DID YOU KNOW?

Pumpkin facts…

We call pumpkins a vegetable but they are in fact the fruit of the plant!
It is a type of squash and is related to the marrow and courgette (zucchini). It is part of the larger family of *Cucurbita,* which include gourds.

Pumpkin seeds dated from between 7000 and 5500 BC have been discovered in Mexico!!

Pumpkins make both male and female flowers! Bees transfer pollen between these flowers and this is called POLLINATION. Then the ovary at the base of the flower turns into a new pumpkin!

If there are not enough bees, the flowers, which sometimes only open for a day or two, will not be pollinated and no pumpkins will grow!

Pumpkins are grown and eaten all over the world. You can eat all parts of a pumpkin no just the thick orange shell. The seeds can be hulled, roasted and eaten as a nutritious snack. They contain protein, magnesium, copper and zinc. Pumpkin seeds can also be used to make delicious oil that can be used in cooking.

The leaves and flowers can also be eaten!

Pumpkins are an important part of the Thanksgiving festival in the USA. They are traditionally made into pumpkin pies and carved into jack-o-lanterns and are a symbol of Halloween.

A pumpkin plays an important role in the fairy story Cinderella. Pumpkin juice is a favourite drink for students at Hogwart’s school in Harry Potter. What a brilliant plant!