



North East Festival of Languages

8 January to 31 March 2025



KEY STAGE 1 & 2 (3-11 YEARS)

FREE creative multilingual activities (Jan-March)
FREE pre-recorded and online activities (Jan-March)
FREE world languages and cultures events (March)
FREE classroom resources
Language competitions & celebrations



Explore activities available for children aged 3-11 years (Key Stages 1 and 2) and create your own 2025 Festival programme.

Register now for free events and activities between January and March and inspire a generation of future linguists and global citizens with these fun and creative activities.

Pick and mix your own activities from the wide selection in the Festival 2025 programme. Create your own Festival programme to maximise the opportunities for children and young people in your school or community.

[Click here to download the Festival programme](#), scroll down to see the full programme for Key Stages 1 and 2 and click on the links to find out more about all events and activities and registration links. Book early for any in-person events and register now for activities from January.



Festival participation qualifies schools for British Council's International School Award Foundation Certificate. Use Festival activities to progress to Intermediate, Accreditation and Reaccreditation, engage international partner schools. [Click here to find out more.](#)



Festival activities can support the work being done across the North East around Schools of Sanctuary. Schools can get involved in a range of activities from January to March to embrace the languages, cultures and traditions of all your pupils. [Click here to find out more](#)

[Click here for Festival News](#)

Sign up for the Festival newsletter on the [home page](#)

Follow on social media:
[Facebook](#) | [instagram](#) | [X](#)

Creative multilingual projects January-March (ages 7-18)

Registration required (click on the links)

Sing, play and sign the Festival Song: What a Wonderful World 6th Jan to 24th March 2025

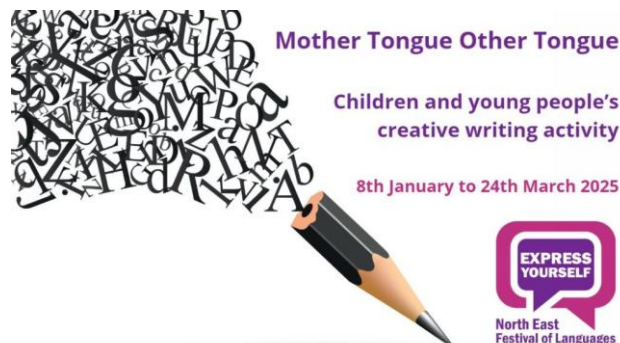


Sing, play, sign: What a wonderful world



NE schools and groups (7-18) are invited to sign, sign, play, perform and film different language versions of the song , ‘What a Wonderful World’. 25 languages available with song resources, or make your own translations. A compilation of performances will be shared.

Mother Tongue Other Tongue – poetic writing project
8th January to 24th March 2025



Children and young people (7-18) in NE schools and community schools are invited to write poems/songs in their home language or write an original piece of poetry in a language they are learning. Submit a selection for inclusion in the MTOT ebook. Certificates for all submissions.

Weaving Friendship – multilingual creative project 8th January to 21st March 2025



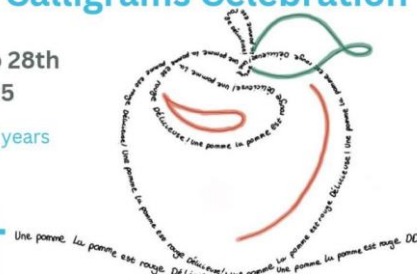
Schools, community schools and college (7-18) can create and submit colourful weavings with messages of friendship written in different languages. Create your own exhibitions and submit as part of a celebratory Friendship Trees installation.

Language Calligrams Celebration and workshop
activity 8th January to 28th March

Language Calligrams Celebration

8th January to 28th
March 2025

7-9 years and 9-11 years



NE schools (7-9, 9-11 year-olds): Create calligrams in any language (other than English) based on words children already know. School certificates for all entries. An ebook (digital anthology) will be created with selected entries.

La Petite Crêperie Competition for North East Schools 8 Jan-14 Feb (winners event 7th March)



NE primary & middle schools: Pupils are invited to design a unique crêpe and describe it in French in a short video. Teaching resources provided. Two schools will win a workshop with La Petite Crêperie on 7th at Newcastle University ilab.

