

2024/25

Primary Arts

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

**A NEW
DIRECTION**

We create **opportunity**

Explore



Welcome

About

**In-Schools
Touring**



Go & See



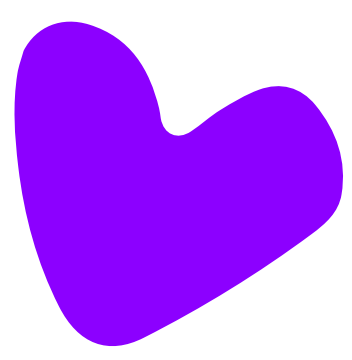
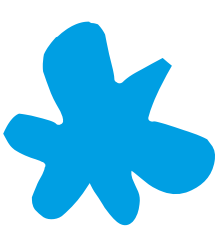
Masterclasses



Come & Try



Summary



Welcome

We are delighted to announce the launch of **A New Direction's Primary Arts** programme, which 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.

The entire 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 wellbeing, confidence, personal interest, and professional development in a time of increasing pressures on schools and their staff.

The programme has five strands and schools can choose which of them to join. At the beginning of September, following a pilot that ran during the last academic year, our second cohort of teachers will embark on the Cultural Education Leadership Programme. Delivered in partnership with **UCL Centre for Educational Leadership at the Institute of Education**, this course supports mid-career teachers to act as leaders in cultural education.

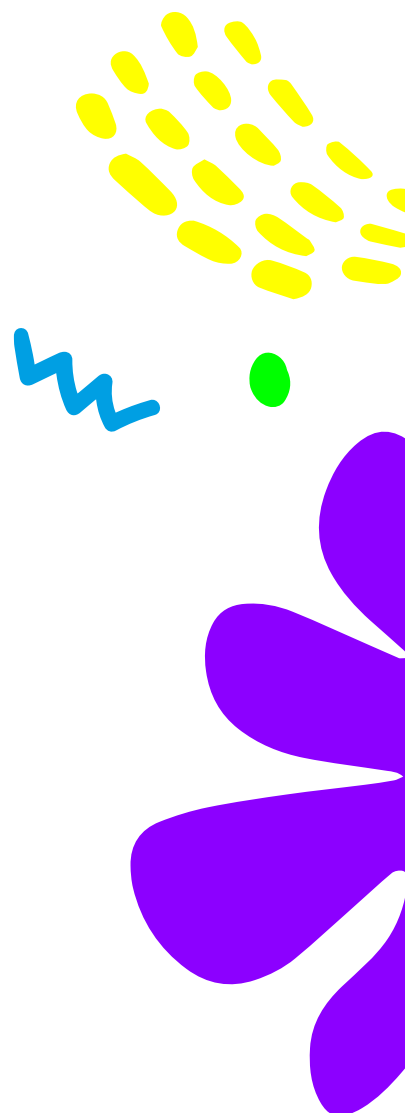
The other four strands of **Primary Arts** begin activity from November 2024 and **can be booked from 25 September**. These include **In-Schools Touring** with performances and supporting pupil workshops, teacher CPD and classroom resources; **Go & See** with **free access to cultural experiences across London** for pupils in winter 2024 and summer 2025; **Masterclasses** on creative approaches to reader development, delivered in partnership with the **Centre for Literacy in Primary Education** for teachers; and free hands-on twilight **Come & Try workshops** delivered with the **Crafts Council** to explore a variety of craft disciplines and available to 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 will be delivered annually across three academic years from September 2024. **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 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 their teachers across London.



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 wellbeing, confidence, personal interest and development.

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 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 on how to book or express your interest. All bookings are processed through our [online booking platform](#). Each person booking to attend a Masterclass or Come & Try event must register on the booking platform under their school profile. For the In-Schools Touring programme and Go & See you will need to specify a lead teacher for us to liaise with. **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).

Go & See is available to all eligible schools, however 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 to 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 – 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





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 in full on the pages that follow.

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 two weeks prior to the performance, to 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** 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.

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 in the first year. If you participated in the pilot of the In-Schools Touring programme in 2023/24, you are unlikely to be allocated a place on the programme this year.

Please read the offer descriptions carefully on the pages that follow, consider your school's needs and areas of interest, and identify your first and second choice of offer. Each description includes year group suitability – 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 9am on Friday 18 October 2024.**

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 Monday 4 November to let you know whether we are able to offer your school a place on the programme and to move 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 prior to your performance** (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.





Animate Arts: The Cardboard Castle

Explore an installation of a castle made from cardboard, full of creativity and joyful pageantry.



Animate Arts Company

Animate Arts makes high-quality, inspirational art projects, that creatively engage people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds. Nurtured by a team of professional artists, performers, and creatives, our projects bring people together through art. We build teams who work collaboratively together to create extraordinary things – often from paper and cardboard!

animate
arts
company



Animate Arts: The Cardboard Castle

Key Stage / Year Groups:

Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2, SEND.

Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

Art & Design, PSHE, Improving Health and Wellbeing, Developing a Growth Mindset, British Values – Democracy.

About the show

"Welcome to our most noble Order of the Art-er in this beautifully decorated Great Hall in the Cardboard Castle. This is a special gathering of pupils, teachers and artists, who will be honoured and receive prestigious acknowledgements for their individual achievements, good character and creativity. Let the ceremony begin!"


Built in your school hall, the Cardboard Castle is a life-size art installation, made entirely from paper and cardboard. Pupils and teachers are invited to decorate the castle's Great Hall ready for a colourful ceremony, which will celebrate everybody's place in the castle community in full pomp, pageantry and kindness.

 1 hour

About the pupil workshops

Before visiting the Cardboard Castle, pupils and teachers will design and create their very own heraldry shield, inspired by their character, talents and achievements. In this crafty workshop participants will explore the brilliant materials of cardboard and paper, with the support of professional visual artists from Animate Arts.


