

A NEW DIRECTION

for
**Primary
Arts**

Performances, learning
resources, inspiration and
wellbeing for pupils and
staff in London's primary
schools and SEND settings.

2025 / 26



Explore

Welcome

We are delighted to launch the second year of **A New Direction's Primary Arts** programme, offering **free, high quality, inspiring arts, cultural and creative opportunities in and out of school for children and staff** in London's state primary schools and primary SEND settings.

The entire Primary Arts programme is offered free of charge to schools, helping to unlock the creative potential, cultural capital and skills of school staff and children. The programme offers opportunities to support curriculum development, wellbeing, confidence, personal interest, and professional development in a time of increasing pressures on schools and their staff. It is designed with access and inclusion at its heart, and we hope that all primary settings will find something of interest to them and their pupils.

Booking for Primary Arts opens on Wednesday 10 September. The programme has five strands, four of which are included in this brochure, and the activity begins from November 2025. The fifth is the Cultural Education Leadership Programme, a year-long programme for teachers delivered in partnership with the Centre for Educational Leadership at UCL Institute of Education. This will reopen for applications in April 2026.

The **In-Schools Touring Programme** offers **performances and workshops for pupils at school**, with accompanying teacher CPD and classroom resources, including books and creative materials. **Go & See** gives **free access to cultural experiences in venues across London** for pupils in winter 2025 and summer 2026. Our **Masterclasses** on creative approaches to reader development for teachers are delivered in partnership with the **Centre for Literacy in Primary Education**, and our hands-on twilight **Come & Try workshops** with the **Crafts Council** explore a variety of craft disciplines and are suitable for all school staff. These activities reflect the breadth and quality of London's incredible cultural offering, and we would like to thank all the cultural organisations who are partnering with us on project delivery.

Primary Arts is generously supported by The City of London Corporation City Educational Trust Fund (29084), a City of London Corporation charity, and we are incredibly grateful for their continued support at a time of significant pressure on the education and cultural sectors in London.

Primary Arts was created in response to the release in March 2023 of [the Gulbenkian report The Arts in Schools – Foundations for the Future](#), a reflective piece that articulates the various barriers that have discouraged and disallowed cultural education and arts in schools to thrive. We hope that this three-year programme will be one of many that start to address the findings of this report. We are very excited by this opportunity to create new cultural and creative opportunities for primary school children and staff across London, and we hope you can join us.



Steve Moffitt, MBE
Chief Executive Officer, A New Direction

About the Programme

A New Direction's **Primary Arts** programme aims to increase access to high quality, inspiring arts, cultural and creative opportunities for children and staff in London's state primary schools and primary SEND settings.

Delivered in partnership with a range of cultural organisations, this menu of **free opportunities for schools** aims to unlock the creative potential, cultural capital and skills of school staff and children, offering opportunities to support curriculum development, wellbeing, confidence, personal interest and development. If your school is on its [Artsmark](#) journey, the programme may also help support your Artsmark aims.

In this brochure, you can find information about the following strands of the programme:

IN-SCHOOLS TOURING: a choice of ten arts performances and in-class workshops for your pupils, plus teacher CPD, a curated box of reading books and a selection of creative materials and resources.

GO & SEE: tickets for your pupils to experience theatre, film, museums, heritage and the visual arts.

MASTERCLASSES: CPD days exploring a range of creative approaches to literacy and reader development for teachers.

COME & TRY: a series of creative practical twilights for all school staff.

Bookings

Each section of the brochure includes information about how to book or express your interest. All bookings are managed through [our online booking platform](#).

Each person booking to attend a Masterclass or Come & Try event must register themselves on the booking platform under their school profile. **Places cannot be booked on the behalf of others.** For the In-Schools Touring programme and Go & See, you will need to specify a lead teacher to liaise with us.

The entirety of the programme is offered free of charge, though charges may be made for late cancellations or no-shows.

Who can take part?

Primary Arts is open to **all state primary mainstream and special schools in London**. The programme is designed to include children in all primary year groups from Reception to Year 6.

Your school **must be in a London borough** to be eligible for the programme.

Schools and individuals can take part in more than one strand of the programme (but only one touring booking can be made per school per year).

Go & See is available to all eligible schools, but ticket numbers are limited.

Masterclasses are open to **qualified teachers** currently working at any level in eligible schools.

Come & Try twilights are open to any member of staff currently working in eligible schools, including teachers, Teaching Assistants, support staff, and admin staff.

An access budget is available to support engagement in this programme, for example for transport, BSL interpretation or other costs.

For the In-Schools Touring Programme and Go & See, if we receive more booking requests than we can accept onto the programme, schools will be selected based on a range of criteria including level of need, geography, previous engagement in Primary Arts and the capacity of the programme itself. The Masterclasses and Come & Try programmes are offered on a first come, first served basis and we will open waiting lists for fully-booked sessions.

If you have any questions about the programme, please see our [FAQs](#). If these don't answer your questions, email us at schools@anewdirection.org.uk

Inclusion

This section provides inclusion information for SEND settings and for mainstream settings with large numbers of pupils with additional needs.

We aim for the full programme to be accessible to and supportive of Deaf, disabled and neurodiverse people, whether they are pupils or adults.

A New Direction believes in the talents and potential of all children and young people. We challenge the structural and systemic inequalities that influence children and young people's lives and opportunities and prioritise those that experience these. Our [I Am Network](#) for educators working with Deaf, disabled and neurodivergent children and young people in London's schools and specialist settings has been running for over 10 years, and our [I Am Festival](#) for Deaf, disabled and neurodiverse children and young people celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2025.

Our experience of delivering these programmes informs the design and delivery of Primary Arts. Our partners include disability-led organisations and practitioners with lived experience. We also consult with SEND professionals, and we strive to ensure that the full programme is accessible to all.

Inclusion focus:

- We only work with organisations whose values and approaches around inclusion are aligned with our own.
- We work with a schools advisory group to ensure that we listen to what schools need. This group includes staff from SEND settings and SENDCos from mainstream primaries.
- We include access and inclusion information throughout this brochure to help schools find the offer that is right for them and their pupils.
- An access budget is available to support schools working with pupils with SEND to engage in the programme – for example, to support with the cost of minibus hire for trips or to bring additional support staff.
- All out-of-school activity for staff and pupils is delivered in accessible venues.
- The access budget can also be used to support staff participation in CPD.

All five strands of Primary Arts are designed to work for mainstream and SEND settings.

For Pupils

The **IN-SCHOOLS TOURING PROGRAMME** brings a cultural organisation into your school to deliver a show and workshops for one year group of children. We also offer twilight staff CPD in school beforehand, and provide high quality materials, books and resources.

Programme adjustments

- For SEND settings with small class sizes, we may be able to offer the show and workshops to more than one year group.
- Shows and workshops can be adjusted to meet pupil needs (e.g. shorter, quieter, simpler, more sensory).
- Organisations bring an access and sensory toolkit with them, including fidget toys and ear defenders for pupils who might need them.
- Organisations are supported to co-plan with all schools before delivery takes place, so that they have a good understanding of your pupils and their needs.

Inclusion



Our approach

- We discuss organisations' values and approaches around inclusion as part of our selection process each year to ensure they align with our own.
- Organisations working with us are supported by an Access & Inclusion Adviser to ensure their offer works for SEND settings.
- Everyone coming into schools attends an onboarding session that includes a focus on access and inclusion.
- Our Access & Inclusion Adviser will support in-school delivery if needed.

The **GO & SEE** programme offers schools free trips to a range of cultural venues. Schools can book for a year group but can also choose to work with a smaller group if they prefer. The programme is delivered in two seasons, winter (December) and summer (June/July).

Programme adjustments

- For SEND settings with small class sizes, we may be able to offer the trip to more than one year group.
- Many partner venues offer specific sessions or relaxed performances for SEND settings. These are clearly flagged in the programme brochure.
- Our access budget is available to SEND settings to support additional costs such as travel or additional support staff.

For staff

The three programme strands aimed at school staff are designed to support professionals working in any primary setting. All sessions are delivered in accessible venues, and we have an access budget available to support participants if needed.

The **Cultural Education Leadership Programme** focusses on teachers developing leadership skills in any type of setting. Each participant completes a Leadership for Change research project, choosing their own area of focus to support their own learning and development and that of their pupils.

Our **MASTERCLASSES** focus on creative approaches to reader development at all levels and in all settings.

Our **COME & TRY** sessions are mainly focused on staff wellbeing. They also provide a range of practical craft approaches that can be used in the classroom.

Where relevant, we have used the following symbol to identify information that SEND settings may find useful throughout the brochure:



If you have any questions about access and inclusion in the Primary Arts programme, please email us at schools@anewdirection.org.uk.

Programme mapping

How could Primary Arts work for you and your school?

The grids below are designed to help you find the offers that best meet your needs and those of your pupils. You can navigate the programme by type of offer, Key Stage suitability, or by art form, curriculum focus or school priorities.

for you and your school?					
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Type of offer	School trips	In-school activity	CPD for teachers	Wellbeing for all school staff	
Pupil offers by Key Stage	EYFS	KS1	KS2	Lower KS2 only	Upper KS2 only
SEND					
Arvon: Creative Writing Day					
Clowns Without Borders: Piranhas and Bananas					
Discover Children’s Story Centre: Story Suitcase					
Emergency Exit Arts: The Curiosity Chest					
Groundswell Arts: The Light Box					
LAS theatre: The Littlest Yak					
London Mozart Players: LMP Inspire					
Mbilla Arts: Routes to Rhythm					
The Poetry Society: Poetry Jam Jar					
SLIDE: Jack & Friends					
BFI// Into Film					
Frameless: Immersive Art Experience					
Half Moon Theatre: Rapunzel					
Hampton Court Palace: The King’s Kitchens					
Kensington Palace: A Palace Princess					
Kensington Palace: The Changing Power of Kings and Queens					
Tower of London: Colonel Blood and the Crown Jewels					
Tower of London: Stories from the Tower					
Little Angel Theatre: Toto the Ninja Cat and the Great Snake Escape					
Polka Theatre: Arthur					
The Postal Museum: The Jolly Postman Show Day					
Royal Academy: Young Artists’ Summer Show 2026					
Masterclass 1: Building ‘Reading for Pleasure’ Schools					
Masterclass 2: Planning Creatively Around Quality Texts					
Masterclass 3: Transforming Literacy Through Storytelling					
Masterclass 4: Transforming Literacy Through Picture Books					
Masterclass 5: Transforming Literacy Through Poetry					
Masterclass 6: Transforming Literacy Through Classroom Drama					
Come & Try: Surface Values					
Come & Try: Quilting and Patchwork for Social Justice					
Come & Try: Working with Wax					
Come & Try: Introduction to Coiled Basket Weaving					
Come & Try: Nature’s Palette: Dye, Paint, Twist, Create					
Come & Try: Make New Forms with Metal					

Programme mapping

How could Primary Arts work for you and your school?

		Arts																				Curriculum								School priorities				
		Artforms																																
		Art	Craft	Dance	Drama / Theatre	Music	Spoken Word / Storytelling	Film	English	Geography	History	PE	Poetry	PSHE	Science	Speaking & Listening / Oracy	Writing	Pupil Wellbeing	British Values	Growth Mindset	Healthy Lifestyle	Pupil Voice	Resilience											
			</																															

The background is a solid orange color. Scattered across the page are numerous yellow, pill-shaped ovals of varying sizes and orientations. Some are clustered together, while others are isolated. They are primarily located in the top-left and bottom-right corners, with a few scattered in the middle-right area.

IN-SCHOOLS TOURING

In-Schools Touring

The Primary Arts In-Schools Touring programme brings high quality arts experiences into your school through performances and workshops for pupils, supported by teacher CPD and a range of additional resources.

Ten organisations are working with us to deliver the programme; their offers are outlined on the pages that follow. Activity in schools will take place in Spring 2 (February/March) 2026.

Participating schools receive:

- A **performance** (or experience) lasting around 1 hour, for all classes in **one year group**.
- An **in-class workshop** lasting 45 minutes to 1 hour, for each class in the same year group, that further explores the artform, themes and curriculum areas linked to the performance.
- A teacher **twilight CPD session** lasting 1 to 1.5 hours, held in your school during the four weeks prior to the performance. This will support preparation, whole-school engagement, and teacher and pupil learning.
- A range of **resources** to support communication and learning about the performance, including information for pupils, staff and families, and classroom activities.
- A **box of creative materials** worth around £250 to support creative classroom activities.
- **Booklists** linked to the programme, curated by the Centre for Literacy in Primary Education.
- A **set of books** worth around £150 to support reading for pleasure linked to the programme.

