

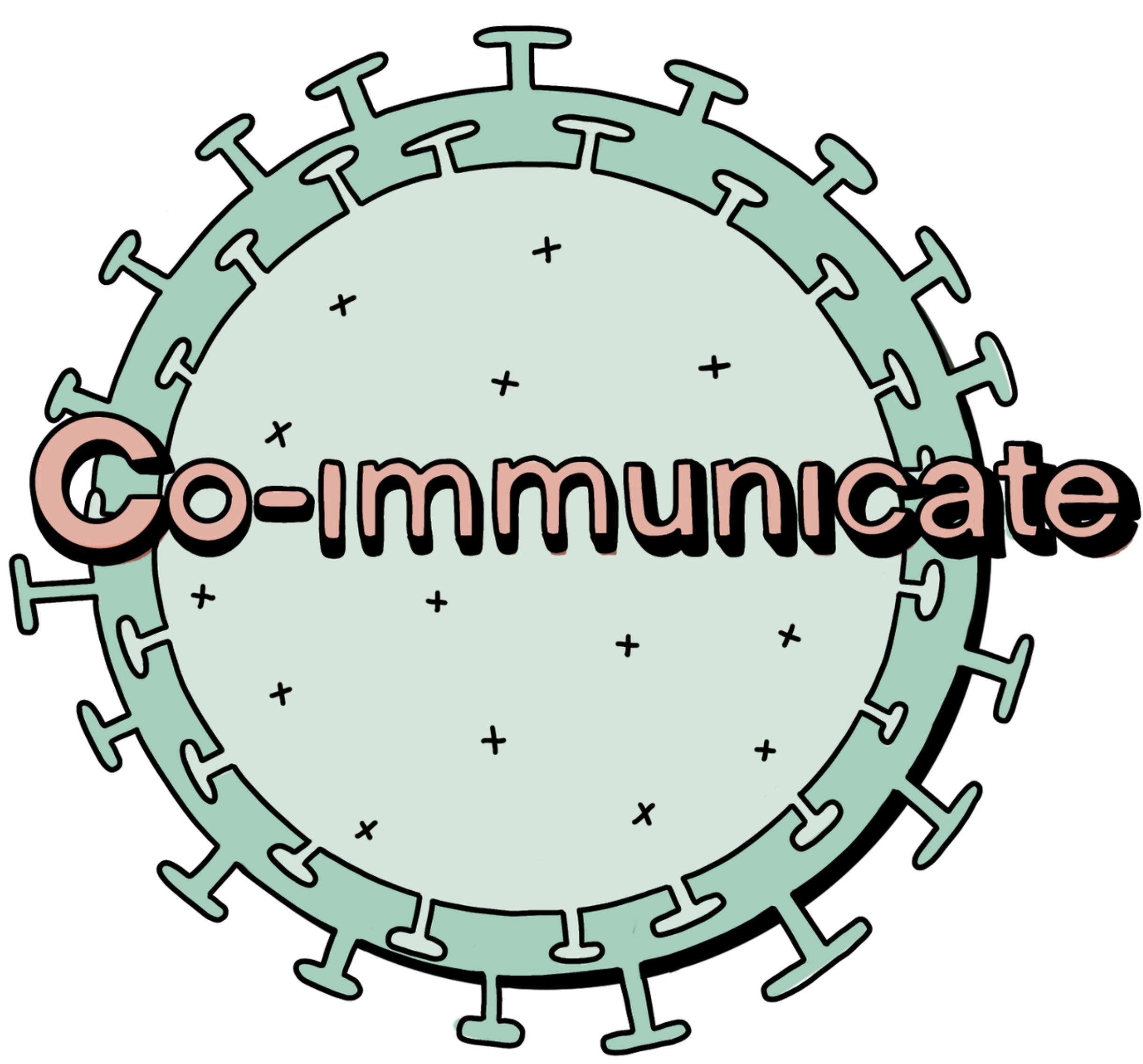
Communicating immunity with the community

Kerrie E Hargrave¹, Orla McCorry², Euan Brennan¹, Matthieu Poyade², Anna Cairns³, and Megan KL MacLeod¹

¹ Institute of Infection, Immunity and Inflammation, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, UK

