Seedy places

Background knowledge
Seeds need to be scattered so that new plants do not crowd around the parent plants. Some seeds are blown by the wind or carried by water. Others are sticky or prickly so that they stick to the fur or feathers of animals, who carry them to a new place. Some fruits burst open and spill out their seeds. Many seeds are inside brightly-colored or sweet fruits that attract animals to eat them. Then, the seeds are excreted by the animals in a different place, where they germinate into a new plant.

Science activity
Here are some seeds and fruits that are scattered by the wind. Use the yes/no key to find the names of the plants from which they come.

Clue 1 Does the seed have a parachute of fine hairs? If yes, go to clue 2.
   Does the seed have a flat wing? If yes, go to clue 3.
Clue 2 Is the seed joined to the parachute by a stalk? If yes, it is a dandelion.
   If the seed is joined directly to the parachute, it is a willow herb.
Clue 3 Does the seed have two wings? If yes, it is a sycamore.
   Does the seed have one wing? If yes, go to clue 4.
Clue 4 Is the seed at the bottom of the wing? If yes, it is an ash.
   Are the seeds above the wing? If yes, it is a lime.

Science investigation

Does the size of a fruit determine how many seeds are in the fruit? Design and conduct an experiment to answer this question. Use pumpkins if it is fall.

⚠️ Take extra care - ask an adult to supervise you.
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Science investigation
Help the child follow the key, and decide which clues to choose. The child will need to open a number of fruits to see if size determines the number of seeds. The child should make and explain a prediction before opening the fruit.