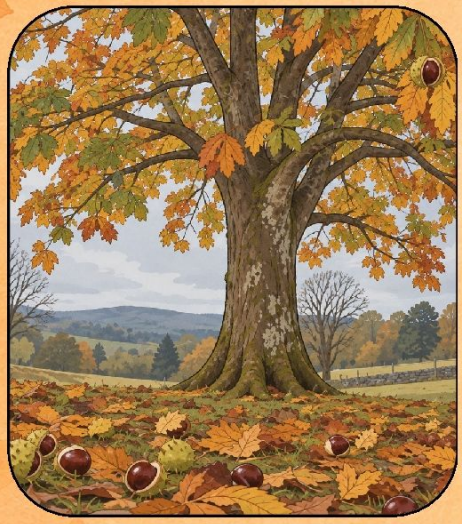
Autumn Cestoteka

An autumn adventure for little travellers



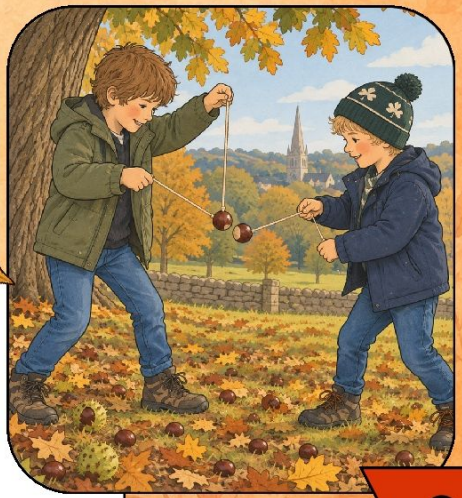
Meet the Conker!

Conkers are a favourite autumn treasure in Ireland. They are the seeds of horse chestnut trees and grow inside thick green cases covered in short spikes.



When a ripe case falls to the ground and opens, a smooth, shiny brown conker is waiting inside. For generations, children have collected them and even used them to play a game called conkers.





Pick one up and look closely. Can you find the pale patch on its side? Conkers may look a little like nuts, but remember – they are not safe to eat.

Animals Getting Ready for Winter



Autumn is a busy time for many animals. Squirrels search for nuts and seeds, while hedgehogs eat plenty of food before the coldest months arrive.

Some animals hide food so they can find it again later. Others look for safe, sheltered places where they can rest when the weather becomes colder.





Keep your eyes open in a garden, park or wood. You might spot a squirrel carrying a nut – or find a feather, footprint or nibbled seed that shows an animal has been there.

HAVE A GO: Look for a clue that an animal has been here – a feather, footprint, hole or nibbled seed.

Before Pumpkins, There Were Turnips!



Today, we often make Halloween lanterns from pumpkins. But long ago in Ireland, people used something much smaller and harder – turnips!

They hollowed out the middle, carved scary faces into them and put a light inside. These little lanterns could look very spooky glowing in the dark.



Later, Irish people in America began using pumpkins, which were much easier to carve. That's how the big orange Halloween lantern became so popular.

HAVE A GO: Which would you rather carve – a little turnip or a great big pumpkin?

My Autumn Hunt



Your autumn adventure is all around you. Look carefully – some treasures are easy to spot and others might be hiding between leaves, branches and grass.

FIND:

- 2 snails
- 1 pair of wellies
- cat
- bee
- 5 sheep
- rose hip
- 2 boats
- squirrel
- heather
- 2 birds