

November/December 2024

Hello everyone!

We are now fully into Autumn, which is the time of year when lots of things in nature start to slow down and get ready for the cold Winter.

When you go outside you might see fruits and nuts on the trees and bushes. These contain seeds, which grow on trees ready to fall off and start growing. But they are also really important for wildlife as lots of animals eat them. Birds, mice, badgers and squirrels will munch on them, helping the animals fatten up for Winter when other food isn't around.

Do you know any of the names of these fruits and nuts? (*Apples, blackberries, sloes, hazelnuts, conkers, acorns, cherries, rosehips and rowan berries could all be answers!*)

While some animals can still be seen, others will hibernate over Winter. Did you know that all ladybirds hibernate? They like small dark spaces, like the insides of plant stems, cracks in trees and inside the pointy scales on pinecones. Next time you're in a park you could collect some pinecones from the ground, put them in a pile, add some tree bark as a roof, and see who moves in!

Even though it's been colder and darker this month, we still want everyone to go outside and explore, even when it's wet and rainy. There aren't as many flowers and animals to see at this time of year but there are still lots of amazing things to see and do, like puddles to splosh in in wellies, squirrels climbing and burying food, moss growing on the trees and colourful leaves to make drawings out of.

Another fun activity is that you can try and work out which tree is which. It's harder than in the Summer as so many trees have lost their leaves but the different bark patterns, tree trunks and bud shapes all make it a bit easier! There is an ID guide on The Parks Trust website if you want to give it a try.

Thank you for listening and we hope you like getting outside this Autumn!