



## The Roo-port: Autumn 2 2025

### Welcome

It has been an exciting and busy half term here at Huckleberries. We were delighted to welcome the High Sheriff of Surrey, Peter Cluff, and his wife Suzanne to Huckleberries this month, with Bridget Biddell, from Hampton Estate. The children provided a tour of our wonderful site, introduced Peter, Suzanne, and Bridget to our animals, and showcased their amazing project work. During his visit Peter also met with Bev, to hear first-hand how Huckleberries' Nurture Farm and Learning Centre gently support young people to grow in confidence, resilience, and emotional wellbeing; giving them the foundations they need to stay engaged in education, discover their potential and feel able to contribute positively to their communities.

Earlier this month, we were saddened to hear two of our magnificent oak trees in the bottom meadow fall with a loud crack. The combination of our dry summer and recent rainfall had taken a toll on them. While we will miss their majestic beauty and refreshing shade during the summer months, the children are excited to explore the new climbing opportunities they offer. We collected lots of sprouting acorns in the hope of growing more oaks to replant.

And with Christmas fast approaching it was wonderful to meet so many of you at *Christmas in Elstead*. The evening was full of the community spirit that makes Elstead such a special place. Our 'Wishing Tree' was beautifully decorated with thoughtful wishes for our young people, the wider community, and the world. A heartfelt thank you to Our Elstead for inviting us and for choosing Huckleberries as one of the charities to benefit from the donations received.

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to everyone who has supported us this year. The generous gifts, cards, and kind words we received at the end of term were truly overwhelming. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and we look forward to seeing you in 2026!



### Monday

On Mondays, we have welcomed a group from St Edmund's. Across the six weeks, the children have taken part in a range of activities designed to support their emotional wellbeing, and develop positive strategies for managing their feelings. We have had lots of fun exploring yoga and learning new relaxation and breathing techniques, helping the children to find calm and regulate their bodies. Time spent with the goats and guinea pigs has been especially nurturing, with plenty of gentle brushing and cuddles, supporting connection, empathy and a sense of responsibility. Creativity has flourished in the mud kitchen, producing some impressive culinary delights, alongside enthusiastic band performances. Throughout the half term, we have seen confidence grow and self-regulation skills develop, they should be proud of their progress.



## Tuesday

This half term, our Tuesday group has been focusing on Kindness, one of Huckleberries' three core values. The children showed this beautifully by creating a Christmas hamper filled with thoughtful gifts to share with others. We designed and sewed felt Christmas decorations, which took real care and perseverance, and decorated ceramic baubles that turned out even better than we imagined. We were also lucky to welcome Janine to Base Camp on more than one occasion, where she helped us make beeswax candles and the most magical Christmas wreaths. The children loved making Christmas soaps too, enjoying the festive scents and carefully choosing ones they thought their loved ones would enjoy. Alongside all of this creativity, there was plenty of time for chess, cuddling the guinea pigs, chatting, relaxing in the hammocks and playing together. We were incredibly proud of how all the children took part in their showcase, creating a wonderful display with photos, drawings and impressive written explanations. It was a privilege to share the last afternoon with you all.

Merry Christmas, Love Heather and Jill 🎄



## Wednesday

This half term, our Wednesday group has been focusing on Kindness, one of Huckleberries' three core values. We began by thinking about how we can be kind to our animals, which led to making delicious goat treats – the teamwork and cooperation were wonderful to see, and the goats thoroughly enjoyed everyone's hard work. As our Christmas gift, the children created wooden reindeer (along with a few horses and even a pig!), each one beautifully unique and crafted with great care and enthusiasm. They looked fantastic displayed together in the yurt as part of our showcase, alongside the children's fabulous writing sharing this term's adventures. We were also lucky to work with Janine to make candles and Christmas wreaths, and to visit Fox Hill where we challenged ourselves on the slackline. One of our favourite days was walking to Britty Woods to choose our Christmas tree; with perfect weather, woodland exploring and a warming hot chocolate among the trees. Carrying two carefully chosen trees back to camp was no small task, but it was achieved with teamwork, smiles and lots of laughter – do check out the video on our Instagram and Facebook page if you haven't already! We are so proud of how far you have all come this term and the strong community you have built here on Wednesdays.

Happy Christmas, Love Leia, Bev and Jill 🎄



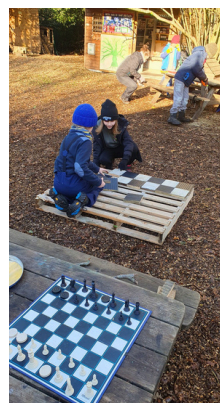
## Thursday

This half term, our Wild Learning Group embarked on their own self-directed projects, designing six weeks of learning around the theme of Robin Hood and the Middle Ages. It has been wonderful to see how the children thrived with this independence, taking real ownership of their learning and carefully timetabling their weeks using their own Trello boards to stay on track. We were delighted to welcome Dave back, who taught leatherwork skills, helping the children sew impressive leather handles for wooden swords and beautiful money pouches – perfect for stealing from the rich and giving to the poor! Cooking was also a highlight this half term, with one of our budding chefs learning how to make a white sauce over the campfire and treating us all to cheesy pasta. There was plenty of creativity too, with stunning canvases inspired by Robin Hood, as well as clay work and mosaics influenced by Sherwood Forest. Two fantastic buildings were designed and constructed after learning about houses in the Middle Ages, showcasing impressive problem-solving and engineering skills. It was a very proud moment to see all this hard work displayed alongside photos from the half term at our showcase. Merry Christmas, Love Bev and Jill 🎄



