

THE CRAFTY HEDGEHOG

VOL. 10



WWW.LITTLECRAFTERSBOXES.CO.UK



1 AUGUST 2026

CLUCK, CLUCK... WHO'S THERE?! WE GOT CHICKENS!

We thought we were in charge. Then we got chickens! Here at LCB we've discovered the secret to happiness: tiny feet, loud cheeps, and snacks that wriggle – and ever since our chick hatched and our new feathered friends arrived, our days have been a whole lot brighter (and a whole lot cheepier).

Yes, we have hatched our own chick, and we have named it Fluffball for the most obvious reason: this little one is basically a walking pom-pom with legs. Friendly, curious, and completely adorable.



And Fluffball isn't on their own either. We've also got five friends who are just as cute and chirpy... but let's just say they're a bit more into being chicks together than hanging out with us humans.



Every morning now starts with cheerful cheeping – like a tiny alarm clock that's somehow both louder and cuter than any phone. Have you ever tried to feel grumpy while a chick is enthusiastically announcing the start of the day? It's basically impossible.

We have well and truly found out that chicks are full of surprises, and they've been making us laugh on repeat. Sometimes they do the 'zoomies' like they've remembered something extremely important... and then immediately forgetting what it was! They also run a very serious peck-and-investigate mission, where they inspect everything with a determined little peck, as if they're tiny detectives solving the mystery of 'What Is this thing?' And then there's the group huddle of maximum drama; if one chick sits down, the others pile in like it's the cosiest meeting in the world – and if someone gets nudged, you'd think it was the biggest scandal of the week!

One of their favourite parts of the day is outside time – soaking up the fresh air and having a good explore. And yes, they also enjoy watching TV with us (we can't promise they understand what's happening, but they do look very invested!). Then there are mealworms... which are, without question, the most exciting thing that has ever existed in chick history. The enthusiasm is unreal.

And get this...we've already got Fluffball to work! Because at LCB we clearly believe in a strong work ethic (even if you're only the size of a cotton ball). He's the friendly little one who's happy to come close, say hello, and accept admiration like a true professional, and he's even starred in our Slinkacho challenge as a "dinosaur." When you're that fluffy and that confident, you can be whatever you want – including an employee of the month in week one!

One of the best parts of this whole chicken adventure has been seeing how excited everyone has been. We know we're not the only chicken parents in the Crafty Hedgehog community – and we have loved seeing your photos, reading your warm-hearted comments, and picking up your very useful advice too. Thank you for cheering us on, sharing tips, and making this feel like a proper community moment. It's been such a lovely reminder that we're all in this together – crafts, learning, and now... chickens!



SILHOUETTES ARE STEALING THE SPOTLIGHT

Breaking news from the art desk: a new kind of masterpiece is taking over kitchen tables, living rooms, hallways, and home learning spaces — and it starts with nothing more than a light, a pose, and a pencil.

Across our community, shadow art silhouettes have been popping up in bold, athletic shapes, packed with colour, pattern, and attitude. The result? Artwork that doesn't just sit quietly on a page — it demands to be noticed.

A silhouette might look simple — just an outline — and that simplicity is what makes it so powerful. No tiny details to distract. No soft shading to hide behind. Just a confident shape that tells a story in one glance.

Once the outline is captured, artists move fast into graphic style territory — and two looks are leading the charge. Pop Art silhouettes arrive loud and proud: bold blocks of colour, sharp contrasts, and patterns that feel like they've stepped out of a comic panel. Would you go full neon — or keep it cool with a clash of bright, clean tones?

And graffiti silhouettes bring the edge: layered textures, spray-paint vibes, drips, tags, and patterns that look like they're still moving. If your silhouette had a soundtrack, would it be smooth and glossy — or loud and rebellious?

The masterpieces we have seen so far are not 'pictures to be filed away' - they are totally STOP-AND STARE art! From across the room they are bold and graphic, and up close you will see they are full of brilliant design choices colour, pattern, texture, and attitude to keep the silhouette strong. Where do you think these ones should go; the hallway gallery, the fridge door, the landing wall, or in the bedroom like a trophy?