Their hand-made creations will be essential preparations and decorations to bring along to the Cardboard Castle installation as they will play a part in the performance experience.

 1 hour

Teacher twilight CPD

The makers of the Cardboard Castle will share their knowledge, expertise, tips and tricks with teachers to help create extraordinary interactive environments for your classrooms and school. In this after-school workshop, staff will develop skills in cardboard sculpture and displays, and inspire all classes across the school to get involved in the Cardboard Castle project.

This is a fun, practical, hands-on CPD workshop, encouraging staff to be imaginative, problem-solve and work together to build and create their very own castle installation to use as a book corner/role-play area in the school.

 1.5 hours

 Can accommodate the whole staff team.



Book now

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





Arvon: Creative Writing Day

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



Arvon

Arvon is the UK's leading creative writing charity dedicated to nurturing writers of all ages. Since 1968, we have been running residential writing courses and workshops with schools and individuals. Writers Helen Mort and Lemn Sissay are among those whose passion for writing was first awakened at Arvon.



Arvon: Creative Writing Day

Key Stage / Year Groups:


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

About the pupil workshops

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

 1 hour

Teacher twilight CPD

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

 1 hour

 Up to 15



Book now

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





Clowns Without Borders: Piranhas and Bananas

Sharing Laughter, Sparking Change: Elevating Pupil Voice.



Clowns Without Borders

Clowns Without Borders UK shares its trademark physical comedy, creativity and chaos to champion children's rights. With whole-hearted participation, their joyful performances and workshops are designed to engage, inspire and delight. With a presence in 20 countries, they've brought laughter to more than 120,000 children.



Clowns Without Borders: Piranhas and Bananas

Key Stage / Year Groups:


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 that 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

About the pupil workshops

Flip Flop is inspired by the imaginative ideas of children. They really help 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

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 20 minutes

 Up to 20



Book now

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



Conductive Music: Mindful Soundscapes

Interactive eco-music experience for Key Stage 2
and SEND pupils, fostering creativity and musicality.

Conductive Music CIC

England's only music-led STEAM company, Conductive Music integrates Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics through music. Recognised by the Department for Education for best practice in Music Technology, we offer unique STEAM workshops, generative AI experiences, CPD for teachers, and inclusive education for SEND and marginalised pupils.



Conductive Music: Mindful Soundscapes

Key Stage / Year Groups:


Key Stage 2, SEND.

Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

Music, Science, Art & Design, Computing, Physical Education, Mental Health and Wellbeing, Developing a Growth Mindset, British Values, Raising Attainment in Speaking and Listening.

About the show

Mindful Soundscapes fosters creativity and mindfulness among pupils through an artistic installation on climate change, upcycling, and environmental awareness. The interactive performance features a live plant set connected via TouchMe and MakeyMakey technology. Three trees, representing the Three Gods, narrate a story partly generated by pupils and inspired by Greek, Norse, and Southeast Asian mythology. The stage setup includes found materials and upcycled props, integrating mental health and mindfulness themes through tactile and sensory experiences and deeply engaging pupils in environmental sustainability.

 45 minutes


About the pupil workshops

In the workshop, pupils create an immersive environment by experimenting with MakeyMakey technology, blending creativity and scientific understanding. They build interactive bio-sculptures from tin foil and other materials, contributing to different parts of a story. These bio-sculptures form a garden orchestra, triggering natural sounds like birds, wind, and water. Movement activities involve mimicking natural shapes and contributing to the narrative, fostering physical engagement and environmental connection. Pupils recreate the environment through group storytelling, enhancing their collaborative skills and creative thinking.

 1 Hour

Teacher twilight CPD

Our teacher twilight CPD session aims to boost non-specialist teachers' confidence in delivering the National Plan for Music Education. It integrates creativity, music-making, and environmental awareness into teaching practices. The session includes vocabulary-building story games, soundscape design, and introductions to digital tools like Google Arts and Culture and Sampler Apps. These activities enhance storytelling and vocabulary skills, provide practical experience in music technology, and familiarise teachers with digital tools for creative projects.

 1.5 hours

 Up to 30



Book now

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



Embracing Arts: Roll Up, Roll Up

An inclusive, interactive, sensory
circus adventure LIVE in your school!

Embracing Arts

Embracing Arts is a sensory theatre company with a mission to make the arts accessible for all. We produce sensory theatre shows, workshops and parties for children with special educational needs, disabilities and life-limiting illness, their families, carers and teachers.



Embracing Arts: Roll Up, Roll Up

Key Stage / Year Groups:


Reception, Key Stage 1, SEND – including Key Stage 2 in SEND settings

Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

Arts and Creativity, Mental Health and Wellbeing, Communication, Speaking, Listening & Engagement, British Values – Individual Liberty.


About the show

Embracing Arts welcomes you to the big top – except we've lost all of our performers! We need YOUR PUPILS to entertain and show off their circus skills! Dazzle at our daring lion tamers, become tenacious tightrope walkers, show off your stealth as strong men and women, be amazed at acrobats who will throw themselves through a ring of fire! Cry with laughter at crazy, clumsy clowns. Let's make this the GREATEST SHOW your school has ever seen!

 50 minutes

About the pupil workshops

Through the workshops, we delve deeper into sensory exploration and creating sensory theatre, as well as giving each pupil an opportunity to access all the sensory props featured in our show. Pupils are encouraged to learn a new skill such as plate spinning – requiring hand-eye coordination and balance. We also look at communication, and how we can include both verbal and non-verbal learners by exploring physicality, keyword signing and other sensory approaches to make learning a fully inclusive experience.

 45 minutes

Teacher twilight CPD

The CPD will prepare staff for the approach that Embracing Arts uses for multi-sensory learning. There will be practical elements of using 'everyday' items in new ways to create an immersive, accessible learning strategy. We will explore how we can bring core subjects to life through the techniques of performance and sensory engagement. We will also give a focus to keyword signing and Social and Visual Stories to show how we, and the staff, can prepare learners to access this subject.

