

Theme: Why do leaves go crispy?

Year: Reception

Main concepts:

What can parents do at home to help?

What will the children learn?

Help your child prepare for their project

Autumn is awesome!

- Why not go for an autumn walk to play in the leaves?
- You could collect natural objects to make a colourful autumnal collage.
- Alternatively, use recycled materials to make a woodland creature.

Crunch, scrunch and rustle. Why do leaves go crispy? What's inside a conker? Let's find out all about autumn in this exciting seasonal project.

- We'll visit a woodland to hunt for autumnal treasures.
- Back in the classroom, we'll watch what happens when frozen objects melt.
- Getting creative, we'll press leaves into clay to make beautiful impressions, and we'll trace the patterns on leaves.
- Things could get messy in our mud kitchen when we use different tools to dig, mix and pour. We'll also enjoy making marks in the mud.
- Our maths skills will help us to count conkers, and we'll use them to make different numbers. Using sticks, we'll explore lengths and use the language of size.
- It will be lovely to curl up in the reading corner to enjoy autumnal stories and poetry.
- After looking closely at seasonal fruits, adults will help us to prepare them.
- Working together, we'll collect fallen leaves and have lots of fun playing with them!
- Using our senses, we'll explore conkers and acorns, thinking about why they fall in autumn.
- At the end of the project, we'll make a colourful and tasty harvest soup or fruity dessert, and read a book about autumn that will encourage us to reflect on our learning.

Key vocabulary

Autumn	Mud	Colour	Nut	Conker	Pine cone				
Crispy	Season	Crunch	Seed	Explore	Texture				
Fruit	Twig	Harvest	Wellies	Leaf	Woodland				

Communication and language

- Children listen attentively in a range of situations. They listen to stories, accurately anticipating key events and respond to what they hear with relevant comments, questions or actions. They give their attention to what others say and respond appropriately, while engaged in another activity.
- Children express themselves effectively, showing awareness of listeners' needs. They use past, present and future forms accurately when talking about events that have happened or are to happen in the future. They develop their own narratives and explanations by connecting ideas or events.
- Children follow instructions involving several ideas or actions. They answer 'how' and 'why' questions about their experiences and in response to stories or events.

Physical Development

- Children show good control and co-ordination in large and small movements. They move confidently in a range of ways, safely negotiating space. They handle equipment and tools effectively, including pencils for writing.

Personal, social and emotional development

- Children show good control and co-ordination in large and small movements. They move confidently in a range of ways, safely negotiating space. They handle equipment and tools effectively, including pencils for writing.
- Children play cooperatively, taking turns with others. They take account of one another's ideas, about how to organise their activity. They show sensitivity to others' needs and feelings, and form positive relationships with adults and other children.

Literacy

- Children read and understand simple sentences. They use phonic knowledge to decode regular words and read them aloud accurately. They also read some common irregular words. They demonstrate understanding when talking with others about what they have read.
- Children use their phonic knowledge to write words in ways which match their spoken sounds. They also write some irregular common words. They write simple sentences which can be read by themselves and others. Some words are spelt correctly and others are phonetically plausible.

Maths

- Children count reliably with numbers from one to twenty, place them in order and say which number is one more or one less than a given number. Using quantities and objects, they add and subtract two single-digit numbers and count on or back to find the answer. They solve problems, including doubling, halving and sharing.
- Children use everyday language to talk about size, weight, capacity, position, distance, time and money to compare quantities and objects and to solve problems. They recognise, create and describe patterns. They explore characteristics of everyday objects and shapes and use mathematical language to describe them.

Understanding the World

- Children know about similarities and differences in relation to places, objects, materials and living things. They talk about the features of their own immediate environment and how environments might vary from one another. They make observations of animals and plants and explain why some things occur, and talk about changes.

Expressive arts and design

- Children sing songs, make music and dance, and experiment with ways of changing them. They safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function.
- Children use what they have learnt about media and materials in original ways, thinking about uses and purposes. They represent their own ideas, thoughts and feelings through design and technology, art, music, dance, role play and stories.

RE Links

Why is Christmas special for Christians

- Discuss and celebrate the importance of Harvest.
- Discuss and celebrate the importance of Christmas.