## Friday

This half term, Friday's nurture group has been full of connection, creativity and kindness. We were so lucky to welcome Mel, our new volunteer, and have loved getting to know her – she has been a wonderful addition to the Huckleberries community. The group has been exploring our core value of kindness. We combined our shared love of chess with our kindness project by creating a giant chessboard for everyone at Huckleberries to enjoy. The children carefully cut decking into squares and painted them to form the board, before creatively crafting each of the playing pieces and thinking thoughtfully about how to make them all unique. We also welcomed the Countryside Alliance Trust to Base Camp to feature in their video showcasing how they support different charities. We loved being on film and working with the crew – it was so much fun spotting ourselves in the final edit, and even Henny Penny made an appearance! Alongside all of this, we enjoyed exploring the meadow and the two fallen oak trees, building confidence and resilience through climbing and outdoor play. Merry Christmas, Love Leia and Vicky



## Wild About Huckleberries

This half term at Wild About Huckleberries after school club has been packed with adventure, creativity and plenty of fun. We loved the delivery of wood chips, which provided endless opportunities for digging, building and imaginative play. Trips to Fox Hill to explore the slackline were a real highlight, as were meeting Otto the kitten and enjoying lots of gentle cuddles. Cooking together was always popular, with delicious popcorn and pancakes made and shared, and creativity flourished through whittling and festive Christmas crafts. One of the most exciting experiences was playing Eagle's Nest in the dark, using head torches to light the way – a brilliant end to a fantastic half term.



### Employee of the Month Mel



Mel the goat has stolen our hearts this half term. She loves nothing more than a cuddle and brush during quiet, calm time. Mel joined in beautifully with goat yoga and never tries to nibble your clothes.

### Huckleberries Honey for Sale 🐝

Delicious honey produced by our own amazing bees. The perfect Christmas gift or breakfast treat!

**£6.00 per jar (227g)** - cash only please.

All proceeds support our work, just ask any team member at drop-off or pick-up

### Follow us



@huckleberries



[facebook.com/HuckleberriesNurtureFarm](https://facebook.com/HuckleberriesNurtureFarm)



## Can you help?



### Huckleberries Helping Young People Thrive



#### Support Our Work

As a small, local charity our programmes rely on:

- Donations
- Volunteers
- Community Partnerships
- Grant Funding

#### By Supporting Us You Help To

- Provide skilled, compassionate staff
- Grow a strong, supportive community
- Maintain our outdoor learning spaces
- Feed and care for our animals
- Enable our Charity to grow and serve more children



#### How to Get Involved

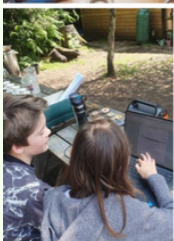
##### Donate via Go Fund Me

As a small charity, every donation makes a meaningful difference, helping us reach young people who are often overlooked and struggling.



##### Contribute to our Amazon Charity wish-list

Our Amazon Charity Wish List is a list of items that we need to directly support our work, which you can purchase and have shipped directly to us. Please take a look at our list: [https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1UN3GVD11MYWQ?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1UN3GVD11MYWQ?ref_=wl_share)



##### Sign Up to Huckleberries Discovery Directory

We're always happy to hear from anyone who wants to support our work. We have two great ways to get involved:

##### Wild Learning Centre Skill Sharing List

Join our list of volunteers who are happy to be contacted when a young person needs support with their projects. If you have a skill, such as woodwork, marketing, mechanics, art or anything else, we may reach out to you to see if you can offer advice or guidance. This will be done alongside Huckleberries staff via Microsoft Teams, telephone or in person.

##### Regular or Ad-Hoc Volunteers

Offer your time regularly, once a month, once a week or on an ad-hoc basis, to support projects that align with your skills. This could include anything from leatherwork, crochet, sewing, engineering, animal care, novel writing or other areas where you can inspire and assist young people in small groups or one-to-one, to develop their passions.



##### For More Information

Call: Bev Cook (CEO) 07979 856851 Visit: [www.huckleberries.org.uk](http://www.huckleberries.org.uk)

## Don't forget...



Timings of the day

9:15am - 2:45pm



Please drive and park carefully, being considerate to our neighbours.



Please bring a morning snack and a filling packed lunch.



Water bottle.



Wear warm clothes (layers work best) and waterproof shoes/ boots.



Pack a waterproof coat and trousers, hat and gloves.



Bring spare clothes to change into, especially socks!

## Upcoming Events

- Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January - Spring Term Starts
- Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January - Staff INSET - No children on site
- Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January - Wednesday Group Returns (1 week later due to Staff INSET)
- Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January - Parent Peer-Support Evening in the Yurt - see Events to book
- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> - Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February - Half Term
- Week Beginning Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March - Showcase Week, dates and times TBC
- Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March - Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April - Easter Holidays
- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April - Summer Term Starts

Check our website for further information and to book onto an event or Wild About Huckleberries.

[www.huckleberries.org.uk/events](http://www.huckleberries.org.uk/events)

