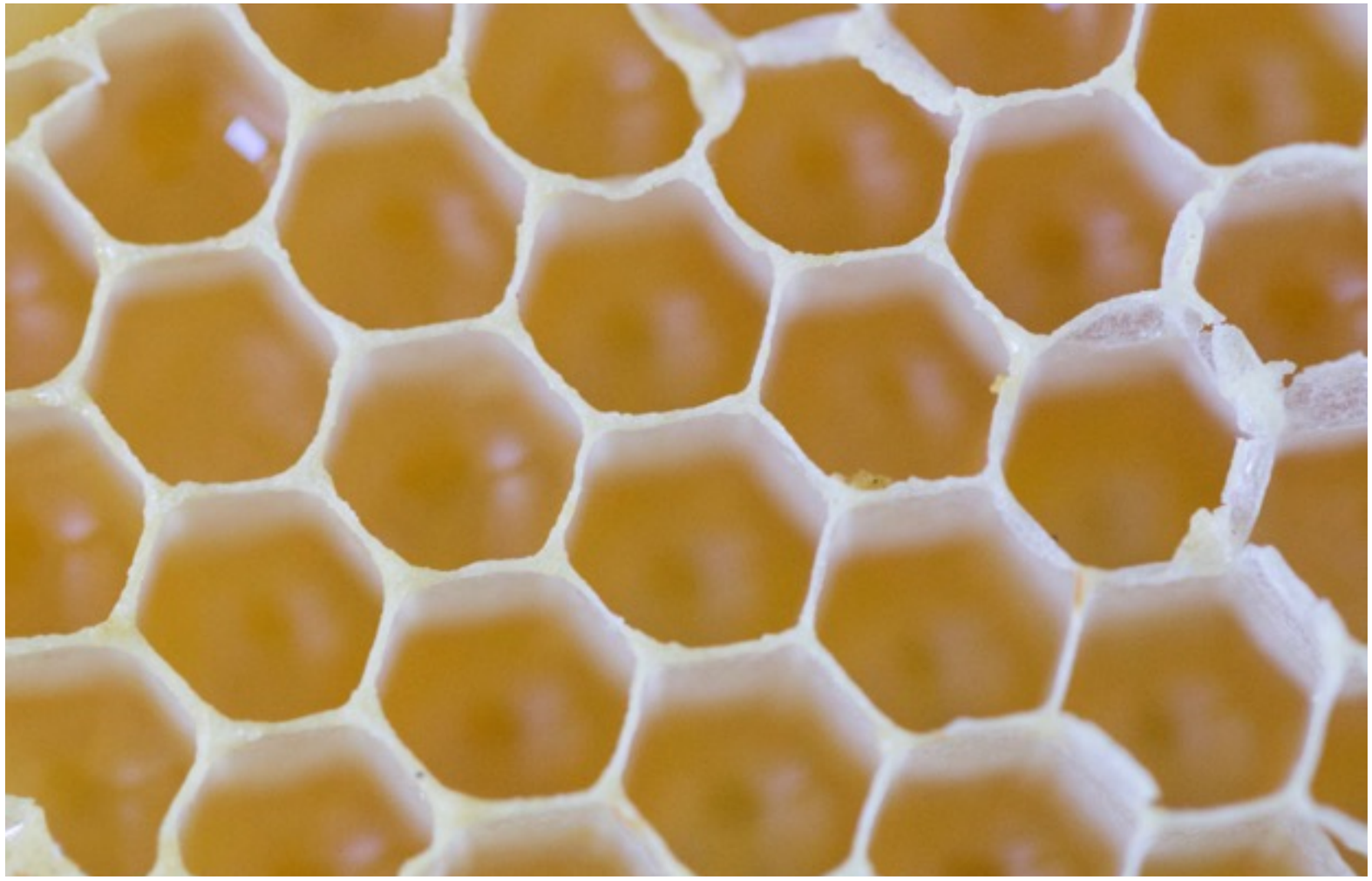
We see this geometry on a macro and micro scale.





We see it in the cross sections of fruit and veg.





