

**A NEW
DIRECTION**

for
**Primary
Arts**

2026 / 27

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

Explore

Welcome

We are delighted to launch the third 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 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 9 September 2026. The programme has five strands, four of which are included in this brochure, and activity begins in November 2026. 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, which has already closed for applications.

In-Schools Touring 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 2026 and summer 2027. Our **Masterclasses** on creative approaches to reading, writing and oracy 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 this project.

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.

The 2026/27 academic year will be the **final year of full-scale delivery of Primary Arts**, and we hope to welcome as many teachers and pupils as possible to our events, particularly from schools that have not previously been part of the programme. Our evaluation of the programme over the past two years has consistently shown a positive impact on **cultural capital, creativity and enjoyment for pupils, and on teacher confidence, creative skills and wellbeing**.

We are delighted to be able to offer such a wide range of cultural and creative opportunities for primary school children and staff across London, and we very much hope you can join us.



Steve Moffitt, MBE
Chief Executive Officer, A New Direction

About the Programme

Primary Arts aims to increase access to high quality, inspiring arts, cultural and creative opportunities for children and staff in London's state primary schools and in special schools working with pupils of any age using primary curriculum content.

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, enrichment, 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, music, museums, heritage and the visual arts.

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

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](#).

To attend a Masterclass or Come & Try event, you must register yourself on the booking platform under your 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. For more information, see our [cancellations page](#).

Who can take part?

Primary Arts is open to **all state primary schools and some special schools in London**. It is designed to include children in all primary year groups from Reception to Year 6 in mainstream schools, and **pupils of any age in special schools as long as they are learning using primary curriculum content**.

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 is open to **any member of staff** currently working in eligible schools, including teachers, Teaching Assistants, support staff, admin and estates staff.

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

For In-Schools Touring and Go & See, if we receive more booking requests than we can accept, 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. For Masterclasses and Come & Try, places 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

We aim for Primary Arts 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 neurodiverse 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 now in its 12th year.

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 from the education and culture sectors, 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.
- All out-of-school activity for staff and pupils is delivered in accessible venues.
- An access budget is available to support schools working with pupils with SEND – for example, to support with the cost of minibus hire for trips or to bring additional support staff.
- The access budget can also be used to support staff participation in CPD.

All 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 free 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).
- We bring an access and sensory toolkit, including fidget toys and ear defenders for you to use with pupils who need them.
- We support the organisations to co-plan with your school before delivery takes place, so that they have a good understanding of participating pupils and their needs.

Inclusion



Our approach

- We discuss each organisation's 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 on the day, if needed.

GO & SEE 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. Go & See 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 identified in the brochure.
- Our access budget is available to SEND settings to support additional costs such as travel (including minibus hire) or additional support staff.

For staff

The strands below 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 reading, writing and oracy 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 by type of offer, Key Stage suitability, art form, curriculum focus or school priorities.

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 by type of offer, Key Stage suitability, art form, curriculum focus or school priorities.																											
Type of offer		Key Stage 2																Key Stage 1											
		Akademi South Asian Dance: Plastic Drastic Fantastic	Discover Children’s Story Centre: Story Suitcase	Groundswell Arts: The Light Box: Sensory Exploration and Play	Irie! Dance Theatre: Dancing from the Archives	London Bubble Theatre: Kam’s Word: Gaming Safety	Mahogany Carnival Design: The Magic of Carnival	Pegasus Opera Company: Opera Explorers of the World	The Poetry Society: Poetry Presto! The Magic of Words	Serious Trust: Steel, Sound and Story	SLIDE: Jack & Friends	Aardman / Into Film: Double Bill	Lyric Hammersmith: Cinderella	Polka Theatre: Peter Pan	Stratford East: Robin Hood and the Merry Mandem	The Postal Museum: The Jolly Postman Show Day	Unicorn Theatre: Santa’s First Christmas	Masterclass: Develop a ‘Reading for Pleasure’ Strategy for Your School	Masterclass: Transforming Literacy Through Picture Books	Masterclass: Transforming Literacy through Oracy and Storytelling	Masterclass: Transforming Literacy and Oracy Through Classroom Drama	Masterclass: Transforming Literacy Through Poetry	Masterclass: Planning Creatively Around Quality Texts	Come & Try: Cracking Christmas Crafts with EGSHEL	Come & Try: Sustainable Basket–Weaving: Making with Fabric Scraps	Come & Try: Holding Through Weaving	Come & Try: Earth to Colour: Foraged Art Pigments & Materials	Come & Try: Nature imprinted: the Textile Herbarium by Jaixia Blue	Come & Try: Heat, Wood and Story
School trips											•	•	•	•	•	•													
In-school activity		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•																			
CPD for teachers		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•								•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•
Wellbeing for all school staff																								•	•	•	•	•	•
EYFS			•	•	•		•	•	•						•	•													
Key Stage 1			•	•	•		•	•	•				•	•	•														
Key Stage 2		•	•		•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•															
Lower KS2 only									•																				
Upper KS2 only																													
SEND		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•													

Programme mapping

How could Primary Arts work for you and your school?

		Akademi South Asian Dance: Plastic Drastic Fantastic	Discover Children’s Story Centre: Story Suitcase	Groundswell Arts: The Light Box: Sensory Exploration and Play	Irie! Dance Theatre: Dancing from the Archives	London Bubble Theatre: Kam’s Word: Gaming Safety	Mahogany Carnival Design: The Magic of Carnival	Pegasus Opera Company: Opera Explorers of the World	The Poetry Society: Poetry Presto! The Magic of Words	Serious Trust: Steel, Sound and Story	SLIDE: Jack & Friends	Aardman / Into Film: Double Bill	Lyric Hammersmith: Cinderella	Polka Theatre: Peter Pan	Stratford East: Robin Hood and the Merry Mandem	The Postal Museum: The Jolly Postman Show Day	Unicorn Theatre: Santa’s First Christmas	Masterclass: Develop a ‘Reading for Pleasure’ Strategy for Your School	Masterclass: Transforming Literacy Through Picture Books	Masterclass: Transforming Literacy through Oracy and Storytelling	Masterclass: Transforming Literacy and Oracy Through Classroom Drama	Masterclass: Transforming Literacy Through Poetry	Masterclass: Planning Creatively Around Quality Texts	Come & Try: Cracking Christmas Crafts with EGSHEL	Come & Try: Sustainable Basket-Weaving: Making with Fabric Scraps	Come & Try: Holding Through Weaving	Come & Try: Earth to Colour: Foraged Art Pigments & Materials	Come & Try: Nature Imprinted: the Textile Herbarium by Jaixia Blue	Come & Try: Heat, Wood and Story
Artforms	Art & Design	●		●	●		●												●										
	Craft			●			●																	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Dance	●			●						●																		
	Drama / Theatre		●		●	●		●					●	●	●	●	●				●								
	Music	●			●			●	●		●	●																	
	Spoken Word / Storytelling		●				●			●										●									
	Film									●			●																
Curriculum	Computing					●																							
	English / Literacy		●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●								●	●	●	●	●	●					
	Geography	●					●			●																			
	History				●		●	●		●						●													
	Mathematics										●					●													
	PE				●						●																		
	Poetry								●													●							
	PSHE / PSED	●	●		●	●	●	●	●		●	●							●	●	●	●	●	●					
	Science	●		●													●												
	Speaking & Listening / Oracy		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●							●	●	●	●	●	●					
Writing																		●	●	●	●	●	●						
School priorities	British Values				●	●	●	●			●																		
	Growth Mindset					●																							
	Healthy Lifestyle																												
	Online Safety					●																							
	Pupil Voice																												
	Pupil Wellbeing					●				●	●																		
Resilience					●				●																				

The background is a solid orange color. It is decorated with numerous bright yellow, elongated oval shapes of varying sizes. These ovals are scattered across the page, with a higher concentration in the top-left and bottom-right corners, creating a dynamic, abstract pattern.

IN-SCHOOLS TOURING

In-Schools Touring

Primary Arts In-Schools Touring 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 cultural organisations are working with us to deliver the programme; their offers are outlined on the pages that follow. Activity will take place in Spring Term 2: February/ March 2027.

