

Hi everyone, welcome to our Junior Park Rangers update. We're here to tell you about some interesting things related to nature!

Over the past few weeks we have been thinking about why we love nature so much, and trying to find ways to get people outside. Some good ways of showing you love nature are: going for a litter pick with family or friends, drawing a picture of your favourite thing in nature, or even making a home for wildlife!

Remember that almost all of the 50 parks that The Parks Trust looks after are free to visit and are open every day so you could take a picnic, scooter or football and go to one of the parks over half-term to enjoy spending time outside in nature.

Do you know what a habitat is? It is another word for "home" and is a place where an animal or plant lives. Habitats are different for different wildlife - a whale wouldn't be able to live in Milton Keynes! But an oak tree wouldn't be able to live in the desert! Having lots of habitats for different plants and animals is really important so we have been looking at what homes we have here in school.

Habitats can be very small and simple, like a pile of dried leaves, some long grass, or a tree. Or it can be something like a bird box that someone has made, or a pond. Can you think of any habitats we have here in school? Do you have any near where you live? This could be in a garden, on a balcony or in a local park. The more homes we have for wildlife, the happier and healthier they will be.

If you want to make wildlife feel welcome near where you live, you could build a little pile of stones, leaves, or twigs and leave it alone. Lots of insects will move in quickly and they will use it for food as well as shelter while it is still cold outside.

We hope you have fun getting outside at half-term and maybe even building a home for local ladybirds or ants! Thank you for listening.