So, have you taken part in shadow art yet, or has this inspired you to give it a go next? If you've tried it already, what pose did you choose, and which style did you go for: Pop Art punch or Graffiti grit?

Art has power because it turns a moment into a message. Shadow art does it even faster: it takes something temporary, a flicker of light, and makes it permanent. So make it bold, make it unmistakable, and when it's finished, put it up where it can be admired. And here at LCB, we can't wait to see even more masterpieces popping up — bold, bright, and impossible to miss!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR WORK TO BE FEATURED HERE NEXT MONTH, SEND IN YOUR PICTURES AND COMMENTS TO THECRAFTYHEDGEHOG@LITTLECRAFTERSBOXES.CO.UK

DYLAN'S RECIPE: TERIYAKI CHICKEN STIR-FRY WITH NOODLES

INGREDIENTS

- 2 chicken breasts, sliced into thin strips
- 1 red pepper, sliced
- 1 carrot, peeled and sliced
- 1 small onion, sliced
- 1 broccoli head, cut into small florets
- 2 nests of egg noodles
- 1 tbsp veg oil

FOR THE SAUCE: 4tbsp teriyaki sauce • 1 tbsp honey
• 1 tbsp soy sauce

PREPARATION

1. Slice the chicken and vegetables into thin strips.
2. Bring a saucepan of water to the boil. Add the noodles and cook according to the packet instructions.
3. Drain the noodles and set aside.
4. Heat the oil in the wok over a medium-high heat.
5. Add the chicken and cook until it is golden brown and no longer pink in the middle.
6. Add the onion, carrot, broccoli and pepper. Stir-fry for 4-5 minutes until the vegetables begin to soften.
7. Mix the teriyaki sauce, honey and soy sauce together in a small bowl.
8. Add the cooked noodles and sauce to the pan. Stir well until everything is coated in the sauce and heated through.



EMMA'S HELPDESK: WHEN IDEAS GET STUCK: FINDING CONFIDENCE TO WRITE AND DRAW

I want to write stories or draw, but sometimes I get stuck or worry mine aren't good enough.



How can I get inspired or feel more confident about sharing my ideas? I love to write, in fact I've published four books! When I get stuck for ideas, I like to use storycubes. There are sets for all kinds of themes and concepts, from action and adventure to mystery and beyond. I also like to carry a notebook with me when I am out and about, and if I hear or see something that sparks my imagination, I jot it down and come back to it later. Sometimes it doesn't come to anything, but sometimes its just the seed I needed to spark a great story!

When I learned to draw my cat, I went to a class where they used a template of his face so I could focus on my pastel technique rather than worrying about whether I had captured him in the way I wanted. Classes like this are a great way to start your drawing adventures. Confidence comes with time, the more you write and draw, the more you will find your own style and then it will feel much easier to share it with the world. Creativity takes courage, but its worth it in the end.

~EMMA OLDERSHAW

THERAPIST, WRITER AND CREATIVE WELLBEING PRACTITIONER
WWW.OPENSKIESHYPNOTHERAPY.CO.UK

A SPECIAL SPOT: TOTALLY TALLENTED TESSA!

Sometimes at LCB we have a real stop-you-in-your-tracks moment, and last week, that's exactly what happened.

We received a very special submission from Tessa, and it genuinely blew us away. The work was a brilliant demonstration of phenomenal creativity and artistic skill, with so much thought and personality in every detail. Tessa has worked incredibly hard to complete an AQA unit called Art and Design: Fantastic and Strange, and we just had to share a few of the standout pieces. Each one felt bold, imaginative, and completely unique the kind of art that makes you look twice, then look again. We're so proud to celebrate this incredible work, and we can't wait to see what Tessa creates next.



BEHIND THE SCENES AT LCB



MEET MEGHAN

If you've ever opened a Little Crafters Box and wondered who dreams up all the fun, it could well have been Meghan. She's an absolute Design Specialist, with a Masters in Design, and she's brilliant at turning big ideas into crafts you can actually make at home.

