







AUTUMN



Horse Chestnut



-  Let everyone feel the trunk – is it rough or smooth?
-  Find a horse chestnut leaf. Ask the children to use the guide sheet to identify it. Let them describe what it looks like.
-  Explain to them that although it is only one leaf, it has many leaflets. Some have 7 leaflets, some have 5. Count the leaflets together.
-  Ask the children if they know what nut can be found on this tree? They should be able to find them all over the ground and on the tree. This is a favourite with many children and so they should know that it is a conker. Ask them to describe what it looks like.
-  Find a conker which has the hard shell around it. Ask the pupils why they think this is so spiky. Explain to them that it is to protect the conker inside from the animals who may wish to eat it before it is ready.
-  Explain to the group that animals play an important role with conkers – see the notes on oak and removal from 'mother tree'.



**Pupils from St. Kevin's
pretending to be trees -
their branches have
plenty of space to grow**