² Glasgow School of Art, Glasgow, UK

³ Anderson Primary School, Glasgow, UK

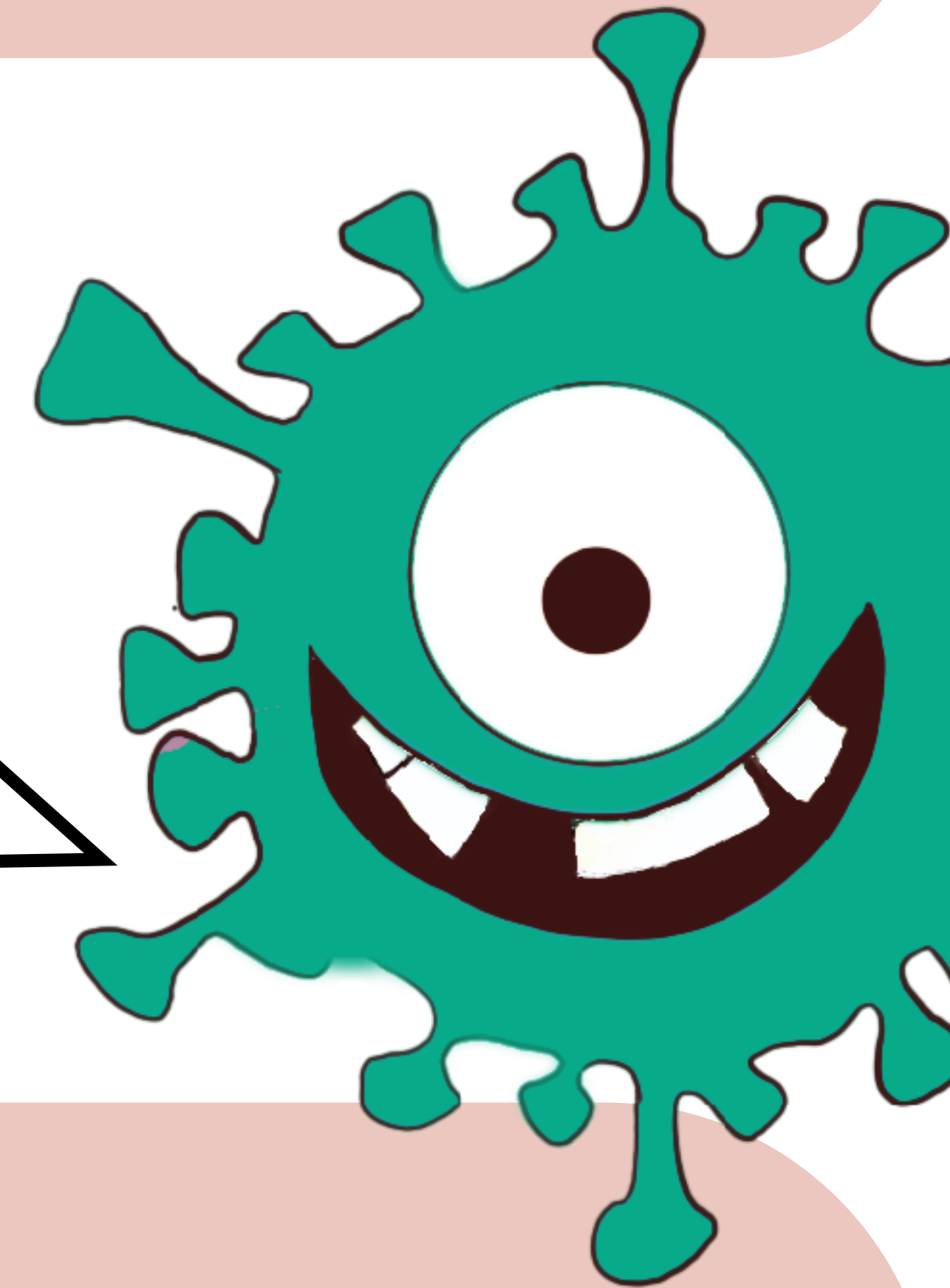


What is the Co- IMMUNicate?

We are a group of researchers and teachers working together to help our local communities understand more about respiratory viruses and how our immune cells defend us against them. Each spring we work with the P6/7 class at Anderston primary school in Glasgow to design new activities that help explain what happens when people are infected with a respiratory virus.

Meet the team

- **Drs Megan MacLeod and Kerrie Hargrave** are researchers at the University of Glasgow. They coordinate the project, plan and deliver the classroom activities
- **Orla McCorry and Dr Matthieu Poyade** work at the Glasgow School of Art and have developed the Co-IMMUNicate App
- **Teacher Anna Cain and P6/7 pupils at Anderston Primary** play a key role in the project. They have tested activities and co-designed the Co-IMMUNicate App



Hands on in 2020

2020 was the first year of the project and focused on describing what viruses are and what happens when we get infected. We ran various activities include 'making your own snot' and 'flu whispers' aimed to increase the pupils' knowledge on how flu spreads; the immune response against it; and how viruses change when they pass between different people.

