



# huckleberries

a place to be me

## The Roo-port: Spring 2 2026

### Welcome

#### Happy Easter from Huckleberries

And here we are at the end of another fantastic term, filled with curiosity, creativity and adventure. It's been wonderful to see our children really settle into the routine of Huckleberries and support each other in so many ways - it truly feels like a community, which is exactly what we hope to achieve.

A special thank you to our amazing volunteers, who continue to support the children in developing their skills and providing unique opportunities for connection. We're also delighted that Janine has located a new hive of bees for us after losing ours over the winter, and we're really looking forward to more summer bee-keeping sessions.

Demand for our provision continues to grow, while charitable funding remains challenging to secure. We remain committed to offering free places for children when they need us most, and are actively exploring ways to secure additional funding to support this. If you would like to help, whether through organising a fundraiser, supporting grant applications, or connecting us with potential corporate partners, we would love to hear from you.

After Easter, a new staff member will be joining us on Wednesdays as Leia is temporarily reducing her hours. We will share more details with our Wednesday families shortly.



### Monday

We have enjoyed welcoming a group from Rowledge Junior School for their half-term School Nurture Boost Programme at Huckleberries. It has been wonderful to see their resilience, confidence and teamwork develop throughout their time with us. Together, we explored the wide range of emotions we all experience, thinking about strategies to help return to the 'green zone' and learning simple ways to begin letting go of worries. The children embraced every new opportunity; from tackling fire lighting and other challenges that required real perseverance, to taking part in calming yoga sessions with Mairead, finishing with relaxing moments wrapped in a cosy 'burrito' blanket. It has been a real pleasure hosting the children from Rowledge. They worked hard, cared for the animals, and impressed us with their enthusiasm, kindness and willingness to try something new.



## Tuesday

This half term, we were so happy to welcome three new children to Team Tuesday. It has been wonderful to see our group grow, with new friendships blossoming and a real sense of belonging developing. We especially enjoyed getting to know one another through our first team challenge — designing and building a space rocket to safely send Steve the Egg Astronaut to space! Creating it was great fun, but testing it in the top meadow was even more exciting. We were also lucky to have visits from Janine, particularly when we helped prepare the beehive for our new bees by carefully cleaning away old wax and dirt before using a blowtorch to ensure it was safe and germ-free. Our nurture focus has continued to centre on building self-esteem, and we loved working in small groups to prepare and teach others about different topics, growing in confidence as we shared our ideas. To finish the term, we had lots of fun taking part in an Easter egg hunt — the perfect way to celebrate together.

Happy Easter, Love Heather, Bev and Jill



## Wednesday

Wednesday's nurture group started the half term in style, hosting Sir Brian May for a very special visit. The children were fantastic ambassadors for Huckleberries, confidently showing him around the site, introducing the animals, creating clay together and even inviting him to relax in one of our hammocks. It was wonderful to see the pride and confidence they showed while sharing their experiences of camp life. Throughout the half term, the children have worked incredibly hard on their own self-directed projects, including clay sculptures, toy horse jumps, a hay feeder for a pony and even creating a new pathway with a dead hedge to link two areas of camp. We have been so impressed by their boundless energy, enthusiasm, problem-solving skills and resilience. Alongside this, we enjoyed preparing a beehive with Janine, potion making, shaving foam art, decorating eggs with natural dyes, walks to Fox Hill and discovering lots of frogs along the way.

Happy Easter,

Love Tamzin, Leia, Bev and Jill



## Thursday

Thursday's Wild Learning Group has thoroughly enjoyed this half term in the sunshine, making the most of the improving weather. We loved returning to the Yoga Woods with Mairead for some springtime relaxation, and it has been wonderful to have the hammocks back up — a perfect spot to lie back and listen to the birds. The group has been busy working on smaller personal projects, including setting up a new library space, fixing the broken stile into the bottom meadow and learning how to create short stop-motion films using Lego. We also really enjoyed having Dave and his son Charlie visit to support us with our leatherwork (and the library too!). A highlight was working in small groups to prepare and teach mini workshops to one another; although this felt daunting at times, everyone showed great courage in stepping outside their comfort zones and felt incredibly proud of their achievements. We have also enjoyed many off-site walks, searching for signs of spring and spotting plenty of frogs along the way. Happy Easter from Bev and Jill



## Friday

Friday's nurture group has made the most of the recent warmer weather, enjoying lots of time outdoors exploring and looking for signs of spring. The children have taken part in a range of mindful art activities, including bubble painting and shaving foam printing, and even took their sketchbooks down to the stream for some peaceful, reflective drawing. We have also enjoyed making and eating delicious pizzas in the pizza oven, as well as learning new skills such as map reading and how to use a compass. A real highlight of the half term was our hike to Elstead to take part in the Blessing of the Daffodils, where we met Sir Brian May and Jeremy Hunt. The adventure included navigating our route using our map skills, enjoying a well-earned hot chocolate along the way and taking in the beautiful daffodil display. We rounded off the half term by making calming lavender bunnies and enjoying a fun Easter egg hunt. Happy Easter, Love Leia and Vicky



# Wild About Huckleberries

We have had a wonderful half term; it's been great to be back after our short winter break. The children have enjoyed a wide range of activities: making potions and ooblek, adventuring to Fox Hill, trying out the slackline, creating clay animals, whittling, cooking popcorn over the fire, relaxing in the hammocks, and getting stuck into arts and crafts. Most importantly, they have just had time to simply be themselves, socialise, and build friendships away from screens and technology.

As we look ahead, Tamzin will be increasing her days at the Nurture Farm and will be stepping down from her role at Wild About Huckleberries after Easter. Tamzin originally set up the after-school club almost 5 years ago and has played a huge part in developing it into the warm and welcoming community it is today. She will miss the children very much and hopes to visit whenever she can. Charlotte will continue in her role, and we are delighted to welcome Jill, one of our wonderful Learning Guides who will be joining her. Many of the children already know Jill from last summer term. Together, they will continue to bring the fun, creativity, and strong sense of community that make Wild About Huckleberries so special.



## Upcoming Events

- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April - Summer Term 1 Starts
- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April - Parent Peer Support Evening at 7pm (book online)
- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May - Bank Holiday (no Huckleberries)
- Monday 25<sup>th</sup> - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May - Half Term Break
- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June - Summer Term 2 Starts
- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June - Parent Peer Support Evening at 7pm (book online)

Check our website for further information and to book onto an event or Wild About Huckleberries. [www.huckleberries.org.uk](http://www.huckleberries.org.uk)

## Employee of the Month Henny Penny



Henny Penny is this half term's standout employee. She is back laying delicious eggs now the weather is warming up as well as being a fantastic chicken to chill out with!

## 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, sun hat and sun cream.



Bring spare clothes to change into, especially woolly socks!

# Can you help?



## Huckleberries Helping Young People Thrive



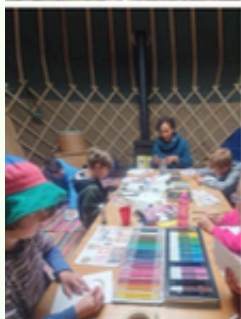
### Support Our Work

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 woodworking, 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)

