



What is Art Builders?

Art Builders is an arts-in-education programme led by Animate Arts Company. We believe that art and creativity should be part of everyday school life and art activities should be programmed as regularly as core subjects, assemblies and sport days.

Creativity is a powerful tool to build better learners, boost wellbeing, social and physical development – and help us all to be better citizens in a rapidly-evolving, diverse world. This year, due to Covid-19, **Art Builders** is becoming **Art Builders at Home!** Arts Council England have funded this programme so that we can support primary school teachers and pupils during these extraordinary times.

As Steven Berryman says in [this compelling article in the TES](#):

“These are difficult times for everyone, but the arts still have the potential to inspire us, to connect people and to help us heal”.

What is involved?

We are encouraging primary schools across Kent and the UK to programme arts and creativity as an integral part of children’s education during this final term of the year! If your school takes part in this programme, you will be part of a growing network of Kent schools who value and champion the arts.

So, what does that mean in practice? Well, we are providing you with six Art Builders Toolkits for free. These toolkits form a ready-made creative programme to use in classrooms, bubbles, and with your lockdown families. We encourage you to use our resources and to create as many opportunities for children to engage

with arts activity across June and July, with a particular focus on **Arts Builders Day** (Tuesday 30th June). The creations made by the participating children (and staff!) will be exhibited in a ground-breaking 360° virtual reality art gallery! Your art will be shared with a global audience!

What are Art Builders Toolkits?

- Animate Arts have commissioned six professional artists to make six Art Builders Toolkits for Key Stages 1 and 2 pupils.
- The toolkits are digital resources that can be used by teachers in the classroom, or parents for home learning. We think it could be a lovely way of uniting all of your pupils through shared artistic activity!
- Each toolkit focuses on the art of a world-famous artist. Through the kits, we will introduce you to a diverse and unexpected mix of renowned artists from different cultures and art forms – perhaps artists you haven't explored before! The first ones shine a spotlight on the amazing papercuts of **Japanese artist, Nahoko Kojima**, and the curious boxes of **American artist, Joseph Cornell**! You will learn about their work, themes, and techniques. They will inspire your own art projects.
- The six toolkits are being created by six professional artists from our brilliant team, giving you access to their own ideas and practice. They will offer you a filmed workshop and a wonderful digital book packed full with activities, step-by-step guides and extension ideas – so that you can create artworks for the 360° VR art gallery.
- Toolkits 1-5 focus on visual arts: making; creating; building. You will make pieces to feature in the VR art gallery. Toolkit 6 will explore sound and music to create an ambient soundtrack for the 360° experience.
- If you do not want your art work to be part of the 360° virtual reality film, you can use your creations for your own displays.
- All toolkits are approved for Arts Award accreditation. Participants can gain Discover level Arts Award by taking part!



When will the toolkits be released?

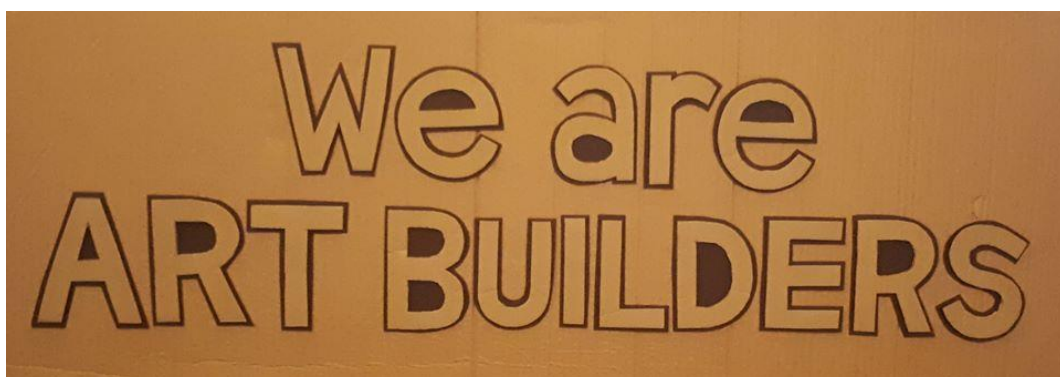
- We will release the first two toolkits together, on Thursday 25th June, ahead of **Art Builders Day** on Tuesday 30th June.
- Then a different toolkit will be released every Thursday until the end of term.

What kinds of materials will be needed?

- A computer to receive and display the digital resources.
- The toolkits require low-cost, easy-to-find materials, so participants can take part at home or in the classroom. These are likely to include basic arts and crafts materials (paper, paint, glue, child-friendly scissors, sticky tape, etc). Animate Arts are also big fans of cardboard and paper, so it may be worth raiding your recycling.

What's going to happen on Art Builders Day?