Meghan spends her days designing new projects, writing clear instructions, editing videos, and being a total website whiz behind the scenes. She loves pink, wears cool caps, and brings a huge amount of creativity to everything she touches.

When she's not crafting, Meghan is a massive gamer with a mega console collection. She's a big Pokémon fan too – and right now she's on a mission to collect every single Kirby game out there!



SAY HELLO TO CHARLIE

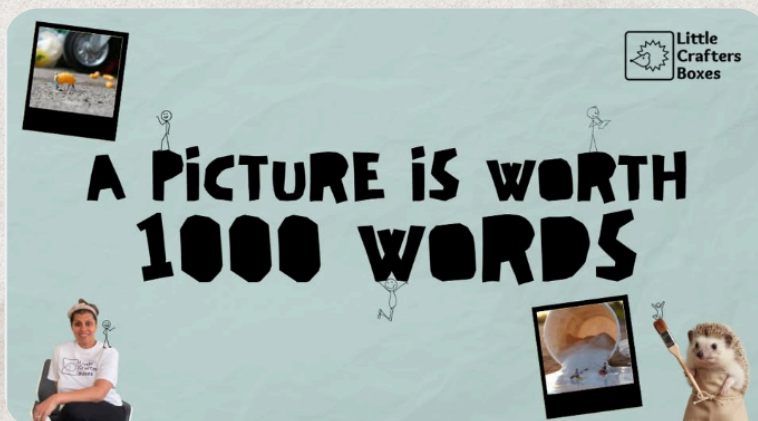
If you've ever had a question and felt instantly looked after, there's a good chance you've spoken to Charlie. She is our Customer Service Manager - the friendly voice who loves helping with anything you need.

Charlie works super hard behind the scenes to make sure orders go out on time. She's even been known to distract the postie to buy the workshop a few extra minutes, and if that doesn't work, you'll spot her chasing after him if he tries to escape without a full load!

When she's not keeping everything running smoothly, Charlie is a mum to two grown-up twins. She collects special teddy bears, loves reading, and enjoys sewing clothes and quilts. And fun fact - she has also taken part in a few triathlons, so she's just as determined outside of work as she is in it!

READY, STEADY, LAUNCH! AQA UAS DOORS OPEN 1ST AUGUST

It's AQA UAS launch day and the doors are officially open for a brand-new academic year starting 1st August! We're so excited to welcome you in – pricing for next year is now available, and we'll also be sharing some lovely early-bird bonuses very soon, so keep your eyes peeled.



LCB LIVE SLINKACHU THREE DAY CHALLENGE INCOMING!

Fancy a creative challenge that's silly, fun, and totally doable? Our creative Art Challenge is all about getting stuck in, having a giggle, and making something brilliant (even if it goes a bit wonky – that's part of the magic!). Watch this space for all the photos next month!

A picture is worth 1000 Words
27 July - 30th July 2026 10am Daily

FREE!

Day 1:
Day 1: Ooh La La

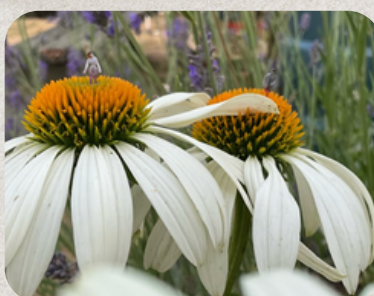
Day 2:
The Great Outdoors

Day 3:
A Night at the Museum

Day 4: 6pm: Everyone-Celebration, prizes and your next steps

Express your interest at www.lcbeducation.co.uk

LIVE
YouTube



FROM “WHAT IF?” TO “WOW!” — YOUNG INVENTORS IN ACTION

Stop the presses! Our Little Crafters have been spotted doing something extraordinary: they have stepped back in time and brought the spirit of Leonardo da Vinci right into their homes.

July has been our Leonardo da Vinci Month, and it looks like everyone has thrown themselves into the challenge with curious minds, creative hands, and a whole lot of wow!