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 month before 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 schools and some special schools in London**. It is designed to include children in all primary year groups from Reception to Year 6 in mainstream and special schools, and most offers should also be suitable for older pupils in SEND settings if they are learning using primary curriculum content. **Your school must be in a London borough** to be eligible for the programme.

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

How to Make a Booking Request

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

There are places available for 120 schools on In-Schools Touring in 2026/27. We will prioritise schools that have not previously taken part. If your school participated in In-Schools Touring between 2023 and 2026, you might not be allocated a place this year, but we warmly encourage you to still submit a booking request.

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

When you are ready, 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 2 October 2026.**

The form asks for practical information as well as date availability and should take around 10 to 15 minutes to complete. **If you would like support to complete the booking form, please email schools@anewdirection.org.uk** and we will be happy to help.

Once you have submitted the booking request form, we will contact you by **Wednesday 14 October 2026** to let you know whether we are able to offer your school a place.

Please note that while In-Schools Touring 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). For more information about our cancellation policy, please see our [cancellations page](#).

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.

Akademi South Asian Dance: Plastic Drastic Fantastic

A South Asian dance show for children exploring our complex relationship with plastics.



Akādemi

Akademi

Akademi make vibrant, fascinating, and meaningful South Asian dance. We use the compelling power of storytelling, rhythm and gestures to create deeper connections with each other and our wider world.

Akademi has been the beating heart of South Asian dance in the UK since 1979.

Akademi South Asian Dance: Plastic Drastic Fantastic

Key Stages:

Key Stage 2, SEND

Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

Music, dance, science, geography, art & design, PSHE/citizenship.

About the show

Plastic... is it friend or foe? Remarkable or rubbish? Helpful or harmful?

Plastic Drastic Fantastic is a contemporary dance theatre show for pupils which explores our complex relationship with plastics, the fantastic possibilities they offer, as well as the drastic consequences to the environment.

Drawing from South Asian dance techniques, the performers investigate plastics and the dangers of their misuse through intricate movement, gestures and play. Plastic Drastic Fantastic is an accessible, non-verbal, fun and thought-provoking piece, created in consultation with children and with material scientists at UCL.



45 minutes



Show SEND adaptations:

Relaxed performances.

About the pupil workshops:

Fun, energetic and cross-curricular, these workshops invite Key Stage 2 pupils to explore plastics through movement, storytelling and visual art. Together, we examine the full story of plastics, from the everyday (LEGO) to the environmental (harm to marine life), drawing on what children already know and feel about recycling and our environment and oceans.

Movement activities are inspired by the South Asian dance form Bharatanatyam, and the visual art element reveals the surprising beauty of plastics at a molecular level. Bringing together science, art and dance, each session leaves schools with a resource pack to develop the themes further.



45–60 minutes



Workshop SEND adaptations:

Storytelling using simple gestures, partner work, use of known/familiar objects. Led by a dance artist with specialist experience working in SEND schools.

Teacher Twilight CPD:

This practical, teacher-focused CPD builds confidence in using dance as a cross-curricular learning tool. Rooted in the theme of plastics, the programme begins with a reflective session connecting the artistic work to the curriculum: science, geography, English and PSHE. Teachers can take part in an interactive workshop, learning simple movement activities that bring concepts like material properties and environmental impact to life – no prior dance experience required.

The session will provide ready-to-use lesson ideas, supported where possible by in-class co-teaching with an artist. Teachers leave with full resource pack including lesson plans and video prompts.



45 minutes to 1 hour



up to 20



Book now

To submit a booking request for **Plastic Drastic Fantastic**, please use the [Primary Arts booking platform](#)

If you would like support to complete the booking form, please email schools@anewdirection.org.uk and we will be happy to help.

Discover Children's Story Centre: Story Suitcase

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



Discover

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 fairytales. Using multi-sensory elements such as props, music and movement, the session is designed to spark imagination, encourage participation, and develop an understanding of story structures and building blocks like syntax and vocabulary.

 30–45 minutes

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:

Following the performance, we will deliver an hour-long story-building workshop. Our Story Builder will guide the class to 'build' their own story, providing inspiration for their creativity through props and other sensory prompts. We will support the class to work collaboratively, sharing ideas and listening to others to support speaking and listening development. With our interactive, inclusive approach to literacy, we will 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

 10 – 30

Book now

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

If you would like support to complete the booking form, please email schools@anewdirection.org.uk and we will be happy to help.

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.

 30–40 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 and experimentation, 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 hour

 1 – 20



Book now

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

If you would like support to complete the booking form, please email schools@anewdirection.org.uk and we will be happy to help.

IRIE! Dance Theatre: Dancing from the Archives

Empowering young people through African and Caribbean dance, developing creativity, confidence and cultural appreciation.



IRIE!
dance
theatre

IRIE!

IRIE! dance theatre is Britain's leading dance theatre company specialising in African and Caribbean fusion. Founded by Beverley Glean in 1985, IRIE! promotes the visibility of dance of the African Diaspora through innovative performances that celebrate African and Caribbean heritage, exploring the richness of the Black British cultural experience.

IRIE! Dance Theatre: Dancing from the Archives

Key Stages:

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

Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

Dance, PE, English, history, PSHE, art and design, music.

About the show

FOUNDATION – Dancing from the Archives brings together a collection of West African traditional dances and Caribbean folk dances that represent social and ritual functions. These dances are the foundation of the movement language/style of IRIE! Dance Theatre. FOUNDATION will communicate the nuances and storytelling traditions that are continually echoed in African and Caribbean culture. The movement of this new generation of performers combined with live drumming, percussion and songs will demonstrate the resilience, beauty and energy in dance of the African Diaspora.



1 hour



Show SEND adaptations:

Smaller session, smaller group sizes, quieter and less stimulating environments, sensory exploration activities, additional breaks.

About the pupil workshops:

Pupils will be introduced to the rich traditions of West African and Caribbean folk dance, exploring stories, rhythms and cultural heritage through movement.

The workshop will explore how movement connects to rhythm, storytelling and identity, developing physical skills, coordination and self-expression. Using a selected repertoire from FOUNDATION the workshop will teach African and Caribbean dance vocabulary and guide pupils through improvisation. The workshop will end with a shared performance and reflection as a group.



1 hour



Workshop SEND adaptations:

Shorter sessions, smaller group work, sensory-based exploration, additional breaks and quieter learning environments. Creative responses and sensory communication.

Teacher Twilight CPD:

Our CPD session introduces participants to the FOUNDATION approach to African and Caribbean dance. The session begins with a brief introduction, providing cultural context, aims, and key principles. The warm-up aims to develop an understanding of rhythms, coordination, and embodied awareness.

Participants then learn movement language or selected repertoire from FOUNDATION, exploring authentic African and Caribbean dance vocabulary. Through creative exploration, they respond to guided improvisation tasks, developing confidence and personal expression. The session concludes with practice and sharing, where participants refine movement, perform collaboratively, and reflect on learning, application, and inclusive teaching strategies.



1 hour



5 – 12



Book now

To submit a booking request for Dancing from the Archives, please use the [*Primary Arts booking platform*](#)

If you would like support to complete the booking form, please email schools@anewdirection.org.uk and we will be happy to help.

London Bubble Theatre: Kam's World: Gaming Safety

Exploring online gaming, digital trust and online safety.



London Bubble

We use drama to advocate for underrepresented voices, creating opportunities for people to share their experiences. With care at the centre of our work, our practice supports the development of social and emotional skills for people aged 6-100, helping them build skills for life.



London Bubble Theatre: Kam's World: Gaming Safety

Key Stages:

Key Stage 2, SEND.

Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

PSHE, computing, mental health & wellbeing, growth mindset, online safety. English, oracy, British values, confidence building, arts & culture.

About the show

For their 10th birthday, Kam receives a tablet and excitedly downloads the latest game all their friends are playing – Stoxworld. At first, it's fun, but they soon get caught spending lots of time online, falling behind on schoolwork and hobbies. When another player offers a trade and pop-up sites keep offering rewards, they get scammed, discovering unexpected charges on their dad's bank card.