- Tuesday 30th June is Art Builders Day. This is a day for schools to champion art in their schools with a big art day, whether pupils are working remotely at home or in the classroom. By celebrating the arts in this way, schools will be collectively placing creativity firmly at the centre of children's learning for the entire day. Let's involve as many pupils, teachers and families as possible!
- How you programme this day is entirely up to you! As long as creativity is involved and everybody has a go, then that is an Art Builders Day! We are, however, releasing two toolkits to help you plan your Art Builder Day. These will be available on 25th June, so that you can use one, or both, for inspiration and ready-to-go activities. There is lots of in-built flexibility to allow you to approach Art Builders Day however will work best for you and your school.



What ages is Art Builders at Home suitable for?

Art Builders at Home is aimed at KS1 And KS2, particularly lockdown year groups 3-5, but you can adapt any of the resources to work with all year groups.

How much does Art Builders at Home cost?

It is absolutely FREE. This has been funded by emergency funding from Arts Council England because they value our work and believe that creativity should be part of all young people's lives – especially in these difficult times.

That said, we are a charitable organisation. Our work cannot happen without donations, fundraising and support from funders, partners and volunteers. If you enjoy and appreciate this project, please consider a £5 or £10 donation to support our work. You can do this via our website <http://www.artbuilders.co.uk/>.

How many classes/children should take part?

No number restrictions apply.



Will the children's artworks be shared?

- There will be a 360° virtual reality film as a grand finale to the whole project! Schools and families can post your artworks to Animate Arts and be featured in this unique film.
- Each toolkit will help you to create specific artworks for the 360° art gallery. We have designed the activities so that you can easily post them to us.
- If you would like to have your artwork featured in the VR film, please send them to: Art Builders HQ, C/o Animate Arts Company, The Alexander Centre, 17 Preston Street, Faversham, ME13 8NZ.
- We are afraid that we can't return artworks. We recommend that participants make two artworks – one for the film and one to keep!
- If you are based in Kent and your whole school creates lots of artworks for the film, arrangements could be made between you and us for a safely managed, pick-up/drop-off delivery. Please contact us to discuss.
- We are also looking into the possibility of other local drop-off points, subject to this rapidly changing situation that we are operating in! We'll keep you posted about this!

What is the 360° Virtual Reality video?

Using our clever 360° camera, lighting, and the brilliant skills of our film team, we will make a film that features work created by 2020's Art Builders! It will be a fantastic creation in its own right, but also will celebrate the creativity of all the schools and families involved.

The film will be an expedition to a very unique art gallery. You will be able to look at different artworks on display, but also step inside the artworks to experience art on a whole different level. This film will be immersive, interactive, and made by your artworks!

If you'd like to see our last 360° virtual reality expedition made by Art Builders 2019, you can watch it here: [360 VR cardboard moon landing film](#). This was made by 8 schools, 200 children, staff and artists – and everything is made entirely from paper!



A note on Covid-19 and social distancing

- If you are planning arts activities in the classroom as part of Art Builders, it shouldn't alter your school's usual social distancing policies. If you are setting arts activities as part of your home-learning programme, then this will be the parents'/carers' responsibility.
- More importantly, if you are inviting your home-learning pupils to drop their artworks off to school so that you can display them, or submit them to us, then you will need to plan how that can be managed safely, adhering to social distancing guidelines.
- Whilst there doesn't seem to be official guidance on this, research suggests the virus can survive on paper/cardboard for 24 hours, so if artworks are being dropped off to school, consider isolating them for a period before further handling. This also applies if you're recycling post that you've received in the mail.

How can our children achieve Arts Award on the Art Builders project?

Your pupils can also earn an Arts Award qualification for this project. Arts Award Discover supports and recognises 5 - 25 year olds in their arts education and leadership. Further information about Arts Awards [can be found here](#). Art Builders is an excellent project to compliment these programmes. For more information about their new Arts Award at Home programme, please click [here](#).

Shouting about Art Builders at Home!

We are sending you an 'Art Builders School 2020' digital badge. This ties your creative activities in nicely under the Art Builders project umbrella. It's a great way to show how proud you are to be championing the importance of arts in your school community! You are welcome to use it however is best for you. You might like to share it on your social media channels, in your newsletters, or add it to your email footers, for instance.



Arts Builders Timeline

Now:	Schools register and start planning their Art Builders Day creative activities
Friday 19th June:	Animate Arts will send a 'guest speaker' video message from Artistic Director Jo in which she will introduce the project. You could watch this with pupils and/or send it home.
Thursday 25th June:	The first two toolkits are released for you to use on Art Builders Day
Tuesday 30th June:	Art Builders Day! Share your activities using #ArtBuilders on social media
Thursday 2nd July:	Third toolkit released
Thursday 9th July:	Fourth toolkit released
Thursday 16th July:	Fifth toolkit released
Thursday 23rd July:	Sixth toolkit released
Friday 31st July:	Final date for any artworks that want to be featured in the VR film to arrive at the Animate office.

Social Media

Connect with Animate Arts' social media channels (links below). Share photos of your Art Builders planning and activity using **#ArtBuilders**. We can share your posts with thousands of followers, and collectively we can reach more schools and people of influence to promote the brilliant work of your school, and make Art Builders an essential event in every school's calendar!

If you have any questions, please email info@artbuilders.co.uk

Art Builders website: www.artbuilders.co.uk



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