Love Your Mother Language Day at Newcastle City Library 1-3p 1-3pm on 24th February



For ages 5-12, but all welcome: Join in multilingual storytime, share stories, play games and enjoy arts and craft activities at Newcastle City Library to celebrate International Mother Language Day.

Pre-recorded and online activities January-March (ages 3-18)

Registration required (click on the links)

[Puppet shows – have fun learning French! \(3 shows, different ages\)](#) Available Jan-31 March



For early years, primary and teachers

3 interactive one-hour puppet shows tailored to different ages. Children learn French words while enjoying a story told with puppets with Nathalie Paris, Nattalingo. With teacher guide and additional resources available online.

[Yorùbá pre-recorded workshops: Language, Culture, Expression](#) Available Feb -31 March



For primary schools (ages 7-11)

Join in three fun pre-recorded workshops with Victoria Eniola: Language, Culture, Expression. Celebrate Nigerian and Yorùbá language and culture and children's emotional expression. Teaching resources provided.

[Multilingual digital stories made by and for children](#) Available Jan-31 March (Register)



For primary, secondary, community schools & groups: Share five short multilingual digital stories created by children and young people aged 9–17 across the globe in a range of languages, with English subtitles. Links to all films provided, with teacher guide for discussion and activities.

[Lingotot pre-recorded activities for young learners \(3-11 years\)](#) Available Feb-31st March



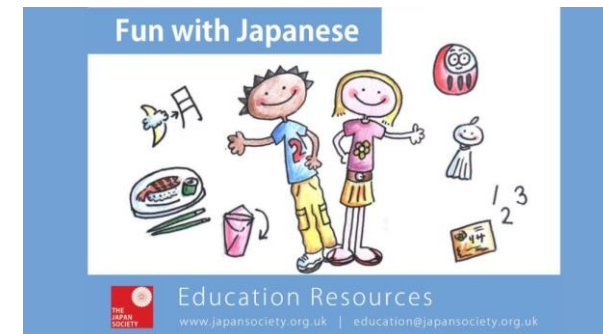
For ages 3-11: Join Lingotot for pre-recorded activities introducing different languages to children. Fun interactive activities in 30-minute sessions available online with worksheets. Register for links and teaching resources.

[Exploring and celebrating indigenous African languages \(5-16 years\)](#) Available Jan-March



For schools and groups (5-16 years): Register for an activity pack to run a classroom, youth group or community workshop introducing four indigenous African languages: Yoruba, Swahili, Tamazight, Xhosa

[Fun with Japanese interactive activities for children \(5-11 years\)](#) Available Jan-31 March



For children (KS1-3): A simple and fun introduction to Japanese for all pupils and community groups or families with children aged 5-11. A series of short videos online plus a calligraphy workshop. Other resources available.

Experience world languages and cultures at live events in March 2025

Registration required (click on the links)

Primary school games and stories at Multilingual Library, Gateshead flexible bookings in March



Primary school tours, games and stories at the Multilingual Library in Gateshead
Flexible 2 hour bookings in March 2025

For primary schools: In 2-hour sessions, children will enjoy a library tour, games, quizzes and stories using our many books and celebrate diverse cultures and languages around the world.

Welcome to China events 10-12 on 11, 12, 13, 18, 19 and 20th March 2025 with Confucius Institute



For Early Years, primary, secondary and 6th form pupils: Join in a language Mandarin taster session and a cultural workshop including Tai Chi or Kungfu, calligraphy and paper cutting.

Bengali Day in Newcastle celebrating Bengali culture and heritage 10am-12pm 3rd March



For primary schools: Celebrate Bengali language, culture, traditions and heritage with the Newcastle Bangladeshi Association, with a carousel of interactive activities with community members.

Welcome to the Arab World 9.30-12.00 and 12.30-3pm 10th March, Newcastle Civic Centre



For primary and middle schools: Pupils will learn about the Arab world, language, calligraphy and culture in these fun, interactive half day workshops. Delivered by Arabic teacher, an expert presenter and an Arabic calligraphy artist.

Yorùbá language and culture workshops 2-hours 12-4pm 4, 11, 18 & 25th March



For schools and youth groups: Learn basic phrases and dip into the rich Yorùbá language and culture in a 2-hour in-person workshop, which can be adapted to age and setting.