Going digital in 2021

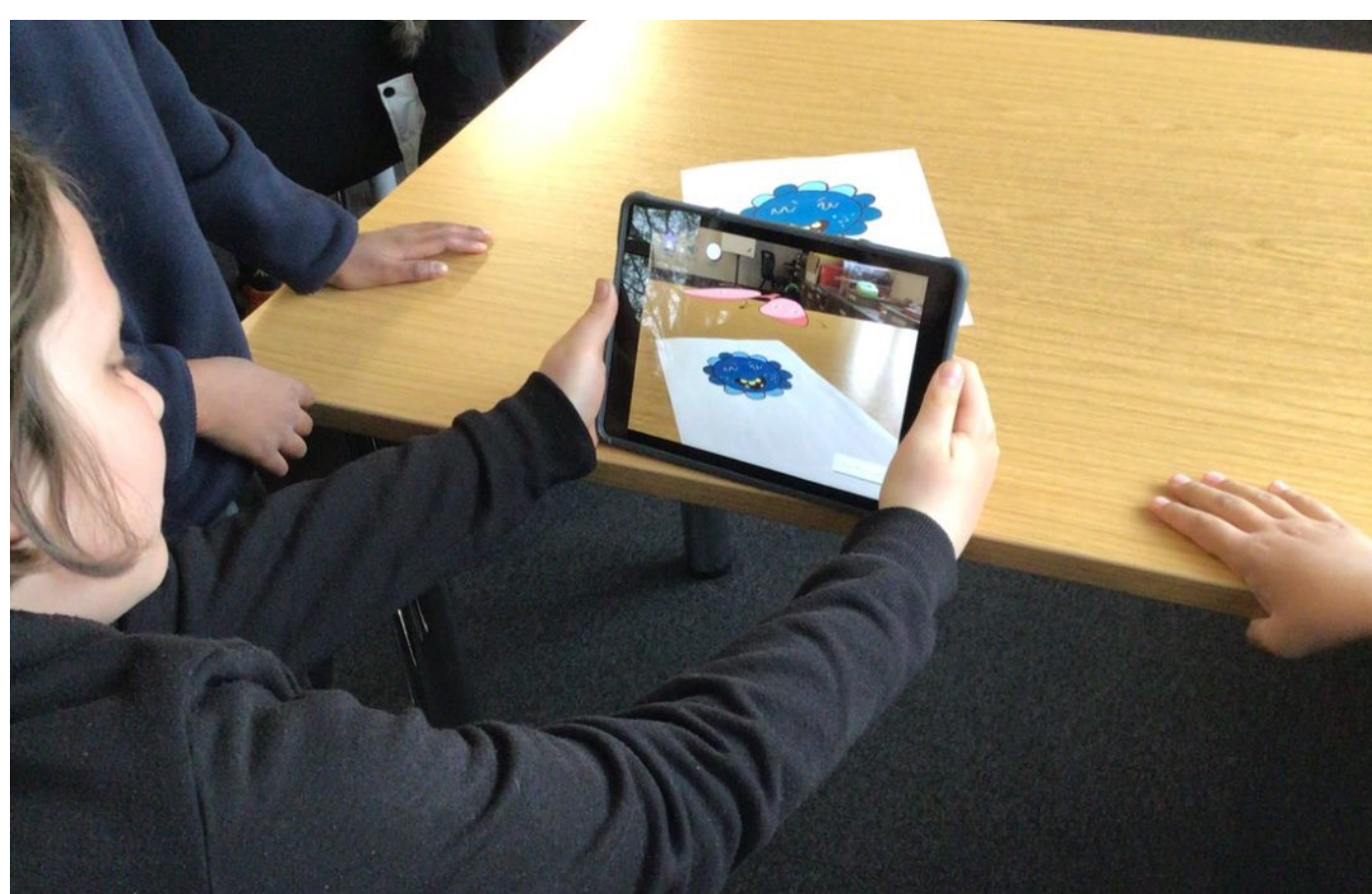
In 2021, we ran an online compacted version of the project to ensure the delivery was feasible due to COVID-19. The theme was communication between cells infected with a virus and immune cells. Each session had a display of information via slides before fun activities involving skittles and cuddly microbes aimed to help the pupils understand various steps involved in the immune response.