 1 hour

 Up to 30



Book now

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



emma + pj: The Shivers



A high-octane thriller for young audiences about misinformation and learning to trust your gut.



emma + pj

emma + pj is an artist duo working at the intersection of theatre, installation, and live art. They create distinctive, dreamlike performances and playful, cinematic environments that invite us to reimagine our place in the world. Previously they were resident artists at the Barbican Centre and The Spring, and lead artists of Yardlings: Bigger at The Yard Theatre.



emma + pj: The Shivers

Key Stage / Year Groups:


Key Stage 2, SEND.

Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

PSHE and Online Safety.

About the show

The Shivers is a high-octane action-comedy for young audiences about spies, lies, and learning to trust your gut. A fox, a pigeon, and a rookie agent are on a mission to save the world – but everything is not what it seems. Exploring themes of trust, authority, and friendship, The Shivers is a dynamic and accessible parable about living in the age of misinformation. Blending live music, dance, video, and physical comedy, the show is a feast for the senses that pushes the boundaries of performance in primary settings.

 55 minutes

About the pupil workshops

This creativity workshop led by writer/directors Emma Clark and PJ Stanley encourages collaboration, play, and self-reflection. Each hands-on workshop will feature activities bringing to life the world of The Shivers and its core themes, including:

- World Building: designing heroes and villains, from Eye Spies to Miss Information's minions.
- Design: creating tin foil disguises and exploring how they make us move and interact.
- Performance: devising short scenes, emphasising collaboration and improvisation.

The workshop is designed to lift the lid on different types of creativity and can be tailored to the specific needs and interests of each class.

 1 hour

Teacher twilight CPD

This energetic CPD session takes the form of a creativity lab, bringing together teachers with devised theatre makers to explore a range of tools for tackling complex themes and subject matter through collaboration and play. Using The Shivers Creativity Pack as a jumping off point, teachers will respond to playful quick-fire devising prompts drawn from the world and themes of the show, getting on their feet and exploring through doing. Teachers will build confidence in using alternative approaches to enliven their classrooms, inspire the imaginations of their pupils, and think outside the box.

 1 hour

 Up to 10



Book now

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





LAStheatre: The Littlest Yak

Adaptation of the award-winning book by Lu Fraser and Kate Hindley, with beautiful puppets, catchy tunes & 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 Stage / Year Groups:

Reception, Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2, SEND.


Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

Art & Design, Creativity, Learning and PSHE, Wellbeing and Healthy Lifestyles, Literacy and 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

About the pupil workshops

Our workshops for Reception and KS1 will focus on using drama games and arts activities to develop confidence and celebrate the things that make each of us unique.

For KS2 we will cover the same ground whilst also providing an introduction to puppetry – creating simple tabletop puppets together.

 1 hour

Teacher twilight CPD

In the twilight CPD, we will explore the principals 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

 Up to 15



Book now

To submit a booking request for **The Littlest Yak**, 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.



Mbilla Arts: Routes to Rhythm

Key Stage / Year Groups:

Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2, SEND.


Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

Music, 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.

 45 minutes

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 to round off the workshop in an atmosphere of carnival celebration with drumming and Soca music.

 1 hour

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.
- Delivery of West African Dance and Soca: dance styles by experienced Dance Teacher Alison Ray with a step-by-step teaching of basic dance movements.

 1 hour

 Can be delivered to whole staff team



Book now

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





Musiko Musika: From the Incas to Silicon Valley in Music

Exploring and celebrating diversity, history and geography through music with hands-on experience of panpipe playing.

Musiko Musika

Musiko Musika uses world music as a tool to enable people of all cultures to express themselves through music and work together. We develop and deliver innovative music projects, programmes, and events with a social and cultural impact including creative & instrumental workshops, ensembles, training, family learning, and digital content.



Musiko Musika: From the Incas to Silicon Valley in Music

Key Stage / Year Groups:

Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2, SEND.


Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

Music, Geography, Modern Foreign Languages, Science, Raising Attainment in Speaking and Listening, Art & Design, PSHE, British Values, Wellbeing.

About the show


Musiko Musika's visit to your school will start with a performance presenting a sequence of musical pieces illustrating the musical styles, instruments, and cultural history of Spanish speaking Latin America. Along the way pupils will learn about different instruments including from the indigenous ancient Incas, and the musical and cultural impact of the European colonisers and of the Africans brought to South America by the slave trade.

Led by key performers from the group Quimantu, these exceptional musicians will be playing a wonderfully diverse selection of stringed, wind and percussion instruments from around the world.

 50 minutes

About the pupil workshops


The workshop will give pupils hands-on experience of some of the instruments, taking them on a journey from the Incas to Silicon Valley by introducing pupils to today's world of music technology. Pupils learn to sing a song in Spanish and English and to play a simple melodic line using our specially designed panpipes. Based on a pentatonic scale, our unique "pentasikus" utilise the traditional method of playing panpipes, with pupils working together to play them in pairs. The final stage will integrate these ancient music making techniques with pupils utilising Andean sampled instruments through MIDI controlled music software.

 40 to 60 minutes

Teacher twilight CPD

The CPD session is designed to inform teachers, prepare them for the performance and workshop visit and give them the skills and knowledge to utilise the follow-up resources effectively across the whole school. It will also familiarise staff with the background context of the musical and cultural content pupils will encounter, enabling them to engage participating classes and the wider school community with what our programme offers. Each school will be provided with four sets of pentasikus to keep and use for the follow-up activities as well as access to Musiko Musika's digital resources.

 1 hour

 min 2 to max 20



Book now

To submit a booking request for **From the Incas to Silicon Valley in Music**, please use the [Primary Arts booking platform](#)





The Postal Museum: The Jolly Postman

Step inside a much-loved story in an interactive show to help The Jolly Postman deliver the post for 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 / Year Groups:


Reception, Key Stage 1, SEND.

Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

Literacy, Understanding the World, Communication and Language, PSHE.

About the show

Step inside the much-loved story by Janet and Allan Ahlberg in this lively literacy mission to help The Jolly Postman collect, sort and deliver the post. This interactive performance brings fairy-tale land to life in a series of magical deliveries. Pupils become a team of jolly posties using postal props, song, rhyme and Makaton signs to experience the magic of sending and receiving letters, parcels and postcards. The show is designed to support literacy learning and connects to topics across the curriculum.

 45 minutes


About the pupil workshops


This workshop puts the fictional story into a real-life context. At the end of the performance, the pupils receive a mystery delivery revealing their next mission. Back in the classroom, jolly posties put what they have learned into action to sort and send letters at sorting stations. The workshop introduces pupils to various kinds of post, develops reading and writing skills and understanding of writing for different purposes. At the end, pupils will write their own letters or postcards for The Jolly Postman.

 1 hour

Teacher twilight CPD

Led by Rosie Tells Tales, Schools and Early Years Programme Producer at The Postal Museum and an experienced storyteller and learning producer, this CPD provides a taster of the performance and the opportunities to link postal themes and creative literacy learning. Teachers will build a toolkit of approaches for a class topic based on the book.

 1.5 hours

 Up to 15 teachers and support staff



Book now

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





Go & See



Go & See

The Primary Arts Go & See programme offers a range of opportunities for pupils and their teachers to experience theatre, film and visual arts in London.

This programme gives pupils and staff in one year group per school the opportunity to experience the arts within venues rather than at school. It also aims to support teachers to connect these experiences to classroom learning, through online CPD sessions. The programme has two seasons: Winter 2024 and Summer 2025.

For the Winter season of Go & See, schools can apply for tickets from a choice of five different theatre productions, and one immersive art installation. For the Summer season of Go & See, schools can apply for tickets from a range of film, theatre and visual art options. The Summer season will open for bookings in Spring 2025.

Please note that there is a limited number of tickets available per performance. We will try to allocate tickets to as many schools as possible but it may not be possible for us to accommodate every booking request we receive.

Schools will

- Receive tickets for a theatre performance, gallery visit or cinema screening in London for all classes in one Year Group.
- Be supported to connect these experiences to classroom learning and the National Curriculum through online CPD and resources.
- Be supported with risk assessments.

Access & Inclusion

An access budget will be available to support participant engagement in this programme, for example towards transport, additional staff or other costs.

Eligibility

The Primary Arts Go & See programme is open to state primary and primary SEND settings in London. The programme aims to support pupils' personal enjoyment, wellbeing and enrichment through the arts, as well as supporting their learning through CPD for teachers.

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. If you participated in the pilot of the Go & See programme in 2023/24, you are unlikely to be allocated a place on the programme this year.

Teacher CPD for Go & See

All schools attending a **theatre** performance will be able to access a pre-recorded CPD exploring:

- How to prepare your pupils for a visit to the theatre.
- Ideas for activities to do before and after your visit.
- How to utilise drama activities in the classroom.

A pre-recorded CPD will also be available for schools attending a **visual arts** offer. This will explore:

- Using visual art in the classroom
- How to prepare primary aged pupils for a visit to a gallery.
- Ideas for activities to do before and after a visit to a gallery.
- How to engage with gallery spaces and artworks and ideas for activities to do during a visit.

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. If you apply for theatre, you may also apply for visual art (Frameless). You can also apply for visual art (Frameless) only – i.e. without also submitting a theatre booking request.

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

Check your travel before you book:

Please consider carefully the location of your chosen venue, the distance from your school and the feasibility of travelling to and from it. All events 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.

We may be able to offer access support for pupils with access requirements.

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. **All booking requests must be submitted by 9am on Friday 18 October 2024.**

You will be contacted by Monday 4 November to confirm whether we are able to offer you tickets for your chosen offer.

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 prior to your event (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.



Brixton House: Alice in Wonderland Returns

This award-winning five-star production follows Alice and friends on a hundred-mile-an-hour Christmas adventure, weaving rap music together with the sights and sounds of Brixton.



Brixton House

Brixton House is a modern arts venue in South London. An inspired vision to build a cultural hub centred on the legacy of the former Ovalhouse Theatre. Our new multi-arts venue, with a particular focus on theatre, tells stories from underheard voices and communities that represent our home in the heart of Brixton.



Brixton House: Alice in Wonderland Returns

Key Stage / Year Groups:

Key Stage 2, SEND.


About the show

After an explosive argument with Mum at Brixton Underground Station, eleven-year-old Alice leaps onto the tube seconds before the doors hiss shut. Trapped on a train speeding into Nonsense, surrounded by weird and wonderful passengers, and at the mercy of a Queen who won't relinquish the controls, can Alice turn this train around? Multi-award-winning company Poltergeist weaves rap music together with the sights and sounds of Brixton into a hundred-mile-an-hour Christmas adventure.

Show Dates

Friday 22 November, 11am

Tuesday 10 December, 1.30pm

 1 hour 50 minutes, including a 15-minute interval.

Venue Information

Brixton House is located at 385 Coldharbour Lane, Brixton, London SW9 8GL ([map](#)).

Brixton House has a fully wheelchair accessible building and theatre spaces.



Book now

To submit a booking request for Alice in Wonderland Returns, please use the [Primary Arts booking platform](#)



Greenwich Theatre: Dick Whittington and his Cat

Join Dick Whittington and his Cat as they seek fame and fortune in an adventure through good old London Town!

Greenwich Theatre

Greenwich Theatre is one of London's foremost Off-West End theatres, working on a local, national, and international stage.

Greenwich Theatre: Dick Whittington and his Cat

Key Stage / Year Groups:

Reception, Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2, SEND.