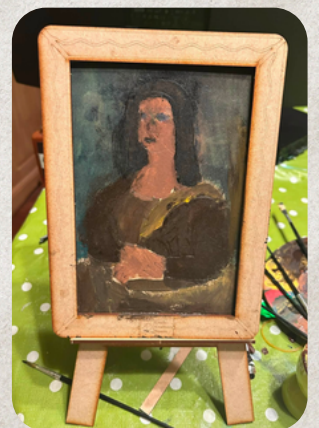
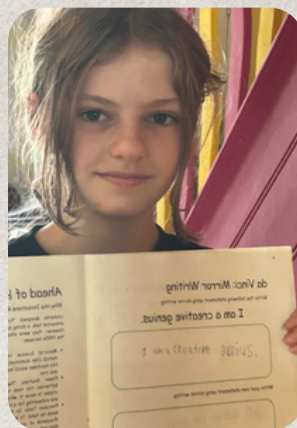
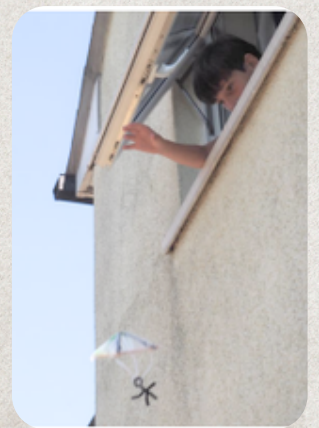
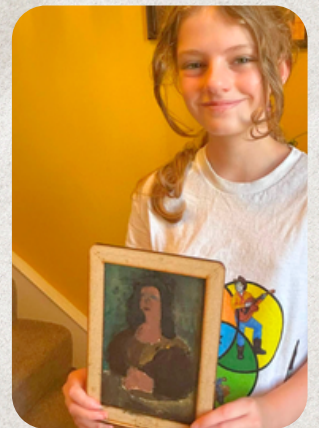
Pencils have been sketching, paintbrushes have been swishing, and big ideas have been zooming from page to model (sometimes faster than a flying machine!).

We have seen a flurry of Renaissance-style creativity happening all at once. One moment there are Mona Lisa-inspired paintings appearing with careful colours and that famous mysterious expression... and the next, pages are filling with mirror writing, like secret notes from an inventor's notebook.

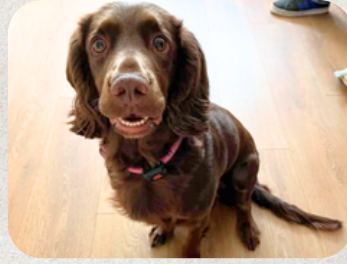
But it doesn't stop there. While the quills (okay, pencils!) are still scribbling, flying machines are taking shape, aerial screws are spinning in imaginations, and bold builders are testing clever designs like the Da Vinci bridge — the kind that locks together using smart shapes and balance.

And just when you think the ideas couldn't get any bigger... along comes the parachute, ready for brave daydreams of floating safely down from the sky. It's like Leonardo's sketchbook has burst open and scattered across kitchens, tables, and craft corners everywhere.

Now, take a moment to pause and look at these brilliant makes — the careful details, the brave ideas, the “what if?” thinking hiding in every sketch, model, and brushstroke. Our monthly themes might start as a plan on paper, but it's you (our wonderful children) who turn them into something real - you bring the imagination! Remember, the most important invention this month isn't a flying machine or a bridge... it's the spark in your mind that says, I wonder what I can create next?



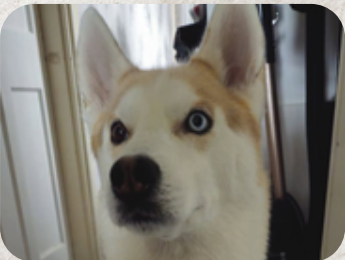
WAGGY TAILS AND WARM HEARTS



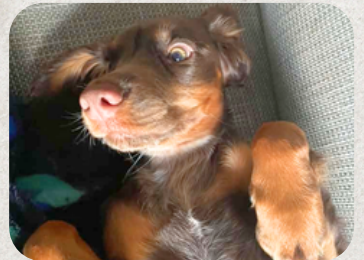
There's a mysterious creature in our homes who can hear a snack packet from three rooms away, and somehow believes the muddiest puddle is the best puddle, and thinks we are the most important person in the whole universe. Yep – it's a dog! And on 26th August, we get to celebrate them properly for International Dog Day.