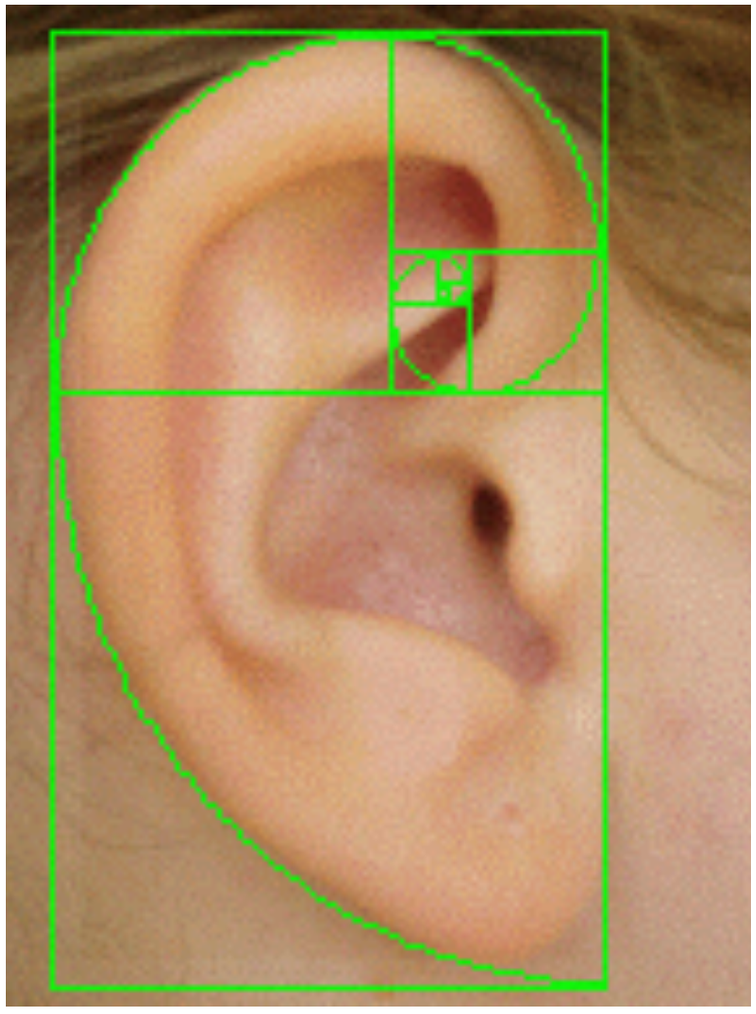
We see it in the hexagon form of
a snowflake and bee honeycomb.







We see it in the Fibonacci spirals around us.





And in the proportions that exist in us.