This interactive forum theatre piece invites pupils into Kam's World to help them *Recognise, React and Resolve* the challenges they face, exploring thoughts, feelings, choices and top tips for staying safe online.



1 hour



Show SEND adaptations:

Performances are devised with inclusivity and accessibility in mind. We employ facilitators who are skilled in working with SEND pupils and adapting activities to meet their individual needs. We encourage schools to discuss with us any specific accessibility requirements and how we can best support their pupils.

About the pupil workshops:

Led by highly skilled actor-facilitators, workshops will deepen learning through drama activities, role play and a 'green flag, red flag' game exploring risky scenarios. Pupils will engage their creative skills working in groups to devise and perform alternative outcomes.

They will apply what they have learned from Kam's World and explore the social and emotional impact of being scammed with the support of our facilitators. They will learn how to make safe choices online and how to support their peers in digital spaces.

Through theatre, pupils will develop their confidence and performance skills.



45-60 minutes



Workshop SEND adaptations:

Creative responses instead of written tasks or additional materials.

Teacher Twilight CPD:

Staff will gain practical tools for facilitating conversations around safe gaming and digital wellbeing, exploring challenging scenarios, encouraging pupil voice and developing creative problem-solving skills using forum theatre techniques.

There will be opportunities to explore the play's themes and reflect on how pupils might respond.

Staff will explore:

- Co-creating theatre with children
- Image theatre
- Role play interventions
- Facilitated questioning to deepen discussion and understanding.

They will also learn how approaches can be adapted to suit specific needs within their school and the wider curriculum.



1 hour



6 – 12



Book now

To submit a booking request for Kam's World, please use the [Primary Arts booking platform](#)

If you would like support to complete the booking form, please email schools@anewdirection.org.uk and we will be happy to help.

Mahogany Carnival Design: The Magic of Carnival – We Celebrate Together

The story of Carnival told
through an interactive
experience of puppets,
costumes and creative making.



Mahogany Carnival Design

Mahogany is recognised throughout the world for breathtaking work in the art of Carnival. We create opportunities for young people to learn through the culture of Carnival, developing their imagination and creative making skills. We focus on the theatre of Carnival, the joyful spirit of Carnival that unites us all.



Mahogany Carnival Design: The Magic of Carnival – We Celebrate Together

Key Stages:

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

Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

Literacy, PSHE, art and design, British values, oracy, humanities.

About the show

The Magic of Carnival tells the story of Carnivals around the world and is a celebration of creativity and community spirit. The immersive experience explains the origins of different Carnival traditions, from Notting Hill Carnival to Chinese New Year. Pupils are invited to wear real costumes used in Carnival, animate Chinese dragon puppets and learn that each costume and puppet has meaning. As February and March are the traditional Carnival season for cultures across the world, the Magic of Carnival will connect to real-world experiences. It will not only deepen pupils' cultural learning but will bring the authentic joy of Carnival into schools.

 45 minutes



Show SEND adaptations:

Shorter version of performance.

About the pupil workshops:

In our workshops, pupils will make their own headdresses, taking inspiration from the costumes and puppets they have seen in the Carnival performance. Pupils can choose from a range of templates, and construct the headdress from card, paper and other materials. Pupils can choose the theme of their headdress, or the whole class can work towards a theme that relates to the topics they are studying, making each session adaptable and appropriate for the year group. The pupil workshops are designed bespoke for each school following discussion with teaching staff to ensure it is appropriate for each pupil in terms of duration, complexity and the materials used.

 45 minutes



Workshop SEND adaptations:

The workshop will be designed with the school and tailored to the needs of the participants. Participants and their support staff will work together.

Teacher Twilight CPD:

The CPD session will give a brief history of the journey of Carnival from Africa and the Caribbean to the UK. Each CPD is created bespoke with the school to relate to the needs of the staff attending. The CPD aims to build teacher confidence to use carnival arts as a tool to extend learning engagement across a wide range of topics, age groups and abilities.

We will choose the themes for the children's workshops that relate to specific year groups and leave the school with a set of templates they can use in the future. We will have costumes and props for the staff to learn from and enable participants to make a headdress of their own design from Carnival materials.

 60 minutes



2 – 25



Book now

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

If you would like support to complete the booking form, please email schools@anewdirection.org.uk and we will be happy to help.

Pegasus Opera Company: Opera Explorers of the World

Discover the magic of opera through singing, storytelling and music around the world.



Pegasus Opera

Pegasus Opera, where diversity takes centre stage! We are redefining opera for a modern world with creative, innovative and inclusive experiences that speak to everyone. Through workshops, choirs, mentoring and performances, we nurture the next generation of diverse artists and help young people and communities discover the magic of opera.

Pegasus Opera Company: Opera Explorers of the World

Key Stages:

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

Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

Music, drama, literacy, history, PSHE, British values, oracy, speaking and listening, diversity and inclusion, teamwork and collaboration.

About the show

What's it like to be an opera singer?

Step behind the curtain and find out!

Join two professional opera singers and a host for an exciting journey from the audition room to opening night. Pupils will discover music and stories from around the world, learn an opera chorus and explore how singers use their voices to tell powerful stories. With plenty of opportunities to sing, ask questions and join in, Opera Explorers of the World is an exciting introduction to opera as a creative, inclusive and global art form.



1 hour



Show SEND adaptations:

Flexible performance length.

About the pupil workshops:

After the performance, pupils will take part in a creative workshop where they become opera-makers. Using the chorus learned during the show as a starting point, they work with a facilitator and the professional singers to create and perform their own mini opera scenes.

Through singing, movement, storytelling and imaginative play, pupils explore character, emotion and expression while experimenting with pitch, rhythm and dramatic ideas. Inspired by music and stories from around the world, they collaborate as composers and performers, finding their own voices and sharing their ideas creatively. The workshop builds confidence, creativity, teamwork and a sense of ownership.



45-60 minutes



Workshop SEND adaptations:

Workshops can be adapted through shorter activities, fewer tasks. Pupils can engage through singing, movement, body percussion or other non-verbal contributions.

Teacher Twilight CPD:

This practical twilight CPD session equips music and non-music specialist teachers with creative tools to continue pupils' opera journey beyond the visit. Teachers will explore singing games, warm-ups, call-and-response activities and simple composition techniques, while discovering diverse composers and musical trailblazers from African, Caribbean and Asian heritage.

Each school will receive our Make Them Hear You teachers' pack, including eight ready-to-deliver lessons and resources. The session supports teachers to deliver inclusive, engaging music-making and creative storytelling across the curriculum with confidence.



1 hour



20 max



Book now

To submit a booking request
for Opera Explorers of the World,
please use the
[Primary Arts booking platform](#)

If you would like support to complete
the booking form, please email
schools@anewdirection.org.uk and
we will be happy to help.

The Poetry Society: Poetry Presto! The Magic of Words

Poetry Presto! takes as its theme the magic of words – the idea that language has the power to make things happen, conjure up images and feelings, and bring ideas to life.



THE POETRY SOCIETY

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 Presto! The Magic of Words

Key Stages:

Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2, SEND.

Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

English, literacy, oracy, resilience, wellbeing.

About the show

In Poetry Presto!, poets demonstrate the magic of poetry through inspiring and interactive spoken-word performances, encouraging children to participate through call-and-response and actions.

The poets introduce the magic box – a box full of poetry magic tricks, including alliteration, simile, and metaphor – and ask pupils to listen actively to the performances, identifying where they spot any tricks in action. The poets also reveal their secret performance tricks, e.g. how to conquer stage fright or how to memorise a poem.

 45 minutes

Show SEND adaptations:

Flexible performance length, quieter versions. Participatory element can allow for non-verbal responses.

About the pupil workshops:

For the workshops, a poet will visit each class, equipped with a magic box. At first, the box is a source of creative inspiration: it is filled with questions to 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, each contributing their own lines to a class poem. At the end of the workshop, your class will perform their group poem together, using the performance tricks they learned in the assembly.

 45 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 project relates to the curriculum and to wellbeing and will introduce teachers to the methods and resources the poets will use.

