

Nursery and Reception Topic (Sapling and Oak)

Why do squirrels hide their nuts?



Into the woods we go! Why do squirrels hide their nuts? Why do hedgehogs hibernate? It's time to explore the seasonal changes in the natural world during autumn and winter. This half term, we'll visit our forest area to observe and experience the enchanting autumnal environment, collecting autumn treasures as we crunch through piles of fallen leaves. Back in the classroom, we'll sort our treasures into different categories, create land art, and dry and flatten leaves to decorate. We'll learn about woodland animals and migration through movement and discuss the features that allow animals to survive through winter. In our literacy lessons, we'll snuggle up and listen to autumnal stories and write woodland tales. In mathematics, we'll thread and count conkers and dried fruit and collect and order sticks of different lengths. We'll roll up our sleeves to make a clay owl or hedgehog, autumn-scented play dough, a delicious harvest soup and 'squirrel muffins' for our forest friends. Outside once more, we'll observe food as it decays over time and go on a hedgerow hunt for blackberries. How will they smell and feel? At the end of the project, we'll invite you to sharing time, where we'll show you what we've learned about woodland animals. Then we'll talk about the changes that occur as autumn changes into winter. Can we relate them to our memories and experiences?

Areas of learning	Working towards Early Learning Goals
Communication and language	Listening and attention; Understanding; Speaking
Physical development	Moving and handling; Health and self-care
Personal, social and emotional development	Managing feelings and behaviour; Making relationships
Literacy	Reading; Writing
Mathematics	Numbers; Shape, space and measures
Understanding the world	The world; Technology
Expressive arts and design	Exploring and using media and materials; Being imaginative

Help your child prepare for their project

Woodlands are wonderful! Why not explore a local woodland together to build a fairy house using twigs, leaves, nuts and berries? You could also cook some fabulous autumnal recipes such as pumpkin soup or toffee apple cakes. Alternatively, set up a mud kitchen in your garden. What ingredients from the garden can you mix together to create an autumn potion?

Year 1 Topic (Holly)

The Enchanted Woodland



If you go down to the woods today, you're sure of a big surprise! This half term, we'll visit our forest area, observe the wildlife, collect natural objects and take beautiful pictures of the things we see. After our woodland adventure, we'll write about our experiences and learn all about trees. We'll use information books to investigate woodland creatures and make mini-books of our own. Throughout the project, we will find out how to recognise different plants and animals and create detailed, observational drawings of them. The story of The Gruffalo will inspire us to write our own stories with a woodland theme. We'll build miniature dens, create woodland works of art and construct mini-woodlands from twigs, sticks, pine cones and leaves. At the end of our project, we'll have so much to share with you. We'll read our stories aloud, create a woodland art gallery, and plant seedlings in the school grounds.

ILP focus	
English	Recounts, information books, letters, lists, instructions, stories
Science	Plants and animals, identifying and classifying plants, animals
Art & design	Working with natural materials, drawing, painting
Computing	Sending an email
D&T	Building structures, making party food
Geography	Making maps
Mathematics	Measuring length and height, using money
PE	Team games
PSHE	Feeling positive, looking after the environment

Help your child prepare for their project

Woodlands are interesting places. Why not take a woodland walk and see which plants and creatures you can find? Simple spotting books or apps will help you to identify unknown species. Alternatively, visit the local library and borrow information and storybooks about woodland creatures to read together. You could also collect twigs, leaves, seed cases and flowers to make natural art together outside. Remember to take photos before the wind blows your artwork away!