Flu whispers



Skittle experiment



Playing with the App

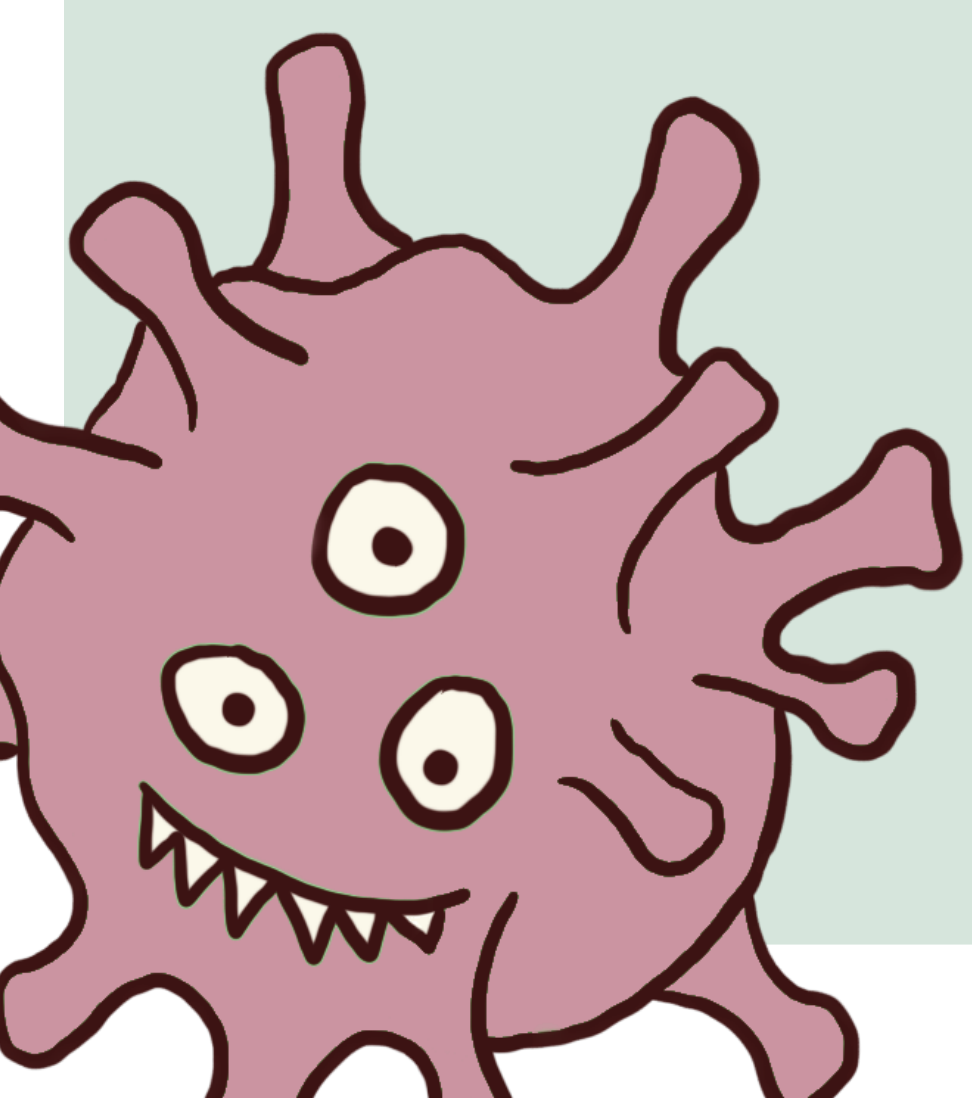


'Cuddly' microbes and immune cells

The Co-IMMUNicate App and the future

The Co-IMMUNicate App is a fun and informative tool that uses a tablet to help the pupils and the broader community understand what happens after a respiratory virus infection. The App is designed at the Glasgow School of Art with illustrations and voice overs provided by the Anderston Primary pupils. This App has been fundamental in us engaging with the public at events including the Glasgow Science Festival.

In 2022-2023, we aim to shift focus and ask the pupils themselves to design their own activities to help younger children understand more about viruses. These displays will also be presented at the Glasgow Science Festival by the researchers and the pupils.



Seeing 'viral' spread



Kerrie and Megan at GSF Festival



Washing hands



Making "snot"