 1 hour

 2 – 20



Book now

To submit a booking request for Poetry Presto! The Magic of Words, please use the [Primary Arts booking platform](#)

If you would like support to complete the booking form, please email schools@anewdirection.org.uk and we will be happy to help.

Serious Trust: Steel, Sound and Story

An interactive music programme combining jazz, Caribbean musical traditions and storytelling.

SERIOUS
trust

Serious Trust

Serious produce outstanding cultural events, including festivals, tours and concerts, including the EFG London Jazz Festival that takes place each November. The Serious Trust is our charitable arm, raising funds to support talent development, creative engagement and new commission projects.



Serious Trust: Steel, Sound and Story

Key Stages:

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

Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

Music, English, history, geography, PSHE, speaking and listening, creative learning.

About the show

Each school visit begins with a live performance by a small ensemble of four players, including project leader Marlon Hibbert, introducing pupils to steel pan, accompanied by other instrumentation, including percussion, brass and woodwind instruments.

Pupils are introduced to songs they will later learn, alongside recognisable pop and reggae repertoire to encourage participation. The performance is designed to be fun, accessible and enjoyable to students and teachers across all musical tastes and levels of experience.

 45–60 minutes



Show SEND adaptations:

Shorter, quieter performances and adapting instrumentation.

About the pupil workshops:

Workshops are practical, inclusive, and structured as follows:

- Introduction to Caribbean music, stories, and cultural context
- Demonstration of the steel pan and how sound is produced
- Warm-up rhythm and listening exercises
- Basic playing techniques (holding sticks, striking, simple rolling)
- Learning Caribbean nursery rhymes and folk songs
- Group music-making, building a shared performance piece
- Reflection on learning through discussion.

 45–60 minutes



Workshop SEND adaptations:

Use clear structure and repetition to support understanding, break activities into manageable steps, provide non-verbal participation options (e.g. percussion, movement), adapt instruments and roles to ensure all pupils can take part meaningfully. Shorter duration.

Teacher Twilight CPD:

In our CPD session, teachers will be introduced to the history and cultural context of Caribbean music and steel pan, learning basic instrumental techniques and rhythm activities. We will also share simple, adaptable classroom exercises linked to the workshop content.

The session includes guided demonstrations and opportunities for teachers to try activities themselves, ensuring they feel confident replicating them in the classroom. Through this session, teachers will gain practical tools for teaching rhythm, listening, and musical creativity, strategies to support speaking, listening, and collaborative learning, and approaches to embedding music across the curriculum (e.g. linking to history, geography, and storytelling).

 45–60 minutes



1 – 25



Book now

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

If you would like support to complete the booking form, please email schools@anewdirection.org.uk and we will be happy to help.

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:

Dance, English, mathematics, PE, 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 the performance, 20 minutes for the disco.

Show SEND adaptations:

Options include a shorter 30-45 minute performance with relaxed engagement and enhanced sensory elements, or a hybrid format that combines performance with extended participation, creating a flexible experience tailored to each group.

About the pupil workshops:

Step into Jack's world through a series of playful and inclusive dance activities inspired by the performance. Accompanied by live music, pupils explore movement, imagination and creativity through games, sensory tasks, simple choreography and collaborative dance-making.

The workshops celebrate individuality and encourage pupils to express themselves, share ideas, connect with others and perform improvised movement. Activities are adapted to suit different ages and abilities, creating a supportive environment where everyone can participate in their own way while developing confidence, communication, creativity and a sense of belonging.

 1 hour

Workshop SEND adaptations:

Sessions can be shorter with regular breaks, use sensory props and provide quieter or calmer moments. Activities can be floor based or standing, with flexible pacing.

Teacher Twilight CPD:

This practical CPD explores how dance and movement can foster creativity, inclusion and engagement across the curriculum. Teachers experience activities first-hand and learn adaptable, co-created warm-ups, creative tasks, simple choreography and basic Laban principles.

Drawing on SLiDE's expertise in inclusive practice, the session explores ways to engage diverse learners, including SEND and neurodiverse pupils, through creative choice-making, sensory approaches and accessible facilitation. Teachers leave with practical ideas and increased confidence to use movement as a tool for learning, creativity and engagement.

 1 to 1.5 hours (depending on requirements)

 6 - 14



Book now

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

If you would like support to complete the booking form, please email schools@anewdirection.org.uk and we will be happy to help.



GO & SEE

Go & See

Go & See gives pupils and staff the opportunity to experience the arts within venues across London, through trips that include theatre, film, visual art, music, museums and heritage. Go & See 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.

Go & See has two seasons: Winter 2026 and Summer 2027.

For the **WINTER** season, schools can apply for tickets for a year group (or smaller group of pupils) to a choice of **four different theatre productions, one museum, and a film screening**. These events will all take place during December 2026.

For the **SUMMER** season, schools will be able to apply for tickets to **theatre, visual art, music, film, museum and heritage opportunities**. The Summer season will open for bookings in February 2027, with full details available in January 2027. Events will take place in June and July 2027.



Access & Inclusion

An access budget is available to support participant engagement in Go & See. 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

Primary Arts is open to **all state primary schools and some special schools in London**. It is designed to include children in all primary year groups from Reception to Year 6 in mainstream and special schools, and most Go & See offers should also be suitable for older pupils in SEND settings if they are learning using primary curriculum content.

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

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

We will prioritise schools that have not taken part in Go & See. If you participated in Go & See between 2023 and 2026, you might not be allocated a place this year, but we warmly encourage you to still make a booking request.

How to Make a Booking Request

Please read the 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 more than one artform (i.e. if you apply for theatre, you may also apply for film) if you wish.

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.

Check your numbers before you book: booking more tickets than you need reduces ticket availability for other schools. **If you make a significant reduction to your ticket allocation with late notice, you may be charged a cancellation fee.** Make sure you include accompanying adults in your numbers.

When you are ready, 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. If you would like support to complete the booking form, please email schools@anewdirection.org.uk and we will be happy to help.

Booking requests for the Winter 2026 season should be submitted by 5pm on Friday 2 October 2026.

You will be contacted by **Wednesday 14 October 2026** 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 Go & See is free of charge to schools, we may charge a fee of up to £300 per class for cancellations or significant reductions in ticket numbers with less than three weeks' notice (excluding school holidays). For more information about our cancellation policy, please see our [cancellations page](#).