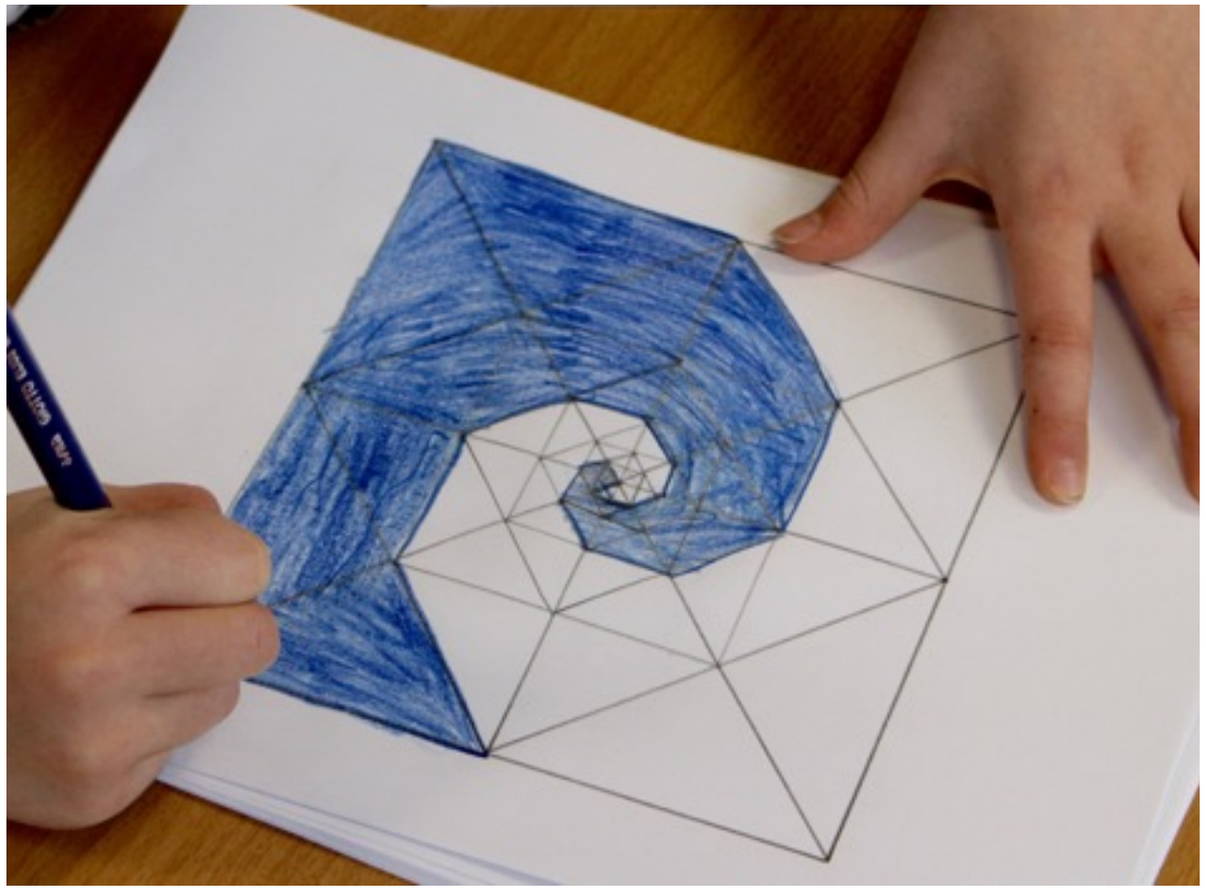


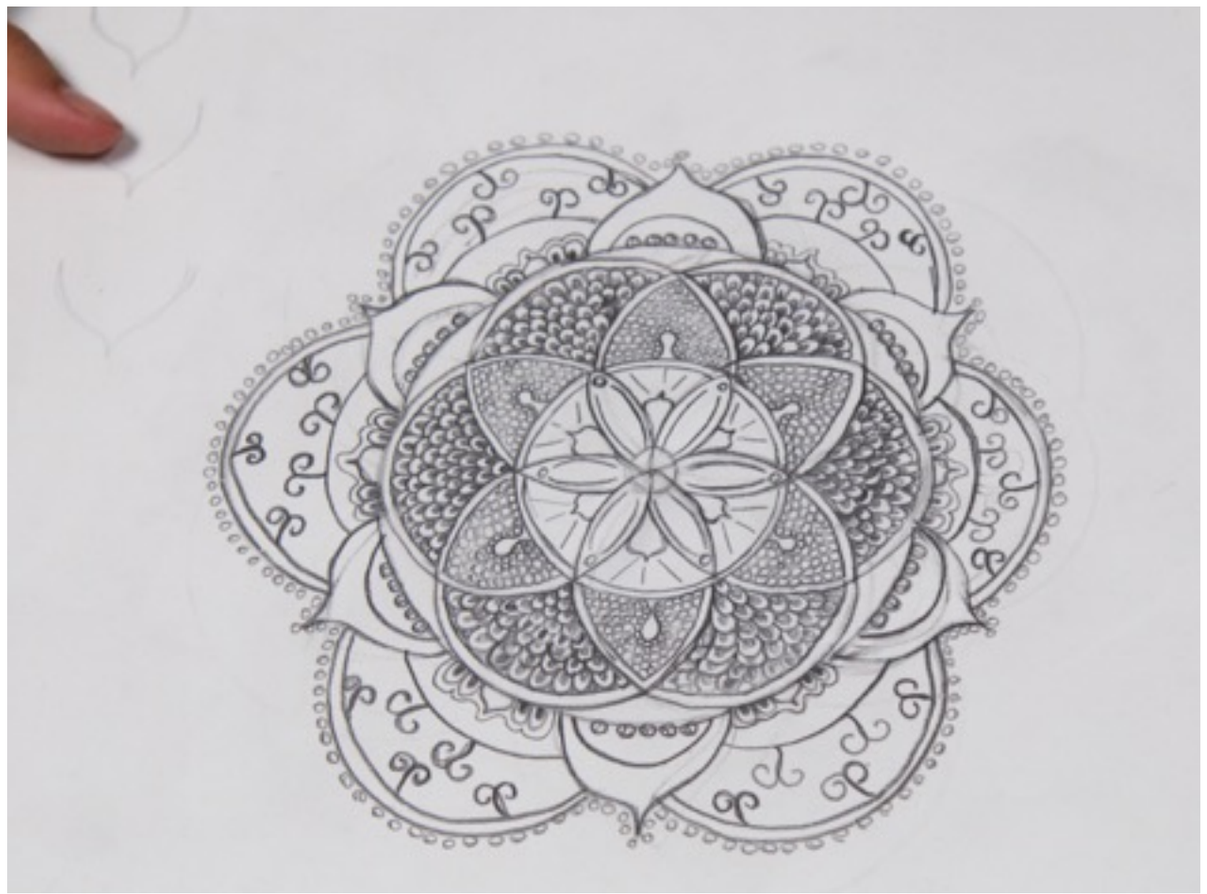
The geometry of Nature reflected in the architecture of Florence.