Access & Inclusion

Each offer is suitable for at least one Key Stage and can be adapted to work for pupils with additional needs whether in mainstream or SEND settings. Where needed, we will liaise with your school to ensure that the programme is inclusive for all your participating pupils.

Inclusion adaptations for each offer are flagged using this symbol:



If you need more information about inclusion, please contact us by emailing schools@anewdirection.org.uk.

Eligibility

Primary Arts is open to **all state primary mainstream and special schools in London**. The programme is designed to include children in all primary year groups from Reception to Year 6. Your school **must be in a London borough** to be eligible for the programme.

If your school or a member of your school staff is participating in another area of the Primary Arts programme, you are still eligible to make a booking request for this strand of the programme.

How to Make a Booking Request

Only one In-Schools Touring booking will be considered per school per year.

There are places available for 100 schools on the In-Schools Touring programme this year. We will prioritise schools that have not previously benefitted from this programme strand. If you participated in the In-Schools Touring programme in 2023/24 or 2024/25, you may not be allocated a place on the programme this year. However, you are still welcome to submit a booking request.

Please read the offer descriptions carefully on the pages that follow, consider your school's needs and interests, and identify your first and second choice of offer. Each description includes year group suitability and inclusion information. Please ensure the offer you are interested in is suitable for the year group you would like to take part.

When you are ready to make a booking request, please log in to the [booking platform](#), select In-Schools Touring, and complete the booking request form. **All booking requests must be submitted by 5pm on Friday 3 October 2025.**

The form asks for practical information as well as date availability and should take around 10 to 15 minutes to complete. Once you have submitted the booking request form, we will contact you by **Wednesday 15 October 2025** to let you know whether we are able to offer your school a place on the programme, and move to your booking forward, where relevant.

Please note that while the In-Schools Touring programme is free of charge to schools, **we may charge a fee of up to £1,000 for cancellations with less than three weeks' notice** (excluding school holidays).

If you have any questions about Primary Arts In-Schools Touring, please email schools@anewdirection.org.uk using 'Primary Arts: In-Schools Touring' in the subject line.

Arvon: Creative Writing Day

Fun and inspiring creative writing workshops led by professional writers, suitable for all abilities.



Arvon

Arvon is the UK's Home of Creative Writing, offering inspiring residential courses and workshops for schools. Since 1968, we've helped young people find their voice through writing. Authors like Emma Carroll and Lemn Sissay began their journeys with Arvon. Give your pupils the chance to discover their creative spark.

Arvon: Creative Writing Day

Key Stages:

Key Stage 2, SEND


Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

English, particularly writing and speaking, wellbeing, developing a growth mindset, enrichment activities, raising attainment in speaking and listening.

About the show

Arvon is all about encouraging people to see themselves as writers. We believe writing creatively supports children to grow in confidence, improve writing skills and boost wellbeing.

Your school will be partnered with professional writers for the day, who will perform their own work and support pupils to develop and perform theirs. The show will inspire pupils by lifting their written words off the page and bringing the year group together to celebrate their writing. It will take place after pupil workshops, bringing all pupils together for a final celebration, with spoken word performances from the professional writers followed by pupils taking to the stage to share their written pieces authored in the classroom workshops.

 45 minutes

Show SEND adaptations:

Shorter performance, adapted to any sensory needs (e.g. quieter).

About the pupil workshops:

Professional writers will lead creative writing workshops with the chosen classes. Workshops will offer the chance for your pupils to try their hand at prose writing and poetry, with the writers ensuring that there are multiple points of entry for pupils of all abilities.

 1 hour

Workshop SEND adaptations:

Co-planning with teachers to adapt approach. Adjustments to reduce writing (e.g. drawing, spoken word).

Teacher Twilight CPD:

Working with experienced creative writing facilitators, teachers will gain insight into teaching creative writing outside of the restrictions of the curriculum, coming away with useful tips and resources for encouraging creativity in their pupils.

 1 hour

 4 to 20



Book now

To submit a booking request for Creative Writing Day, please use the [Primary Arts booking platform](#)

Clowns Without Borders: Piranhas and Bananas

Creative expression for every child through imagination, play, and the power of their own voice.



Photo credit: Andy Paradise



Clowns Without Borders

Clowns Without Borders champions every child's right to creative expression, using the transformative power of the arts to help them heal, learn and thrive. Over the past decade, we've brought joy and laughter to over 100,000 children across 22 countries.

Clowns Without Borders: Piranhas and Bananas

Key Stages:


Reception, Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2, SEND

Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:


PSHE, British values, creativity, wellbeing, healthy lifestyles, environment, developing a growth mindset, pupil voice.

About the show

Piranhas and Bananas is a joyful interactive show which was developed with Rohingya children in Bangladesh in 2019. It's filled with playful storytelling, physical comedy, silly walks, and even sillier noises. Flip Flop is working at Flannagan's Fish Sanctuary. She has great ideas for the vegetarian piranhas, but no one listens. Flip Flop enlists the help of her friends in the audience, proving that even unexpected heroes can make a big difference!

 50 minutes

Show SEND adaptations:

 Shortened and delivered with little to no spoken language. Scripts can be provided in advance to help children and educators.


About the pupil workshops:

Flip Flop is inspired by the imaginative ideas of children. They really helped her out of some tight spots! She believes the world would be better if children were listened to more.

This lively workshop immerses children in playful storytelling and physical comedy, encouraging them to recreate moments from Flip Flop's adventure. It explores who gets to make decisions, what it feels like to be listened to, and how we can listen to one another to help all voices be heard. We'll finish by showcasing the children's ideas on how their voices can be better included in school.

 1 hour

Workshop SEND adaptations:

 Shortening the duration and limiting group sizes to just a few participants.

Teacher Twilight CPD:

Express Your Selfie: This practical CPD guides teachers through creative exercises to boost pupil voice in and out of the classroom. Based on our work with children and insights from our board (ages 6-11), it focuses on engaging children to creatively share their thoughts, challenges, ideas, solutions, and aspirations.

Working with games, stories and movement, teachers will gain a deeper understanding of how to create more meaningful and engaging pupil voice experiences for the children and themselves.

 1 hour

 6 to 20



Book now

To submit a booking request for Piranhas and Bananas, please use the [Primary Arts booking platform](#)

Discover Children's Story Centre: Story Suitcase

Bringing multi-sensory storytelling magic into your classroom to support your pupils' literacy and oracy.



Discover
Children's Story Centre

Discover Children's Story Centre

Based in Newham, Discover is the UK's first Story Centre for children aged 0-11 and their families. Working with families, schools and community organisations, we support children's education, skill development and emotional wellbeing through stories and literature.

Discover Children's Story Centre: Story Suitcase

Key Stages:


Reception, Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2, SEND

Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

Literacy, oracy, PSHE.

About the show

Unfold an interactive storytelling performance in the classroom from a magical Story Suitcase, full of props and sensory items. Guided by one of Discover's expert Story Builders, pupils will be invited to explore a story inspired by much-loved fairy tales. Using multi-sensory elements such as props, music and movement, the session is designed to spark imaginations, encourage participation, and develop an understanding of story structures and building blocks like syntax and vocabulary.

 30 to 45 mins

Show SEND adaptations:

Use of sensory resources, varied session lengths, removal of elements that could cause sensory discomfort such as music or noise making props.

About the pupil workshops:

In the workshop, pupils 'build' their own story, gaining inspiration for their creativity through props and other sensory prompts. The class will be supported to work collaboratively, sharing ideas and listening to others to support speaking and listening development. With an interactive, inclusive approach to literacy, the aim is to improve pupils' understanding of core literacy curriculum elements such as composition, vocabulary, and grammar while inspiring their passion for stories, reading and creative writing.

 1 hour

Workshop SEND adaptations:

Use of sensory items for tactile engagement. Inclusive approaches to literacy teaching that don't rely on reading comprehension and writing ability.

Teacher Twilight CPD:

Through interactive demonstrations and hands-on activities, teachers will explore how to use Discover's inclusive, dynamic approach to teaching literacy, using sensory props, story bags, and structured questioning to bring stories to life. We will guide teachers through a collaborative story-building exercise and support them to extend storytelling into cross-curricular learning, incorporating drama, movement, and discussion.

We will provide teachers with:

- A structured approach to creative storytelling that supports literacy development.
- A practical toolkit to engage pupils of all abilities, including those with SEND and EAL needs.
- Strategies to foster creativity, critical thinking, and communication skills in the classroom.

 1 hour

 3 to 30



Book now

To submit a booking request for Story Suitcase, please use the [Primary Arts booking platform](#)

Emergency Exit Arts: The Curiosity Chest

A creative learning experience
of curiosity, storytelling and
discovery, building confident
voices through oracy.



Emergency Exit Arts

Emergency Exit Arts (EEA) creates bold, transformative outdoor arts and school-based projects that spark curiosity, confidence and creativity. We bring accessible culture to communities and children, empowering them as participants and creators. Through shared artistic experiences, we challenge the ordinary and enrich lives with imagination, wonder and meaningful expression.

Emergency Exit Arts: The Curiosity Chest

Key Stages:

Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2, SEND

Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

English, writing and speaking, wellbeing, developing a growth mindset, communication in speaking and listening, history and cultural understanding, PSHE, British values, democracy, creativity, pupil voice.

About the show

Unearthed beneath your school, a mysterious chest has reappeared – weathered but intact, and filled with strange artifacts: sharks' teeth, Krobo beads, time-traveling watches and bottled scents from lost worlds.

Believed to be the long-lost Curiosity Chest of 19th century explorer Frances Ann Potts, it arrives with a mission. Her father had urged her to explore the world, to know its people and to take pride in her ancestral roots. Now, your pupils can continue her legacy.

The Curiosity Chest is an immersive storytelling experience. Through live performance and discovery, pupils unlock imagination, become Collectors and celebrate the strange, the beautiful and the extraordinary.

 1 hour

Show SEND adaptations:

Shorter duration for smaller groups, sensory exploration and a calm, supportive atmosphere.

About the pupil workshops:

Following the performance, the adventure continues in the classroom. Led by the Collectors, the workshop invites students to become explorers, historians and storytellers, guiding a new generation in the art of noticing, collecting and wondering. Trained in interpreting oddities and sparking imagination, the Collectors support students in uncovering the chest's secrets through drama, discussion and creative writing. Children investigate artifacts, ask bold questions, and create their own responses, poems, news reports and imaginative tales. This workshop ignites curiosity, celebrates the unusual, and empowers pupils to see the world differently and contribute to Frances Ann's growing legacy as Collectors.

 1 hour

Workshop SEND adaptations:

Shorter session

Teacher Twilight CPD:

The CPD will allow teachers and support staff to explore artifacts, experience the activities their pupils will encounter, and gain practical techniques in drama, storytelling and creative writing. With a focus on inclusive, curiosity-driven learning, the session supports staff in embedding creative literacy across the curriculum for all learners.

 1 hour

 5 to 30



Book now

To submit a booking request for The Curiosity Chest, please use the [Primary Arts booking platform](#)

Groundswell Arts: The Light Box: Sensory Exploration and Light Play

An interactive STEAM project that encourages children to explore light, reflection, colour, and shadow.




Groundswell ARTS
Growing creative communities

Groundswell Arts

Groundswell Arts facilitates creative arts experiences, giving time and space for children, families, artists, and practitioners to connect and see each other in new ways.

Groundswell Arts: The Light Box: Sensory Exploration and Light Play

Key Stages:

Reception, Key Stage 1, SEND

Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

Art & design, light and dark, literacy and storytelling, shapes and patterns.

About the show

The Light Box is a purpose-built sensory installation and open-ended interactive environment that gives pupils the time and space to explore light, colour, shapes and shadows through a multi-sensory series of activities and play. Using the EYFS and Key Stage 1 curriculum, this activity enhances learning through creative play and curiosity.

The Light Box: Sensory Exploration and Light Play installation focuses on zones of activities that use a series of stories as prompts for the environments and work areas created.

Please note that for this show, the installation will need to be set up for the entire day so will require a space that can be used without interruptions.