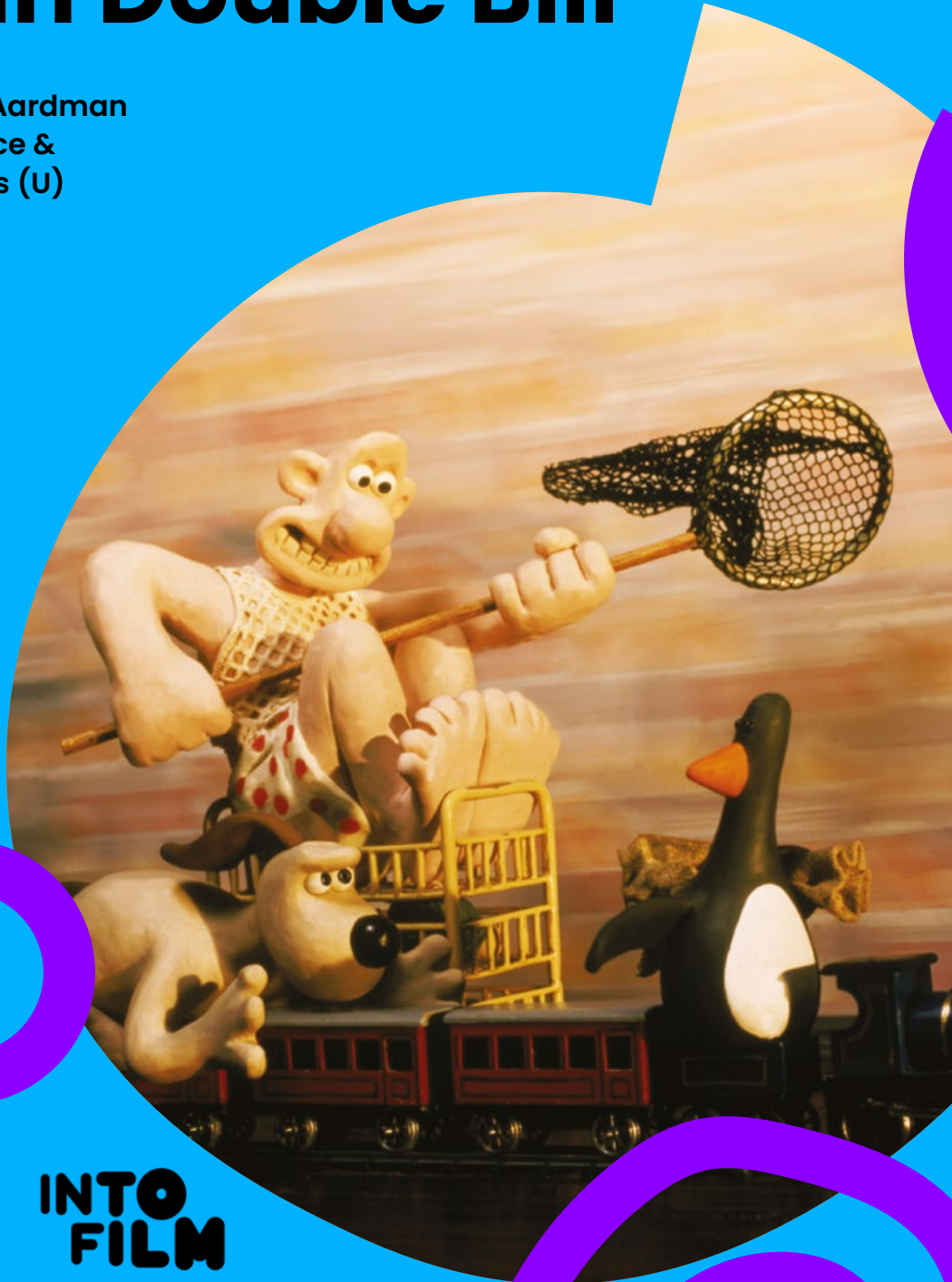
If you have any questions about Go & See, please email schools@anewdirection.org.uk using 'Go & See' in the subject line.



GO & SEE WINTER SEASON 2026

Aardman Double Bill

A screening of two classic Aardman short films featuring Wallace & Gromit: *The Wrong Trousers* (U) and *A Close Shave* (U).



★ AARDMAN

Aardman Animations

Aardman is an employee-owned company, based in Bristol and co-founded in 1976 by Sir Peter Lord and Sir David Sproston. 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 youth settings.

Aardman / Into Film: Aardman Double Bill

Key Stage/s:

Key Stage 2, SEND.

About the show

Join us and an Aardman creative for this screening of two classic Aardman short films featuring Wallace and Gromit.

The Wrong Trousers: A mysterious penguin and a pair of automated techno-trousers are the catalysts for a fast-moving comedy thriller, in which mild mannered Wallace finds himself an unwitting accomplice to a daring diamond robbery. His faithful dog, Gromit turns detective in a desperate attempt to save his master, but even he finds his ingenuity tested to the full as events build towards a spectacular and hilarious climax – a train chase around Wallace's living room!

A Close Shave: Oscar-winning claymation comedy thriller, featuring Shaun the Sheep's first outing on the big screen. Wallace's whirlwind romance with the proprietor of the local wool shop puts his head in a spin, and Gromit is framed for sheep rustling in a fiendish criminal plot, meeting a sheep named Shaun along the way. Will Wallace snap out of his daze in time to rescue his canine companion?

This screening will take place at Picturehouse Central.

Both films are rated U.

Please note that The Wrong Trousers contains flickering or flashing lights that may affect those with photosensitive epilepsy.

Show Dates:

Friday 11 December 10:30am to 12:45pm



2 hours 15 mins

Venue Information

Picturehouse Central is located at 15 Great Windmill Street, Shaftesbury Avenue, London, W1D 7DH ([map](#))



Access information:

Step free access: **YES**

Hearing loop: **YES**

Accessible toilets: **YES**

Accessible parking: **NO**

Minibus drop off point: **May be available, please contact us for details**

Maximum no wheelchair spaces: **6**

Additional information:

All areas of the building are accessible to wheelchair users. The entrance to the building, which is on ground level, is step free. There is a lift to take you to all floors for access to the screen. There are wheelchair accessible toilets on the ground floor, the first floor, and on the top floor. There is no lunch space available at this venue.



Book now

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

If you would like support to complete the booking form, please email schools@anewdirection.org.uk and we will be happy to help.

Lyric Hammersmith: Cinderella

As the clock strikes midnight in the heart of Hammersmith, join this enchanting festive treat for the whole family.



CINDERELLA

Written by Joel Horwood
Directed by Robin Belfield

Lyric

Lyric Hammersmith

The Lyric Hammersmith is a theatre in West London that produces bold and relevant world class theatre from the heart of Hammersmith.

Lyric Hammersmith: Cinderella

Key Stage/s:

Key Stage 2, SEND.

About the show

As the clock strikes midnight, join our fearless dreamer and their magical companions on a whirlwind journey; a festive spectacle for the whole family from West London.

Following 2016's 'wickedly good' Aladdin, writer Joel Horwood and director Robin Belfield return to sprinkle their signature Lyric magic over this timeless tale. Expect midnight mischief, show stopping tunes, laughter and an unmistakable Lyric twist that transforms a classic story into an unforgettable adventure.

Show Dates:

Wednesday 2 December 2026, 10am

Thursday 3 December 2026, 10am



Approx. 2 hours including 20-minute interval

Venue Information

Lyric Hammersmith Theatre is located at Lyric Square, King Street, Hammersmith, London W6 0QL ([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: **3**

Additional information:

The Lyric Hammersmith Theatre is inclusive and welcoming to all. The building is fully accessible. The nearest disabled car parking spaces are in the nearby King's Mall shopping centre. A lunch space is available at this venue.

