

Hello everyone and welcome back to your Junior Park Ranger nature bulletin. Let's spend some time thinking about what there is to look forward to in spring.

This year, Earth Hour will be taking place on the 28th March from 20:30-21:30, and it would be so great if we could all join in even just for ten minutes. During this hour, we should turn off as many lights in our house as possible and make a pledge for how we will help nature - maybe you can make a poster on how to protect your favourite British mammal like the badger, or make a promise to let your grass grow for a whole month to feed all the pollinators. Whatever it is you might do, even the smallest act can make the biggest difference.

There are lots of different ways to enjoy spring, from getting out into your local green space and appreciating the blossom on the trees and bulbs on the ground, to going for a walk and creating a spring 'bingo' spotter sheet for your friends and family. How many signs of spring can you find and how has the environment around you changed since the new year?

This time of year offers a great opportunity to engage all of our senses, and the next time you go out to explore, why not take a second to tap into them? You might be able to hear the buzz of bees and the distant drumming of woodpeckers, and smell the fresh scent of emerging flowers. You could gently feel the softness of new leaves, and see how the sun dances differently through the trees now it isn't so dark. We wouldn't recommend tasting anything on your walks around, but imagine how delicious the nectar of a bright yellow dandelion is for a butterfly!

If you're looking for some exciting nature fun over Easter, come and join us at Howe Park Wood for our free open day activities, with the topics being 'Spring has Sprung' and 'Flowers, Bees and Butterflies.' We hope to see you there!

Thank you for listening.