

Hello, we are all part of Junior Park Rangers, a nature group set up by The Parks Trust. We meet up to learn about nature and green spaces in Milton Keynes and we want to get you outside too!

March is the first month of spring, when trees and other plants “wake up” and start to grow again after resting over winter. That's why you will see lots of new buds and blossom on the trees, and baby plants popping out of the ground.

You might start to hear chicks making lots of noise in their nests, and there is frog and toad spawn in lots of the ponds. Did you know that adult toads travel all the way back to the pond they hatched in to lay eggs? We hope you get to see some spawn in a pond near you - don't go near a pond without an adult there too though.

Have a think about what other things you might hear, see, smell and feel in spring, and how different they are from winter. You might feel warmth on your face in the spring sun. You might smell flowers that are opening for the first time. You might hear bees buzzing, toads squeaking or woodpeckers drumming in the woods.

On Saturday 22nd March it is Earth Hour. At 8.30pm people all over the world will turn off their lights and think about what they want to do to help nature. It could be making a poster about how to save hedgehogs, or writing a poem about your favourite animal. You could even make a lantern out of an old jam jar, by drawing on it with colourful pens and then adding a battery tealight inside. This will help you to see your drawing or poem and will look pretty too.

If you want something fun to do over Easter, there will be some free open mornings at Howe Park Wood where you can take part in fun nature activities. The topics for Easter are “Flowers, Bees and Butterflies” and “Frogs, Toads and Newts” so if you want to learn more about these things then you can go along. There are more details on The Parks Trust website if you want to go!

Thank you for listening.