

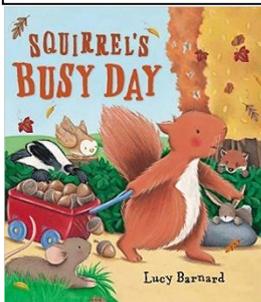
Why do squirrels hide their nuts?



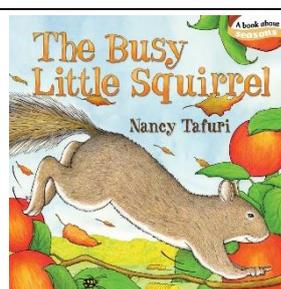
Crunch, scrunch and rustle. Why do leaves go crispy? What's inside a conker? Why do squirrels hide their nuts? Why do hedgehogs hibernate?

It's time to explore the seasonal changes in the natural world during autumn and winter. This term, we hope to 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 (in a Covid-safe way!) and listen to autumnal stories and write woodland tales. The stories we will specifically focus on are:

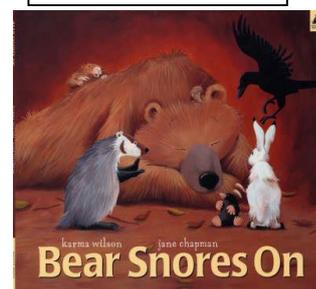
Squirrels Busy Day
by Lucy Bernard



The Busy Little Squirrel
by Nancy Tafuri



Bear Snores On
by Karma Wilson



The vocabulary we will focus on will include;

- Autumn
- Acorn
- Nut
- Hibernate
- Owl
- Pumpkin
- Crispy
- Pine cones
- Berry
- Squirrel
- Mouse
- Harvest
- Crunchy
- Conker
- Camouflage
- Fox
- Hedgehog

In mathematics, we'll thread and count conkers and dried fruit and collect and order sticks of different lengths. We'll weigh different autumnal resources and ingredients to make a delicious harvest soup and 'squirrel muffins' for our forest friends. We'll also roll up our sleeves to make a clay owl or hedgehog and autumn-scented play dough. 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?

To help your child prepare for their project you could;

- Go on a walk around your local area and talk about what happens to trees and plants during autumn. Take some pictures to share at school.
- Collect leaves, seeds, nuts and berries to develop an autumn collection at home.
- Make some bird food to feed the birds as the weather gets colder.
- Cook some autumnal recipes such as pumpkin soup or toffee apple cakes
- Set up a mud kitchen outside and forage for ingredients from the garden and enjoy mixing autumn potions.

Throughout the project, through Class Dojo, we'll be uploading photographs and videos, sharing what we've learnt about our Autumn discoveries. Towards the end of the project, we'll begin to talk about the changes that occur as autumn moves into winter. Can we relate them to our memories and experiences?