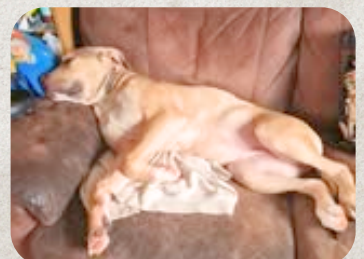
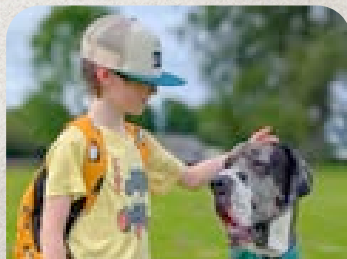
Look at the photos from our community and you'll see it straight away: dogs aren't "just pets" – they're family. They're the ones who greet us like we've been away for a year (even if it's only been five minutes), who sit close when we're having a wobbly day, and who somehow always know when it's time for a walk.



And here's a fun thought... what would your dog say if they could talk for one minute? "More snacks?" "More cuddles?" "Thank you for being my person?" Maybe all three!



To celebrate, try a dog-approved "Yes Day": an extra sniffy walk where they choose the route, a favourite game, a cosy blanket nest, or a special treat (with a grown-up's help). You could also do a kindness mission for dogs who need support – donate an old towel or a tin of food to a local rescue. Isn't it lovely to think your kindness could help another pup feel safe?



WHAT'S COMING NEXT MONTH?

EARTH SYSTEMS SCIENCE

Budding Crafters

120515
SENSORY
INTRODUCTION
TO MEASURING
LENGTH, MASS
AND CAPACITY



VOLCANO DIORAMA

LAYERS OF THE
EARTH



LAYERS OF THE EARTH POP UP

115321
INTRODUCTION
TO RAIN,
WEATHER AND
THE SUN



WEATHER MAGNETS

Standard Crafters

74737 HUMAN
ACTIVITY AND ITS
EFFECT ON CLIMATE
CHANGE

FOOD
MILES
MAP



74987 THE WATER
CYCLE

WATER
CYCLE
PLANTER



123799 RESTLESS
EARTH: BELOW THE
EARTH'S SURFACE

TECTONIC
PLATES
GLOBE



Skilled Crafters

113634
UNDERSTANDING
THE CLIMATE
CRISIS



118338 TECTONIC
HAZARDS

ANGLES IN
MOUNTAIN
LANDSCAPES

MOUNTAIN
FORMATION
SHADOWBOX

Deluxe Add-on Option

120636
CLIMATE
EXPLORATION



CHANGING EARTH TEXTURE
PLAQUE

GET FEATURED NEXT MONTH

For our next edition, we'd love you to get involved. If you'd like to appear in The Crafty Hedgehog, have a go at one (or all!) of the challenges below:

SLINKACHU Live Challenge

Show us your best photos! Send in your favourite photo from the challenge week if you are taking part.

Creative Storytelling Month

Time to get cosy! Build a comfy reading den, snuggle in with a story, and then send us a photo of you in your den.

National Teddy Bear Day (9th September)

Teddy time! Send us a photo or draw a picture of a special teddy bear to celebrate National Teddy Bear Day on 9th September.



When you're ready, email your entries to thecraftyhedgehog@littlecraftersboxes.co.uk or share them on our social media pages.

ONLINE LESSONS (ALL AVAILABLE FROM 1ST AUGUST)

Budding (Pre-entry level)	• 121663 Designing a character • 127524 Stories linked to experiences • 128474 Sensory maths and creative storytelling
Crafters (Entry level)	• 128479 Creating story art based on the work of Stuart Pantoll or 'Slinkachu' • 128478 Photography: the rules of thirds • 128475 Visual storytelling through images: polaroids • 128476 Creating a book nook: functional design • 120002 Cyanotype printing
Skilled (Functional skills level)	• 128482 The maths of photography • 128481 Narrative photography • 128480 Animation: History, design and opportunities

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH?

