



Squirrel Class

All about me, Harvest,
Halloween

Autumn Term 1 2025



Stories and events to be covered:

- The scarecrow who didn't scare
- The enormous turnip
- Harvest
- Halloween
- Diwali



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

The children will be motivated via activities and emotional support to willingly access group activities to support their settling and understanding of some of the daily routines. They will be encouraged through whole class and small group activities where they will need take turns, anticipate turns and accept the ending of a favoured activity to support their understanding of rules and boundaries.

We will be looking at different emotions. The role play corner will provide a great opportunity to model and address any emotions through pretending to getting ready, combing hair or brushing teeth.

The background of the slide is a dark, textured wooden surface. It is decorated with several pumpkins of various sizes and colors, including orange, yellow, and white. Interspersed among the pumpkins are several autumn leaves in shades of red, orange, and brown. The overall theme is autumnal and festive.

Communication and Language

In this term we will be focusing on anticipating an event from visual or auditory cues. The children will be supported by transition songs, symbols and signs to further support their anticipation and understanding of the daily routine. Our focus will also be on making requests via alternative ways of communication, such as verbal communication, signing or indicating wants and needs using symbols and vocalisation. We will also begin to focus on two step sequences, e.g. now and next to further support the children's anticipation of events.

A top-down view of several pumpkins and autumn leaves scattered on a dark, horizontally-grained wooden surface. The pumpkins vary in size and color, including bright orange, pale yellow, and white. Some leaves are vibrant red and purple, while others are brown and yellow. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.

Physical Development

In this area, as always, our focus will be on the children's individual needs and targets. We will be implementing as many tasks as possible into their classroom based activities and will also provide individual sessions to further practice specific tasks and exercises. Our weekly PE sessions, outdoor learning opportunities, sensory room visits and Move Momentum activities will provide the children the opportunity to carry out and further develop those specific skills set out in their programmes.

Maths


In maths our focus will be on building and showing awareness between big and small. Some of the children will be exploring a collection of small and big toys or topic related resources with exaggerated size differences to support building awareness and understanding. The children will be encouraged to explore these resources with their whole hands as part of physical development as well. Other children will be ordering resources up to 3 while mathematical language being modelled to them verbally, via symbols and signs, e.g. small, big, biggest.

These children will also be working on physical development, more specifically fine motor skills and strength in hands/fingers while exploring the smaller objects. The children's number awareness will also be supported via topic related songs, counting the children in class and displaying number during our morning Hello circle time.

Literacy

In literacy the children will be listening to a range of environmental sounds during adult led sensory activities to support their understanding of the world around them and to be able to que in more with their surroundings with the help of auditory and visual support. The children will also further practice sound recognition during Monster phonics activities while some children will be practicing singing.

The children will be introduced to topic related books and rhymes and will be experimenting with mark making using different media in different textures (e.g. pencil and paper, making mark in sand with a twig, emptying pumpkins and play with the pulp and seeds, making slime, etc).



Understanding the World

The children will be exploring different traditions with the help of stories and the activities built around them. We will be looking at the festival of light on the day of Diwali where the children will be exploring a lot of different lights during sensory activities and will be making lanterns. We will also dedicate the last week of term to Halloween and its origin, followed by lots of spooky art and craft ideas.

Throughout the term the children will be encouraged to acquire skills at being able to press switches or turning knobs to experience cause and effect in a motivating and fun way.



Expressing Art and Design

In this learning area the children will be encouraged to explore and experiment with an increasing range of media and movement through multi-sensory exploration and expression. Our weekly enrichment sessions of music and Move Momentum will provide a perfect opportunity for the children to work towards the above target, and the classroom based art activities will give the children further opportunities to express themselves.