**Communication & Language**

\* Continuing to develop our listening skills through a range of activities such as ‘Relax Time’ and Circle Time

\* Actively listening and responding to stories, songs and instructions

\* Developing preferences for how and when we communicate our ideas effectively

\* Continuing to develop our conversation skills by taking turns to speak and listen

\* Becoming confident to speak in larger groups

**Physical Development**

\* Learning how to tackle new challenges safely

\* Learning how to handle new tools safely, linked to our ‘Tinker Shed’ project

\* Developing an understanding of how to look after ourselves in changing weather, specifically thinking about how to stay warm during cold weather

\* Becoming more spatially aware and developing skills for negotiating space

\* Developing a range of movements and learning to move safely and confident in different ways through lots of outdoor activities and forest-themed adventures

**Personal, Social & Emotional**

\* Developing resilience and responding positively to changes in everyday life

\* Learning to solve problems and get along together

\* Developing self-confidence in familiar and less familiar situations

\* Thinking of others and developing awareness of the needs and feelings of others

**Understanding the World**

\* Finding out about light, dark and shadow

\* Observing changes in nature linked to autumn and winter

\* Learning about hibernation and natural habitats, using the creatures from our focus texts and in our local environment

\* Learning about winter festivals and celebrations, including Diwali and Christmas

\* Using and making moving toys and puppets (technology and design link)

**‘A Stroll through the Deep Dark Woods…’**

**Key Themes:** The natural world (local area study); the changing seasons; winter festivals and celebrations (Diwali, Christmas)

**Planned Cross-Curricular Activities**

\* Forest School and outdoor-focused activities ranging from tracking footprints and making dens to orienteering and making Christmas decorations using natural foraged objects and materials

\* A visit to Wallington (or similar) to have a real ‘stroll through the deep dark woods’!

\* ‘Santa’s Workshop’ role play area to link to ‘Stick Man’, art, design, festivals and money

**Mathematics**

\* Continuing to develop our understanding of 1:1 correspondence

\* Working with numbers 1-10 and learning to recognise numerals to 10

\* Counting forwards and backwards to and from given numbers

\* Ordering numbers

\* Beginning to understand 1 more and 1 less

\* Beginning to compare and combine small groups of objects and relate to more and less

\* Understanding direction and position through orienteering and outdoor activities

\* Looking at size

\* Exploring more colour and pattern

\* Finding out about and using 2D and 3D shapes

\* Beginning to find out about and work with money and coins

**Literacy**

\* Continuing to develop our awareness of environmental sounds, especially those outdoors and natural sounds such as those made by animals

\* Continuing to develop our phonological awareness by continuing to become familiar with letters and sounds for use in games, reading and writing

\* Exploring mark-making and writing using different tools and writing surfaces

\* Enjoying familiar rhyming stories and responding to them through role-play, sequencing, games, further reading, and writing

\* Developing our own words, sentences and narratives in response to shared stories

**Expressive Art and Design**

\* Looking at the illustrations of Axel Scheffler, focusing on drawing, sketching and the use of colour

\* Sketching and drawing illustrations of our own

\* Listening and responding to the music from the soundtrack to ‘The Gruffalo’ – drawing, painting, dancing and making music and sound effects of our own

\* Learning the songs and dances for our Christmas production!

**Key Topic Vocabulary**

Autumn, winter, seasons, light, dark, shadow, moon, stars, earth, night, day, nocturnal, diurnal, hibernate, sleep, wake, habitat, nature, natural, woods, leaves, twigs, animals, creatures, hunt, forage, track, footprints, camouflage, pattern, celebrate, celebrations, religion, Diwali, Christmas, Hindu, Christian, festival, share, respect.