

Hello everyone and welcome back after Easter to your Junior Park Ranger nature bulletin! Let's see what there is to look forward to for the next part of this stunning spring season.

International Dawn Chorus Day this year was celebrated on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, and marks a worldwide celebration of nature's greatest singers - our birds. This doesn't mean that you can't wake up early any other day of the month to enjoy the beauty of birdsong as the sun wakes up. Why not set an alarm and set out into your local park with an adult to enjoy the chorus, whilst seeing nature at its most colourful and inviting.

Throughout this month you can join a national conservation effort called 'No Mow May', where you ditch the lawnmower and let your garden or school green space grow wild. Gardens make up 25% of urban land in the UK, meaning they are very important habitats for lots of critters, including bees, butterflies, hedgehogs, and birds. Long grass allows wildflowers to grow, feeding our pollinators and creating a colourful display for us all to enjoy, whilst also making hidey-holes for all sorts of wonderful wildlife. Even a 'No Mow' corner will make a world of difference - see if you can spot a creature you haven't seen before!

As the weather keeps warming up, we need to remember some key water safety rules that help to keep us and our friends safe whilst exploring our parks. Local water sources are home to wildlife all year-round, and contain bacteria, plant life, and hidden dangers that aren't safe for humans, so we advise against any wild swimming in all of our parks, to protect not only us humans, but also the animals and plants that live there permanently.

Keep your eyes peeled in the evening hours for bats! In the UK there are 18 species of bat (10 we can find in Milton Keynes), and they love to dart and dash above gardens and parks at dusk, looking for a bug to munch on - did you know a single bat can eat 3000 mosquitos each night!

Keep your eyes peeled, and thank you for listening.