

Seasonal Explorer Backpack – Autumn and Winter

Suitable for Early Years and Key Stage One, September to December







This backpack contains a set of resources and activity ideas for you to explore the arboretum with some playful seasonal activities.

Important note

If you would like to use mud rather than soil for the worm café activity you will need to bring a bottle of water with you.

How to use our unique tree collection

- There are over 2,500 different types of tree at Westonbirt but don't let this overwhelm you.
- Don't feel like you have to explore very far. It can be too easy to plan a long walk and not stop to look at anything along the way. Enjoy it like you would an art gallery and stop at what fills the class with awe.
- Allow children some exploration time to discover for themselves and make connections.
- The variety of trees provides a fascinating variety of natural materials on the woodland floor. Set some guidelines (i.e. no putting things in your mouth, avoid mushrooms and berries) and then let them gather - the arboretum floor is the ideal rummage box of textures, colours and shapes.
- Don't feel like you have to have the answers to all the questions the class might have. With this wide number of trees there is no way you can know everything! You can always write down interesting questions to look up when you get back to school.
- Use the tree labels to find out more. Each tree should have a black label on its trunk or branches. Some labels have limited information while others contain the date the tree was planted and details of its native country.

Item	No.	Activity Ideas
	1	Story books about animals in winter / trees losing leaves
	8	Make a hibernaculum for hibernating creatures to find a safe place to sleep for winter. At the end, pack away the puppets and leave the home for a real creature to investigate.
	1	Invite children to collect fallen leaves and sort them by colour, then by shape, then by leaf edge.
	1 30 8	Create treats for worms to eat with soil or mud and fallen woodland treasures. Choose a place for a worm café and make the worms woodland chocolates and cupcakes.
	16 8	Children learn how to identify the difference between evergreen and deciduous trees and then work in groups to place the birds in the correct trees.
	1	Objects to help you lead a class discussion about the different dispersal methods of seeds. Start off with our photos then do some collecting and sorting from the woodland floor