55 minutes



Show SEND adaptations:

Duration of session can be shortened, number of participants in space reduced.

About the pupil workshops:

The class workshop will look at shadow puppetry and will combine both the science curriculum (Light, Shadows, Colours, Shapes and Patterns) with literacy and storytelling through puppets from existing stories or through a child's own imagination.

The workshop will look at different puppet designs. Pupils can explore how opaque and translucent objects affect the light being seen, as well as how distance and light sources can change the shapes and patterns being projected.



1 hour



Workshop SEND adaptations:

Greater focus on play, use of a variety of sensory shadow puppets.

Teacher Twilight CPD:

The twilight session will complement the shadow puppetry work being done in the classroom and will look at different ways to create shadow puppets using a variety of materials. Puppets will include 2D and split pin shadow puppets, acetate and laminate puppets, and the use of wax paper, crayons and oil to create different effects that can be used in the classroom to create characters and develop stories.



1.5 hours



1 to 20



Book now

To submit a booking request for The Light Box: Sensory Exploration and Light Play, please use the [Primary Arts booking platform](#)

LAStheatre: The Littlest Yak

An adaptation of the award-winning book by Lu Fraser and Kate Hindley, with beautiful puppets, catchy tunes and an uplifting tale of self-acceptance.



LAStheatre

LAStheatre is an award-winning theatre company. We produce exceptional arts projects and theatre productions for, and with, communities across the UK. LAS is a word in the Irish language. It means to turn on or set alight. In all our work, we aim to kindle important conversations and ignite imaginations.

LAStheatre: The Littlest Yak

Key Stages:

Reception, Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2, SEND


Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

Art & design, creativity and learning, PSHE, wellbeing and healthy lifestyles, literacy, English.


About the show

Gertie is great at being THE LITTLEST YAK, with the CURLIEST, WHIRLIEST wool and the GRIPPIEST of hooves for clip-clopping up cliffs. Only, Gertie doesn't want to be the littlest. She's in a rush to grow up and be just like THE BIG YAKS. But what if there are some things that only a GERTIE can do?

LAStheatre bring The Littlest Yak to the stage in spectacular fashion. Join them for a dazzling adventure into the heart of the Himalayas. A gorgeous story celebrating YOU being perfect... just the way you are!

 45 minutes

Show SEND adaptations:


 Shorter, quieter show with additional movement breaks.

About the pupil workshops:

Our workshops focus on using drama games and arts activities to explore the themes of the show and develop confidence, celebrating the things that make each of us unique. Pupils will have an introduction to puppetry and create tabletop puppet characters together.

 1 hour

Workshop SEND adaptations:

 Pupils can respond verbally, by drawing pictures, using communication cards, or by working in partnership with a member of staff.

Teacher Twilight CPD:

In the twilight CPD, we will explore the principles of using play in learning, as well as building on creative skills already familiar to teachers across primary to support different learning outcomes. We will also share flexible and adaptable games that we use in our creative practice and that can be adapted to energise or shake up dull or tricky topics.

This CPD was first developed as part of Creative Connections, a collaboration between LAStheatre and schools across the Isle of Sheppey, delivered in partnership with ICON and The Royal Opera House.

 1 hour

 5 to 15



Book now

To submit a booking request for The Littlest Yak, please use the [Primary Arts booking platform](#)

London Mozart Players: LMP Inspire

Adventure through the orchestra
with a fun interactive musical
experience led by London Mozart
Players musicians.



LMP
ORCHESTRA

London Mozart Players

London Mozart Players is the oldest, freshest and most adventurous chamber orchestra in the UK. Our mission is to create bold, ambitious and accessible musical experiences for all. London Mozart Players works with schools and music hubs to inspire the next generation of musicians and music lovers.

London Mozart Players: LMP Inspire

Key Stages:

Key Stage 2, SEND


Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

Music, wellbeing

About the show

Led by world-class musicians from London Mozart Players, this interactive school performance introduces pupils to the world of orchestral music through live demonstrations of different instruments and engaging performances of classical, folk, and pop music. Live demonstrations are accompanied by spoken explanations to highlight connections across genres and to the National Curriculum.

The performance is designed to be fun, educational, and fully inclusive. The session ends with a Q&A, giving children the chance to reflect and ask questions in a fun, supportive musical environment and deepen their understanding.

 45 minutes




Show SEND adaptations:

Shorter duration, sensory exploration.

About the pupil workshops:

The supporting interactive workshops for KS2 pupils explore how music can be used to express feelings and set scenes.

Pupils are introduced to musical elements such as rhythm, pitch and structure through interactive listening, improvising and composition tasks themed around curriculum topics. LMP players work with the class to write and perform their own short piece of music using body percussion and singing, with the option to incorporate current class topics.

 30–45 minutes




Workshop SEND adaptations:

Sensory exploration, non-verbal options for participation, choice-based involvement, shorter tasks.

Teacher Twilight CPD:

The CPD has been designed in consultation with Music Education Hubs and supports teachers in building pupil confidence and skills in composition. The session offers accessible content adaptable for all experience levels, exploring warm-ups, composition and improvisation using poetry, art, and sensory stimuli. The approach links music with class topics, helping pupils express emotions and scenarios through sound. Teachers will leave equipped to embed music across the curriculum and the ability to facilitate group composing and graphic scores.

 1 to 1.5 hours



5 to 30



Book now

To submit a booking request for LMP Inspire, please use the [Primary Arts booking platform](#)

Mbilla Arts: Routes to Rhythm

An African and Caribbean Music
& Dance Adventure.



Mbilla Arts

Mbilla Arts promotes the music and dance forms of Africa and the diaspora through performance and education programmes. Our experienced artists provide extensive expertise in arts education and performance.

Photo credit: Jessica McDermott

Mbilla Arts: Routes to Rhythm

Key Stages:

Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2, SEND


Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

Music, history, geography, physical education, PSHE.

About the show

Led by master drummers from West Africa and accompanied by high-energy dancers, this performance explores the origins of West African music and dance styles, tracing its journey from the African Continent across the Atlantic to the Caribbean and influencing carnival celebrations in the UK today.

The first segment delves into the roots of West African music, showcasing the powerful beats of the djembe drum. As the performance progresses, the narrative shifts to depict the movement of these musical styles showcasing African People's Dance. The interactive call and response elements keep the young audience engaged and excited.

 30 minutes

Show SEND adaptations:

Shortened, with breaks and a slower pace. Sensory adjustments to allow pupils to touch and play with instruments, feel African fabrics and gentle guided movement.

About the pupil workshops:

The supporting workshop includes an opportunity to learn to play the djembe drum and experience the interaction between the drum and the dance. For the first part of the workshop children learn basic drumming patterns on djembe drums and practice call and response with drums.

The second part of the workshop involves step-by-step teaching by experienced dance teachers of African People's Dance accompanied by live drumming. At the end, there is an opportunity for solo performances within the group in an atmosphere of carnival celebration with drumming and Soca music.

 1 hour

Workshop SEND adaptations:

Shortened session and a slower pace. Drumming can be moderated for volume. Movement can be seated or standing.

Teacher Twilight CPD:

The CPD will provide teachers with a concise, engaging introduction to West African music and dance as well as influences on dance styles in the Caribbean and UK, equipping them with practical skills and ideas to integrate into their teaching. The session will include:

- Interactive exercise: call and response with drummer and participants using body percussion and voice.
- Basic djembe technique and learning a rhythm on the drum.
- Introduction to basic dance steps from West Africa and the Caribbean with one of our professional dancers with step-by-step teaching of movements accompanied by live drumming.

 1 hour

 Can be delivered to whole staff team



Photo credit: Jessica McDermott

Book now

To submit a booking request for Routes to Rhythm, please use the [Primary Arts booking platform](#)

The Poetry Society: Poetry Jam Jar

Collaborative, curiosity-driven writing workshops and performances led by professional poets.



THEPOETRYSOCIETY

The Poetry Society

The Poetry Society is the UK's leading poetry organisation. For over 100 years we've been a lively and passionate source of energy and ideas, opening up and promoting poetry to an ever-growing community of people. Our education work creates talent development opportunities for poets, teachers, pupils, and emerging writers.

The Poetry Society: Poetry Jam Jar

Key Stages:

Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2, SEND


Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

Literacy & English, oracy, resilience, wellbeing.

About the show

In Poetry Jam Jar, poets deliver participatory school workshops that take a collaborative, curiosity-driven and sensory approach to creative writing. Each class generates ideas and lines of poetry in their writing workshops, which are placed in the Poetry Jam Jar.

Afterwards, all the classes come together and the poets select ideas from the jam jar, guiding pupils to join their ideas into a single collaborative poem. The poets lead the pupils to recite the poem chorally. Finally, the poets finish the day by performing their own work, with time for pupils to ask questions.

 45 minutes




Show SEND adaptations:

Flexible performance length, quieter versions.

About the pupil workshops:

For the workshop, a poet will visit each class, equipped with a jam jar. At first, the jar is a source of creative inspiration: it is filled with questions that spark your class's curiosity, short inspirational poems – including poems by young writers – and prompts that encourage them to take notice of the world around them using different senses. Your pupils will learn how to respond to the prompts using imagery and descriptive language, beginning to form ideas for a poem. The jar is then filled with their responses, creating a repository of ingredients for a poem.

 40 to 60 minutes



Workshop SEND adaptations:

Flexible length of workshop, activities are adaptable to different levels of reading and writing ability.

Teacher Twilight CPD:

The CPD session is led by experienced poet facilitators. The session will demonstrate how teachers can use creative writing as a tool for encouraging collaboration and wellbeing, and boost teachers' confidence in bringing poetry into the classroom. The CPD will outline how the offer relates to the curriculum and to wellbeing and will introduce teachers to the methods and resources the poets will use.

 1 hour



2 to 20



Book now

To submit a booking request for Poetry Jam Jar, please use the [Primary Arts booking platform](#)

SLiDE: Jack & Friends

A joyful dance and music performance and workshops exploring friendship, self-expression, and creativity through movement.



SLiDE

SLiDE

SLiDE is an inclusive dance company that brings people of all ages and abilities together through inclusive, creative dance. We offer workshops, performances, and community projects, fostering connection, confidence, and wellbeing. SLiDE celebrates diversity, enabling everyone to express themselves and experience the joy of dance.

SLIDE: Jack & Friends

Key Stages:

Key Stage 1, Lower Key Stage 2, SEND

Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

English, maths, physical education, PSHE & citizenship, music, drama, creativity, wellbeing, British values, raising attainment in speaking & listening.

About the show

Jack & Friends is an interactive dance performance celebrating friendship, belonging, and the joy of movement. Inspired by Jack's love of musicals, pantomimes and Strictly Come Dancing, the show blends storytelling, original music, and vibrant choreography. A relaxed, inclusive atmosphere invites all pupils to engage and move, culminating in a fun disco finale (optional depending on the school). Performed by a diverse cast, including a dancer with a learning disability, it champions self-expression and inclusivity.

 40 minutes for performance, 20 minutes for the disco.

Show SEND adaptations:

Designed for relaxed engagement, shorter duration, increased sensory elements, quieter sections, visual and auditory cues to support accessibility.

About the pupil workshops:

The workshops will build on the performance themes through fun, accessible dance activities. Pupils engage in interactive games, learn a 'Strictly' duet, create motifs about their favourite things, and explore movement through sensory tasks (rain, reflection). Workshops support storytelling, social interaction, and emotional expression, fostering creativity, confidence, and collaboration. Live and recorded original music enhances the experience, making learning dynamic and engaging.

 1 hour

Workshop SEND adaptations:

Sessions can be shorter with regular breaks, use sensory props and provide quieter or calmer moments.

Teacher Twilight CPD:

This practical CPD explores how to use dance to foster inclusion and engagement across the curriculum. Teachers experience movement activities first-hand and learn adaptable choreography, basic Laban dance principles, and storytelling through dance. Emphasis is placed on supporting SEND and neurodiverse pupils through props, sensory-friendly approaches, and inclusive facilitation. Teachers will leave with confidence, creative ideas, and tools to integrate movement into daily teaching, benefiting pupil wellbeing.