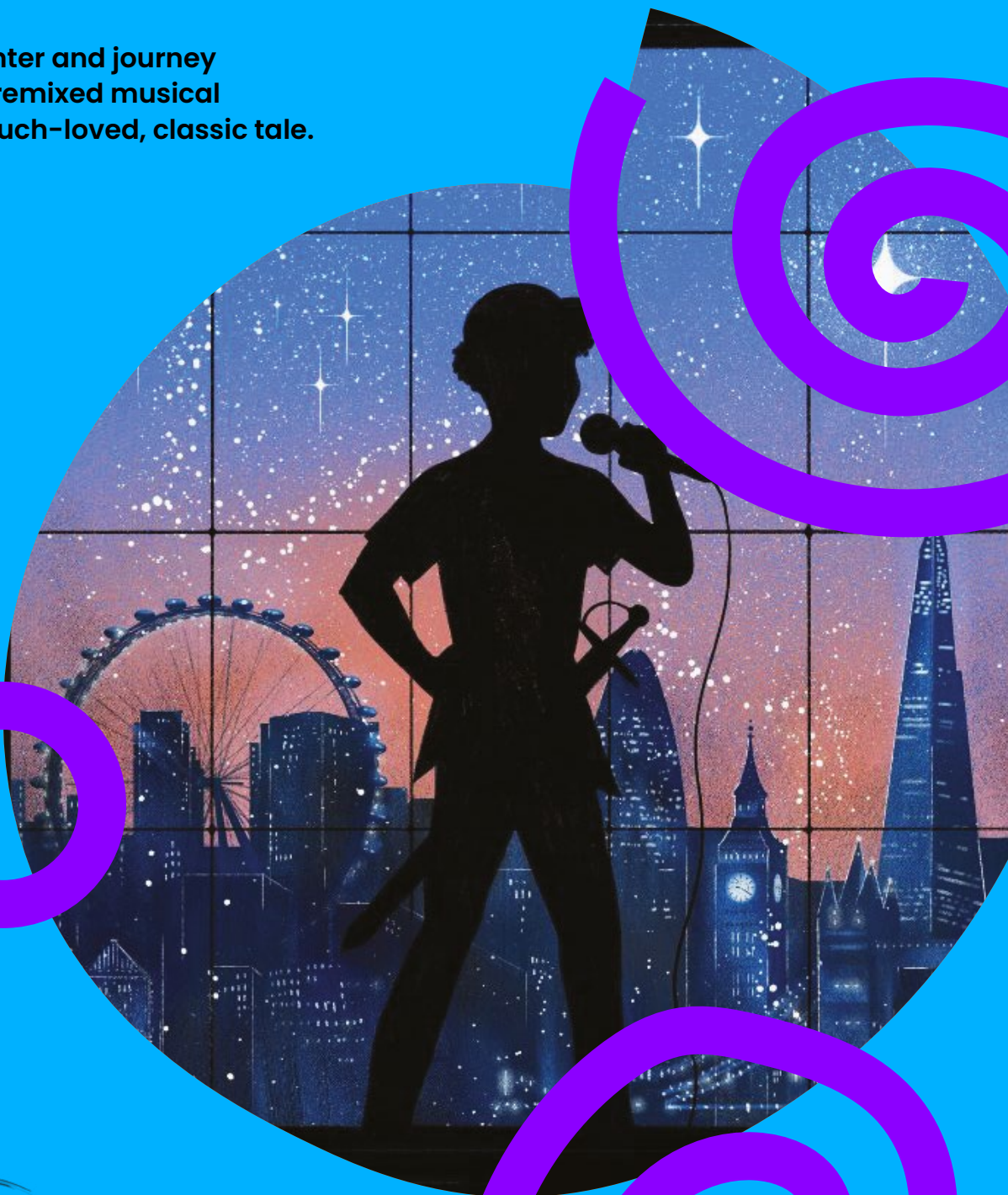
Book now

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

If you would like support to complete the booking form, please email schools@anewdirection.org.uk and we will be happy to help.

Polka Theatre: Peter Pan

Take flight this winter and journey to Neverland in a remixed musical production of a much-loved, classic tale.



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: Peter Pan

Key Stage/s:

Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2, SEND.

About the show

Join Peter and Wendy on an awfully big adventure in a quest to never grow up. Joined by the mischievous Lost Boys and feisty fairy Tink, can they work together to defeat the formidable Captain Hook, who's determined to take Peter's sword and rule over Neverland once and for all?

From the creative minds behind 'Pied Piper' and Polka's 'Romeo & Juliet', comes a magical family musical adventure, packed with original songs performed live by a company of award-winning vocalists, beatboxers, and rappers.

Find your courage, choose your happy thought, and learn what it means to grow up – or not!

Show Dates:

Thursday 26 November 2026, 10:15am

Wednesday 2 December 2026, 10:15am



1 hour 30 minutes 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: **6**

Additional information:

Limited lunch space is available and should be booked directly with the venue.



Book now

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

If you would like support to complete the booking form, please email schools@anewdirection.org.uk and we will be happy to help.

Theatre Royal Stratford East: Robin Hood and the Merry Mandem

An East London Pantomime



**STRATFORD
EAST**

Stratford East

Theatre Royal 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.

Theatre Royal Stratford East: Robin Hood and the Merry Mandem

Key Stage/s:

Key Stage 2, SEND

About the show

Stratford is buzzing. The lights are glowing. And deep in the heart of E15, a new kind of hero is taking off their blazer and putting on a hoodie.

Join the Merry Mandem as they zip across East London streets, stations, shops and estates. They roll through Maryland, dodge the Central line rush and keep a close eye on anyone trying to ship them off to that terrible place far, far, away at the other end of the line — a true villains' punishment.

Robin and the crew are taking from the rich, backing the poor, and showing Stratford what happens when everyday people stand together. Expect an East End spectacle to remember, with stunning sets and costumes and rip-roaring comedy, Robin Hood will have you merrily riding off into the night.

Show Dates:

Tuesday 1 December 2026, 10:30am

Wednesday 2 December 2026, 10:30am



Approx. 2 hours 15 minutes including interval.

Venue Information

Theatre Royal Stratford East is located at Gerry Raffles Square, London E15 1BN ([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: **6**

Additional information:

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.

There is no lunch space available in this venue.

Book now

To submit a booking request for **Robin Hood and the Merry Mandem**, please use the [Primary Arts booking platform](#)

If you would like support to complete the booking form, please email schools@anewdirection.org.uk and we will be happy to help.

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

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 show day

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 fairytale 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 30 November 2026, 10:30am

Monday 7 December 2026, 10:30am

Venue Information

The Postal Museum, 15–20 Phoenix Place, London, WC1X 0DA
([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: **FLEXIBLE**

Additional information:

The museum is set over 2 sites, The Postal Museum and Mail Rail. These buildings are separated by Phoenix Place, a public road.

The Postal Museum, Archive, and Mail Rail exhibitions are accessible to wheelchair users. Due to health and safety requirements, there is restricted access to the Mail Rail ride. Wheelchairs are not permitted on the Mail Rail ride.

The Mail Rail ride may be unsuitable for small children, those with physical or mobility issues, claustrophobia, or a pre-existing condition that could be made worse by loud noises, flashing lights or confined spaces.

A virtual tour is available in the exhibition space for anyone unable to ride the train.

Children must be accompanied on the train ride – school adults must be able to accompany pupils as museum staff will be unable to do so.

A lunch space is available at this venue.



Book now

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

If you would like support to complete
the booking form, please email
schools@anewdirection.org.uk and
we will be happy to help.

Unicorn Theatre: Santa's First Christmas

Santa discovers the true magic of
Christmas, for the first very first time!



The Unicorn

The Unicorn is the UK's leading theatre for young audiences.

Join us in nurturing the next generation of artists, thinkers, and dreamers through the transformative power of live performance!

Unicorn Theatre: Santa's First Christmas

Key Stage/s:

Reception, Key Stage 1, SEND.

About the show

Santa spends every Christmas Eve spreading joy around the world. He's so busy making magic that he never gets the chance to celebrate himself – but this year his loyal, big-hearted elves are on a mission to give him the best Christmas ever.

With a huge tree, lots of tasty treats and plenty of festive cheer, Santa joins in the fun and discovers the true magic of Christmas, for the very first time!

Inspiration from the book written by Mac Barnett, illustrated by Sydney Smith. Published by Viking Books for Young Readers. This lively, engaging performance is the perfect joyful, festive treat for pupils to wrap up the year.

Show Dates:

Tuesday 8 December 2026, 11am

Wednesday 9 December 2026, 11am



50 minutes

Venue Information

Unicorn Theatre is located at 147 Tooley Street, London, SE1 2HZ.

[\(map\)](#)



Access information:

Step free access: **YES**

Hearing loop: **YES**

Accessible toilets: **YES**

Accessible parking: **NO**

Minibus drop off point: **NO**

Maximum no wheelchair spaces: **4**

Additional information:

Limited lunch space is available. This should be booked directly with the venue.

Book now

To submit a booking request for
Santa's First Christmas,
please use the
[Primary Arts booking platform](#)

If you would like support to complete
the booking form, please email
schools@anewdirection.org.uk and
we will be happy to help.



COMING SOON GO & SEE SUMMER SEASON 2027

Our Summer Season of Go & See will open for booking requests in **February 2027**. All activity will take place in June and July 2027.

Full details for the Summer Season will be announced in January 2027. It will include the offers outlined on the following pages. Other offers (such as theatre) will be announced in January.

Everyone registered on the booking platform will be automatically notified by email when the summer season opens for bookings.



Key Stage/s:

Key Stage 2, SEND.

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.

About the show:

Join us at the BFI Southbank for a film screening and an exciting Q&A with one of the creatives behind the camera!

Venue location

BFI Southbank, Belvedere Road, 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**

Historic Royal Palaces



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.

Historic Royal Palaces: Hampton Court Palace

Discover the home of Henry VIII

Hampton Court Palace: The King's Kitchens

Key Stage/s:

Key Stage 2.

About the activity:

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. Also includes time for a self-guided visit of the palace and gardens.

