

Theme: Why do leaves go crispy?

Year: Pre-school

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 leaves and write numbers on them. Pop them on your stairs and count on the way up to bed.
- Making a hedgehog house using an old shoe box, to help the hedgehogs in the cold weather.

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 ice melts.
- Getting creative, we'll press leaves into clay to make beautiful impressions, and paint them in autumnal colours.
- 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 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 woodland stories such as the Gruffalo.
- 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 spiced pumpkin soup, and create a large autumnal picture using natural found objects to reflect on what we have learned.

Key vocabulary

Autumn	Mud	Colour	Nut	Conker	Pine cone	Turnip			
Crispy	Season	Crunch	Seed	Explore	Texture	Parsnip			
Fruit	Twig	Harvest	Wellies	Leaf	Woodland				
Healthy	Unhealthy	pumpkin	Butternut squash	Sweet potato	Swede				

Communication and language

- Children listen with interest and join in with stories.
- They begin to understand the use of some everyday objects.
- Children follow simple instructions, and begin to 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.
- Children begin to learn about foods and the impact that they have on their bodies.

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 begin to play cooperatively, taking turns with others with some adult support. They form positive relationships with adults and other children.

Literacy

- Children begin to enjoy a range of books and begin to recognise that we can retrieve information using books.
- Children begin to give meaning to the marks that they make.

Maths

- Children will begin to count to 10 and beyond, and start to make comparisons between quantities.
- Children use everyday language to talk about size, and begin to use positional language when looking at where fruits and vegetables grow eg under the ground. They explore the environment for shapes and use mathematical language to talk describe objects such as tall, and round.

Understanding the World

- They talk about the features of their own immediate environment and make observations of animals and plants and begin to explain why things happen. The children will look at how we care for woodland animals like hedgehogs.
- The children will begin to use simple ICT programs to create pictures and play games.

Expressive arts and design

- The children will safely use and explore a variety of materials, and tools whilst exploring various textures.
- The children will use their own experiences through role play, and use musical instruments for performing.

RE Links

Why is Christmas special for Christians



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