



Hello, hello, hello to all **CLEVER PANTS** customers – past, present and future. Welcome back to school and to the first of your FREE monthly **CLEVER PANTS** newsletters, which, as the name suggests, you will be receiving... monthly!

The newsletters simply provide a few bite-size activities and resources centered around cultural topics from the English speaking world. You can either keep them to yourself and appear extra clever in front of students, friends and family... or use them in class. It's up to you!

This month **CLEVER PANTS** invites you to put on a light jacket, turn up the collar, put on a thin scarf and maybe even a hat... and come for a leaf-kicking autumnal stroll through a newsletterful of seasonal facts; lofty quotes; back-to-school jokes; a post Olympic memory check; a non-Olympic "conker" watch; a Hallowe'en recipe to scare away the cold... **and**... a little information about **CLEVER PANTS'** solidarity with A-CET - the African Children's Educational trust.

## Back to school!

Autumn's here again, with all the fun things it traditionally brings – the end of the holidays, that back-to-school feeling, days getting shorter, the weather getting colder...

But it's not all doom and gloom! To keep you entertained and cheer you up, here are some interesting autumn facts, jokes and quotes – and even an autumn recipe!

## Top 10 autumn facts

1. The word autumn comes from the old French autompne (automne in modern French).
2. In Ireland autumn begins on 1<sup>st</sup> August and ends on 31<sup>st</sup> October, following the Irish calendar.
3. The name Autumn has been in the top 100 names for girls in the USA for the last ten years.
4. In North America, autumn is usually called fall.
5. The expression 'spring forward, fall back' helps people remember which way the clocks change in spring and autumn for daylight saving.
6. Before the 16<sup>th</sup> century the word autumn wasn't used. It used to be referred to simply as harvest season.
7. The full moon that follows the beginning of autumn is called the Harvest Moon.
8. Tourism to see leaves changing colour is big business, especially in North America, China, Korea and Japan.
9. According to one study, parents in Ireland spent an average of 376 per child at back-to-school time this year.
10. And finally, why not take a break in between marking homework and preparing classes and check out <http://es.youtube.com/watch?v=9IDUxk9sSXI> Sit back and relax to the sound of Nat King Cole singing the classic song 'Autumn Leaves'. Enjoy!

## Autumn quotes

'Fall is my favorite season in Los Angeles, watching the birds change color and fall from the trees.'

David Letterman



'Autumn is a second spring where every leaf is a flower'

Albert Camus



'Winter is an etching, spring a watercolour, summer an oil and autumn a mosaic of them all!'

Stanley Horowitz



## Back to school jokes

A schoolteacher sends this note to all parents on the first day of school: "If you promise not to believe everything your child says happens at school, I'll promise not to believe everything he says happens at home."

The teacher of the earth science class was teaching the class about map reading. After explaining about latitude, longitude, degrees and minutes the teacher asked, "Suppose I asked you to meet me for lunch at 23 degrees, 4 minutes north latitude and 45 degrees, 15 minutes east longitude...?" After a confused silence, a voice volunteered, "I guess you'd be eating alone."

Physics Teacher: "Isaac Newton was sitting under a tree when an apple fell on his head and he discovered gravity. Isn't that wonderful?"  
Student: "Yes sir, if he had been sitting in class looking at books like us, he wouldn't have discovered anything."

A kid comes home from his first day at school. His mother asks, "What did you learn today?"  
The kid replies, "Not enough. I have to go back tomorrow."

The summer holiday was over and little Johnny returned to school.  
Only two days later his teacher phoned his mother to tell her that he was misbehaving.  
"Wait a minute," she said. "I had Johnny with me for three months and I never called you once when he misbehaved!"

## Summer Olympics quiz

Take a few minutes to think back to the summer holidays. All those days spent lying on your sofa watching other people doing sport. How many happy hours did you spend watching the Beijing Olympics? And how much can you remember about the Games one month on? Try our quiz and find out!

Class idea: You could read these questions aloud to your students. Put them in groups to discuss and write down their answers. At the end of the quiz you could ask the students to invent two or three questions of their own on the same theme to ask the other groups in the class.

1. How many gold medals did Great Britain/Spain/Portugal win?
2. Who broke the world record for both the 100 and 200 metres sprints?
3. How many gold medals did Michael Phelps win?
4. Which country won the most medals?
5. Which country won the most gold medals per capita?
6. Which event did the Russian Yelena Isinbayeva take part in?
7. Where will the next Olympic Games be held?
8. What is the Olympic motto?