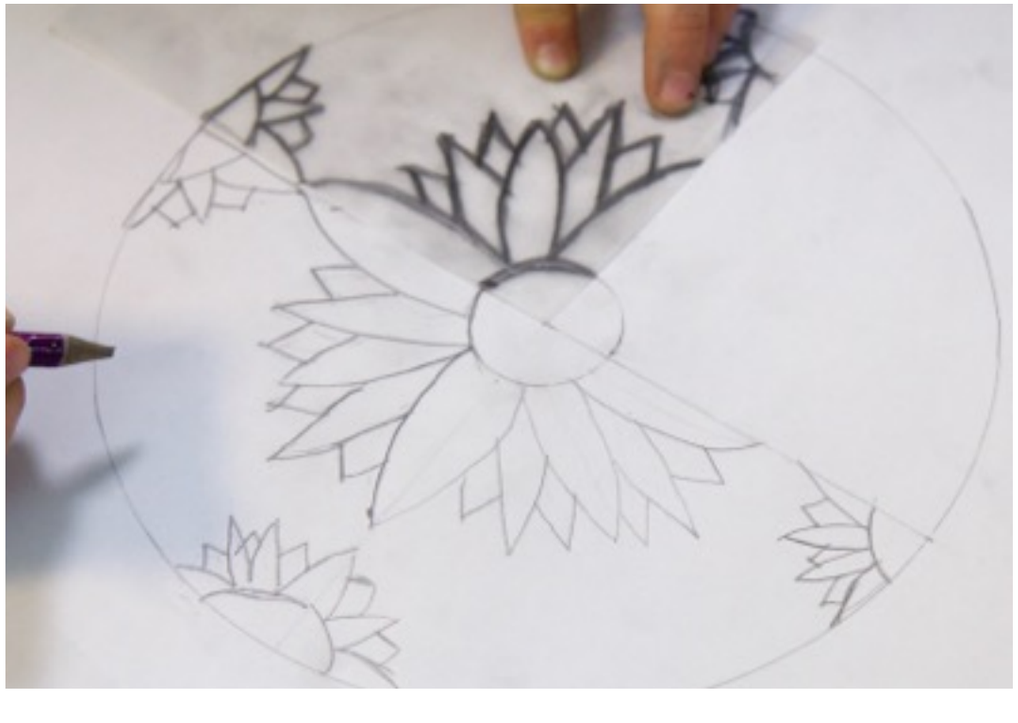


We feel well when we experience
the beauty of Nature’s patterns.





And when we recreate these patterns in geometry.





Geometry develops:

Fine motor skills

Good concentration and observational skills

Attention to detail

Calmness and mindfulness



Great Work Outcomes
Putting on an art exhibition.



Great Work Outcomes
Rainforest songs and soundscapes.



Great Work Outcomes
The order of the solar system.





Great Work Outcomes
Antarctica exhibition and ice sculptures.

The Principle of Geometry and Beauty



What could the beautiful outcomes of our work be?



4. The Principle of Diversity

Valuing diversity in every-one and every-thing.



Diversity in food.





And learning to grow in diversity.



Diversity in wildflowers.



Diversity in cows!

The Principle of Diversity

Seeing diversity as a strength.

- Celebrating Difference - Year R
- Superhero Me - Year 1
- The Diversity of Dinosaurs - Year 2
- The Biodiversity of the Rainforest - Year 3
- The Diversity of Star Constellations - Year 4
- Our Local Biodiversity - Year 5
- Diversity of Roles in the Home Front - Year 6
- Valuing Diversity in Learning and Life



<u>The Principle of Diversity from a 8 year old's perspective</u>

Diversity means being unique. We are all unique.

Diversity means different plants and animals and different types of the same plant or animal.

Diversity allows everyone to be different.

If you cut down the rainforest, you cut down half of the world's biodiversity.

Diversity means equality and accepting people for who they are.

To me, diversity means difference, uniqueness, being special.

I didn't know there were two-toed sloths and three-toed sloths, did you?

Diversity of Leadership Roles

Empowering our students to design and lead the change

Leadership of Energy Monitoring

Leadership of Food Waste Measuring

Leadership of Water Use

Leadership of School Recycling



Leadership of Food Growing, Watering, Weeding

Leadership of Biodiversity Projects

Leadership of Playtimes and Inclusion

Student Led Design for Change Projects

How much can we develop
diversity in leadership
and in learning outcomes?





Leadership for a sustainable future.

The Principle of Diversity



How diverse can our children's learning be?