 1 – 1.5 hours (depending on requirements)

 6 to 14



Book now

To submit a booking request for Jack & Friends, please use the [Primary Arts booking platform](#)

The background is a solid bright blue. It is decorated with several large, thick yellow geometric shapes. In the top left, there is a single circle and a larger arc. In the top center, there are three concentric arcs. In the top right, there is a small circle. On the right side, there is a large, thick 'C' shape. In the bottom left, there is a partial circle. In the bottom right, there is a thick arc.

GO & SEE **SUMMER** **SEASON 2026**

Go & See

The Primary Arts Go & See programme gives pupils and staff the opportunity to experience the arts within venues across London rather than at school, through trips that include theatre, film, visual art, museums and heritage. The programme aims to support pupils' personal enjoyment, wellbeing and enrichment through the arts. It also aims to support teachers to connect these experiences to classroom learning through light-touch CPD and resources.

The programme has two seasons: Winter 2025 and Summer 2026.

For the **WINTER** season, schools can apply for tickets for a year group (or smaller group of pupils) to a choice of **five different theatre productions, and one immersive art installation**. These events all take place during December 2025.

For the **SUMMER** season, schools can apply for tickets to **theatre, visual art, film, museum and heritage opportunities**. The Summer season will open for bookings on **Wednesday 4 February 2026**. The events will take place in June and July 2026.



Access & Inclusion

An access budget is available to support participant engagement in this programme, for example, we may be able to support with transport, additional staff or other costs. We will provide a Visual Story for each participating venue. Access information for venues is included in the offer descriptions below.

Eligibility

The Primary Arts Go & See programme is **open to all state primary schools in London as well as all special schools using primary approaches with their pupils regardless of age**.

Your school **must be in a London borough** to be eligible for the programme. If your school or a member of your school staff is participating in another area of the Primary Arts programme, you are still eligible to make a booking request for this strand of the programme.

We will prioritise schools that have not previously benefitted from this programme strand. If you participated in the Go & See programme in 2023/24, 2024/25 or Winter 2025, you may not be allocated a place on the programme this year. However, you are still welcome to make a booking request.

How to Make a Booking Request

Please read the offer descriptions carefully on the pages that follow and consider your school's needs and areas of interest. For theatre productions, please identify your first and second choice of offer. You can apply for offers in more than one artform (i.e. if you apply for theatre, you may also apply for visual art), but you can also apply for a single artform only.

Each description includes year group suitability. Please ensure the offer you are interested in is appropriate for the year group you would like to participate.

Check your travel before you book: Please carefully consider the location of your chosen venue, the distance from your school and the feasibility of travelling to and from it. All offers will begin promptly at the given start time so your group must be able to arrive in good time.

It is your school's responsibility to arrange transport – free travel on public transport for schools can be booked through the [TfL School Party Travel Scheme](#) and must be booked at least 14 days in advance.

Go & See bookings that are cancelled due to travel plans are likely to incur a cancellation charge.

When you are ready to make a booking request, please log in to the [Primary Arts booking platform](#), select Go & See, and complete the booking request form. The form asks for practical information and should take around 10 to 15 minutes to complete. **Booking requests for the Summer 2026 season should be submitted by 5pm on Wednesday 25 February 2026.**

You will be contacted by **Friday 6 March** to confirm whether we are able to offer you tickets. **If offered tickets, you will then have one week to accept your allocation and complete our School Agreement for your booking to be confirmed.**

Please note that while the Go & See programme is free of charge to schools, we may charge a fee of up to £300 per class for cancellations with less than three weeks' notice (excluding school holidays).

If you have any questions about Primary Arts, Go & See, please email schools@anewdirection.org.uk using 'Primary Arts Go & See' in the subject line.

A Shaun the Sheep Movie: Farmageddon

An action-packed screening following the wonderful world of a woolly superstar – Shaun the Sheep at the BFI Southbank.



★ **AARDMAN**

Aardman Animations

Aardman is an employee-owned company, based in Bristol and co-founded in 1976 by Peter Lord and David Sproxton. An independent, multi-Academy Award® and BAFTA® award winning studio, it produces feature films, series, advertising, games and interactive entertainment.

**INTO
FILM**

Into Film

Into Film is the UK's leading charity for film in education and the community. We provide screen industry careers information and advice, support young filmmakers, and bring the power of moving image storytelling into classroom teaching. The core Into Film programme is free for UK state schools, colleges and other youth settings.

**B
F
I**

BFI

We are a cultural charity, a National Lottery distributor, and the UK's lead organisation for film and the moving image. Founded in 1933, the BFI is a registered charity governed by Royal Charter. The BFI Board of Governors is chaired by Jay Hunt OBE.

Aardman Animations with Into Film (at BFI): A Shaun the Sheep Movie: Farmageddon

Key Stage/s:

Key Stage 2, SEND

About the show

There is something strange going on in the peaceful town of Mossingham, right after the fantastic rescue mission in Shaun the Sheep Movie (2015). As mischievous Shaun orders in pizza for the woolly flock under the nose of the Farmer and Bitzer, the ever-watchful sheepdog, a mysterious, fast-moving UFO enters the Earth's atmosphere and crash-lands near the verdant Mossy Bottom Farm. Now, Lu-La, an extraordinary, friendly creature from the depths of the galaxy, is in grave danger, light-years away from home.

Can Shaun and the rest of the lambs lend a helping hand, and protect their new extraterrestrial companion from the Ministry of Alien Detection, and its unstoppable leader, Agent Red?

To keep the fun going in your classroom, participating schools will receive free stop motion modelling materials for pupils, and free access to Into Film's high-quality animation CPD.

Show Dates:

Friday 26 June, 10:30 am



2 hours

Venue Information

BFI Southbank is located at Belvedere Rd, London SE1 8XT ([map](#)).



Access information:

Step free access: **YES**

Hearing loop: **YES**

Accessible toilets: **YES**

Accessible parking: **NO**

Minibus drop off point: **YES**

Maximum no wheelchair spaces: **4**



Book now

To submit a booking request for
**A Shaun the Sheep Movie:
Farmageddon, at the BFI
Southbank, please use the
Primary Arts booking platform**

Frameless: Immersive Art Experience

Redefining the experiential immersive art world; experience the largest permanent multi-sensory experience in the UK.



FRAMELESS®

Frameless

Frameless is an award-winning multi-sensory immersive art experience where visitors can experience iconic world-renowned masterpieces as they've never been seen before.

With four main galleries featuring 42 masterpieces from iconic artists such as Van Gogh, Monet, Hokusai, Kandinsky and many more, accompanied by a carefully curated soundtrack, the Frameless experience is sure to leave you spellbound from the moment you step inside.

Frameless: Immersive Art Experience

Key Stage/s:

Key Stage 2, SEND

About the show

Delivered in partnership with Frameless, your class will be able to experience some of the world's greatest works of art, presented in ways never seen before. You should allow for around 1 hour in the galleries. Your class will be able to step inside art itself as they travel through four distinct, immersive galleries, featuring iconic masterpieces from some of the world's best-known artists; Rousseau, Dali, Van Gogh, Canaletto, and Rembrandt to name but a few.

Relaxed sessions are designed especially for pupils that have special educational needs and disabilities and allow for more time to experience the gallery.

Dates:



Monday 22 June, 10:00am – 11:45am: Relaxed Session (priority for this session will be given to SEND settings but mainstream schools are welcome to apply).

Monday 22 June: Mainstream sessions

Slot 1: 12:15pm – 1:45pm

Slot 2: 12:25pm – 2pm

Slot 3: 12:35pm – 2pm

Slot 4: 12:45pm – 2:15pm



1 ½ hours

Venue Information

Frameless is located at 6 Marble Arch, London W1H 7AP ([map](#)).



Access information:

Step free access: **YES**

Hearing loop: **YES**

Accessible toilets: **YES**

Accessible parking: **NO**

Minibus drop off point: **NO**

Maximum no wheelchair spaces: **5**



Book now

To submit a booking request for
Frameless, please use the
[Primary Arts booking platform](#)

Half Moon Theatre: Rapunzel

A bold, funny adaption of Rapunzel packed with music, magic and madcap schemes – with no prince in sight!



Half Moon

Half Moon Theatre

The Half Moon Theatre in Limehouse offers theatre for young audiences. It hosts diverse performances, including sensory shows for babies, and features an extensive creative learning programme. The venue is fully accessible and is just a short walk from Limehouse DLR and C2C stations.

Half Moon Theatre: Rapunzel

Key Stage/s:

Reception, Key Stage 1, Lower Key Stage 2

About the show

Golden-haired Rapunzel is trapped in her lofty tower by a wicked witch, who lops off the locks of her beautiful hair and sells them for a tidy profit. It's time for Rapunzel to take charge of her own destiny and figure out a way to escape.

This bold and funny adaptation of the much-loved storybook by Bethan Woollvin – creator of the New York Times Best Illustrated Book *Little Red* and *I Can Catch a Monster* – is brought to the stage by award-winning family theatre company Wrongsemble (*Three Little Vikings*, *The Not So Big Bad Wolf*).

Packed with music, magic, and madcap schemes – and not a prince in sight – this brand-new theatrical adventure is guaranteed to delight the whole family!

Show Dates:

Thursday 25 June at 10:30am

Thursday 25 June at 1:30pm

Friday 26 June at 10:30am

Friday 26 June at 1:30pm



45 minutes, no interval

Venue Information

Half Moon Theatre is located at 43 White Horse Road, London, E1 0ND ([map](#))



Access information:

Step free access: **YES**

Hearing loop: **YES**

Accessible toilets: **YES**

Accessible parking: **NO**

Minibus drop off point: **YES**

Maximum no wheelchair spaces per performance: **8**

Book now

To submit a booking request for
Rapunzel, please use the
[Primary Arts booking platform](#)

Historic Royal Palaces



HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES

We are the independent charity that loves and looks after six of the most wonderful palaces in the world.

The palaces are the setting for the stories that shape us all. We want everyone to find themselves in the spaces and stories we share.

Through Primary Arts, schools can visit Hampton Court Palace, Kensington Palace or the Tower of London. Each palace offers two facilitated sessions, one for mainstream classes and one for SEND classes.

Every visit includes self-guided access to the palace before or after your guided visit.



Historic Royal Palaces: Hampton Court Palace

Discover the home of Henry VIII



HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES

Historic Royal Palaces: Hampton Court Palace

Discover the home of Henry VIII. Admire the Great Hall and Tudor kitchens, and discover the spectacular baroque palace built for William III and Mary II. Explore 60 acres of magnificent gardens and the famous maze.

Hampton Court Palace: The King's Kitchens

Key Stage/s:

SEND only

About the offer:

Explore King Henry VIII's kitchens through song, object handling, costumes and sensory exploration. Pupils will find out about the workings of Henry VIII's Tudor kitchens at Hampton Court Palace and discover how great feasts were organised and prepared.

The session is flexible according to the needs of your students but can involve: Singing a rhyme about exploring the palace handling replica objects; trying on Tudor costume (with an opportunity to wear this into the palace); a sensory tour around the Tudor kitchens where students undertake a 'find the same' activity; herb crushing activity using wooden pestle and mortar in situ in the kitchens.

This session is suitable for students with SLD and PMLD. Please note that the presenter will be in costume throughout, unless otherwise requested. The session is suitable for students aged between 6 and 18 years.

This offer includes self-guided access to the palace before or after your guided visit.

Dates:

Tuesday 30 June, 1pm

Wednesday 8 July, 10:30am

Wednesday 8 July, 1pm



1.5 hours



Maximum capacity 10 pupils plus accompanying adults. Please contact us before booking if your group is larger than this.

Venue Information

Clore Learning Centre, Hampton Court Palace, East Molesey, Surrey, KT8 9AU ([map](#)).



Access information:

Step free access: **NO**

Hearing loop: **YES**

Accessible toilets: **YES**

Accessible parking: **YES**

Minibus drop off point: **YES**

Maximum no wheelchair spaces per performance: **6**

Book now

To submit a booking request for The King's Kitchens or Exploring Tudor Kitchens, please use the [Primary Arts booking platform](#)

Hampton Court Palace: Exploring Tudor Kitchens

Key Stage/s:

Key Stage 2

About the offer:

Delivered by a costumed presenter in the Tudor kitchens, children will learn about the foods cooked and consumed at the palace and the necessary roles required to deliver this.

They will understand the role of the different Tudor kitchen departments, and of those working there, through examining its fabrics and furnishings.

This offer includes self-guided access to the palace before or after your guided visit.

