



Sacred Heart - Growing Outside

Wednesday 8th October 2025

Weather: Cloudy, mild and dry

Growing Outside

Children:
Reception

Signs of Autumn

Today, in Growing Outside, my alien friend had come to visit us to find out what it is like at this time of year on Earth. His mission was to go back to space and tell all his friends about it and take some special Autumn finds with him to show them!

We began by trying to work out which of the four seasons we are in: Winter, Spring, Summer or Autumn. I was very impressed when a lot of the children were able to tell me that it's Autumn because the leaves are starting to fall off the trees. Autumn in space would not look like Autumn on Earth, so the children set about collecting some Autumn objects for the Alien to take back with him to show his friends.



Fortunately, the children's job was made easier with some spotter sheets that had lots of pictures of the sorts of things we might see in Autumn. Using their sheets, the children worked hard to collect things to show our alien and his friends that it is Autumn. The most obvious sign of Autumn is the colour of the leaves on some trees changing from green to red, orange, yellow and brown and LOTS of leaves on the ground. This is because some trees lose them over the winter, when they won't be doing any growing. We found

a special kind of seed from the big Silver Birch tree near the growing area. The children had fun





rubbing the seed 'caterpillars' between their fingers and seeing how it broke up into hundreds of individual papery seeds. We couldn't find any conkers because there aren't any horse chestnut trees growing in the school grounds. We looked carefully at the acorns I had brought with me.

They come from an

Oak tree, and squirrels love to eat them! Sadly, we weren't lucky enough to see a squirrel today, but maybe we were a bit noisy and scared them off.



The children spotted quite a few different types of mushrooms today! We talked about how important it is not to pick wild mushrooms, as they can be very poisonous. They grow in the grass or on old bits of dead wood at this time of year. Some were so tricky to see as they were

the same colour as the Autumn leaves, so they were camouflaged. They like growing in damp wood so this was the perfect place for them. There were lots of fallen apples under the big apple tree near the polytunnel and we

discovered that lots of them had little worms eating them!

DID YOU KNOW?

A baby squirrel is called a kitten.

A squirrel lives in a football-sized nest in a tree made from leaves, moss and twigs and is called a drey.

Squirrels eat mushrooms as well as nuts, berries, seeds, bark and shoots.

Finally, we checked back through our spotter sheets to see how many of the signs of Autumn we had managed to find today. The children did a fantastic job of collecting things for our alien, which we left in one of the raised beds, ready for him to take back to his friends in his spaceship once we'd all gone home for the day. Before going back to the classroom, we played a quick game of TRUE or FALSE, to work out how much the children knew about squirrels. How many of the facts in the box did you know about?



Well done everyone. You collected some great bits for the alien to show his friends and there were some very observant children. Don't forget to look out for squirrels on your walk home from school today. Mrs Grainger