

Hello, and welcome to this month's Junior Park Rangers bulletin.

We are a group of children who really enjoy nature and want to share our love of being outside with all of you. If you want ideas about fun things to do outside, or if you have seen a new wild animal in Milton Keynes, you could come and speak to anyone who's wearing a JPR badge.

One idea to get outside when the weather is cold or wet is to go on a sensory scavenger hunt. You go outside with a sheet of paper with lots of things you might find outdoors, and use your senses to find them. When you have found something on the list you can tick it off. It might be feeling the bumps of a pinecone, or smelling some damp moss. We have some more ideas if you want to try this!

This month we have been learning about bats, just before they go into torpor (like a deep sleep) over winter. We have learnt what they like to eat (lots of insects!) and how they use noises to find their food. We have even made up a recipe of things they like to eat!

We have also been thinking about autumn and the changes we can see outside. Have you seen any acorns, conkers or other seeds or berries on the trees? How about any mushrooms growing on trees, logs, or from the ground? Remember not to touch any mushrooms you see as they can be poisonous.

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! There's a type of tree called an "ash tree", and they are dying because of a disease. The Parks Trust is asking people to help them grow oak trees to replace them. If you see any acorns in Howe Park, Linford or Shenley Wood, you can plant them in a pot at home to grow into an oak tree. When the oak is strong enough, The Parks Trust will plant it in the woods! Come and see us if you want to know more.

Thank you for listening and we will see you again soon!