Dates:

Friday 3 July, 10:30am

Friday 3 July, 11:45am

Friday 3 July, 1:15pm

Thursday 9 July, 10:30am

Thursday 9 July, 11:45am

Thursday 9 July, 1:15pm

Friday 10 July, 11:45am

Friday 10 July, 1:15pm



1 hour

Venue Information

Clore Learning Centre, Hampton Court Palace, East Molesey, Surrey, KT8 9AU ([map](#)).



Access information:

Step free access: **NO**

Hearing loop: **YES**

Accessible toilets: **YES**

Accessible parking: **YES**

Minibus drop off point: **YES**

Maximum no wheelchair spaces per performance: **6**

Book now

To submit a booking request for The King's Kitchens or Exploring Tudor Kitchens, please use the [Primary Arts booking platform](#)

Historic Royal Palaces: Kensington Palace

Discover the birthplace of Queen Victoria



HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES

Historic Royal Palaces: Kensington Palace

Discover the birthplace of Queen Victoria and home to young royals for over 300 years. Walk in the footsteps of royalty in the magnificent King's State Apartments and Queen's State Apartments.

Kensington Palace: A Palace Princess

Key Stage/s:

SEND only

About the offer:

What was it like for Queen Victoria growing up in Kensington Palace?

Pupils will explore the palace in which Victoria spent her childhood, learn about some of her favourite toys and pastimes and experience some of the sounds and smells of the time. Through a sensory story, they will learn about the strict 'Kensington System' which she grew up in, the gardens where she spent her time and the animals that kept her company.

The session is flexible according to the needs of your pupils but can involve interactive storytelling, drama-based activities, games and smells.

This session is suitable for students with MLD, SLD and PMLD, aged between 6 and 16 years. Please note that the presenter will be in costume unless requested otherwise by the school.

This offer includes self-guided access to the palace before or after your guided visit.

Dates:

Thursday 25 June, 10:45am

Thursday 25 June, 1:00pm

Thursday 2 July, 10:45am

Thursday 2 July, 1:00pm



75 minutes



Maximum capacity 10 pupils plus accompanying adults. Please contact us before booking if your group is larger than this.

Venue Information

Clore Learning Centre, Kensington Palace, Kensington Gardens, London, W8 4PX ([map](#)).



Access information:

Step free access: **YES**

Hearing loop: **YES**

Accessible toilets: **YES**

Accessible parking: **YES**

Minibus drop off point: **YES**

Maximum no wheelchair spaces per performance: **12**

Book now

To submit a booking request for **A Palace Princess or The Changing Power of Kings and Queens**, please use the [Primary Arts booking platform](#)

Kensington Palace: The Changing Power of Kings and Queens

Key Stage/s:

Key Stage 2

About the offer:

Travel through time at Kensington Palace to discover how the English monarchy has changed over the centuries.

Led by a costumed presenter, children will explore the lives of those who lived at Kensington Palace, including Queen Victoria, William and Mary, as well as many others.

This offer includes self-guided access to the palace before or after your guided visit.

Dates:

Wednesday 24 June, 11am

Wednesday 24 June, 12:15pm

Wednesday 24 June, 1:45pm

Friday 26 June, 11am

Friday 26 June, 12:15pm

Friday 26 June, 1:45pm



1 hours

Venue Information

Clore Learning Centre, Kensington Palace, Kensington Gardens, London, W8 4PX ([map](#)).



Access information:

Step free access: **YES**

Hearing loop: **YES**

Accessible toilets: **YES**

Accessible parking: **YES**

Minibus drop off point: **YES**

Maximum no wheelchair spaces per performance: **12**

Book now

To submit a booking request for
**A Palace Princess or The Changing
Power of Kings and Queens,**
please use the
[Primary Arts booking platform](#)

Historic Royal Palaces: Tower of London

Discover London's castle – a secure
fortress, royal palace and infamous prison



HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES

Historic Royal Palaces: Tower of London

Explore London's iconic castle and World Heritage Site. Get up close to the Crown Jewels, meet the legendary Yeoman Warders and ravens and see the Tower like never before.

Tower of London: Colonel Blood and the Crown Jewels

Key Stage/s:

SEND only

About the offer:

Using multi-sensory props and replica objects, pupils will be immersed in the events leading up to the moment Colonel Blood was caught. Can they guess what happened to him after his plot to steal the crown jewels was foiled?

The session is delivered by a presenter trained in supporting pupils with special educational needs. It takes place inside our learning centre and includes the following:

- Singing and rhymes
- Object handling
- Dancing and games
- Drama and role-play

This offer includes self-guided access to the palace before or after your guided visit.

Dates:

Wednesday 1 July, 10:30am

Wednesday 1 July, 1:00pm

Thursday 9 July, 10:30am

Thursday 9 July, 1:00pm



75 minutes



Maximum capacity 10 pupils plus accompanying adults. Please contact us before booking if your group is larger than this.

Venue Information

Tower of London, London, EC3N 4AB ([map](#)).



Access information:

Step free access: **YES**

Hearing loop: **NO**

Accessible toilets: **YES**

Accessible parking: **NO**

Minibus drop off point: **YES**

Maximum no wheelchair spaces per performance: **UNLIMITED**

There is a free drop-off period of 15 minutes after which charges apply.

Book now

To submit a booking request for
Colonel Blood and the Crown Jewels
or **Stories from the Tower**,
please use the
[Primary Arts booking platform](#)

Tower of London: Stories from the Tower

Key Stage/s:

Key Stage 2

About the offer:

Developed especially for the summer season, this lively and interactive session will engage your students with some of the very best stories which have made the Tower of London such an important site in British history. Students have a choice of tales offering them the chance to follow in the footsteps of English monarchs, prisoners, ravens or even a jewel-thief as they explore the stories of the Tower in the places where history happened.

This offer includes self-guided access to the palace before or after your guided visit.

Dates:

Monday 29 June, 10.30am

Monday 29 June 12pm

Monday 29 June 1:30pm

Tuesday 30 June, 10:30am

Tuesday 30 June, 12pm

Tuesday 30 June, 1:30pm

Wednesday 1 July, 10:30am

Wednesday 1 July, 12pm

Wednesday 1 July, 1:30pm

Thursday 2 July, 10:30am

Thursday 2 July, 12pm

Thursday 2 July, 1:30pm

Friday 3 July, 10.30am

Friday 3 July, 12pm



45 minutes approx.

Venue Information

Tower of London, London, EC3N 4AB ([map](#)).



Access information:

Step free access: **YES**

Hearing loop: **NO**

Accessible toilets: **YES**

Accessible parking: **NO**

Minibus drop off point: **YES**

Maximum no wheelchair spaces per performance: **UNLIMITED**

There is a free drop-off period of 15 minutes after which charges apply.

Book now

To submit a booking request for
**Colonel Blood and the Crown Jewels
or Stories from the Tower,**
please use the
[Primary Arts booking platform](#)

Little Angel Theatre: Toto the Ninja Cat and the Great Snake Escape

Meet Toto, a ninja cat who naps by day, fights danger to save London by night.



Little Angel Theatre

Little Angel Theatre has used puppetry to create and share inspiring stories since opening its doors in 1961, igniting the imaginations of the youngest minds. The theatre's success has been built upon a spirit of artistic innovation. We are committed to pushing the boundaries of what puppetry can be, whilst preserving its heritage.

Little Angel Theatre: Toto the Ninja Cat and the Great Snake Escape

Key Stage/s:

Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2, SEND.

About the show

Meet Toto. She might look like an ordinary cat, but she's no ordinary feline. Almost completely blind, Toto has incredible ninja skills, a big heart, and a nose for adventure. By day, she naps like any other pet... but by night, she's out on daring missions with her cheeky brother, Silver.

In their very first adventure, a deadly King Cobra has escaped onto the streets of London, and it's up to Toto to use every ounce of her courage and cunning to save the day.

Based on Dermot O'Leary's best-selling children's book, illustrated by Nick East, this purr-fectly thrilling tale is filled with original music, laugh-out-loud fun, and extraordinary puppetry, promising fun for the whole family.

Show Dates:

Thursday 9 July at 10:30am

Thursday 9 July at 1:15pm

Friday 10 July at 10:30pm

Friday 10 July at 1:15pm



50 minutes approx. No interval.

Venue Information

Little Angel Studios, Sebbon Street, Islington, N1 2EH ([map](#)).



Access information:

Step free access: **YES**

Hearing loop: **NO**

Accessible toilets: **YES**

Accessible parking: **YES**

Minibus drop off point: **YES**

Maximum no wheelchair spaces per performance: **2**

Additional information:

Little Angel Studios are wheelchair accessible but with limited wheelchair availability.

Book now

To submit a booking request for **Toto the Ninja Cat and the Great Snake Escape**, please use the [Primary Arts booking platform](#)

Polka Theatre: Arthur

Join the adventure in a magical new play with original songs, based on Arthurian legend.



Polka Theatre

Polka is one of the few theatres in the UK dedicated exclusively to children. Based in Wimbledon since 1979, Polka creates world-class theatre to entertain and inspire young audiences. We strive to spark the imagination, stir emotions and fuel a sense of discovery in all children.

Polka Theatre: Arthur

Key Stage/s:

Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2, SEND

About the show

It's Winter Solstice 2026. Grace is in A&E with Lego stuck up her nose, waiting for someone to notice her.

It's Summer Solstice 526AD. Arthur is setting out on the journey of a lifetime: tasked with retrieving the sword for the future King.

Overlooked and wanting to be taken seriously, Grace encounters the mysterious Merlin who transports her back to the 6th century. As Grace and Arthur's two worlds collide, their fates entwine, and together they must embark on the greatest quest they'll ever face to retrieve Excalibur. With the future of Britain depending on them, they must overcome a fearsome beast and navigate the perils of the ancient forest – if only they can figure out how to work together.

Show Dates:

Thursday 2 July 2026, 10.30am

Friday 3 July 2026, 10:15am



1 hour 20 minutes approx. including interval.

Venue Information

Polka Theatre is located at 240 The Broadway, Wimbledon, London, SW19 1SB ([map](#)).



Access information:

Step free access: **YES**

Hearing loop: **YES**

Accessible toilets: **YES**

Accessible parking: **YES**

Minibus drop off point: **YES**

Maximum no wheelchair spaces per performance: **6**

Additional information:

Additional information: Lunch spaces are available.



Book now

To submit a booking request for Arthur, please use the [Primary Arts booking platform](#)

The Postal Museum: The Jolly Postman show day

Step into a beloved interactive story
helping The Jolly Postman deliver
mail to fairy-tale characters



The Postal Museum

The Postal Museum tells the story of postal communication and its impact on a global society. We deliver first class learning experiences that connect to our collections and ensure stories around communication are relevant, inspiring and inclusive.

The Postal Museum: The Jolly Postman

Key Stage/s:

Reception, Key Stage 1, SEND

About the show

A jolly day of first class fun at The Postal Museum. Step inside a much-loved story in an interactive show to help The Jolly Postman deliver the post for fairy tale characters.

Journey underground on the Mail Rail Ride, get dressed for the job and move the mail in Sorted! The Postal Play Space and explore The Jolly Postman – 40th anniversary exhibition.

Each visit day will include the following:

The Jolly Postman Show – 45 minutes

Sorted! The Postal Play Space – 45 minutes

Mail Rail Ride and exhibition – 45 minutes

The Jolly Postman exhibition – 30 minutes

Show Dates:

Monday 29 June, 10:30am

Monday 6 July, 10:30am

Monday 13 July, 10:30am



3 hours 30 minutes including lunch break.

Venue Information

The Postal Museum, 15–20 Phoenix Place, London, WC1X 0DA ([map](#)).



Access information:

Step free access: **YES**

Hearing loop: **NO**

Accessible toilets: **YES**

Accessible parking: **YES**

Minibus drop off point: **YES**

Maximum no wheelchair spaces per performance: **FLEXIBLE**



Book now

To submit a booking request for
The Jolly Postman show day,
please use the
[Primary Arts booking platform](#)

Royal Academy: Young Artists' Summer Show 2026

An exhibition celebrating the
creativity of young artists from across
the UK.



RA

Royal Academy of Arts

Located in the heart of London, the RA is a place where art is made, exhibited and debated. They offer a range of free activities, resources and workshops to support teachers, students and young people to engage with art and artists, both at the RA and back in the classroom.