5. The Principle of Adaptation

Adaptation is essential to surviving and thriving.

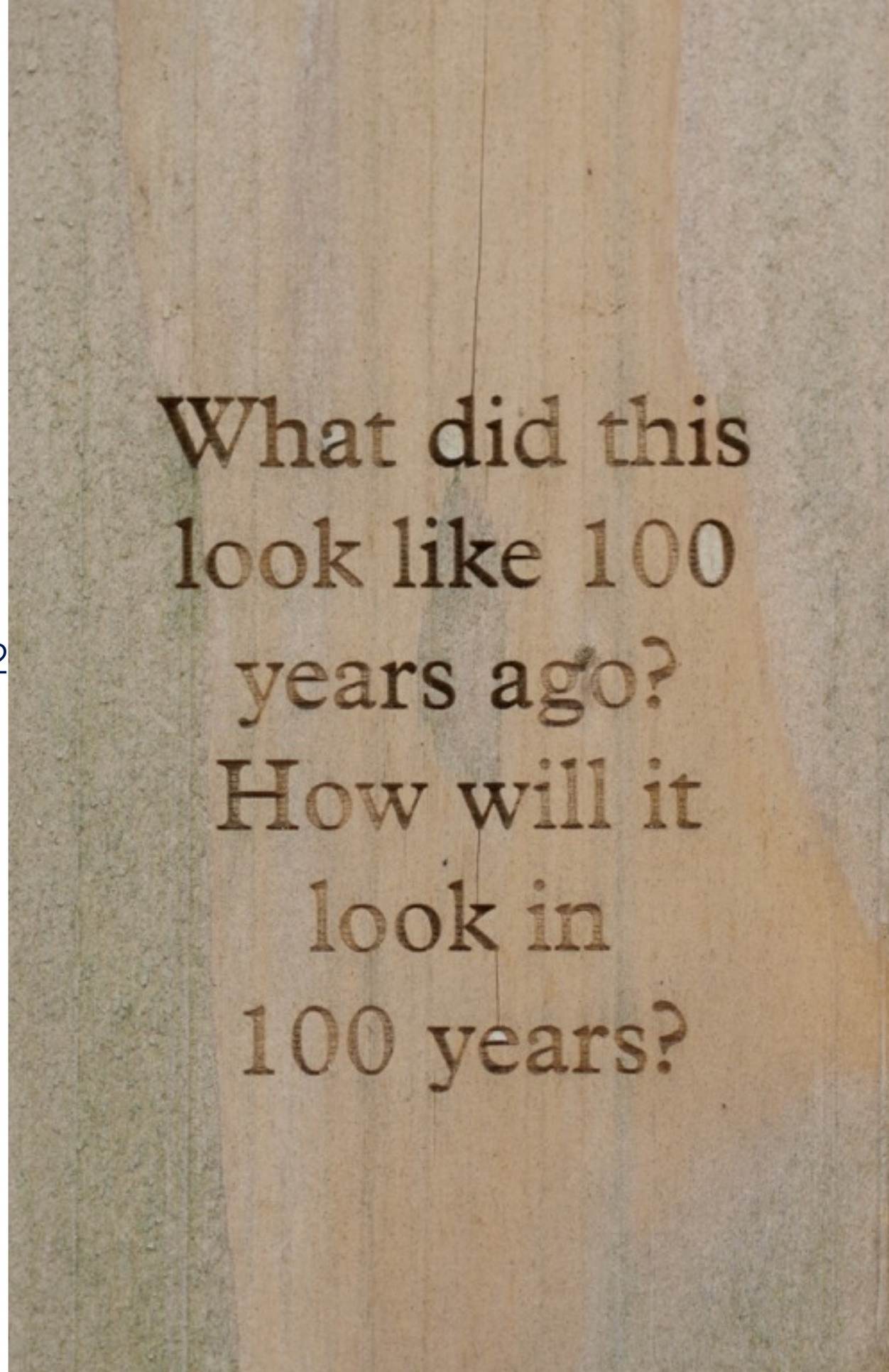


Nature is adapted to its place, its local context.