Key:

1. Nineteen, five and one respectively
2. Usain Bolt of Jamaica
3. Eight
4. China won the most gold medals (51 to the USA's 36) but the USA won the most medals in total (110 compared to China's 100)
5. Jamaica, with 6 gold medals and a population of 2,700,000; that's one gold medal for every 450,000 inhabitants. (China won a gold medal every 26 million inhabitants)
6. Pole vault. 260 million Chinese viewers watched her break her own world record, making it the most watched event by Chinese viewers and probably by the rest of the world too.
7. London
8. Faster, higher, stronger

## Conkers - What's it all about?

Around autumn time British and Irish children traditionally play conkers - a game using the nuts of horse-chestnut trees. The name conker is used to talk about the nut and the tree itself. Two players, each with a conker threaded on a piece of string or a shoelace, take it in turns to hit each other's conker, until there is one conker left. But if you're thinking of playing, be careful – some schools in Britain have banned conkers because they consider them to be dangerous weapons!

### Conker facts

Conkers are the fruit (or seeds) of horse chestnut trees (botanic name: Aesculus).

Horse chestnut trees originally came from Albania and Greece. They weren't introduced to the UK until the 1600s.

Before horse chestnuts were used to play conkers, snail-shells were used.

Snail shells were sometimes called 'conkers'.

The first recorded game of conkers was in 1848.

A favoured way of going conkering (collecting the conkers from a tree) is throwing sticks up into the tree's branches, but this is not recommended as it can hurt when they land on your head!

In 1999, the charity ActionAid applied to patent the game of conkers. It was protesting at companies trying to take out patents on existing crops, such as basmati rice, and the patenting of life forms.

## Recipe - Warming Autumn Soup

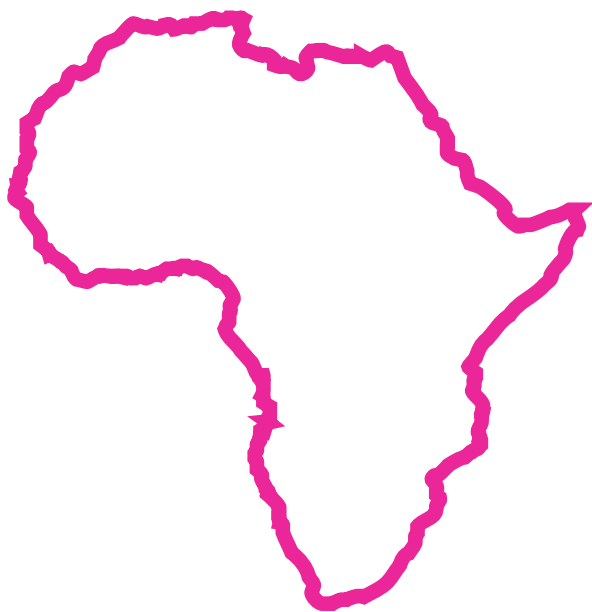
With the weather turning colder, what better way to stay warm than with this recipe for a hearty soup using autumnal vegetables. It's also perfect for Halloween, as the pumpkin can be hollowed out and cut to resemble a face. A candle can be placed inside to light it up and it can be used for decoration or for trick or treating.

### Ingredients:

1/2 pumpkin, cubed  
1 carrot, sliced  
2 sticks celery, sliced (or one leek, sliced)  
1 onion, chopped  
1 potato, chopped  
4 cloves garlic, crushed  
salt  
freshly ground black pepper  
2 tbsp olive oil  
2 tbsp fresh coriander or chives, chopped  
1 litre vegetable stock

### Method:

Heat the olive oil in a saucepan and fry the pumpkin, carrot, celery, onion and potato for 3-4 minutes. Add the garlic and fry for another 2 minutes. Add the stock, bring to the boil and simmer for 30 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Season to taste. Transfer to a blender or food processor and process until smooth. Serve with freshly chopped coriander or chives.



## And finally...

For every show you book CLEVER PANTS will donate **5 euros** to **A-CET - the African Children's Educational Trust**.

To find out more about the work they do, have a look at: [www.a-cet.org](http://www.a-cet.org)

**A-CET's** motto is: "**actions not words**". Working through local organisations in Africa, they support thousands of youngsters with long-term scholarships and a programme for building rural community elementary schools. Locally selected scholarship students are assisted from kindergarten through to higher education and into employment. The charity spends no money on UK salaries or professional fund-raising; in 2006/7, 90% of donations went to students or schools.

Look out for features on **A-CET** in future issues of this year's CLEVER PANTS monthly newsletters.



**Top eco-tip:**  
If you print the newsletter out - do it in black and white at low resolution to reduce your use of ink

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