Venue location:

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



Access information:

Step free access: **YES**

Hearing loop: **YES** (see [website](#) for details)

Accessible toilets: **YES**

Accessible parking: **YES**

Minibus drop off point: **YES**

Maximum no wheelchair spaces: **6**

Wheelchair access is possible in the kitchens tour area and most parts of the building. Some routes will require travel over cobbles or uneven surfaces.

Historic Royal Palaces: Tower of London

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

Tower of London: Schools Visit

Key Stage/s:

Key Stage 2.

About the activity:

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.

This activity includes self-guided visits for mainstream schools. A facilitated workshop will be offered where possible.

Venue location

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



Access information:

Step free access: **YES**

Hearing loop: **YES** (see [website](#) for details)

Accessible toilets: **YES**

Accessible parking: **YES**

Minibus drop off point: **YES**

Maximum no wheelchair spaces: **UNLIMITED**

The Postal Museum: Jolly Postman Show Day

A jolly day of first-class fun at The Postal Museum



Key Stage/s:

Reception, Key Stage 1, SEND.

About the show:

Step inside a much-loved story in an interactive show to help The Jolly Postman deliver the post for fairytale 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 museum at your own pace.

Venue location

The Postal Museum, 15-20 Phoenix Place, London, WC1X 0DA ([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: **FLEXIBLE**



@Eric Aydin Barberini



MASTERCLASSES

Masterclasses

Primary Arts Masterclasses offer 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 Masterclasses are designed so that each CPD session provides a comprehensive exploration of its topic and does not require participants to have attended any other sessions.

At each session, you 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 CLPE library and connect with peers, with drinks and snacks provided.



Access & Inclusion

The 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, 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**. It 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.

Schools can book up to four 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 taken part in previous Masterclasses (between 2023 and summer 2026).

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 four Masterclass sessions this academic year.** If colleagues from your school are already booked to attend other sessions, this may limit what you can book.

You must book your own place. Places cannot be booked on behalf of colleagues.

Booking opens on Wednesday 9 September 2026 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). For more information about our cancellation policy please see our [cancellation page](#).

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)



@Eric Aydin Barberini



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.

Develop a 'Reading for Pleasure' Strategy for Your School

Explore a range of approaches designed to help your school 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, PSED.

Date: Wednesday 18 November 2026

Time: 9am to 3.30pm

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 help your school develop a meaningful 'reading for pleasure' culture in this session delivered by an expert advisory teacher from CLPE in partnership with award-winning children's author, **S. F. Said**.



1 day (9am to 3.30pm)

Detail of activity:

In this Masterclass, you will 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.

You will learn how to create a reading environment that is inviting and inclusive, helping to develop children's self-selection and independence in reading, and fostering a love of reading throughout your school community.

You'll explore the research that connects reading for pleasure with reading attainment. You will learn creative teaching approaches that lead to more accessible and inclusive reading cultures and understand the role teachers play as readers, influencing children to read widely and for pleasure.

Key areas of focus:

- The importance of a rich knowledge of children's literature.
- How to nurture positive reader identity and broaden children's outlook through literature.
- How to choose and use a range of texts for different reading experiences.
- The centrality of reading aloud to develop children's oracy skills and deepen response.

Takeaway:

You will receive three high-quality children's books (one for each primary phase) and planning notes that help put theory into practice.



@Eric Aydin Barberini

Book now

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

Transforming Literacy Through Picture Books

Develop proven approaches to visual literacy to support deeper reading skills and authentic writing processes and learn how to embed these practices throughout your school.

Suitable for:

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

Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

Language and vocabulary, oracy, reading, writing, PSED, art & design.

Date: Wednesday 2 December 2026

Time: 9am to 3.30pm

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:

Develop proven approaches to visual literacy to support deeper reading skills and authentic writing processes and learn how to embed these practices throughout your school in this session delivered by an expert advisory teacher from CLPE in partnership with author and illustrator, **Daishu Ma**.



1 day (9am to 3.30pm)

Detail of activity:

In this Masterclass, you'll enhance your knowledge and understanding of how to choose and use picture books throughout your school.

You will explore the ways in which well-chosen picture books and thoughtfully planned activities work together to increase children's motivation and attainment as readers and writers.

You will consider authentic approaches to the writing process, which can be drawn upon immediately to improve independent writing and enrich engagement for all pupils.

Key areas of focus:

- The importance of picture books as a vital reading experience across the primary years.
- The use of investigating approaches to develop inference, deduction, critical reflection and wider reader response.
- How to convey meaning in words and illustrations and the impact of drawing as a means of communication.
- How to support children in creating, shaping, developing and publishing their own narratives using words and pictures.

Takeaway:

You will receive a copy of a carefully selected picturebook text, along with detailed teaching plans for each age phase.



Book now

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

Transforming Literacy Through Oracy and 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, PSED.

Date: Thursday 14 January 2027

Time: 9am to 3.30pm

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 oral storytelling develops children's spoken language, confidence, self-esteem and knowledge of narrative structure in this session delivered by an expert advisory teacher from CLPE in partnership with the award-winning and acclaimed storyteller **Jan Blake**.



1 day (9am to 3.30pm)

Detail of activity:

In this Masterclass, you'll enhance your knowledge and understanding of how to use traditional tales and oral storytelling techniques to increase children's motivation and attainment in oracy and in writing.

You'll reflect on the value of storytelling and learn how to support all pupils to improve their confidence, engagement, language and vocabulary, and independent writing behaviours.

Key areas of focus:

- Why storytelling and traditional tales are important for all children.
- The importance and value of personal narrative.
- How storytelling and traditional tales provide knowledge of the initial building blocks of narrative.
- Approaches which support remembering, understanding and telling stories.
- Understanding of how language can be used for effect, including structures and choice of vocabulary.

Takeaway:

You will receive a high-quality children's book for each primary phase, as well as associated teaching sequences of detailed planning to help put theory into practice.



Book now

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

Transforming Literacy and Oracy Through Classroom Drama

Explore how classroom drama can provide a wide range of drama and oracy activities that can be applied across all areas of literacy and the wider curriculum.

Suitable for:

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

Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

Language and vocabulary, oracy, reading, writing, PSED.

Date: Wednesday 10 February 2027

Time: 9am to 3.30pm

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 classroom drama can provide a wide range of drama and oracy activities that can be applied across all areas of literacy and the wider curriculum in this session delivered by an expert advisory teacher from CLPE in partnership with drama and oracy creative learning specialist, **Kate Hopewell**.



1 day (9am to 3.30pm)

Detail of activity:

In this Masterclass, you'll enhance your knowledge and understanding of drama approaches which are proven to build children's confidence and self-esteem and provoke creativity and language development.

You will explore how to develop an extended unit of work inspired by a high-quality text that will improve attainment in literacy and support thinking skills engagement and creativity across the curriculum.

Key areas of focus:

- How to ensure behaviour for learning and personalise learning through drama.
- Approaches that develop communication, creative thinking, collaborative working, and social cohesion.
- How to bring a quality text to life, enriching language, reading engagement, comprehension and fluency.
- How to inspire and enhance attainment for all, including 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.

Takeaway:

You will receive a high-quality children's book for each primary phase, and planning notes to help put theory into practice.



Book now

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

Transforming Literacy Through Poetry

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

Suitable for:

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

Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

Language and vocabulary, oracy, reading, writing, poetry, PSED.

Date: Tuesday 16 March 2027

Time: 9am to 3.30pm

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 reading, responding to, performing and writing poetry raises engagement and attainment in literacy and oracy, in this session delivered by an expert advisory teacher from CLPE in partnership with award-winning children's poet **Kate Wakeling**.



1 day (9am to 3.30pm)

Detail of activity:

In this Masterclass, you'll explore how you can effectively build a spine for poetry throughout your school, incorporating approaches that will enrich and enhance the wider literacy provision.

You will investigate high quality poetry for different ages and the approaches and experiences that engage all children. You'll learn how to develop the children's skills in speaking and listening, fluency, comprehension, and the composition and publication of their independent writing.

Key areas of focus:

- Develop and extend children's understanding and use of vocabulary through poetry.
- Develop a wide knowledge of poets and poetry.
- Learn how reading and performing poetry supports the development of fluency, allowing pupils to respond to texts at a greater depth.
- Help children foster their own authentic voices through writing expressive poetry.

