

Hello everyone, and welcome to this month's Junior Park Rangers nature bulletin! Let's go over some of the things we might have done or learned about this month.

The week of the 14<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> of February is National Nestbox Week, and we can spend some time thinking about why these little spaces are so important and what we can do to help our birds out - whether they are trying to stay warm and dry in the winter or look after their tiny new chicks in the spring. With a little research you could even build your own nestbox and monitor how it changes over the year.

We've had some very varied weather this last month, from downpours of rain and flooding to sub-zero spells, then back to blue skies! Have you ever wondered how these sudden changes in weather might impact our wildlife? Protecting local habitats - AKA an animals 'home' - is the best way to support our wild friends through harsh changes in weather. You can even use your knowledge to make mini habitats from natural materials in your school ground, something as simple as stacking sticks as a pile and adding fallen leaves will help attract and feed bugs.

Our froggy friends love the wet weather, and we might want to support them in our gardens by making our own mini pond using rainwater and an old washing up bowl - even the smallest acts of kindness towards nature makes all the difference.

After all this rain we've had, we could think about using the British weather in different ways, and some of us might like to use it to make art. Place a sheet of paper and paints (or mud!) flat outside for 10 minutes and see what happens under the rain. Dry it for two days indoors and you've made a rain painting!

As we move further into spring, we will begin to notice more critters, plants and animals popping up - this is the perfect opportunity to get outside and start keeping tabs on who's out and about.

Have some fun getting outside this February, and thank you for listening!