

THE CRAFTY HEDGEHOG

VOL. 12



WWW.LITTLECRAFTERSBOXES.CO.UK



1 OCTOBER 2026

THE SCARILY CUTE COSTUME CONTEST

Something spooky has been happening in the Crafty Hedgehog community, our pets have been getting ready for Halloween too because why should Halloween be only for human monsters?

We asked you to dress up your beloved pets in Halloween outfits, and you absolutely smashed it! We've seen homemade costumes, clever craft creations, and even some brilliantly bonkers AI-made pictures and every single one made us laugh, gasp, and go AWWW! all at the same time. Honestly, the creativity has been off the charts. Our community is amazing at getting involved, and this month proved it in the spookiest, silliest way possible.

Let's talk about some of the stars of the show. First, we have to mention the legendary Zom-bee guinea pig - a tiny hero who looked ready to shuffle into a haunted honeycomb. Then there was the pirate tortoise, who somehow managed to look both slow and swashbuckling at the same time.

And can we please take a moment for the Grim Tweeker budgie? A feathery little fright-factory. You've also shown us your vampire cats and dogs with dramatic spooky vibes and excellent imaginary capes. Some of them looked like they were about to fly off into the night or at least sneak into the kitchen for a midnight biscuit.

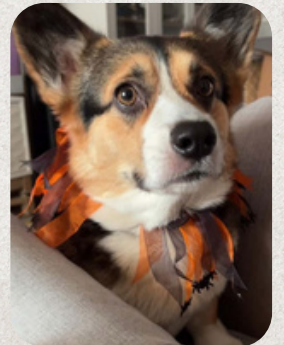
Here's a Halloween mystery for you: why is it that animals in pumpkin outfits are so cute? It makes no sense. Pumpkins are supposed to be spooky. But put a pet in a pumpkin costume and suddenly it's like your heart has turned into a marshmallow. Maybe it's because pets are already adorable, and Halloween costumes are already fun, and when you put them together you get a super-powerful combo: adorable spookiness!

Halloween is all about trick or treat! and we're pretty sure every pet who took part deserves a treat for their efforts. No tricks here, just snacks, cuddles, and maybe an extra squeaky toy for bravery.

Thank you to everyone who entered. You've made this competition a total scream (the fun kind, not the 'I saw a spider' kind). We can't wait to see what you'll wear when it's your turn and to hear all the different ways you enjoy your Halloween fun! Turn the page to see even more spooky and spectacular entries, and of course, find out who the winner is!



The Paw Witch by Harper.



Emma's dogs have well and truly got into the Halloween spirit – boo!



Celia's guinea pig as Baroness Von Web and Bez the Zom-bee!



Lunavamp by Pheobe.



Bradley's guinea pigs at their Halloween party!



The Grim Tweeker aka Raisin.

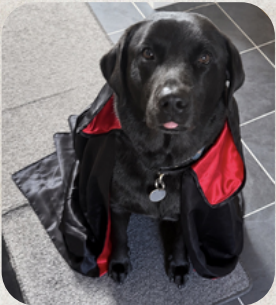


Leo's tortoise - Ahoy there! Tis Captain Shelly, me hearties!

THE SCARILY CUTE COSTUME CONTEST



Dylan's collection of cats: pur-fect posing from left to right we have Lucifer, Gizmo, Cobweb, Luna and Jack.



Zack the vampire dog by Elliott.



Esmée's guinea pigs Mythical Noodles and Cookie Monster.



Seb's cat Marley (aka Marloween!) — and a pigeon... why not!?



Thank you Diane for Count Ruby!



Katy's bunny Snoozy Boo!



Look at Count Chewy -super cute!



Phoebe's Ghost dog is called Neelu which is Hindu for 'A reflection of Blue'.



Sophia's Cat-o-lantern in his pumpkin.



The witches paw-tner in crime, by Jack



Kaitlyn's dog Count Locula.



Amelia's cat is giving top-tier devil vibes!



CONGRATULATIONS ELLIOT AND ROSIE!



EMMA'S HELPDESK: BODY CONFIDENCE: BEING KIND TO YOURSELF



I feel self-conscious about my body or how I look. How can I feel more comfortable in my own skin and what should I do if someone teases me?

