

Scientist Name:

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Today Science Club are going to be.....

## GERM DETECTIVES!

**Micro-organisms** are tiny living things. They can only be seen through a microscope, there are millions in the soil, water and even the human body. Some are **USEFUL** and some are **DANGEROUS**. They are both bacteria and viruses. The non-scientific word for these are germs.

What illnesses can germs give us? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

They can also cause **TOOTH DECAY** and food to go **MOULDY**.

We can **spread germs** from:

- 1) Coughs and sneezes;
- 2) Touching people or things which have germs on them;
- 3) From insect bites;
- 4) From infected food.



We can **prevent germs spreading** by:

- 1) Using tissues when we have a cold and throwing them away;
- 2) Washing our hands properly;
- 3) Medicines called **antibiotics and vaccinations**.  
Which stops bacteria and which stops viruses?

**Note to parents:** Please keep the three slices of bread in their sealed plastic bags and compare in a week to ten days time. They should look something like this!

We have been talking about hand washing and how germs spread using a UV light and glowing hand gel.

**Further Information:** 'I know how we fight germs' (Sam's Science) by Kate Rowan, Walker Books.

Any questions please email:  
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## Germ Quiz

1. All of the bacteria in our body weigh about: 1 gramme, 400g, 4 Kg or 40 Kg?
2. Damp hands spread how many times the number of germs than dry hands? 10x, 100x or 1000x?
3. The numbers of germs on your fingertips times by how much after you have used the toilet? 2x, 4x or 8x?
4. When you cough, germs can travel how far? 1m, 3m or 10m?
5. Bacteria have been on the Earth for: 1 million years, 100 million or 3 billion years?
6. How many strains of bacteria have been identified on dental plaque? 6, 60 or 600?
7. How much bacteria can a school child produce in one day? 100,000, 1,000,000 or 100,000,000?
8. On average what percentages of people do **not** wash their hands after using a public toilet? 10%, 20% or 30%?
9. How long can cold and flu viruses survive on surfaces? 3 hours, 3 days or 30 days?
10. On average how much more bacteria on a office desk is there than a toilet? 4x, 40x, or 400x?