About the show

Join Dick Whittington and his Cat as they seek fame and fortune in an adventure through good old London Town! Can he outwit the evil King Rat, defeat his gang of revolting rodents?! Will he win the beautiful Alice Fitzwarren's hand in marriage and become Lord Mayor of London?! Find out in this pantomime paved with gold!

Following our Offie Award winning panto in 2019 and our nominations for "Robin Hood" and "Snow White", Dick Whittington and his Cat will once again see the return of the much-loved Greenwich Theatre Pantomime production team!

Show Dates

Wednesday 27 November, 10am

Thursday 28 November, 10am

 2 hours 30 minutes including interval.

Venue Information

Greenwich Theatre is located at Crooms Hill, London SE10 8ES ([map](#)).

Greenwich Theatre is wheelchair accessible with a lift and level seating.



DICK WHITTINGTON
AND HIS CAT



Book now

To submit a booking request for Dick Whittington and his Cat, please use the [Primary Arts booking platform](#)



Little Angel Theatre: The Singing Mermaid

A fun, warm-hearted musical adaptation of Julia Donaldson's much-loved book.



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: The Singing Mermaid

Key Stage / Year Groups:

Reception, Key Stage 1, Lower Key Stage 2
(Years 3 and 4), SEND.

About the show

One day, the singing mermaid is tempted away from all of her sea creature friends and her peaceful home at Silversands to join a travelling circus. The audiences love to hear her sing, but the poor mermaid was tricked! Instead of the swimming pool she was promised, she is kept in a small tank by the wicked circus master Sam Sly, and she soon longs to return to the freedom of the sea. Will she ever escape? And who will help her along the way?


Through beautiful puppetry and performance, Julia Donaldson and Lydia Monks's enormously popular story, *The Singing Mermaid*, is brought to life.

Show Dates

Friday 6 December, 10.30am

Friday 13 December, 10.30am

Friday 13 December, 1.15pm

 55 minutes

Venue Information

Little Angel Theatre is located at 14 Dagmar Passage, Islington, London N1 2DN ([map](#))

Little Angel Theatre is wheelchair accessible but with limited wheelchair availability. There is no parking available on site.



Book now

To submit a booking request for *The Singing Mermaid*, please use the [Primary Arts booking platform](#)



Lyric Hammersmith: Aladdin

Soar above the streets of Hammersmith with our panto heroes Aladdin and Jasmine.

Aladdin

By **Sonia Jalaly**

Directed by **Nicholai La Barrie**



Lyric Hammersmith

The Lyric Hammersmith is a theatre in West London that creates world class theatre from the heart of Hammersmith.

Lyric



Lyric Hammersmith: Aladdin

Key Stage / Year Groups:

Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 and 6), SEND

About the show

Your wishes have been granted, for Aladdin is the Lyric's 2024 panto! Soar above the streets of Hammersmith with our panto heroes Aladdin and Jasmine for an adventure you won't forget.


Following the success of Jack and the Beanstalk in 2022, award-winning writer Sonia Jalaly and director Nicholai La Barrie join forces once again to bring us a brand-new take on the story we all know and love, with added chart-topping tunes, side-splitting comedy and a fresh yet familiar Lyric twist.

Show Dates

Thursday 28 November, 10am

Wednesday 4 December, 10am

Friday 6 December, 1.30pm

 Approx 2 hours including interval.

Venue Information

Lyric Hammersmith Theatre is located at Lyric Square, King Street, Hammersmith, London W6 0QL ([map](#))

The Lyric Hammersmith Theatre is inclusive and welcoming to all. The building is fully accessible. There is no parking available on site. The nearest disabled car parking spaces are in the King's Mall shopping centre.



Book now

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



Stratford East: Pinocchio

Join wooden puppet Pinocchio, and his poor toy maker father Geppetto in Stratford this Christmas!



Stratford East

Stratford East is a theatre in East London that prides itself on making extraordinary shows that are affordable for all. We have a long and proud history of programming ambitious and innovative theatre and are about to celebrate turning 140 this year.

Stratford East: Pinocchio

Key Stage / Year Groups:

Reception, Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2, SEND.

About the show


Will Blue Rinse Fairy and Krik Krak the cricket be able to keep Pinocchio off the crooked path, as he battles the trials and tribulations of becoming a "real boy"?

Round up your class and join us for a reimagined telling of the fairy tale classic to find out.

Show Dates

Tuesday 3 December, 10am

Thursday 5 December, 10am

 Approx 2 hours including interval.

Venue Information

Stratford East is located at Gerry Raffles Square, London E15 1BN ([map](#))

The main entrance to the theatre has step-free access. Within the auditorium, there are six wheelchair spaces in the stalls. There is no parking available on site. The nearest disabled car parking spaces are in the Stratford Centre.



Book now

To submit a booking request for Pinocchio, 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 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 / Year Groups:

Key Stage 2, SEND

About the offer

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. The ultimate immersive art experience is suitable for Key Stage 2 children. 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.

Session Dates

Monday 25 November:

Session 1: 10:10am – 12pm

Session 2: 10:20am – 12pm

Session 3: 10:30am – 12:15pm

Session 4: 12:15pm – 1:45pm

Session 5: 12:25pm – 2pm

Session 6: 12:30pm – 2pm

Session 7: 12:40pm – 2:15pm

You should allow for around 70 minutes in the galleries.

Thursday 30 January, 10:30am – 12:30pm

Relaxed Session (priority for this session will be given to SEND settings but mainstream schools are welcome to apply).

 1.5 hours

Venue Information

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

Frameless is wheelchair accessible.



Book now

To submit a booking request for Frameless, 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 the creative literary experts at the Centre for Literacy in Primary Education.

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 one 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 state 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 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 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 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 30 places available at each Masterclass. You are welcome to book to attend more than one Masterclass; each must be booked separately. Masterclasses will open for booking on **Wednesday 25 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 Masterclass is fully booked, you will be able to join the waiting list.