Royal Academy

Key Stage/s:

Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2, SEND


About the show

The Young Artists' Summer show, now in its eighth year, is a free, open-submission exhibition for young artists aged 4-18. The show celebrates the creativity of young people living and studying in the UK, providing them with a platform to showcase their unique voices, as well as the commitment of teachers, parents and guardians championing the role of art in education across the UK.

Artworks are judged by a panel of artists and arts professionals, with selected artworks displayed online and on-site at the Royal Academy of Arts.

Event Dates:

Tuesday 14 July:	Wednesday 15 July:	Thursday 16 July:
Slot 1: 10:30am	Slot 1: 10:30am	Slot 1: 10:30am
Slot 2: 11am	Slot 2: 11am	Slot 2: 11am
Slot 3: 11.30am	Slot 3: 11.30am	Slot 2: 11.30am
Slot 4: 12pm	Slot 4: 12pm	Slot 3: 12pm
Slot 5: 12.30pm	Slot 5: 12.30pm	Slot 4: 12.30pm
Slot 6: 1pm	Slot 6: 1pm	Slot 5: 1pm
Slot 7: 1.30pm	Slot 7: 1.30pm	Slot 6: 1.30pm
Slot 8: 2pm	Slot 8: 2pm	Slot 7: 2pm
Slot 9: 2.30pm	Slot 9: 2.30pm	Slot 8: 2.30pm

 30 minutes approx.

Venue Information

Royal Academy of Arts is located at Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W1J 0BD ([map](#)).



Access information:

Step free access: **YES**

Hearing loop: **YES**

Accessible toilets: **YES**

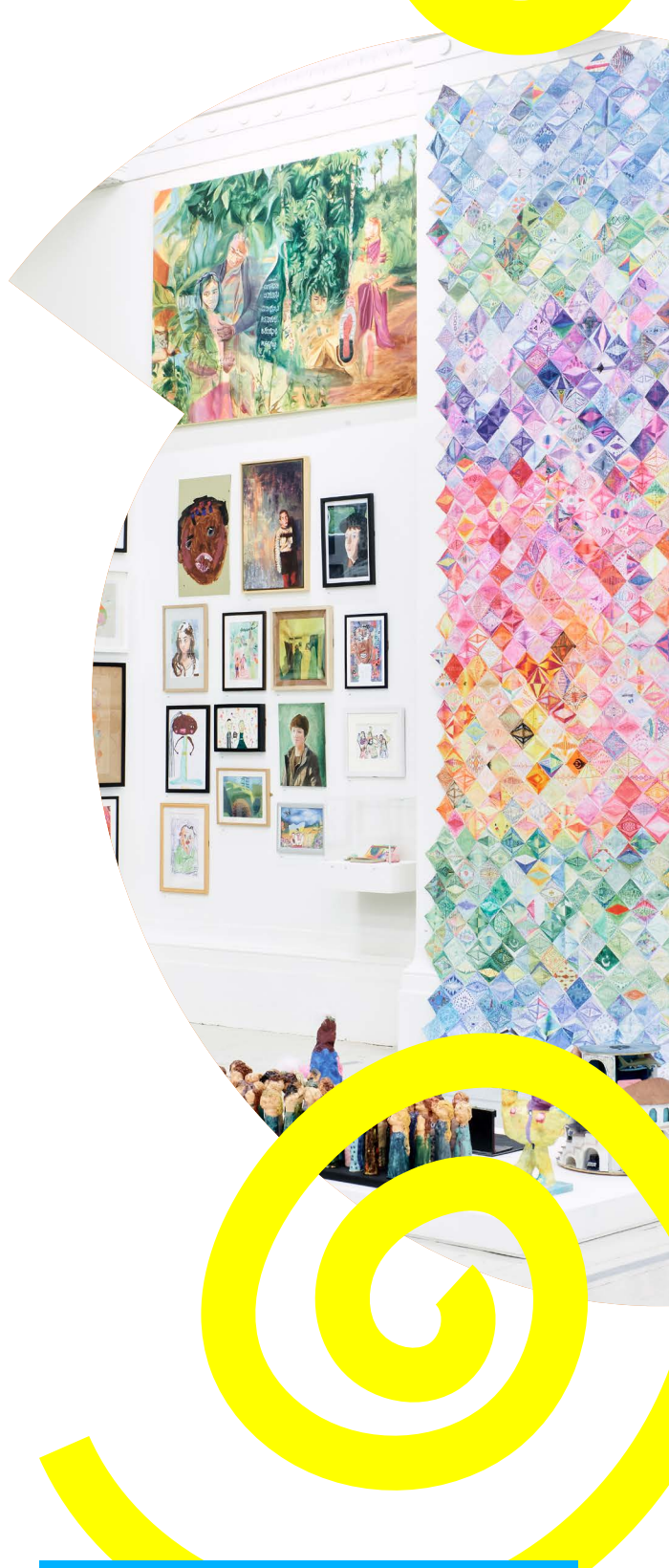
Accessible parking: **REQUIRES PRIOR BOOKING**

Minibus drop off point: **NO**

Maximum no wheelchair spaces per performance: **Flexible**

Book now

To submit a booking request for
The Young Artists' Summer Show
2026, please use the
[Primary Arts booking platform](#)





MASTERCLASSES

Masterclasses

The Primary Arts Masterclasses programme offers a series of six full day CPD sessions delivered by creative literacy experts at the Centre for Literacy in Primary Education (CLPE). Each CPD session offers a stand-alone day of teacher development designed to support participants to explore and develop creative teaching approaches to a range of priorities around reader development.

The programme is designed so that each CPD session provides a comprehensive exploration of its topic and does not require participants to have attended any other sessions.

Participants at each session will:

- Hear from an expert advisory teacher from CLPE in partnership with a high-profile children's author/illustrator.
- Work with peers to explore and develop creative approaches to literacy and reader development.
- Receive at least two high-quality book to take away.
- Take away teaching plans and resources to use in the classroom.
- Be invited to an exclusive twilight session following the Masterclass, giving you the opportunity to explore the library and connect with peers, with drinks and snacks provided.

Access & Inclusion

These Masterclasses will take an inclusive approach and are suitable for teachers working in primary mainstream and SEND settings.

The CLPE venue is accessible, with step free access, accessible toilets, and parking. An access budget is available to support participant engagement in this programme, for example for transport, BSL interpretation or other costs.

Eligibility

Primary Arts Masterclasses are aimed at **qualified teachers currently working at any level in state primary mainstream and special schools in London**. The programme is designed to support teachers working with pupils in all year groups from Reception to Year 6.

Your school **must be in a London borough** to be eligible for the programme.

If your school or a member of your school staff is participating in another area of the Primary Arts programme, you are still eligible to take part in this strand of the programme.

Schools can book up to three Masterclass sessions per year. Places are limited to two participants per school for any given session. If sessions are oversubscribed, priority will be given to schools that have not previously benefitted from the Masterclasses programme (i.e. in 2023/24 or 2024/25).

How to Book

There are 30 places available at each Masterclass. You are welcome to book to attend more than one Masterclass but each must be booked separately. **Schools can book up to three Masterclass sessions this academic year.** If colleagues from your school are already booked to attend other sessions, this may limit what you can book.

Participants must book their own place. Places cannot be booked on behalf of colleagues.

Booking opens on Wednesday 10 September 2025 and will be on a first come, first served basis. Please book your place using the [Primary Arts booking platform](#).

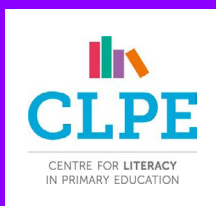
Please note that while these Masterclasses are free of charge, **we may charge your school a fee of £150 per participant for no-shows or cancellations with less than three weeks' notice** (excluding school holidays).

If you have any questions about the Primary Arts Masterclasses, please email schools@anewdirection.org.uk using 'Primary Arts Masterclasses' in the subject line.

Centre for Literacy in Primary Education (CLPE)



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CLPE

The CLPE is a UK-based charity. We support schools to teach literacy creatively and effectively, enabling children to read and write for purpose and for pleasure. We provide professional development and resources and conduct research into all areas of literacy, using findings to inform practice and contribute to national and international perspectives.

Masterclass 1: Building 'Reading for Pleasure' Schools

Supporting schools to understand why and how to develop a meaningful 'reading for pleasure' culture.

Suitable for:

Class teachers (EYFS–KS2, SEND), English Subject Leads, Senior Leadership.

Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

Language and vocabulary, oracy, reading, writing personal, social, emotional development.

Date: Thursday 13 November 2025

Time: 9am to 3.30pm
(or until 5pm for optional networking)

Venue: Centre for Literacy in Primary Education, 44 Webber Street, London SE1 8QW ([map](#)).



Venue accessibility: Step free access, accessible toilets and accessible parking.

Description of session:

Explore a range of approaches designed to increase children's motivation to read with a greater depth of understanding, leading to increased engagement and attainment across your school. We will focus on managing reading areas to make stock accessible, developing children's self-selection and independence in reading and foster a love of reading in the school community.



1 day (9am to 3.30pm)

Detail of activity:

This Masterclass will be delivered by an expert advisory teacher from CLPE in partnership with award-winning children's author **S.F. Said**. It will support teachers and leaders to plan for increased engagement and attainment in reading across the primary years.

We will explore:

- The breadth of research that connects reading for pleasure with reading attainment,
- The role of all adults in school as readers, creating a culture in which children can be influenced to read widely and for pleasure,
- Creative teaching approaches that give all children access to high quality texts.

Key areas of focus:

- What do we mean by Reading for Pleasure?
- The importance of a rich knowledge of children's literature and the role of teacher as reader, within a community of readers.
- Getting to know your children as readers, their interests and fascinations, their development, skills and understanding as readers, and draw on this to support the development of effective provision and practice.
- A greater understanding of what progression and development in reading looks like and the connection between reading identity and reading attainment.



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- How to nurture positive reader identity and broaden children's outlook through the use of quality inclusive literature.
- How to effectively choose and use a range of texts for different reading experiences, designed to promote reading for pleasure.
- Investigating and trialling key teaching approaches designed and proven to give all children access to quality texts and language and to raise engagement and attainment in reading across the school.
- The centrality of reading aloud as a key teaching approach that enables children to deepen response, improve access, develop vocabulary and draw attention to language models, while also modelling skilled reading behaviours and the pace, prosody and expression of fluent reading.
- Strategies for creating and maintaining a reading environment that is inviting and inclusive, that supports choosing and browsing, which invites re-reading and revisiting, and includes books that invite wider reading across forms, authors, poets and illustrators, topics or themes.

Takeaway:

Participants will receive a high-quality children's book for each primary phase (EYFS, KS1, KS2). They will also receive planning notes to help put strategies into practice in the classroom.



Book now

To book your place on this Masterclass, please use the [Primary Arts booking platform](#)

Masterclass 2: Planning Creatively Around Quality Texts

Choosing quality texts and using creative approaches to support literacy development and make meaningful cross-curricular connections.

Suitable for:

Class teachers (EYFS-KS2, SEND), English Subject Leads, Senior Leadership.

Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

Language and vocabulary, oracy, reading, writing personal, social, emotional development.

Date: Wednesday 28 January 2026

Time: 9am to 3.30pm
(or until 5pm for optional networking)

Venue: Centre for Literacy in Primary Education, 44 Webber Street, London SE1 8QW ([map](#)).



Venue accessibility: Step free access, accessible toilets and accessible parking.

Description of session:

Explore how to develop and draw upon an extended unit of work inspired by a high-quality text that will support improved attainment in literacy and support thinking skills and creativity across the curriculum.



1 day (9am to 3.30pm)

Detail of activity:

This Masterclass will be delivered by an expert advisory teacher from CLPE in partnership with award-winning children's author **Nicola Davies**. It will provide teachers and school leaders with knowledge of a range of creative teaching approaches that have been proven to enhance higher order thinking, reading, writing and spoken language across the primary years.

We will explore:

- How to develop and draw upon an extended unit of work inspired by a high-quality text that will support improved attainment in literacy and support thinking skills and creativity across the curriculum.



