

Hi everyone and welcome to this month's Junior Park Rangers bulletin.

Did you know that in May there is a celebration called "Hedgehog Awareness Week"? This is because hedgehogs are really struggling and there are only half the numbers of hedgehogs there were twenty years ago. The reasons that hedgehogs are struggling are because of things like:

- getting hurt by litter that people have dropped
- getting run over by cars
- being poisoned by slug pellets that people use in their gardens
- not having enough space to live and hibernate in

Hedgehogs are what is called an "Indicator Species" which means that if they are doing well, lots of other animals are doing well too, because they share the same habitat (home), food and environment as other wildlife. If hedgehogs are not surviving very well this means that other creatures aren't either so there are a few things we can do to help. We can:

- Make sure we pick up our litter
- Leave piles of dried leaves and sticks for hedgehogs and other wildlife to sleep and hibernate in
- Leave out saucers of drinking water, especially if it's sunny and hot
- Ask our grown-ups not to use slug pellets

All of these things will help lots of other wildlife too!

We are also thinking about other wildlife that lives here in the school grounds. We are trying to count the things we see at school. So if you see an animal, bird or insect in the playground, please come and tell us and we can add it to our list!

Thank you for listening today and we hope you have fun in the sunnier weather!