

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 a local woodland 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?

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?

Memorable experience	Woodland visit
Innovate challenge	Squirrel's winter muffins
CLD	Listening and attention; Understanding; Speaking
PD	Moving and handling; Health and self-care
PSED	Managing feelings and behaviour; Making relationships
English	Reading; Writing
Maths	Numbers; Shape, space and measures
World	The world; Technology
Exp A&D	Exploring and using media and materials; Being imaginative