

**A NEW
DIRECTION**

for
**Primary
Arts**

2026/27

PRIMARY ARTS: 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](#)

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.

About A New Direction

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

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

Get involved in the conversation online

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