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



CENTRE FOR LITERACY
IN PRIMARY EDUCATION



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), English Subject Leads, Senior Leadership.

Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

Language and Vocabulary, Oracy, Reading, Writing, PSHE.

Date: Tuesday 26 November 2024


Timings: 9am to 3.30pm plus optional twilight networking to 5pm

Venue: Centre for Literacy in Primary Education, 44 Webber Street, London SE1 8QW

Description of session

Full day teacher CPD.

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 – or 5pm for optional networking)

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** and 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, and the ways in which the act of reading expands understanding of language, vocabulary and knowledge of the world.

We will consider the role of all adults in school as readers, creating a culture in which children can be influenced to read widely and for pleasure, as well as the practices that enable teacher and peer book recommendations to take place and which build reading habits and reader identity.

We will demonstrate creative teaching approaches that give all children access to high quality texts, and that are designed to target specific reading skills and increase children's motivation to read with a greater depth of understanding, leading to increased engagement and attainment across your school.

We will reflect on the importance of providing a range and breadth of carefully chosen quality children's literature in developing engaged and motivated readers.

We will also look at ways in which schools make this stock accessible, developing children's self-selection and independence in reading and fostering a love of reading across the school community.



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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.
- 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.



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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), English Subject Leads, Senior Leadership.

Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

Language and Vocabulary, Oracy, Reading, Writing, PSHE.

Date: Tuesday 21 January 2025


Timings: 9am to 3.30pm plus optional twilight networking to 5pm

Venue: Centre for Literacy in Primary Education, 44 Webber Street, London SE1 8QW

Description of session

Full day teacher CPD.

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 – or 5pm for optional networking)

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** and 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), English Subject Leads, Senior Leadership.

Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

Language and Vocabulary, Oracy, Reading, Writing, PSHE.

Date: Tuesday 4 March 2025


Timings: 9am to 3.30pm plus optional twilight networking to 5pm

Venue: Centre for Literacy in Primary Education, 44 Webber Street, London SE1 8QW

Description of session

Full day teacher CPD.

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 – or 5pm for optional networking)

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** and 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 the literacy provision.

Through a range of interactive activities, we will investigate 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. We will also develop an understanding of how traditional tales can be used to develop children's own use of language as well as a clear understanding of narrative structure; inspiring them to write creatively and independently.

By working alongside an experienced storyteller and workshop leader, we will be able to reflect on the value of storytelling (and the approaches which support and prepare pupils for storytelling) which can be used in class with all children to improve confidence, engagement, language and vocabulary development and lead to independent writing behaviours – all 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), English Subject Leads, Senior Leadership.

Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

Language and Vocabulary, Oracy, Reading, Writing, PSHE.

Date: Tuesday 29 April 2025

Timings: 9am to 3.30pm plus optional twilight networking to 5pm


Venue: Centre for Literacy in Primary Education, 44 Webber Street, London SE1 8QW

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Description of session

Full day teacher CPD.

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 – or 5pm for optional networking)

Detail of activity

This Masterclass will be delivered by an expert advisory teacher from CLPE in partnership with the award-winning children's author/illustrator **Ed Vere** and will support participants to enhance their 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.

Through a range of interactive activities, we will investigate how well-chosen picture books, specific teaching of how illustration can be read, and thoughtfully planned activities can increase children's comprehension of language and engage children in deeper response in reading. We will also develop an understanding of how picture books can be used to develop children's own use of language as well as a clear understanding of narrative structure; inspiring them to write creatively and independently.

By working alongside a published author and illustrator, we will be able to reflect on and use a variety of creative, authentic and meaningful approaches to the writing process, which can be used in class with all children to improve independent writing, engagement and attainment.

We will also demonstrate how school leaders can build a spine of picture book texts which can be included in a rich, progressive Primary English Curriculum, in line with the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Framework and National 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 a copy of a carefully selected picture book text, 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.



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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), English Subject Leads, Senior Leadership

Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

Language and Vocabulary, Oracy, Reading, Writing, PSHE.

Date: Tuesday 10 June 2025

Timings: 9am to 3.30pm plus optional twilight networking to 5pm

Venue: Centre for Literacy in Primary Education, 44 Webber Street, London SE1 8QW.

Description of session

Full day teacher CPD.

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 – or 5pm for optional networking)

Detail of activity

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

The session will explore how poetry can be used in cross-curricular ways 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. The day will allow schools to consider how they can effectively build a spine for poetry across the Early Years and Primary, in line with the recommendations of the new Reading Framework.

We will investigate high quality collections that can be used at different ages and stages and will look at the essential approaches and experiences that engage children with poetry, developing essential skills for speaking and listening, reading fluency and comprehension, phonics, spelling and grammar and composition of children's independent writing. Throughout the day, Matt will share his own experiences of reading and writing poetry, engaging participants with performances of a range of poetry and supporting them to go on to write their own poetry using interactive approaches and practical activities which can be implemented immediately back in the classroom. These will support children of all ages, from EYFS to Year 6.



Key areas of focus

- Gain greater confidence in planning a range of practical activities to develop children's creative writing in the classroom.
- 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 through a range of creative approaches.
- 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.
- Learn how to use poetry to develop and extend vocabulary and comprehension of language across the curriculum.
- 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), English Subject Leads, Senior Leadership.

Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

Language and Vocabulary, Oracy, Reading, Writing, PSHE.

Date: Tuesday 8 July 2025

Timings: 9am to 3.30pm plus optional twilight networking to 5pm

Venue: Centre for Literacy in Primary Education, 44 Webber Street, London SE1 8QW.

Description of session

Full day teacher CPD.

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 – or 5pm for optional networking)

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** and 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.

All activities are designed to sit within core curriculum teaching and learning, targeting National Curriculum and Early Years Statutory Framework objectives and eliciting higher quality learning outcomes for all pupils.