Key areas of focus:

- What we mean by creativity.
- Why creative learning is important in supporting children's literacy development.
- Choosing and using quality texts that support development in reading and writing, as well as meaningful cross-curricular learning.
- Exploring contexts and creative teaching approaches proven to enhance literacy engagement and extend learning across the curriculum.
- A range of strategies and approaches that develop reading engagement, comprehension skills, fluency and stamina.
- Practices that shape a community of writers in which children are curious, engaged and motivated to write collaboratively, individually and independently.
- Creative approaches that best support an authentic writing process, including language and vocabulary acquisition, building of imaginative ideas, drafting, editing and publication.
- How to plan for literacy learning across the curriculum, as exemplified through a teaching sequence.

Takeaway:

- Participants will receive a high-quality children's book for each primary phase (EYFS, KS1, KS2), as well as associated teaching sequences of detailed planning to support the implementation of the ideas from the day, to inspire creative and meaningful practice in their own classrooms and schools.



Book now

To book your place on this Masterclass, please use the [Primary Arts booking platform](#)

Masterclass 3: Transforming Literacy Through Storytelling

Explore how oral storytelling develops children's spoken language, confidence, self-esteem and knowledge of narrative structure.

Suitable for:

Class teachers (EYFS-KS2, SEND), English Subject Leads, Senior Leadership.

Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

Language and vocabulary, oracy, reading, writing personal, social, emotional development.

Date: Wednesday 25 February 2026

Time: 9am to 3.30pm
(or until 5pm for optional networking)

Venue: Centre for Literacy in Primary Education, 44 Webber Street, London SE1 8QW ([map](#)).



Venue accessibility: Step free access, accessible toilets and accessible parking.

Description of session:

Enhance your knowledge and understanding of how to use traditional tales and oral storytelling techniques across all Primary Key Stages to increase children's motivation and attainment in spoken language and in writing.



1 day (9am to 3.30pm)

Detail of activity:

This Masterclass will be delivered by an expert advisory teacher from CLPE in partnership with the award-winning and acclaimed storyteller **Jan Blake**. It will support participants to enhance their knowledge and understanding of how to use oral storytelling techniques and traditional tales across all Primary Key Stages to increase children's motivation, confidence and attainment across literacy provision.

We will explore:

- How storytelling can be integrated into the primary curriculum in ways that increase children's comprehension of language and engage children in deeper reading response.
- How traditional tales can be used to develop children's own use of language as well as a clear understanding of narrative structure.
- The value of storytelling to improve pupil confidence, engagement, language and vocabulary development, leading to independent writing behaviours – in line with the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Framework and National Curriculum.



Key areas of focus:

- Why storytelling is an important element of the primary provision for all children.
- Understanding the importance of all forms of traditional tales as a vital part of children's reading experiences across all primary years.
- Explore the importance and value of personal narrative.
- Develop an understanding of the ways in which storytelling and traditional tales provide knowledge of the initial building blocks of narrative (and later of a wider range of narrative arcs) to support children's confidence and independence in shaping whole narratives of their own.
- Consider and practice a range of techniques to engage audience orally.
- Explore approaches which support remembering, understanding and telling stories.
- Develop an understanding of how language can be used for effect, including language structures and choice of vocabulary.
- Consider how to find and choose stories to tell and use with children across the primary age phase.

Takeaway:

- Participants will receive a high-quality children's book for each primary phase (EYFS, KS1, KS2), as well as associated teaching sequences of detailed planning to support the implementation of the ideas from the day and to inspire creative and meaningful practice in their own classrooms and schools.



Book now

To book your place on this
Masterclass, please use the
[*Primary Arts booking platform*](#)

Masterclass 4: Transforming Literacy Through Picture Books

Develop proven approaches to visual literacy to support deeper reading skills and authentic writing processes.

Suitable for:

Class teachers (EYFS-KS2, SEND), English Subject Leads, Senior Leadership.

Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

Language and vocabulary, oracy, reading, writing personal, social, emotional development.

Date: Wednesday 6 May 2026

Time: 9am to 3.30pm
(or until 5pm for optional networking)

Venue: Centre for Literacy in Primary Education, 44 Webber Street, London SE1 8QW ([map](#)).



Venue accessibility: Step free access, accessible toilets and accessible parking.

Description of session:

Enhance your knowledge and understanding of how to choose and use picture books across all Primary Key Stages to increase children's motivation and attainment as independent readers and writers.



1 day (9am to 3.30pm)

Detail of activity:

This Masterclass will be delivered by an expert advisory teacher from CLPE in partnership with author and illustrator, **Daishu Ma**. It will enhance participants' knowledge and understanding of how to choose and use picture books to increase children's motivation and attainment as independent readers and writers.

We will explore:

- How well-chosen picture books can increase children's comprehension of language and engage children in deeper response.
- Authentic and meaningful approaches to the writing process, to improve pupils' independent writing, engagement and attainment.
- How school leaders can build a spine of picture book texts that could be included in a rich, progressive Primary English Curriculum.



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Key areas of focus:

- Understanding the importance of picture books as a vital part of children's reading experiences across the primary years.
- How to closely read illustration, developing visual literacy skills.
- Investigating approaches to develop children's inference, deduction and to be critically reflective about a text and its impact on the reader.
- How to convey meaning in words and illustrations of their own, investigating the impact of drawing as a means of communicating and sharing ideas.
- How to teach children the building blocks of narrative by exploring a wide range of high-quality picture books.
- Examples of creative teaching approaches that support children's engagement with and understanding of narrative.
- How to support children in creating, shaping, developing and publishing their own narratives using words and pictures following the authentic process of a practicing writer.
- How to embed creative practices across your school to develop children's engagement and attainment in reading and writing.

Takeaway:

- Participants in this Masterclass will receive two carefully-selected picture book texts, along with detailed teaching plans for each age phase to allow that text to be taught across a school. They will also have access to a suite of video resources to support teachers to use the book and develop children's independent writing back in their own classrooms.



Book now

To book your place on this Masterclass, please use the [*Primary Arts booking platform*](#)

Masterclass 5: Transforming Literacy Through Poetry

Explore how reading, responding to, performing and writing poetry raises engagement and attainment in literacy.

Suitable for:

Class teachers (EYFS-KS2, SEND), English Subject Leads, Senior Leadership.

Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

Language and vocabulary, oracy, reading, writing personal, social, emotional development.

Date: Wednesday 17 June 2026

Time: 9am to 3.30pm
(or until 5pm for optional networking)

Venue: Centre for Literacy in Primary Education, 44 Webber Street, London SE1 8QW ([map](#)).



Venue accessibility: Step free access, accessible toilets and accessible parking.

Description of session:

Explore how you can effectively build a spine for poetry across all Primary Key Stages, in line with the recommendations of the new Reading Framework.



1 day (9am to 3.30pm)

Detail of activity:

This Masterclass will be delivered by an expert advisory teacher from CLPE in partnership with award-winning children's poet **Valerie Bloom**.

We will explore:

- How to engage children in reading and performing poetry, develop effective writing and raise engagement and attainment in line with the requirements of the National Curriculum.
- How you can build a spine for poetry across the Early Years and Primary phases.
- High quality poetry collections that can be used at different ages and stages.
- The essential approaches and experiences that engage children with poetry.



Key areas of focus:

- Develop strategies to incorporate poetry into the wider curriculum.
- Learn how to develop and extend children's understanding and use of vocabulary through poetry.
- Develop a wide knowledge of poets and poetry.
- Look at ways to engage children with a variety of poetic styles and forms.
- Investigate how poetry supports the development of reading fluency.
- Use poetry to support pupils to respond to texts at a greater depth and develop deeper levels of inference when reading.
- Look at ways to help children foster their own authentic voices through writing poetry.
- Explore ideas and activities designed to support children to write effectively to make impact on the reader.

Takeaway:

- All participants will gain expert insights from the CLPE's Power of Poetry research project, a free copy of CLPE's Poetry: What We Know Works booklet, as well as receiving a poetry collection for each primary phase (EYFS, KS1 and KS2) to help with the immediate implementation of the day's training. Resources provided will include teaching plans to support schools in providing a range and breadth of poetry as children move through the Early Years and Primary phases.



Book now

To book your place on this Masterclass, please use the [Primary Arts booking platform](#)

Masterclass 6: Transforming Literacy Through Classroom Drama

Explore how classroom drama approaches can enhance literacy development across the primary phase.

Suitable for:

Class teachers (EYFS-KS2, SEND), English Subject Leads, Senior Leadership.

Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

Language and vocabulary, oracy, reading, writing personal, social, emotional development.

Date: Thursday 9 July 2026

Time: 9am to 3.30pm
(or until 5pm for optional networking)

Venue: Centre for Literacy in Primary Education, 44 Webber Street, London SE1 8QW ([map](#)).



Venue accessibility: Step free access, accessible toilets and accessible parking.

Description of session:

Enhance your knowledge and understanding of a wide range of classroom drama approaches which are proven to build children's confidence and self-esteem, provoke creativity and language development, enhancing engagement and attainment in reading comprehension and a range of written outcomes.



1 day (9am to 3.30pm)

Detail of activity:

This Masterclass will be delivered by an expert advisory teacher from CLPE in partnership with drama and oracy creative learning specialist, **Kate Hopewell**. It will provide teachers and school leaders with a wide range of drama and oracy activities that can be used and applied across all areas of literacy and the wider curriculum.

We will explore:

- How to develop and draw upon an extended unit of work inspired by a high-quality text that will support improved attainment in literacy and support thinking skills and creativity across the curriculum.



Key areas of focus:

- Why, when and how to use drama to engage with any area of learning.
- How to ensure behaviour for learning and personalise learning through drama.
- Approaches that develop communication, creative thinking, collaborative working, and social cohesion within a classroom.
- How to unlock a narrative and bring a quality text to life using approaches that develop reading engagement, comprehension skills, fluency and stamina.
- Explore learning approaches which are proven to inspire and enhance attainment for all, and especially for groups of pupils who might be perceived as reluctant to engage or hard to reach.
- Practices that empower children with confidence and ownership and lead to curious, engaged and motivated writers who work collaboratively, individually and independently.
- Activities that enhance language and vocabulary acquisition, engagement with the world and the development of imaginative ideas.

Takeaway:

- Participants will receive a high-quality children's book for each primary phase (EYFS, KS1, KS2), as well as associated teaching sequences of detailed planning to support the implementation of the ideas from the day, to inspire creative and meaningful practice in their own classrooms and schools.



Book now

To book your place on this Masterclass, please use the [Primary Arts booking platform](#)



COME & TRY

Come & Try

The Primary Arts Come & Try programme offers a series of six evening twilight sessions delivered by the Crafts Council, the national charity for craft.

Each twilight offers a stand-alone evening of creativity, peer conversations and refreshments. They are designed to support playful exploration, reimagining craft for the classroom as well as for personal enjoyment and enrichment.

No prior experience is needed for any of these sessions, which will be suitable for complete beginners as well as for those interested in rekindling past interests. We aim for these sessions to be fun, supportive and enjoyable, as well as beneficial to your creative classroom practice.

Participants at each session will:

- Work with craft educators.
- Gain confidence in the use of craft.
- Enjoy conversations with peers over drinks and snacks.
- Take away resources to use in the classroom and craft materials to practice with.



Access & Inclusion

These twilights will take an inclusive approach and are suitable for teachers, Teaching Assistants and any support or admin staff working in primary mainstream and SEND settings. An access budget is available to support participant engagement in this programme, for example for transport, BSL interpretation or other costs.

Eligibility

Primary Arts Come & Try twilights are aimed at staff working in **any role** in state primary mainstream and special schools in London. This may include teachers, Teaching Assistants, SENDCos, support staff, and admin staff. The programme is designed to support your own personal enjoyment and enrichment through the arts, as well as supporting learning.

Your school **must be in a London borough** to be eligible for the programme.

If your school or a member of your school staff is participating in another area of the Primary Arts programme, you are still eligible to take part in this strand of the programme. **Places will be limited to two participants per school for any given session.**

How to Book

There are 25 places available at each Come & Try twilight. You are welcome to book to attend more than one session. However, each session must be booked separately. Come & Try will open for booking on **Wednesday 10 September** and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Please book your place using the booking links given in the session descriptions on the pages that follow. If your chosen Go & See session is fully booked, you will be able to join the waiting list.

Please note that while these sessions are free of charge to attend, please let us know at least three working days in advance if you can no longer attend and cancel your booking on the booking platform so that your place can be offered to someone else.