Takeaway:

You will receive insights from the CLPE's Power of Poetry research project, as well as a poetry collection for each primary phase and teaching plans to help put theory into practice.



Book now

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

Planning Creatively Around Quality Texts

Explore how the use of quality texts and creative planning approaches supports literacy development, thinking skills, meaningful cross-curricular connections and creativity throughout your school.

Suitable for:

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

Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

Language and vocabulary, oracy, reading, writing, PSED.

Date: Wednesday 19 May 2027

Time: 9am to 3.30pm

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 the use of quality texts and creative planning approaches supports literacy development, thinking skills, meaningful cross-curricular connections and creativity throughout your school in this session delivered by an expert advisory teacher from CLPE in partnership with award-winning children's author and Children's Laureate Wales, **Nicola Davies**.

🕒 1 day (9am to 3.30pm)

Detail of activity:

In this Masterclass, you will explore how to develop an extended unit of work inspired by a high-quality text that will support improved engagement and attainment in literacy for all children.

You'll develop 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.

Key areas of focus:

- Why creative learning is important in supporting all children's literacy development.
- Why exploring contexts is proven to enhance literacy engagement and extend learning across the curriculum.
- How to shape a community of writers in which children are curious and motivated to write collaboratively, individually and independently.
- The creative approaches that support an authentic writing process, including language and vocabulary acquisition, building of imaginative ideas, drafting, editing and publication.

Takeaway:

You will receive a high-quality children's book for each primary phase, and planning notes to help put theory into practice.



Book now

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



COME & TRY

Come & Try

Come & Try 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.

At each session, you 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, admin or estates staff working in primary mainstream and SEND settings. An access budget is available to support participant engagement, 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, admin and estates staff. Come & Try 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 another member of staff is participating in another area of the Primary Arts programme, you are still eligible to take part in this strand. **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 event. You are welcome to attend more than one session: each session must be booked separately. Come & Try will open for booking on **Wednesday 9 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.

While these sessions are free of charge, **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 Come & Try, 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.

Cracking Christmas Crafts with EGSHEL

Create festive objects from innovative biomaterial made from waste eggshells.

Suitable for: All school staff

Date: Tuesday 8 December 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 for a fun and relaxed evening with designer and innovator **Mobina Rajabimoghadam**, the creator of EGSHEL, an innovative biodegradable material made from waste eggshells.

Transforming local food waste into a sustainable resource, EGSHEL is durable, versatile, and fully compostable. The material can be molded, laser cut, CNC machined, printed on, embroidered, and produced in a range of textures and thicknesses, including translucent forms. Combining industrial performance with environmental responsibility, Mobina's work demonstrates how waste-derived biomaterials can support regenerative and sustainable design practices.

Detail of activity:

In this workshop, you will learn about the design and making process behind EGSHEL before using the material to create your own unique Christmas decorative objects. This workshop offers a rare opportunity to work directly with an award-winning sustainable material while reflecting on the role of design in addressing environmental challenges.



Book now

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

Sustainable Basket-Weaving: Making with Fabric Scraps

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

Suitable for: All school staff

Date: Tuesday 19 January 2027

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 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.

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, please use the [Primary Arts booking platform](#)

Holding Through Weaving

Explore traditional twining techniques and create sculptural forms through weaving and everyday materials.

Suitable for: All school staff

Date: Tuesday 9 February 2027

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 for a fun and relaxed evening with artist **Esna Su**, whose practice spans sculptural and wearable forms, creating handcrafted pieces that exist both on and beyond the body. Rooted in traditional Turkish techniques such as weaving, twining, and crochet, her work explores the relationship between heritage, material, and memory through contemporary craft practices.

Detail of activity

In this experiential workshop, you will be introduced to traditional twining, or 'hasır' techniques explored within Esna's sculptural practice. Using paper rush, discarded textiles, and found or personal materials, you will learn how repetitive weaving processes can be used to build layered, organic forms.

You will experiment with texture, tension, and structure while creating your own crafted sample pieces. The workshop encourages material exploration, storytelling through making, and an appreciation for slow, process-led craft practices.



Book now

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

Earth to Colour: Foraged Art Pigments & Materials

Create your own pigments from natural minerals in this immersive colour-making workshop.

Suitable for: All school staff

Date: Tuesday 23 March 2027

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 for a fun and relaxed evening with environmental artist, alchemist and pigment maker **Polly Bennett** exploring themes of identity and our relationship with the natural world through tactile, immersive sculptures, installations, and works on paper.

Rooted in sustainability, Polly's practice embraces traditional craftsmanship, using locally sourced materials, such as clay, sand, and handmade pigments, that guide her process and shape her narrative.

Detail of activity

In this interactive workshop, you will become a modern-day colourman in a pigment making workshop, transforming minerals collected all around the UK into artists' pigments and paints.



Book now

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

Nature imprinted: the Textile Herbarium by Jaixia Blue

Explore eco-printing from foraging natural materials into unique textile designs.

Suitable for: All school staff

Date: Tuesday 27 April 2027

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 for a fun and relaxed evening with textile artist **Jaixia Blu** whose practice explores themes of heritage, memory, and the natural world through eco-printing and textile processes. Her work draws deeply on connections to land and place, using plant materials and natural impressions to create richly layered textiles.

Detail of activity

In this hands-on activity, you will be introduced to the process of eco-printing, exploring the journey from foraging natural materials to creating finished textile pieces. Through experimentation with leaves, flowers, and plant matter, you will discover how natural pigments and textures can be transferred onto fabric, creating unique prints inspired by the surrounding environment.



Book now

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

Heat, Wood and Story

Discover the art of pyrography, transforming wood through heat, texture, pattern and storytelling inspired by the natural world.

Suitable for: All school staff

Date: Tuesday 29 June 2027

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 for a fun and relaxed evening with London-based wood artist **Darren Appiagyei** whose practice centres on revealing the natural character and imperfections of wood.

Darren works primarily with locally sourced and naturally fallen wood collected within five miles of his studio. His process-led approach is rooted in experimentation and sustainability, celebrating the texture, grain, knots, and irregularities of wood while allowing the material itself to guide the making process.

Detail of activity

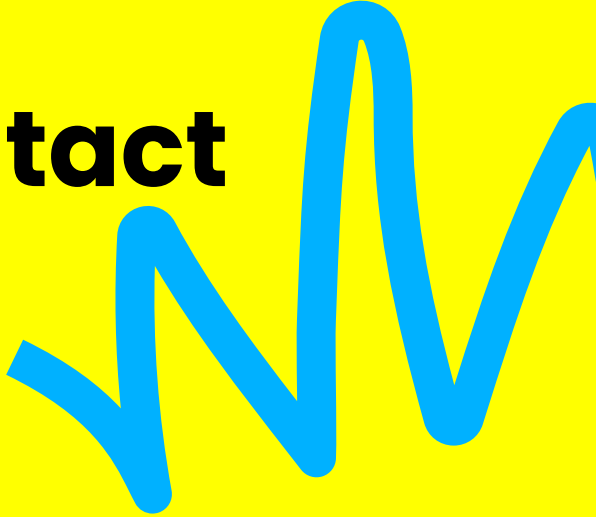
In this enriching workshop, you will explore pyrography techniques, using heat tools to burn marks, patterns, and textures into wooden surfaces while experimenting with drawing, storytelling, and surface design inspired by the natural world.



Book now

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

Summary & Contact



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

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

Bookings will open on Wednesday 9 September.

All bookings must be made through our online booking platform:

<https://primaryarts.anewdirection.org.uk/>.

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**, you must book your own place. Please do not book places on behalf of others.

For **In-Schools Touring** and **Go & See**, please make sure you nominate the right person to act as lead contact, and that your school and headteacher's 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 2027**.

Help us spread the word

We want as many schools as possible to benefit from Primary Arts. 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

#PrimaryArts

🎵 @anewdirectionldn

📷 @anewdirection_ldn

📘 @anewdirectionlondon

🌐 a-new-direction-london

www.anewdirection.org.uk



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**