



## St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School -Sycamore Class

### Evolution and Inheritance

Gospel Value  
Awe and Wonder

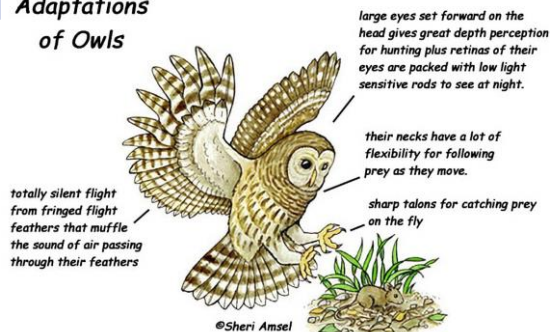
What I should know already-

Notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults. Describe the changes as humans develop to old age

### Key Knowledge

- All living things have offspring of the same kind, as features in the offspring are inherited from the parents. Due to sexual reproduction, the offspring are not identical to their parents and vary from each other.
- Plants and animals have characteristics that make them suited (adapted) to their environment. If the environment changes rapidly, some variations of a species may not suit the new environment and will die. If the environment changes slowly, animals and plants with variations that are best suited survive in greater numbers to reproduce and pass their characteristics on to their young. Over time, these inherited characteristics become more dominant within the population. Over a very long period of time, these characteristics may be so different to how they were originally that a new species is created. This is evolution.
- Fossils give us evidence of what lived on the Earth millions of year ago and provide evidence to support the theory of evolution. More recently, scientists such as Darwin and Wallace observed how living things adapt to different environments to become distinct varieties with their own characteristics.

#### Adaptations of Owls



### Key Vocabulary

**Evolution-** Adaptation over a very long time.

**Natural Selection-** The process where organisms that are better adapted to their environment tend to survive and produce more offspring.

**Adaptation-** An adaptation is a trait (or characteristic) changing to increase a living thing's chances of surviving or reproducing.

**Inheritance-** This is when characteristics are passed on to offspring from their parents.

**Offspring-** The young animal or plant that is produced by the reproduction of that species.

**Fossil-** The remains or imprint of a prehistoric plant or animal, embedded in rock and preserved.

**Charles Darwin-** Charles Darwin was an English Naturalist in the Victorian Era who was born on the 12th of February 1809 and died on the 19th of April 1882 at age 73. He is most famous for his work on evolution.

**Mary Anning-** An English fossil collector, dealer, and palaeontologist. Anning's findings contributed to changes in scientific thinking about prehistoric life and the history of the Earth.