I really hear you. It's hard growing up surrounded by images of celebrities who look great, and it can affect the way you view your own body or appearance. I have made a list of things I want you to stick to your mirror.

1. Lots of celebrity photos are airbrushed or filtered or even touched up using AI. This is not what they look like in real life.
2. I want you to celebrate your body and learn to thank it. Thank it for carrying you where you want to go, for letting you ride a bike or swim or climb trees or dance. Thank it for letting you pick up and eat yummy snacks, or sing, or read. It is truly amazing what your body does for you every single day.
3. Every scar, line or mark we have makes us unique and is part of our history. Scars or marks tell a story about our lives and who we are – they give us character and make us interesting.
4. People who tease you are probably insecure themselves and are trying to make you feel the same way they do. If you can learn to love yourself and celebrate your body in the ways I have said, you will find their remarks will not get to you as much. If you feel brave, try being kind to them – they may just need a friend who is as wise as you!

~EMMA OLDERSHAW

THERAPIST, WRITER AND CREATIVE WELLBEING PRACTITIONER
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COCK-A-DOODLE-DO-DO-DO...

If you've been following our LCB chicken saga, you'll know our original chicks have been growing up fast – and with that has come a plot twist we didn't fully plan for: we've discovered we have a few too many roosters.

Now, in a normal household, this might be the moment you say, "Right, time to rehome a few boys." But these roosters have completely wormed their way into our hearts. They've become part of our slightly chaotic, totally lovable LCB family.

So... what did we do about having too many roosters? We did the only sensible thing – we got more chickens, of course! Right now we have two separate flocks, and we have to keep them apart to begin with. Over time, we'll introduce them gradually so everyone can get used to each other safely. Think of it like a very feathery, very dramatic 'getting to know you' process – with lots of side-eye and the occasional 'Who do you think you are?' stare.

We also wanted to share a more tender part of our story. Our smallest chick in the new flock, Basil, became poorly. We brought him in and cared for him as gently as we could, giving him love, warmth, peace, and quiet. Our community was incredible – so many of you offered thoughtful advice and support while we did everything we could to help him.

DYLAN'S FAMOUS PASTA SALAD

INGREDIENTS

- 500g pasta
- 6 salad tomatoes
- 2 yellow peppers
- Spring onions
- Cucumber
- 2 red onions
- French dressing



METHOD

1. Cook the pasta according to pack instructions.
2. While pasta is cooking, dice all of the tomatoes, peppers, cucumber and red onions into small diced pieces.
3. Slice the spring onions.
4. Once cooked, drain the pasta and rinse under cold water to stop it cooking further. It also helps the pasta stay separate.
5. Add all ingredients into a large mixing bowl and add the French dressing, I use 3 bottles in this recipe.
6. Completely combine all the ingredients, ensuring the pasta is fully covered.
7. Serve and enjoy.

This is a versatile recipe and you can add anything you want to it. A highly requested addition is chicken and bacon pieces.



Sadly, Basil passed away overnight.

We are all very sad. At the same time, we feel grateful that we were able to care for him in a calm, loving way right to the end. Basil will always be remembered.

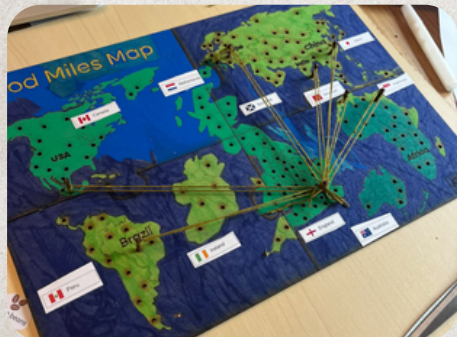
This has also been a gentle reminder of something important: pets and animals can help us experience grief, and they can teach us how to care – even when the outcome isn't what we hoped for.

We're going to keep moving forward, and we're looking forward to integrating our flocks very soon. We'll share another update once the 'chicken introductions' are underway – wish us luck!

READ ALL ABOUT IT! SOME SPECIAL SHOUT OUTS



Some pages are made for BIG cheers and this is one of them! Our Crafty Hedgehog community has been busy creating, building, colouring, and sharing the kind of projects that make us grin from ear to ear. Here are a few special shout-outs we just had to celebrate.