If you have any questions about the Primary Arts Come & Try twilight sessions, please email schools@anewdirection.org.uk and put 'Primary Arts Come & Try' in the subject line.

Crafts Council



Crafts Council

The Crafts Council is the national charity for craft. We inspire making, empower learning and nurture craft businesses. We believe craft skills and knowledge enrich and uplift us as individuals, and, in doing so, will change our world for the better.

We promote life-long learning in craft, working closely with our networks to secure the future of craft in the classroom and support learning nationwide.

Come & Try: Surface Values with Kim Chin

Create your own attuned visual language through found objects and collagraph printing.

Suitable for: All school staff

Date: Tuesday 25 November 2025

Time: 5pm – 7pm

Venue: Crafts Council Gallery, 44a Pentonville Road, London N1 9BY ([map](#))



Venue accessibility: Step free access, accessible toilets

Description of session:

Come and join us at the Crafts Council Gallery for a fun and relaxed evening with transdisciplinary artist-facilitator-curator-organiser **Kim Chin**, who uses making as a tool for self-discovery, connection, and inspiring agency. They use absence and dissonance as a site for imagination and transformation, while integrating neurodivergent adaptations in cultural, education and community spaces.

The benefits of the workshops include a holistic approach to creativity, a friendly space to experiment and take risks, dedicated slow-down time to attune self-awareness, connect and build networks. You will learn different textile techniques, create a new memory manifested in their textile keep sake.

Detail of activity:

Through different prompts and creative demos, you will reflect on a symbol or pattern that brings you joy and grounding, and translate that onto fabric using texture, colour, form and words.

Different mediums include experimenting with collagraph printing, creating "beads", "sequins" and 3D embellishment made from upcycled fabric off-cuts, threads, paper, old magazines and everyday upcycled materials like cardboard that can be easily sourced from home. There will be a sharing and closing exercise at the end of the session.



Book now

To book your place at this Come & Try session, please use the [Primary Arts booking platform](#)

Come & Try: Quilting and Patchwork for Social Justice with Jahnavi Inniss

Explore the cultural history of quilting and patchwork as a tool for empowerment, resistance and self-expression.

Suitable for: All school staff

Date: Tuesday 13 January 2026

Time: 5pm – 7pm

Venue: Crafts Council Gallery, 44a Pentonville Road, London N1 9BY ([map](#))



Venue accessibility: Step free access, accessible toilets

Description of session:

Come and join us in the Crafts Council Gallery for a fun and relaxed evening with textile artist and craft educator **Jahnavi Inniss**. Participants will learn the history and significance of quilting within marginalised communities.

Detail of activity:

The session will begin with a short presentation for participants to learn the history of quilting as a tool for social justice. Using a selection of fabrics, embroidery thread and bead embellishments, participants will create quilt blocks which affirm a social, political and/or personal belief that they are empowered by or want to advocate to change.



Book now

To book your place at this Come & Try session, please use the [Primary Arts booking platform](#)

Come & Try: Working with Wax with Lola Lely

Create a bouquet of wax linen flowers using beeswax and wax linen offcuts.

Suitable for: All school staff

Date: Tuesday 10 February 2026

Time: 5pm – 7pm

Venue: Crafts Council Gallery, 44a Pentonville Road, London N1 9BY ([map](#))



Venue accessibility: Step free access, accessible toilets

Description of session:

Come and join us in the Crafts Council Gallery for a fun and relaxed evening with the founder of Wax Atelier, **Lola Lely**. Learn how to craft with beeswax and natural circular materials and celebrate the coming of spring, creating a bouquet of long-lasting wax flowers.

Detail of activity:

In this session, participants will have the opportunity to create their own long-lasting spring bouquet flowers made from wax waste. Participants will explore forming wax materials and both traditional dipping techniques and contemporary techniques developed by Wax Atelier.



Book now

To book your place at this Come & Try session, please use the [Primary Arts booking platform](#)

Come & Try: Introduction to Coiled Basket Weaving with Tabara N'Diaye

Learn about the cultural significance of basketry and create your own unique basket.

Suitable for: All school staff

Date: Tuesday 24 March 2026

Time: 5pm – 7pm

Venue: Crafts Council Gallery, 44a Pentonville Road, London N1 9BY ([map](#))



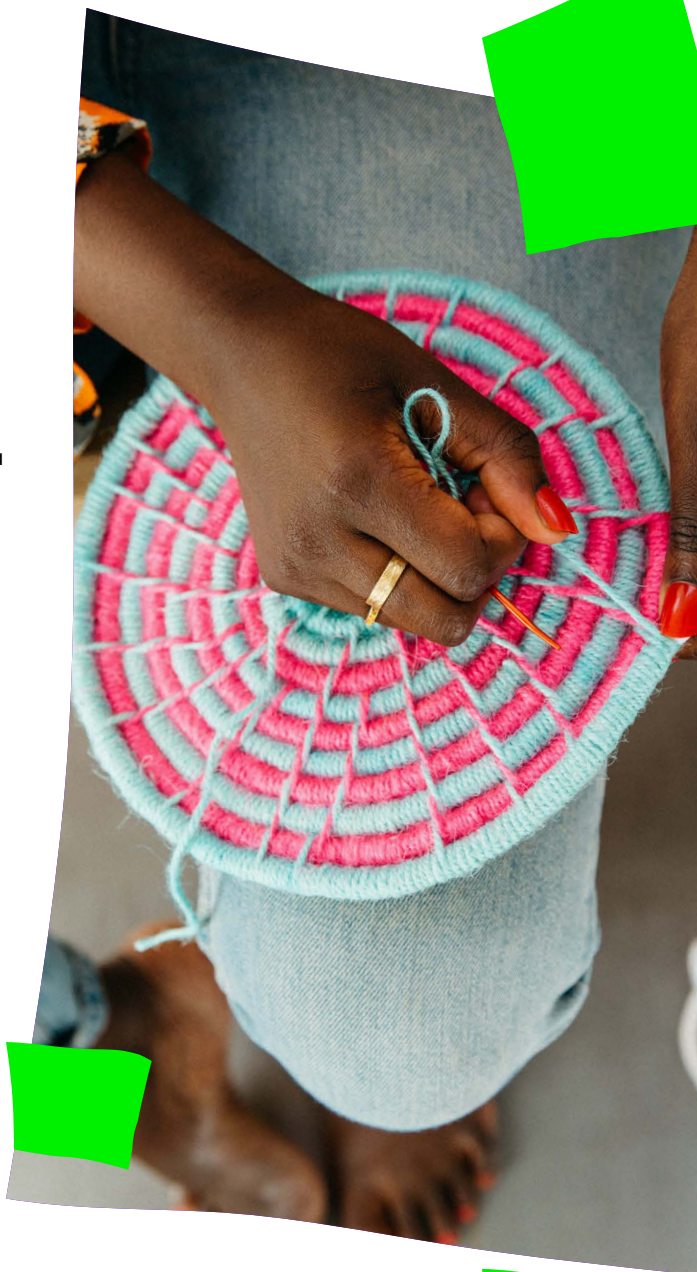
Venue accessibility: Step free access, accessible toilets

Description of session:

Come and join us in the Crafts Council Gallery for a fun and relaxed evening with **Tabara N'Diaye**, designer, author and founder of La Basketry, for a vibrant, hands-on introduction to coiled basket-weaving. Inspired by her Senegalese roots and love of modern craft, Tabara brings a fresh, accessible approach to this age-old technique.

Detail of activity:

At this session, you will wrap and stitch using rolls of colourful twine and a variety of playful materials to create own unique basket. Along the way, you'll learn about the cultural significance of basketry and discover its meditative, creative joys. Whether you're a complete beginner or simply curious, this session promises inspiration, community, and something beautiful to take home.



Book now

To book your place at this Come & Try session, please use the [Primary Arts booking platform](#)

Come & Try: Nature's Palette: Dye, Paint, Twist, Create with Alice Burnhope

Explore natural dyeing, painting and rope-making using ancient skills and contemporary creativity.

Suitable for: All school staff

Date: Tuesday 12 May 2026

Time: 5pm – 7pm

Venue: Crafts Council Gallery, 44a Pentonville Road, London N1 9BY ([map](#))



Venue accessibility: Step free access, accessible toilets

Description of session:

Come and join us in the Crafts Council Gallery for a fun and relaxed evening with award-winning sustainable textile artist **Alice Burnhope**. This playful and sensory workshop blends ancient and contemporary craft practices to inspire ways of making in the classroom.

With sustainability at its core, in this session participants will explore accessible, hands-on textile techniques that connect creativity with nature. The session supports creative confidence and wellbeing while offering simple, practical ideas to take back into the school setting. No experience needed—just curiosity and joy in learning through touch, colour, and collaboration!

Detail of activity:

Together, we'll explore the contemporary natural dyeing process of bundle dye, painting with handmade natural dye inks, and transforming dyed fabrics into vibrant, tactile rope. This ancient method of rope-making is accessible and engaging; perfect for collaborative classroom projects. Participants will leave with their own painted samples, dyed fabric, handmade decoration, and ink pots to take back to their schools.

You'll also gain fresh ideas for reusing textiles, working with natural materials, and embedding sustainability into creative learning.



Book now

To book your place at this Come & Try session, please use the [Primary Arts booking platform](#)

Come & Try: Make New Forms with Metal , with Jacky Oliver

Learn from jeweller-turned-sculptor Jacky Oliver, working with metal to explore forms and ideas.

Suitable for: All school staff

Date: Tuesday 7 July 2026

Time: 5pm – 7pm

Venue: Crafts Council Gallery, 44a Pentonville Road, London N1 9BY ([map](#))



Venue accessibility: Step free access, accessible toilets

Description of session:

Come and join us in the Crafts Council Gallery for a fun and relaxed evening with maker and metalwork artist **Jacky Oliver**. Using a mix of metal, wire, and other materials, you'll have a chance to 'make first' and explore your creativity through sculpture.

Jacky creates sculptural pieces that combine the heaviness of blacksmithing with the refinement and delicacy of jewellery work. Jacky's work combines composition using line, space and shadows with work that tells a story and sparks conversation. You'll use a range of metal pieces, wire, and off cuts to bring your ideas to life. Take part for your own enrichment, while also learning how to use your new-found skills to support classroom learning.

Detail of activity:

Get creative using the everyday material of metal. You'll have a chance to apply Crafts Council's Make First pedagogy: diving straight into making and using materials to develop your ideas. You'll then work with Jacky to create and refine your ideas, learning some of the techniques she uses in her work.

In this fun and enriching workshop, participants will experience working responsively with materials and create a unique decorative object that they can take home.



Book now

To book your place at this Come & Try session, please use the [Primary Arts booking platform](#)

Summary

All the information in this brochure can also be found on A New Direction's website at

www.anewdirection.org.uk/primary-arts.

Bookings will open on Wednesday 10 September. All bookings must be made through our online booking platform, which you can find at [here](#).

You can find FAQs about the programme and the booking process on our website [here](#).

If you can't find the answer to your question in the FAQs, please email schools@anewdirection.org.uk and we'll do our best to help.

Bookings – a reminder

For **Masterclasses** and **Come & Try** sessions, each participant must book their own place. Please do not book places on behalf of others.

For the **In-Schools Touring** and **Go & See** programmes, please make sure you nominate the right person to act as lead contact, and that your school and headteacher details are correct.

For **Go & See**, please make sure that the session(s) you submit booking requests for are right for you. Please check your travel plans and your school diary before you book.

Everyone registered on the booking platform will be automatically notified when the **Go & See** summer season opens for bookings in February 2026.

If you would like to be notified when the Cultural Education Leadership Programme 2026/27 opens for applications in spring 2026, please email schools@anewdirection.org.uk with 'CELP' in the subject line.

Help us spread the word

We want as many schools as possible to benefit from the Primary Arts programme. Please share this brochure with colleagues in other schools so that they can also take part. Or tell them to email schools@anewdirection.org.uk and we'll send them all the information they need.

We look forward to working with you soon.

Thank you!

About A New Direction

A New Direction is an award-winning charity working to enhance the capacity and agency of children and young people in London to own their creativity, shape culture, and achieve their creative potential.

Primary Arts is funded by The City of London Corporation City Educational Trust Fund (29084), a City of London Corporation charity. We are extremely grateful to them for their continued support.

Get involved in the conversation online

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