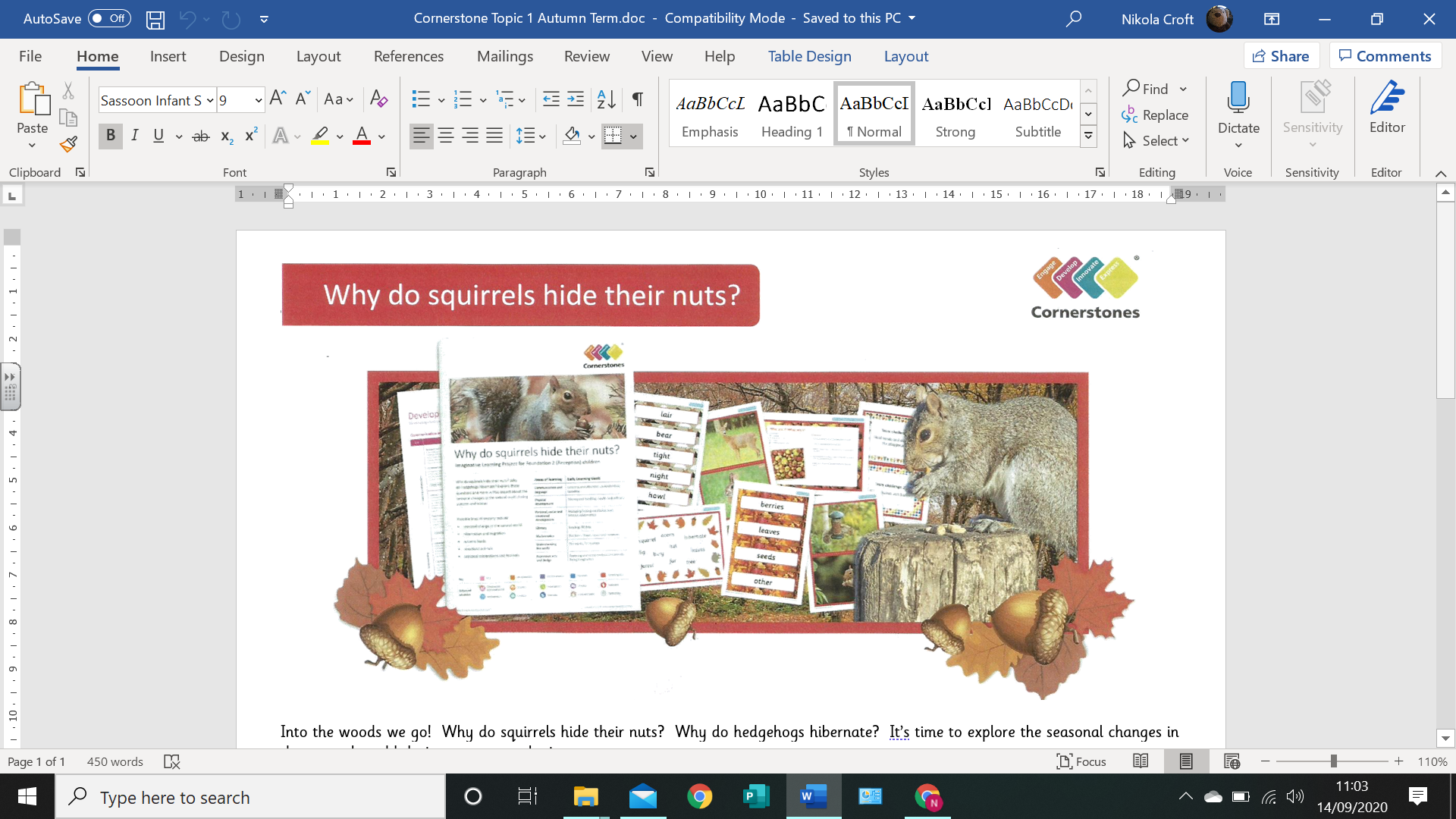
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Into the woods we go! Why do squirrels hide their nuts? Why do hedgehogs hibernate? It’s time to explore the seasonal changes in the natural world during autumn and winter.   
  
After half term, we’ll be introducing ‘Outdoor Classroom’ to the children and using the sessions to observe and experience the enchanting autumnal environment, collecting autumn treasures as we crunch through the piles of fallen leaves. We will be using our senses to notice changes in the environment and make observations. Back in the classroom we will sort our treasures into different categories, create art, and learn about woodland animals and hibernation. We will listen to woodland and autumnal stories, like Percy the Park Keeper and the Gruffalo and make homes for woodland creatures. Our literacy skills will continue to develop as we read and write labels for autumnal items as well as read and write simple words and sentences. We will develop our maths skills by counting, sorting, comparing and measuring natural resources.

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| **Areas of Learning covered in the topic** | |
| Communication and Language | Listening, Attention & Understanding. Speaking |
| Physical Development | Gross Motor Skills. Fine Motor Skills. |
| Personal, Social and Emotional Development | Building Relationships. Managing Self, Self-Regulation |
| Literacy | Comprehension. Word Reading. Writing. |
| Mathematics | Number. Numerical Patterns. |
| Understanding the World | The Natural World |
| Expressive Arts and Design | Creating with Material. Being Imaginative & Expressive |

Our topic starts with the beginning of Outdoor Classroom on Friday 6th November. We will head off for a welly walk around the school, finding signs of Autumn and collecting Autumnal items to explore further in the classroom. We will make a pretend ‘bonfire’, singing campfire songs and sharing a woodland story.   
  
At the end of our Topic celebrate our learning through an Express Event. The children will be invited to bring their Pyjamas into school for our end of Autumn Pyjama Party. We will be thinking about all the learning that has taken place throughout our topic and sharing our knowledge and favourite activities, inside and outside, throughout the day. We will make biscuits throughout the morning for an afternoon treat. In the afternoon we will put our pyjamas on for biscuits, hot chocolate and stories. We will send out further information nearer the time (including information about cooking in school and dietary information).   
  
**Help your child prepare for their project**Woodlands are wonderful! Why not explore local woodland together to build a fairy house using twigs, leaves, nuts and berries. You could also cook some fabulous autumnal recipes such as pumpkin soup or toffee apple cakes. Alternatively set up a mud kitchen in your garden. What ingredients from the garden can you mix together to create an autumn potion. Please remember you can share photos of outdoor adventures and exploring that you do with your children at home on Tapestry with us.  
  
If you are out and about and collect an abundance of conkers, acorns and pine cones we would love to use them in our classroom so please drop them in to any adult – we can never have too many conkers!  
  
Thank you for your continued support. The Reception Team