Autumn: A Season of Change

Join Nova the Owl on an autumnal expedition through the changing forest!

■ **Why do deciduous trees lose their leaves in the autumn? Trees reabsorb nutrients and enter a period of dormancy to conserve energy during the colder, darker months.**

■ **What happens to the amount of sunlight during autumn? As the Earth tilts on its axis, the UK receives fewer hours of direct sunlight, which triggers changes in plant and animal behaviour.**

■ **How do some animals prepare for winter? Many animals, such as hedgehogs, prepare for hibernation, while others build up fat stores or migrate to warmer climates to find food.**

■ **What is the role of photosynthesis in autumn? As temperatures drop and light levels fall, the rate of photosynthesis slows down significantly, leading to the breakdown of chlorophyll.**

■ **Why do seeds and fruits appear in abundance? Many plants release their seeds in autumn to ensure the next generation is planted in the soil before the winter frost arrives.**

Did you know? Did you know? As the daylight hours decrease in autumn, trees stop producing chlorophyll—the green pigment that helps them make food. Without the green colour, the hidden yellows and oranges in the leaves are finally revealed for us to see!

Key vocabulary: Chlorophyll · Deciduous · Photosynthesis · Hibernation · Migration · Dormancy