What Lives on Us?

A guide for adults:

There are bacteria and fungus that exist everywhere, in small numbers. In this experiment, they feed on the sugars on the bread. This shows the bacteria to grow into a visible colony and the fungi to grow and become visible. In large numbers, these microorganisms can be harmful. Do not open the bags once the experiment has started and throw away the bags after ten days.

Before the experiment.

Talk to the children about how fast germs spread. Throughout the day we touch so many things and if we did not wash our hands, we could spread our germs everywhere. Then other people who touch those surfaces pick up the germs and spread them even further. That is why it is important to wash our hands.

During the experiment

Explain that you are going to do an experiment to show how ‘germs’ spread and grow. Share the instructions and discuss the importance of following instructions. Get your child to work with you to collect all the things you need. Encourage your child to read the instructions before you start.

Questions to ask your child throughout the period of the experiment.

* What will happen when we touch the bread with unwashed hands?
* Why do we have to seal and label it?
* Washing Hands… can they tell you the sequence in which they would wash their hands.
* What will happen when we touch the bread with washed hands?
* Can they predict (*what does predict mean?*) what they think is going to happen to the slices of bread. Make a note of their predictions
* Over the ten days… take photos and discuss what is happening and why.
* What does it look like under a magnifying glass or microscope?