A huge shout-out to Rheyndhardt, who spent an impressive six hours colouring his World Air Miles Map. We think he's done an outstanding job, and it's not just stunning to look at, it's also super smart! His map is a brilliant visual way to explain the journeys some food takes before it reaches our plates. It's definitely food for thought and a reminder that learning can be creative and colourful!



And a big, bright shout-out to Sophia – your photos always brighten our day! You have shown an amazing attitude by completing so many projects, and it's been brilliant to see how much effort and care you put into each one. We've loved your creative storytelling crafts and the way you share your creations with such joy – and we can't wait to see what you do next!



Finally, a massive thank you to everyone who has helped us slip into a cosy autumn mood by sharing your Hygge crafts. You've filled our community with warm, calm, snuggly vibes and it's been lovely seeing all the ways you create comfort through crafting.



Next up: Jacob (cue dramatic music!) has created a book nook that is seriously immersive. With lights, interesting textures, and even movement, his build brings his story to life in the most exciting way. And the title? Rescue the Space Duck!



AN EXPLORER'S MONTH OF WONDER

This September, something seriously exciting has been happening in our community: we've been pausing long enough to truly notice the incredible planet we call home. Earth Systems is like becoming an explorer without needing a jungle hat or a ship (although we wouldn't say no). It's about looking at ordinary things – the sky, a puddle, a gust of wind – and realising they're part of a much bigger story. Have you joined the Earth Explorer adventure yet?

Because Earth Systems is basically the greatest adventure story ever – and you're standing right in the middle of it. The mist on a cold morning, the clouds drifting overhead, the puddles that disappear... they're all part of the water cycle, going round again and again in a journey that never ends. Cool fact: the water you drink today could even be the same water that dinosaurs drank millions of years ago, just recycled through the planet over and over.

And while you're watching the sky, the ground beneath you has its own secrets. Have you explored what's under your feet yet? The Earth isn't one solid chunk – it has layers, like a giant planet cake: crust, mantle, and core. The core is unbelievably hot – hot enough to melt metals – even though we're up here wearing jumpers and complaining about chilly toes.

Now add in the Earth's dramatic side. Have you discovered why earthquakes happen, or why volcanoes erupt? It's because the Earth's surface is made of tectonic plates that move super slowly (about as fast as your fingernails grow). When plates push, pull, or slide, the planet can wobble, shake, and sometimes even boom. Quick question: do you know the difference between magma and lava?

Can we just say it: how can learning be this fun?! Earth science has turned into pop-up cards, LEGO builds, and hands-on makes that feel like play... but your brain is secretly learning the whole time. We've seen pop-up Earth layer cards, brightly coloured playdough stacked into crust, mantle and core, and even volcanoes made out of a waffle. We've had experiments with ice that make you stop and think about change and temperature, plus those magical moments where you grow crystals and suddenly feel like you've unlocked a science superpower.



HOT CHOCOLATE: HOW DO YOU LIKE YOURS?

Can you remember where you were when you had your yummiest hot chocolate ever? Maybe it was on a rainy day after a big walk, curled up on the sofa in your cosiest socks... or as a special treat on a day out or on holiday. This month, we've been feeling extra inspired by our Hot Chocolate Station for Hygge – a cosy little corner that says, slow down, warm up, and enjoy the moment.



Do you like your hot chocolate classic and chocolatey – warm milk, a good scoop of cocoa, and a mug you can wrap both hands around? Or are you a toppings champion? Maybe you're Team whipped cream (a fluffy cloud on top), Team marshmallows (melty, bouncy bits), Team chocolate or caramel drizzle (serious business), or Team sprinkles (because why not!). And if you're feeling extra adventurous, you could try a tiny pinch of cinnamon, a drop of vanilla, or even a few mini chocolate chips that sink down and turn into surprise treasure at the bottom of the mug. Are you a biscuit-dunker? (Quick dip only no soggy disasters!) Or do you sip slowly and save snacks for the end?

Well, we asked these very questions to the Little Crafters Boxes team (and a few LCB friends too) and here is what they had to say!



