

Winter Lockdown fun!

Winter is a great time of year to enjoy nature. With the leaves off deciduous trees it's easier to spot nests, squirrel dreys, clumps of mistletoe, birds, fungi and lichen in the branches.

So don't go into hibernation like the hedgehogs and dormice... wrap up warm, get out there and have some fun!



- ❄️ **Go on a muddy walk and look out for animal tracks in the mud** – but don't forget your wellies!

Wet mud is brilliant for showing signs of who has been there before you.



Take an id guide with you, or take a photo of the tracks to look up when you get home. Try our UK species track matchup game to get you started. If you find some muddy tracks in your garden you could even use some plaster of paris to take a cast of the track that you can keep forever.

- ❄️ We've started doing a **Signs of Spring Survey** each year in January at Wild Explorer Club, to try and get a picture of whether things happen at the same time each year. Why not give it a go in your own garden or outside space you go to, or on your favourite walk? You could design your own based on the kind of things you usually see or hear in January or February.
TOP TIP: Make sure you include things like catkins, snowdrops, daffodils flowering, bluebell leaves sprouting, first queen bumblebee sighting, woodpeckers drumming and the first frog spawn.

- ❄️ Don't forget to **repeat your favourite walk at different times of the year** – what will you see in a month's time, or later when all the leaves are back on the trees and the wildflowers are growing? What about in the autumn? How does it all change with the different seasons?



❄️ RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch – Jan 29-31



Do your bit for citizen science and spend 1 hour taking part in the world's largest bird survey.

Normal people, not scientists, have been helping collect data for the last 40 years! You don't even have to go outside for this one, as long as you have a good view of the birds!

❄️ January & February nature photo challenge

Take photos of things on your walks or



something you can see from your window – it could be birds, squirrels, other animals or plants, fungi etc.



You might want to photograph the same plant/view from the same angle, but taken every few days – can you see any changes as the days go by?

Make any time sequence photos into a game by writing the date taken on the back and challenging your family to put them in the correct order!
Can they see any signs of Spring emerging?



Happy Winter Exploring!