We will explore narrative, character and worlds within the story to unlock learning potential through the usage of 3D learning strategies.

We will provide tools that can be used time and again in order to bridge cultural and experiential gaps, ensuring that the provision is accessible and inclusive to all.

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 a confidence and ownership and lead to curious, engaged and motivated writers who work collaboratively, individually and independently.
- Activities that ensure enhanced language and vocabulary acquisition, engagement with the world and the development of imaginative ideas.

Takeaway

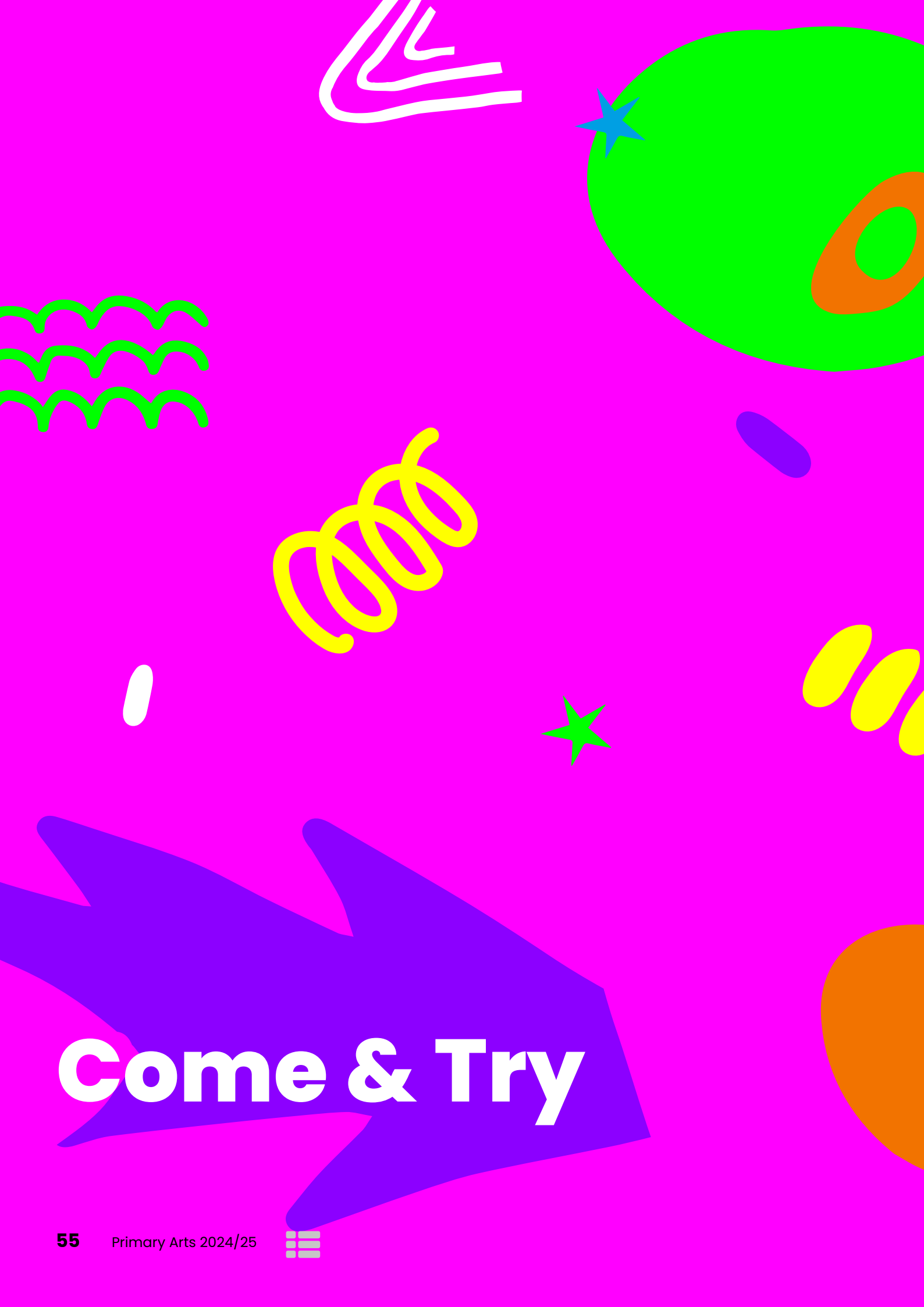
Participants will receive a high-quality children's book for each primary phase (EYFS, KS1, KS2), as well as associated teaching sequences of detailed planning to support the implementation of the ideas from the day, to inspire creative and meaningful practice in their own classrooms and schools.



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, and is 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 support staff working in state 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; each must be booked separately. Come & Try will open for booking on **Wednesday 25 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 so 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



@eric.aydin.barberini



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: Make a Collage with Mixed-Media

Create a mixed-media collage with artist Liaqat Rasul.

Suitable for:

All school staff

Date: Thursday 7 November 2024

Time: 5pm – 7pm

Venue: Crafts Council Gallery, 44a Pentonville Road, London N1 9BY

Description of session

Come and join us in the Crafts Council Gallery for a fun and relaxed evening with collage artist **Liaqat Rasul**. You'll work with a mix of old papers, recycled materials and plastics, using a variety of meditative and responsive approaches.

Liaqat works with paper for its intrinsic and functional qualities, creating collages that combine ephemera, mark making, and stitching. Work spontaneously with Liaqat and develop your own approaches to collage that you can use to support classroom learning.

Detail of activity

In this session you'll learn a variety of responsive and quick-thinking exercises that will get you pleating, scrunching, wrapping, and layering materials. You'll develop your practical making skills, building and embellishing your collage with a range of techniques with a focus on creating a landscape collage to take home with you.

During the session you'll have a chance to apply Crafts Council's Make First Pedagogy: dive straight into making and learn how makers respond to materials and their properties to create new works. The workshop will explore ideas around sustainable craft, making use of recycled materials in a way that is easily replicated in the classroom.



