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### Autumn Science!

Would you and your child like to conduct an Autumnal experiment at home, and compare your results with others in the school?

As part of the curriculum at Signhills Infant Academy, we are keen to provide children with the opportunity to develop their scientific thinking skills - this includes planning and carrying out simple fair tests, recording data, and using their observations to talk about what they have found out.

As the weather is changing, and Autumn is fast approaching, we would like to take the opportunity to carry out a large scale scientific experiment using a seasonal favourite – conkers!

If you wish to take part in this experiment at home with your family, you need to do these things:

- Collect some conkers!
- Back at home, separate your conkers into four groups, and use the following four treatments-
  1. Soak in vinegar overnight
  2. Dry out in the oven on a low heat for an hour
  3. Rub with hand cream three times
  4. Do nothing ( this is the control group)
- Get someone who isn't playing the game to label each conker with a number, and note down which treatments it had.
- Play some games of conkers. Note down each time which conker survived the longest.
- When you have used up all of your conkers, go back to your list and match up the conkers with the treatments. Discuss your findings together. Which group produced the strongest conkers? Was this what you expected?

If you want to, you can produce a report together of your findings and return them to school before half term (Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October), and we will review them with the children to see if we can spot any larger-scale patterns in the results. Be as creative as you want to in presenting your results!

Please do not feel obliged to take part in this experiment if you do not wish to – it is just for fun - however you may hopefully find it an enjoyable and interesting experience to take part in with your child.

