

Hello everyone, we are Junior Park Rangers and we wanted to tell you what we've been up to this month and to let you know a little bit about different wildlife in Milton Keynes.

Over the past few weeks we have been thinking about why we love nature so much, and trying to find ways to get people outside. We have designed some posters which help people think of things they can do outside when it's cold, and how you can stay warm. Hopefully you will see some of our posters in school soon which will help you to go on an adventure outdoors.

One idea is that you could go out on a scavenger hunt to see what things you can find. Or you could use some paint and the rain which will help you paint a lovely picture. You could go out and make leaf kebabs too. This is where you find a nice stick and poke it through a leaf that you find. As you walk along you can add more leaves (all found on the floor, not taken off any plants or trees) and add them until your stick is full! All of these are cheap or free ways to keep warm when it's wet or windy! If you would like to know how to do any of these you could ask one of us.

We have also learnt about one of the ancient woodlands in Milton Keynes, Howe Park Wood. It is so old, it was written about in a famous book over 900 years ago! That is older than any human or animal on this planet!

It has some rare plants and creatures in it so it is now a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). This means it is protected and no buildings can be built on it. There is one butterfly that lives there, called the Black Hairstreak, and it is one of the rarest in the UK! There are also some rare plants and this is why dogs have to be kept on their leads in the wood, so they don't harm the plants or wildlife.

Hopefully you will visit a nice park this month. Please come and tell us if you do! We'd love to hear about your adventures. Thank you for listening.