CREATIVE STORYTELLING

Budding Crafters

27524 STORIES
LINKED TO
EXPERIENCES

"WHAT ARE THEY
THINKING?"
STORYBOARDS



This one is all about perspective — one of the most powerful storytelling skills there is. When children imagine what someone might be thinking or feeling, they're practising empathy, emotional literacy, cause and effect ("if this happened, they might feel..."), dialogue and character voice. And because it's visual, it works beautifully for children who find writing hard — they can talk it, draw it, scribe it, act it out, or keep it simple.

121663
DESIGNING A
CHARACTER

"BUILD A
CHARACTER"
FRAME



Stories stick when children care about the character. This craft is designed to help children create a character they can see and keep — not just a one-off drawing that disappears into a pile. It supports identity and imagination ("Who are they? What do they like? What are they scared of?"), descriptive language (even if it's spoken, not written), and confidence ("I made them. They're mine."). It's also a lovely prompt for ongoing storytelling — once the character exists, the story keeps coming back.

128474 SENSORY
MATHS AND CREATIVE
STORYTELLING

"INVENT A STORY"
PUZZLE



We included this because puzzles are a brilliant way to build storytelling without pressure. A puzzle naturally invites children to notice details, predict what might happen next, talk through what they can see, and create a beginning/middle/end as the picture comes together. It's storytelling with your hands first — and for lots of children, that's where confidence begins.

Standard Crafters

128477 NATURE
WEAVING: SETTING
THE SCENE

NATURE WEAVING



This one is a quieter kind of storytelling — the kind that happens when hands are busy and minds settle. Weaving with nature invites children to slow down and notice, choose colours/textures with intention, create patterns (which is a kind of visual language), and tell the story of a place ("this is what we found on our walk"). It's also a gentle bridge between creativity and wellbeing — making something beautiful from what's around you.

128475 VISUAL
STORYTELLING
THROUGH
IMAGES:
POLAROIDS



PHOTOGRAPHY SKILL
BUILDING KIT

We added photography because storytelling isn't only words — it's capturing a moment. This kit is about helping children learn how to tell a story through images by exploring framing (what you include / what you leave out), perspective (high/low/close/far), sequence (a story in 3-5 photos), and meaning (what the photo makes you feel).

128476 CREATING A
BOOK NOOK:
FUNCTIONAL DESIGN

SECRET STORAGE
BOOK NOOK



This is storytelling for children who love secrets, worlds, and "hidden in plain sight" ideas. A book nook is basically a tiny story scene you can build and display — and it encourages setting-building (where does the story happen?), atmosphere (cosy, spooky, magical, mysterious?), and detail (the little touches that make a story feel real). We also love that it becomes a keepsake — something that can sit on a shelf and quietly remind them: I made a world.

OTHER WORKBOOK UNITS:

128478 PHOTOGRAPHY: THE RULE OF
THIRDS

128479 CREATING STORY ART BASED ON
THE WORK OF STUART PANTOLL OR
'SLINKACHU'

Skilled Crafters

128480
ANIMATION:
HISTORY, DESIGN
AND
OPPORTUNITIES

STORY FRAME
BUILDING KIT



This is the "big build" in the box — and it's here for children who want to create a full scene, like a mini stage. It's designed to support higher-level storytelling skills, composition (where everything sits and why), action (what's happening in the scene?), character movement and interaction, and plot prompts ("what happened just before this moment?" / "what happens next?"). It's also brilliant for stop-motion, photo stories, or simply creating a scene that sparks conversation.

OTHER WORKBOOK UNITS:

128482 THE MATHS OF
PHOTOGRAPHY

128481 NARRATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY

Deluxe Add-on Option

120002 CYANOTYPE PRINTING

CYANOTYPE
ART KIT



Cyanotype is one of those crafts that feels like science and magic at the same time — and it fits this box perfectly because it's literally making pictures using light. It supports experimentation (try it, change it, try again), patience and process, creating art that looks genuinely "wow", and storytelling through silhouettes and shapes (what does this picture remind you of?) It's a beautiful add-on if your child loves art that feels a bit different.