



**A NEW
DIRECTION**

for
**Primary
Arts**
2026/27

PRIMARY ARTS: 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](#)

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

#PrimaryArts

🎵 @anewdirectionldn

📷 @anewdirection_ldn

📘 @anewdirectionlondon

🌐 a-new-direction-london

www.anewdirection.org.uk



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