Coloured leaves shades of red to orange and green to yellow
Leaves joined in a circle to make a crown


**Autumn Spotter Sheet**

**Leaves**

Leaves turn to their autumn colours as they die and fall off the tree. Trees lose water through their leaves and in winter they cannot get enough water up the tree if it is too cold.

* Explore the different shapes of leaves and see if you can find ones that are the same or different.
* Marvel at the different colours and shades.
* Enjoy scrunching through them.

Have fun making leaf crowns

Can you find a leaf to match any of the colour that you are wearing?

Burdock plant seed head


**Seed Heads**

As the flowers die off you can see the dried seeds. The photos show some examples, but you can find plenty more on your wanders.

Sycamore helicopter seed heads


**Teasel seed heads
**

Dried flower seed heads of cow parsley


Some blow in the wind

Dandelion seed head


Some hook onto animals or your

clothes

Rosehips on bush


**Berries**

The seeds are inside the berries. Birds and animals eat the brightly coloured berries. The berries go through their digestive system and then come out the other end in the animal’s poo! Next Spring the seeds may start to grow as new plants.

BEWARE: many berries that animals eat can be poisonous to humans so only let children touch or eat berries that you are sure are non-toxic e.g. blackberries.

Blackberries on a bush


Rosehips

Hawthorn berries on bush


Hawthorn

Blackberries

Conkers on grass
Acorns on grass


**Nuts**

You could **plant an acorn, or a conker** then see if it starts to grow next Spring. Take a photo of now as a reminder. Squirrels bury the nuts then dig them up in the Spring to eat. They don’t

remember where they planted them so some of the nuts start to grow as new trees.

Acorns

Conkers

squirrel on green grass during daytime



![Pears on tree
]()

![Cooking apple on tree
]()

**Hibernating**

Some animals snuggle away from the cold of the coming winter. This includes squirrels and hedgehogs that find or make cosy places in piles of leaves, fir cones, moss and wood. Frogs do the same at the bottom of ponds. Some bees, ladybirds and lacewings spend the winter in cracks between stones or piles of wood. You can create a bug hotel to encourage such.

Fruit crumble


**Fruit**

**Have fun making and eating a fruit crumble together**

100g plain flour

100g caster sugar

50g soft margarine or butter or vegetable spread

Fruit- blackberries and apple maybe

1. Put the fruit, thinly sliced or cooked slightly until soft, in the bottom of an ovenproof dish.
2. Mix other ingredients with finger tips until like breadcrumbs. Put on top of the fruit and cook for 20 mins 170 degrees or Gas Mark 5.
3. Enjoy!

*I**wonder where it lives?*

*I wonder what it eats?*

**Thistle** prickly

 

Pile of logs for minibeasts to stay over winter
Logs and bricks in pile for minibeasts to overwinter in