My favourite hot chocolate is the one I've made from scratch (proper melted chocolate and all) – and Eric always brings me my cup like a very important hot-chocolate delivery hero. Radha (LCB)



Mexican style hot chocolate – disc chocolate from Mexico cooked on the stove with a molinillo (wooden whisk), with added chili pepper and cinnamon! It's spicy and warm. Elisabeth (LCB)



My favourite hot choccy is the one that matches my mood – different mug, different vibe, same cosy chocolatey happiness. With a hot chocolate in hand, I am ready for any design and make mission! Shelley (LCB)



My perfect Hot chocolate has all the things! Whipped cream, little marshmallows, bring it on! Charlie (LCB)



My perfect hot chocolate is flavoured with salt and caramel! My favourite flavours! And maybe some marshmallows added on top. Meghan (LCB)



I like to have outdoor hot chocolate made with whole milk, especially after a brisk walk with my dog! Kirsty (AQA)



My perfect hot chocolate is cosy, chocolatey and very sweet. The perfect excuse for a little break! Cordelia (Children's University)



My perfect hot chocolate is a steaming mug of creamy, chocolatey goodness, topped with whipped cream and a sprinkle of chocolate, the perfect cosy treat to warm you up outdoors! Sonjia (Children's University)

WHAT'S COMING NEXT MONTH?

CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING

Budding Crafters

124348 DT
STRUCTURES:
CONSTRUCTION



WRECKING BALL

NEW UNIT:
SENSORY ART:
MATERIALS



BRICK MAKING

128709 LIFE
MATHS: SPACE,
SHAPE AND
MEASUREMENT
(UNIT 4)



HYDRAULIC LIFT

Standard Crafters

NEW UNIT: PHYSICS:
GRAVITATIONAL
FORCES



MATERIAL
MOVER

126664 CONSTRUCTION
(UNIT 1)

127765 BUILDING
MODELS USING
INSTRUCTIONS (UNIT 1)



FORKLIFT

128454 DEVELOPING
NUMBER, TIME AND
MEASURE SKILLS



KEYRINGS

Skilled Crafters

NEW UNIT: THE PHYSICS OF
AN HYDRAULIC EXCAVATOR

128017 DEVELOPING STEM
EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS
THROUGH STRUCTURED LEGO
TEAMWORK



TRUCK

125801 DEVELOPING
FUNCTIONAL SKILLS IN THE
CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

**Deluxe
Add-on Option**

NEW UNIT: ENGINEERING
WORKSHOP DESIGN

DESIGN A WORKSHOP



**Little
Crafters
Boxes**

CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP: MONTH TWO!



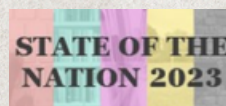
Now that we're in our second month partnering with Children's University, we'd love to know – have you had a chance to get stuck in yet? Our Get Featured activities are being shared through Children's University again this month, which means you can still share your brilliant creations in the Crafty Hedgehog (we love celebrating your ideas), and you can also earn Children's University stamps for taking part. It's a lovely way to turn your crafting, exploring, and learning at home into something you can collect and feel proud of.

This month's activity ideas:

- Become a Footprint Detective!** Explore the world around you by looking for footprints. Head outside and see how many different footprints you can spot, from people and pets to birds and other animals. Draw or photograph the footprints you find and see if you can work out who made each one!
- Design the Perfect Shoe!** Can you design a shoe that can handle different environments? Draw your design, you could even build it with cardboard, paper, recycled materials or anything you have at home to create a model shoe. Think about where your shoe might be used, in the mud, on ice, in the rain or on rocky ground. Test your design and see how well it works!
- Measure the World with Your Feet!** You don't always need a ruler to measure things! Choose a room, garden or outdoor space and measure it using your feet. How many footsteps long is it? Try measuring the same distance with someone else. Do you get the same answer? Find out why your measurements might be different!
- Where Will Your Feet Take You?** Your feet can take you to some amazing places! Why not use them to explore a Children's University validated Learning Destination? Visit somewhere new, discover something interesting and earn stamps along the way. Head to www.childrensuniversity.co.uk to find out where your feet can take you next!



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



WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH?