Book now

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



Come & Try: Make with Natural Dyes and Materials

Create colour using natural dyes and pigments with sustainable textile artist Alice Burnhope

Suitable for:

All school staff

Date: Wednesday 27 November 2024

Time: 5pm – 7pm

Venue: Crafts Council Gallery, 44a Pentonville Road, London N1 9BY

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**. Using a mix of natural pigments, you'll have a chance to 'make first' using colour, paper and textiles.

Alice's work blends sustainability with creativity and play to create immersive experiences. Her approach taps into our primal needs for touch, comfort, and a connection to the natural world. You'll use a range of natural materials to bring colour to your work. Take part for your own enrichment, while also learning how to use your new-found skills to support classroom learning.

Detail of activity

From salvaging onion skins to using naturally occurring pigments, you'll explore colour in this hands-on workshop. 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 Alice to try the different dyeing and colouring techniques she uses in her work.

Participants will make use of a range of pigments in the workshop but will also have the option of bringing along some everyday ingredients and materials that you might already have at home. We'll provide a list in advance of the workshop but there will be plenty of materials provided, just in case.



Book now

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



Come & Try: Make with Textiles and Embroidery

Explore and respond to materials with textile and embroidery artist Woo Jin Joo.

Suitable for:

All school staff

Date: Thursday 16 January 2025

Time: 5pm – 7pm

Venue: Crafts Council Gallery, 44a Pentonville Road, London N1 9BY

Description of session

Come and join us in the Crafts Council Gallery for a fun and relaxed evening with textile artist **Woo Jin Joo**. Responding to a mix of new and found materials, you'll have a chance to 'make first' while also learning embroidery skills.

Woo Jin's work explores personal myth-making and storytelling. By mixing new and found materials, Woo Jin communicates this imaginary worldview, through her tactile language. Develop your own language of making and create a piece to take home. Take part for your own enrichment, while also learning how to use your new-found skills to support classroom learning.

Details of activity

Through the session you will learn a variety of textile techniques including embroidery and appliqué and develop your practical making skills, leaving with some textile pieces that you've made yourself.

During the session you'll have a chance to apply Crafts Council's Make First pedagogy: dive straight into making and use materials to develop and test your ideas. The workshop will also explore ideas around sustainable craft and creative upcycling and you'll take away some great ideas about how to translate these techniques into other classroom learnings.



Book now

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



Come & Try: Make with Remnants and Found Objects

Use fragments, remnants and found objects to create something new with material designer Ella Bulley.

Suitable for:

All school staff

Date: Tuesday 25 March 2025

Time: 5pm – 7pm

Venue: Crafts Council Gallery, 44a Pentonville Road, London N1 9BY

Description of session

Come and join us in the Crafts Council Gallery for a fun and relaxed evening with material designer and artist **Ella Bulley**. Responding to a mix of found materials and objects, you'll have a chance to 'make first' while learning directly from Ella.

Ella will share her practice as a material designer and artist who creates material explorations that straddle collectable design and visual art. Learn how to use found objects and remnants as materials to make something new. Take part for your own enrichment, while also learning how to use your new-found skills to support classroom learning.

Details of activity

Through the exploration of found objects including fragments of ceramic, trinkets and gems, shells and other natural materials, you will create a 3D object which reflects your own story and creative vision. 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 use assemblage techniques to create your object, playing with shape, form and decoration.

Participants are encouraged to bring along some of your own small objects, keepsakes, and fragments to incorporate into and personalise your creation.



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

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

Suitable for:

All school staff

Date: Wednesday 21 May 2025

Time: 5pm – 7pm

Venue: Crafts Council Gallery, 44a Pentonville Road, London N1 9BY

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.

Details 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](#)



Come & Try: Make with Clay

This hands-on session will demonstrate the potential of clay with or without Kiln firing.

Suitable for:

All school staff

Date: Thursday 3 July 2025

Time: 5pm – 7pm

Venue: Crafts Council Gallery, 44a Pentonville Road, London N1 9BY

Description of session

Come and join us in the Crafts Council Gallery for a fun and relaxed evening with ceramic specialist **Duncan Hooson**. Duncan is known for his wheel-thrown ceramics and producing work in schools and the public realm through co-design and creation projects. He is an advocate of cross-arts collaboration and craft in education. He is the co-founder and director of Clayground Collective and teaches on the BA Ceramic Design course at Central Saint Martins.

Get messy with clay and create a piece of work to take home with you. Take part for your own enrichment, while also learning how to use your new-found skills to support classroom learning.

Details of activity

We will explore clay using accessible techniques – pinch, coil, slab – which can be combined to create a range of objects and shapes. In addition to making these works, you'll be encouraged to respond to the materials with a range of decorating techniques to mark the surface of your work. We will use economical materials to explore a variety of outcomes that can be replicated in school, whether or not you have access to a kiln.

We will look at how to recycle clay and look at projects where the learning is explorative, collaborative and ambitious!



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 25 September and you can access the booking platform [here](#).

How could Primary Arts work for you and your school?



For pupils:

- [In-Schools Touring](#) – see page 5
- [Go & See](#) – see page 27



Teacher CPD:

- [Masterclasses](#) – see page 41
- [Come & Try](#) – see page 55
- [In-Schools Touring](#) – see page 5



All staff CPD:

- [Come & Try](#) – see page 55



An evening:

- [Come & Try](#) – see page 55



A staff day out of school

- [Masterclasses](#) – see page 41



A day (or more) of activity in school

- [In-Schools Touring](#) – see page 5



A day out of school for pupils and staff

- [Go & See](#) – see page 27



Get involved in the conversation online

#PrimaryArts

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www.anewdirection.org.uk

About A New Direction

A New Direction is an award-winning charity (1126216) 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 supported 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 support.



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