Family page - Autumn

We will be using the theme of Autumn to introduce your child to different areas of learning. If you would like to follow this up at home, here are a few ideas to try!

Talking

- Tell your child about the things you enjoyed as a child in Autumn. Perhaps you enjoyed watching bonfires, playing with conkers on strings or flying a kite.
- Talk about the importance of not picking any of the Autumn fruits which children see in hedgerows unless an adult said that it is safe to do so.

Making

- Make a bubble mix by mixing half a cup of baby bubble bath with two cups of water. 'Blowers ' can be made from twisted plastic covered wire or old plastic bangles held at the edges. Alternatively dip the open end of a clean small, plastic plant pot into a bowl of mix, and then blow through the hole in the bottom. Any household item with 'holes' can be waved about to make a shower of tiny bubbles. Sieves, slotted spoons or strainers all work well.
- Blow bubbles outside and observe their movement.
  Talk about the shapes of the bubbles and the way they wobble and move. What colours can the children see in them? How does the breeze blow them along? What makes them burst?
- Make a simple weather chart with a space for each day. Encourage children to record the weather by adding a suitable drawing in each space.

Story telling

- Visit your local library with your child to look at books which feature Autumn.
- Make up a story about how one windy day you were flying a kite. Imagine that the kite string broke. What adventures did the kite have? How did you get it back?

In the kitchen

- Allow your child to help in making a fruit pie. Encourage weighing, playing with pastry offcuts or making a pastry decoration for the middle of the pie.
- Draw attention to the changes which take place in the pastry and the fruit as the pie is baked.

Out and about

- As you walk or drive with children draw their attention to seasonal changes. Point out Autumn colours in the trees or the appearance of Winter stock in shops. Show children how leaf shapes can be used to identify trees. (See examples.)
- If you have a kite, enjoy flying it together! Talk about how the feel of wind tugging at the kite. Discuss which places are safe for flying kites.

What are the opportunities for learning?

- To experience handling different materials;
- To make up stories and use their imagination;
- To recognise seasonal changes;
- To ask questions, investigate and explore.

