

September - October, 2022

**Hello**, we are Junior Park Rangers.

In these assemblies we will be sharing information about the Junior Park Rangers - who we are, what we are doing, and some information about The Parks Trust.

This month we have learned about an animal that is under threat in the UK - **hedgehogs**. Hedgehogs will soon be going into **hibernation**, so they will be spending a lot of time wandering around eating as much food as they can find in the evenings. Hedgehogs like to eat **worms and other insects**, but you can always put out some extra food to help them. You can buy specific hedgehog foods from pet stores, or you can put out any **fish-free cat or dog food**. Hedgehog populations have fallen by around 30% in the past ten years, leaving them on the **endangered** species list. Hedgehogs are threatened by cars, dog attacks and habitat destruction. There is lots of information online about how you can help save hedgehogs and make your gardens more hedgehog friendly.

This month The Parks Trust have launched their "**Acorn Challenge**". Acorns are the seeds of oak trees, and this year there are lots of them about! Many **ash trees** in our ancient woodlands are dying so we are asking people to help us grow **oak trees** to replace them. If you see any acorns in our **ancient woodlands** (Howe Park Wood, Linford Wood or Shenley Wood), you can plant them in a pot at home to grow into an oak tree. In **two years' time**, when the oak is strong enough, you can bring it back to The Parks Trust and they will plant it in Milton Keynes woodlands. The Trust hope that these oak trees will help to **protect** the woodlands of Milton Keynes.

We hope you have learned something from our assembly today, and we look forward to speaking to you next month. If anyone has any questions about JPR or The Parks Trust, please come and speak to us.

**Thank you for listening!**