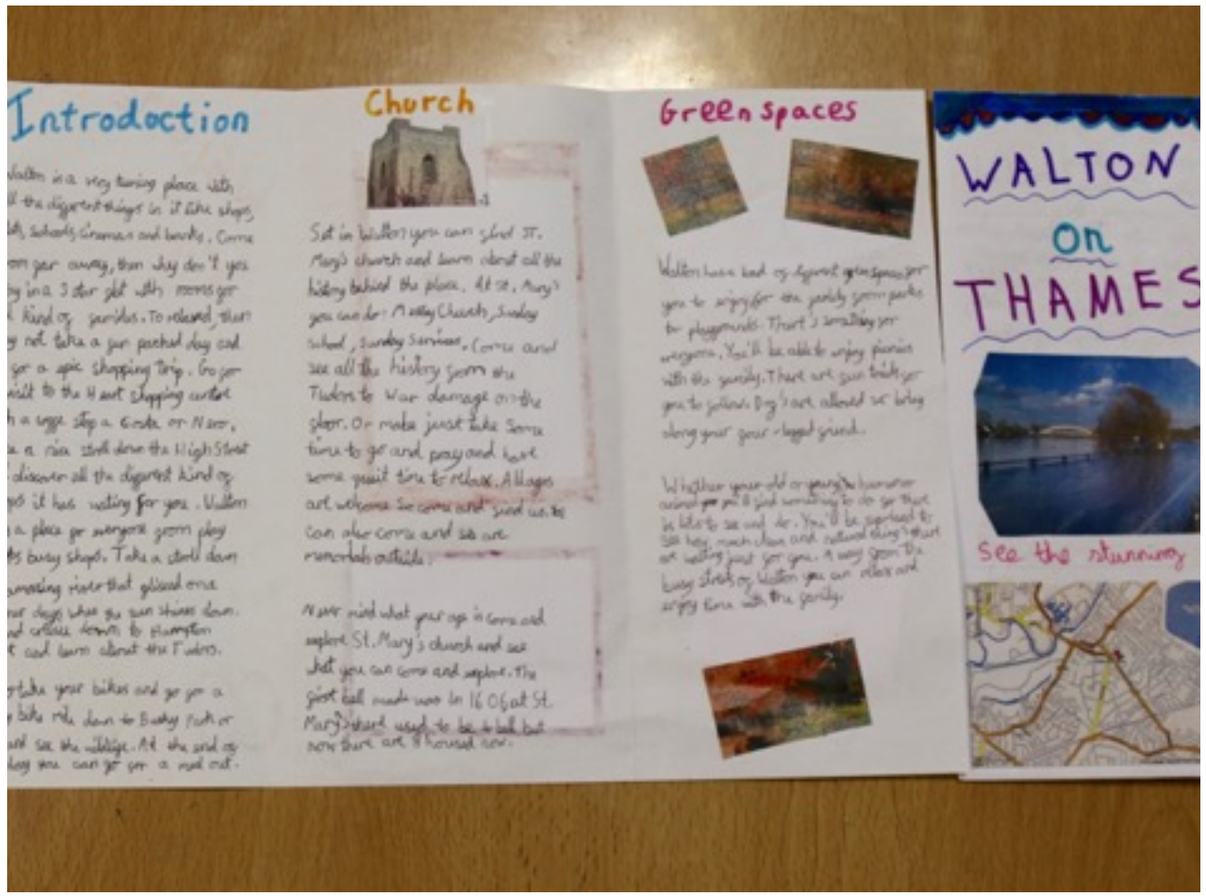
The Principle of Adaptation

Giving Learning a Local Context

- Learning about Our Local Nature - Year R
- Learning about Our School's History - Year 1
- Learning about The Great Fire of London - Year 2
- Learning about Our Local Community - Year 3
- Learning about Our Local History - Year 4
- Learning about Ourselves in Bude - Year 5
- Learning about Adaptation in Chamonix - Year 6
- Linking Local to Global through Partnerships







Adapting learning to our place.





Sustaining traditional skills.



Students all over the world want to develop a sense of place.

The Principle of Adaptation



What kinds of local projects can build community?

6. The Principle of Health

Putting health at the heart of our education system.





Learning what we need to be well.



Individual well-being.
When am I well?

Sustaining Ourselves
When are we well?

- When we are valued
- When we learn new things
- When we stand up for what we believe in
- When we realise our potential
- When we care for others
- When we are creative and imaginative
- When we connect to nature
- When we have time to think, reflect, pray





Team well-being.
When are we well?

Community Well Being

When is a team well?

- When everyone has a say
- When we break down a big challenge into smaller tasks
- When we have good communication
- When we show leadership to guide the team to its goal
- When everyone enjoys the experience
- When we find the right pace
- When we see need and respond to it





Global well-being.
When is the world well?

A World that is Well

The world will be well…

- When we have happy, healthy communities.
- When we are fair and value everyone.
- When we live in peace.
- When all our energy and water is clean.
- When there is no waste or pollution.
- When food and farming is organic.
- When the biodiversity of Nature thrives.
- When we all grow as leaders.