THE TOE-TALLY AWESOME BOX

Budding Crafters

71478 TEXTILES:
SOCK PUPPET

SOCK PUPPET



We chose the sock puppet craft because it makes sense to bring in the thing cold feet love most: socks! Turning a sock into a character is instant storytelling magic, and it helps children build confidence as they invent voices, personalities, and mini shows to share. It's imaginative play at its best, with sneaky language skills woven in too — describing, sequencing, dialogue, and new vocabulary — without it ever feeling like “work”. Plus, it's wonderfully silly (in the best way), and a great reminder that learning can start with something as everyday as what you wear on your feet.

TOE PRINT
IDENTITY

BIG FOOT



While the sticking and stuffing feels like pure fun, it's also a brilliant way to explore toe print patterns and discover that every single person's toe prints are unique. Adding their own toe prints to the plush turns it into a one-of-a-kind “science specimen” that's personal, a bit silly, and genuinely memorable. It's also great for sensory play (squishy plush + inky prints), body awareness (toes, feet, and movement), and plenty of giggles during those inevitable “look how big mine is!” comparisons.

HUMAN ANATOMY:
THE FOOT

BONES OF THE
FOOT PUZZLE



The foot puzzle provides a fun, tactile introduction to what's actually going on inside our feet. It helps children learn the names of the bones that support us every day — in a way that feels like a fun, achievable challenge. We've also included the scientific names, because they can be really helpful to know when learning about and understanding our bodies (and they make you sound like an impressive mini doctor, too).

Standard Crafters

TOE PRINT FAMILY
TREE

TOE PRINT FAMILY
TREE



We chose the Toeprint Family Tree craft because it's a lovely mix of science, creativity, and “this is so us” personal meaning. Using toeprints to represent different family members helps children notice patterns, compare shapes and swirls, and remember that every toeprint is unique — just like every person in their family. It also opens up gentle conversations about identity and belonging: who's in your family, what makes you you, and how we're connected. Best of all, it's a calm, mindful craft that results in a beautiful keepsake you'll actually want to keep, frame, and look back on with a smile.

MAKING A PAIR
OF SLIPPERS

DIY SLIPPERS



Creating something you can actually put on and walk around in builds real independence: measuring, following steps, and problem-solving as you go. It's also a brilliant confidence boost, because the result feels “proper” and grown-up in the best way. Children get that proud moment of thinking, “Wait... I made this with my own hands,” and then they get to feel it every time they slip them on. Expect lots of showing off, lots of comfy feet, and lots of “I'm wearing mine!” announcements.

MEASURING FEET
AND SHOE SIZES

FOOT GAUGE



A real tool that feels like a gadget. Children get to measure, compare, and record results, then use a bit of design thinking to make sure their foot tool works properly (and tweak it if it doesn't). It's the kind of learning that happens naturally: noticing differences, checking accuracy, and solving little problems as they go. It's brilliant for confidence with numbers, and any child who loves practical challenges, clever inventions, and the satisfying feeling of saying, “Look — I made a tool that works!”

OTHER WORKBOOK UNIT:
114096 PERSONAL HYGIENE AWARENESS

Skilled Crafters

MAKING A
PROSTHETIC FOOT

3D FOOT MODEL



We chose the 3D Foot Model as our Skilled Craft because it's a ‘proper build’ — the kind that takes time, focus, and a bit of determination, and feels so satisfying when it all comes together. It's brilliant for older children who enjoy engineering-style makes, where you're building in layers, checking alignment, and figuring out how different parts fit and move. There's lots of problem solving along the way (the good kind!), plus that proud moment when you step back and realise you've created something sturdy, detailed, and genuinely display-worthy.

OTHER WORKBOOK UNITS:

MEASUREMENT: IMPERIAL FEET TO
METRIC SI

78969 DRAWING HUMAN HEADS,
HANDS AND FEET

Deluxe Add-on Option

UNDERSTANDING
FEET AND THEIR
SMELLS

FOOT CARE KIT



The Foot Care Kit is a brilliant way to slow down and practise simple self-care using nature's ingredients. There's something so calming about taking a few quiet minutes to relax, breathe in those fresh, lovely scents, and enjoy textures that feel soothing and gentle. It helps children build healthy routines and independence skills — learning how to look after their bodies, follow steps, and notice how small habits can make you feel better. It's practical, it's mindful, and it leaves you feeling clean, cosy, and genuinely refreshed... like you've given your feet a mini spa moment at home.