

# Big Schools Birdwatch

6 January – 13 February 2026



## 1. As the pupils enter

Have the [webpage open](#). Be ready to play the [audio clip](#) of the dawn chorus.

## 2. Introduction

Ask: *Does anyone know what the dawn chorus is?* Gather the children's responses and guide them to the idea that the dawn chorus happens every day, starting before sunrise. You might say something like: *As the sun comes up, birds wake up and sing together. Most of us never hear the dawn chorus because we're still asleep in our beds.* Make the link between the dawn chorus and the Big Schools Birdwatch or International Dawn Chorus Day as appropriate, including for the latter that people around the world wake up early, so they can listen to the wonderful singing of the birds.

You could add: *In cold weather, it can be hard for birds to find food and water. The chemicals we often use in our gardens and on our farms can kill the insects many birds feed on. And when we cut down trees to make space for buildings and roads, birds lose places to nest and to live. Some kinds of bird we see every day in our parks and gardens are beginning to disappear. How can we help our birds?*

## 3. Play the video

The video ends: 'And it's great fun too!' Duration: 5' 07".

## 4. Time to talk

Ask: *What different birds can you name? What do those birds look like?* The children might respond by naming and describing birds such as robins, blackbirds, seagulls, pigeons, owls, magpies, etc. As the children contribute, prompt them to reflect with questions such as: *What's special about these birds? Why are birds important to us? How do birds make you feel?* Pupils might, for example, comment on the beauty of birds and on the sense of freedom they feel when they see birds in flight.

See the webpage for possible further activities.



Webpage with video

## 5. Opportunity to sing

An opportunity to sing your chosen song.

## 6. Opportunity to reflect

Ask the pupils to sit quietly and picture birds they have seen. Prompt them to reflect:

*Take a moment today to notice the wonderful birds around you.*

*What do they bring to our lives..?*

*How could we help look after them..?*

## 7. Opportunity for prayer

Use your standard form of address ('Dear God', 'Dear Lord', 'Let us pray', etc) and:

*We thank you for the beautiful birds in our skies and our parks and our gardens.*

*Help us to notice them, to wonder at their beauty and never to take it for granted.*

*Help us to do what we can to take care of the natural world.*

*Amen.*