Health and Well-Being

The Principle of Health

What helps us to be healthy?

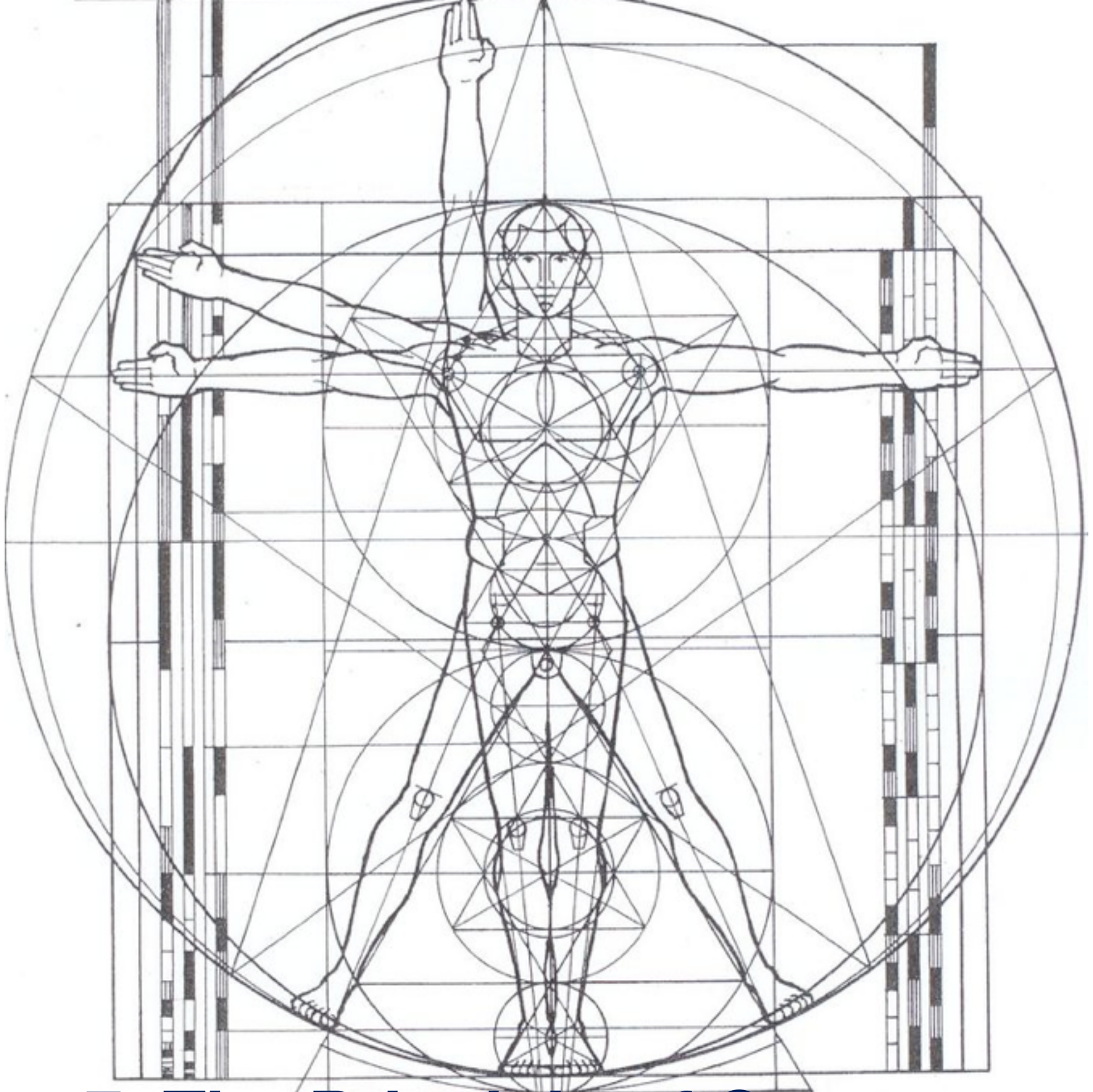
- Healthy Travel - Reception
- Healthy Play - Year 1
- Healthy Me - Year 2
- Healthy Relationships - Year 3
- Healthy Food - Year 4
- Healthy Lifestyles - Year 5
- Health and Well-Being - Year 6



The Principle of Health



How healthy are our schools?