Experience Japan with The Japan Society 10-12 and 1-3, 14th March, Newcastle Civic Centre



For KS2 and KS3 pupils: Join The Japan Society for an interactive session around Japanese language and culture, learn some Japanese language and Japanese Calligraphy. Book a 2-hour session, available morning or afternoon.

Experience world languages and cultures at live events in March 2025

Registration required (click on the links)

Primary German online sessions with Goethe Institut 9.30-10.30am, 3rd & 7th March



For primary schools (ages 7-11): Enjoy fun sessions with singing, games, competitions and prizes and learn some simple German. No prior knowledge of German needed. Recording available afterwards.

Spanish language and culture with ENACT 9-11 & 11-1 on 20 March at i:lab Newcastle Uni



For schools: Two schools will join ENACT at the i:lab. Learn some Spanish, do a creative making activity and try flamenco! Supported by the ENACT app and university staff and students.

Language treasures at Great North Museum 10am-2pm 20th (KS2), 24th (KS3) or teacher led 1-31st March



For schools KS2 and 3: Book hands-on workshops exploring galleries through a linguistic lens and connecting across cultures or use teacher-led resourced activities throughout March.

Registrations open in January

Arabic language learning with team games 10.30-12.30 on 22nd March



For families, schools or community groups: Participate in fun, interactive team games, whilst learning some simple words and instructions in Arabic. The event is run by the North East Arabic Teaching Council.

Bangla Day (Sunderland) celebrate Bangladeshi culture and heritage 11-1.30, 2-4.30 on 25 March



For schools and colleges: A festive day of activities to celebrate richness of Bangladeshi culture, heritage, traditions and language and the Bangladeshi community. At Sunderland Bangladesh International Centre.

Mini Olympics – world sports, languages and cultures event 10-2, 27 Mar at Newcastle Uni



For primary/middle schools (Y3-5): Join in the Mini Olympics as a country team, with sports and tasks linked to the history, culture and language of your country. At Newcastle University Sport and Wellbeing Centre with Sports staff and students.

Experience world languages and cultures at live events in March 2025

Registration required (click on the links)

[Welcome to Germany and the German speaking world](#) 9.30-12, 12.30-3 27th March at Durham Uni



For primary schools (Y5-6): Join British Council and Durham University staff and language ambassadors for an interactive introduction to the geography and peoples of the German Speaking World, their language and culture.

[Welcome to Japan Day](#) 10am- 3pm on 28th March at Durham University and Oriental Museum



For Year 5/6 pupils in NE schools and community schools: Learn about Japanese culture and language in these fun, interactive workshops with Japanese students and community members at Durham University and Oriental Museum.

[Spanish Day for teachers with the Spanish Embassy](#) 8th March at Newcastle University



For teachers and future teachers of Spanish: A day of presentations and workshops with practical and imaginative ideas for the Spanish class and a Spanish lunch.

Registrations open in January for bookings.

Language competitions and celebrations

Registration required for some of these (click on the links)

[JaLaChamp 2025 \(Japanese\)](#) Open Nov 2024 to 4th Feb (Speech) and 4th March (Video)



JaLaChamp (Japanese Language Championship for Young Learners UK), is a contest for primary and secondary school students studying Japanese.

[Celebrate Speaking! National festival of speaking languages](#) 1st-28th February 2025



Encourage your pupils to practice and celebrate the language they learn or use in their community and take part in a virtual festival of speaking!

[French Pop Video Competition](#) Register by 28th February and submit entries by 9th May 2025



UK schools (pupils aged 7-18) can submit a short video or animated clip of your class's own original French rap or song as part of the UK competition.

International Mother Language Day and resources available anytime

International Mother Language Day

21st February 2025



Choose from Festival creative language projects and activities to celebrate cultural and linguistic diversity on International Mother Language Day.

ENACT Around the World Club package (NE schools) Available anytime



For North East schools and pupils: Free educational package to set up clubs to learn about the world through cultural activities.

Around the world education packs for schools Available anytime



Discover British Council's curated collection of classroom resources about life and culture in different countries around the world.

Festival activities by language

The Festival has opportunities to engage with all languages. We have selected some of the most popular languages to show how you can put your own Festival programme together around a specific language. These highlight Festival activities, as well as resources available from national and international partners. Click on the images.

French
Resources, events
and activities



Spanish
Resources, events
and activities



German
Resources, events
and activities



Arabic
Resources, events
and activities



Japanese
Resources, events
and activities

