

Theme: Down in the Woods

In this topic, we will have a very exciting visitor who will bring a variety of owls and other birds, that live in the woods, to our school. The children will learn all about the owls' habitats, their diets, and their body parts. The children will have an opportunity to hold them too.

In Science, we will learn about the Season Autumn and how this compares to Summer. We will take an Autumn Walk in our local woods, collect some Autumn treasures, and write Autumn senses poems based on what we find.

We will also investigate the different trees you can see in our local woods, identify parts of a tree and identify which ones are deciduous and which are evergreen.

In Geography, we will observe daily weather patterns using a rain gauge and thermometer. We will then create and record our own weather forecast for the week. What a busy half term we will have!

In English we will be writing -

- Autumn Poems
- The Owl Babies story by Martin Waddell - retelling and imitating.
- A non-fiction report on Owls.



Questions we will ask and answer:

What are these trees called? Can we identify their leaves? What does deciduous and evergreen mean?

What are the parts of a tree? Are these different to parts of a flower?

How has the weather changed throughout the week? How is Autumn weather different to summer weather?

How is Autumn different to Summer? What clothes do we wear in Autumn?



Suggested books:



Owl Babies by Martin Waddell, After the Storm by Nick Butterworth, Hello Autumn by Jo Lindley, Lift-the-Flap Questions and Answers Weather by Katie Daynes, Introduction to Trees: Tree Identification Book For Kids by Hello Wild.

Daylight hours each month:

Month	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug
Hours of Daylight	13	11	9	8	8	10	12	14	15	16	16	14



weather vane thermometer rain gauge barometer

Key Vocabulary

seasons	There are four seasons each year, autumn , winter , spring and summer.
autumn	In autumn , the weather begins to get colder. The leaves start to fall from the trees. The amount of daylight becomes less. This means the daytimes are shorter and the night times are longer.
winter	In winter , the weather is much colder. Sometimes it is cold enough to freeze, leaving frost and ice on the ground. It sometimes snows. Many trees have bare branches as all their leaves have fallen off. The daytimes are the shortest in the year and the night times are the longest.
weather	The weather includes the temperature outside, the wind direction and strength, as well as rain, cloud, snow and sun.
deciduous	A deciduous tree loses its leaves each year.
evergreen	An evergreen tree keeps its green leaves all year round, even in the winter.

Trees

cedar	horse chestnut	oak
		
		

Our Weather

The weather in the **United Kingdom** can change from day to day. The four **seasons** have particular weather patterns. You could keep a weather diary by measuring the **temperature** (using a **thermometer**) and **recording** your **observations**.



Seasonal Changes



There are changes in weather in each **season**. In spring, it is often rainy and the **temperature** begins to get warmer.



In summer, the sun is much stronger. The **temperature** is warmer than in any other **season**.

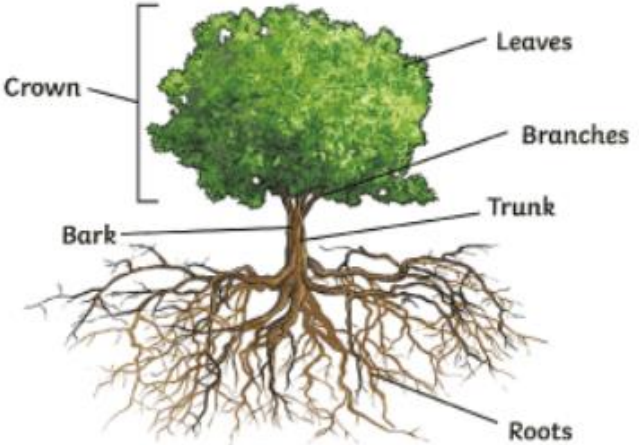


In the autumn, the weather turns chillier, windier and there is often rain.



In the winter, it is often cold and frosty. It has to be freezing cold to snow.

Parts of a Tree



Trips and experiences to enhance their learning:

Go on an Autumn Walk and collect some Autumn treasures. Sketch an area of the woods. What can you see?
 Go on a tree hunt and draw the different types of trees you can find. Can you find a cedar, horse chestnut and oak tree? Are these trees deciduous or evergreen? How do you know?
 Visit the owls at Little Owl Farm Park. What body parts can you see on the owls? What are they eating?
 Visit the local library to learn more about the different types of trees, the season Autumn, and the weather.

To support your child, you could:

- Main a rain gauge and investigate how much rainfall there is in one week.
- Take a temperature reading of the weather outside your house and inside your house, every day. Do these temperatures stay the same every day? Why do you think that is?
- Watch the weather forecast together. Discuss what the symbols mean and how they change throughout the week.
- Make an owl box for your local woods. Discuss how big you need to make your owl box and anything you may want to put inside for the owls.
- Write an Autumn senses poem. What can you see, hear, smell, feel and taste in Autumn?
- Sketch a tree in your local area and label the parts together. Discuss if every tree has the same parts.