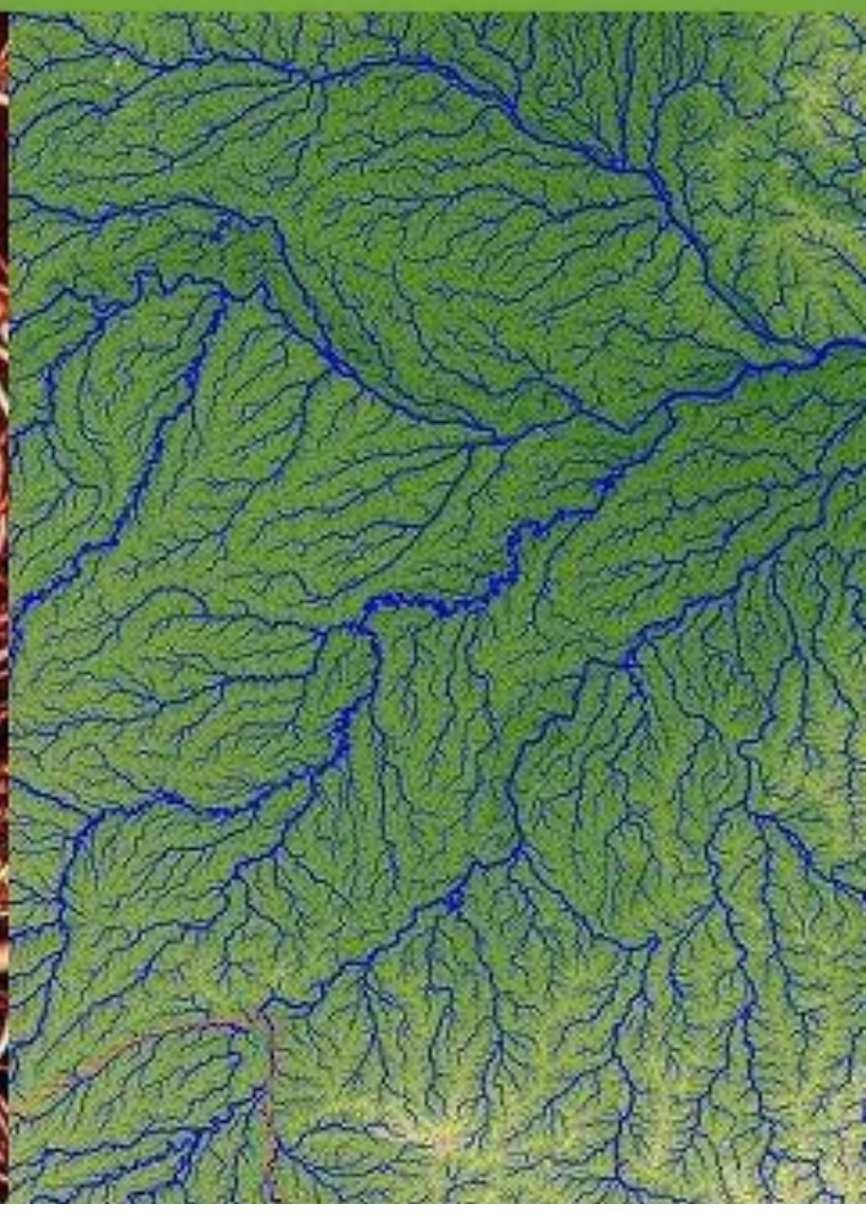
7. The Principle of Oneness

We are Nature.

WE ARE NATURE









Learning to live as one in peace and love.



Learning how to be, not just what to do.
Giving time for our students to be peaceful and present.



Drumming and oneness.

<u>The Principle of Oneness from an 11 year old's perspective</u>

Oneness means working together in peace as one.

Oneness is harmony and unity. Everything around us links to us.

I think the idea of Oneness is that we are all different, but we can all come together as one.

Oneness is living in harmony with everyone and everything.

Oneness is about working in unity and diversity.

Oneness is when the circles that make a hexagon come together as one. No matter what our belief or religion, peace and oneness bring us together.

Oneness is about being at one with Nature.

The Principle of Oneness



When can we find time simply to be?



‘You cannot hope to find solutions that are sustainable if they do not mirror the way Nature herself operates.’ HRH



The future is not some place we are going to,
but one we are creating.



The paths to it are not found,
but made.



The making of those pathways changes
both the maker and the destination.

Nature's Principles of Harmony

A new way of learning about the world

The Principle of the Cycle - what would happen if all our practices were cyclical?

The Principle of Interdependence - how can we live more systemically, to see connections?

The Principle of Geometry - what do the patterns and beauty of nature teach us?

The Principle of Diversity - what could we do to value diversity more in all things?

The Principle of Adaptation - how do we nurture a sense of place, of local, of community?

The Principle of Health - how might a healthy school, university or world look?

The Principle of Oneness - where and how do we find oneness and peace?