ALL Primary Calligram celebration 2027

ALL's Primary SIG invites you again to get your Primary class to be creative with the language they are learning!

Each school that enters will receive an ALL certificate, and we are planning to compile a digital collection of some of the most striking calligrams!

Just over a hundred years ago, at the end of the First World War, the French poet Guillaume Appollinaire published a set of poems called Calligrammes in which he used ink and fonts to draw recognisable shapes with connected words. You can locate examples by searching for 'Calligrammes' online.

We are once again inviting Primary children to make their own calligrams, using words and/or phrases they have learnt in any language other than English. The words might draw the outline of the image, or fill in the silhouette of the image. The key things are that they should be related to the image, they should be easy to read (neat and not over-elaborate), and they should be spelled correctly. They can be created by hand or with a computer.

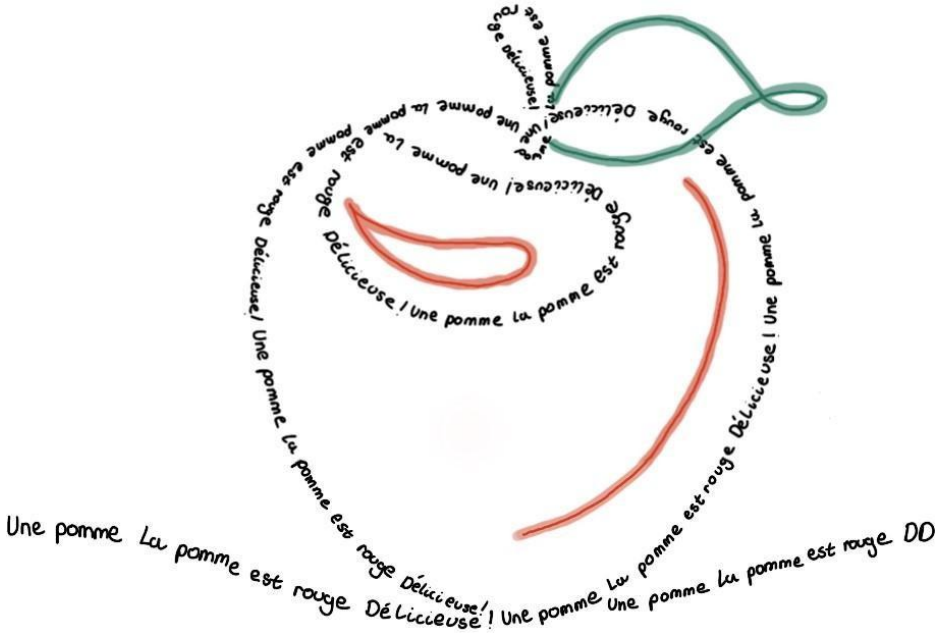
You can view a selection of last year's fine entries here:

Volume 1: 7-9s

https://read.bookcreator.com/5S1C2SwE7fQVulScBfF0igGECsh2/_ghK4KmrRJ6VLEIfDxEyQw

Volume 2: 9-11s

https://read.bookcreator.com/5S1C2SwE7fQVulScBfF0igGECsh2/XShmOxhJQMScYLZqApZZag



How to apply

This event is open from January until February half-term 2026, as a post-holiday creative activity.

We offer 2 categories – 7-9 years old and 9-11 years old, and invite teachers to select a theme that fits in with their schemes.

We can accept a maximum of **three entries in each age category** per school delivered by email to caligram24@gmail.com (sic) along with the completed **pro forma** (below) giving school details.

We invite teachers to send in digital images (e.g. photographs as jpg or scans as pdf) of the calligrams they think most original or striking. It is very helpful to the organisers if the image can be saved with a title showing the school name, pupil's first name and age group,

e.g, **St Marks Elsa 7-9** . This helps the organisers file and locate the entries when compiling the e-publication.

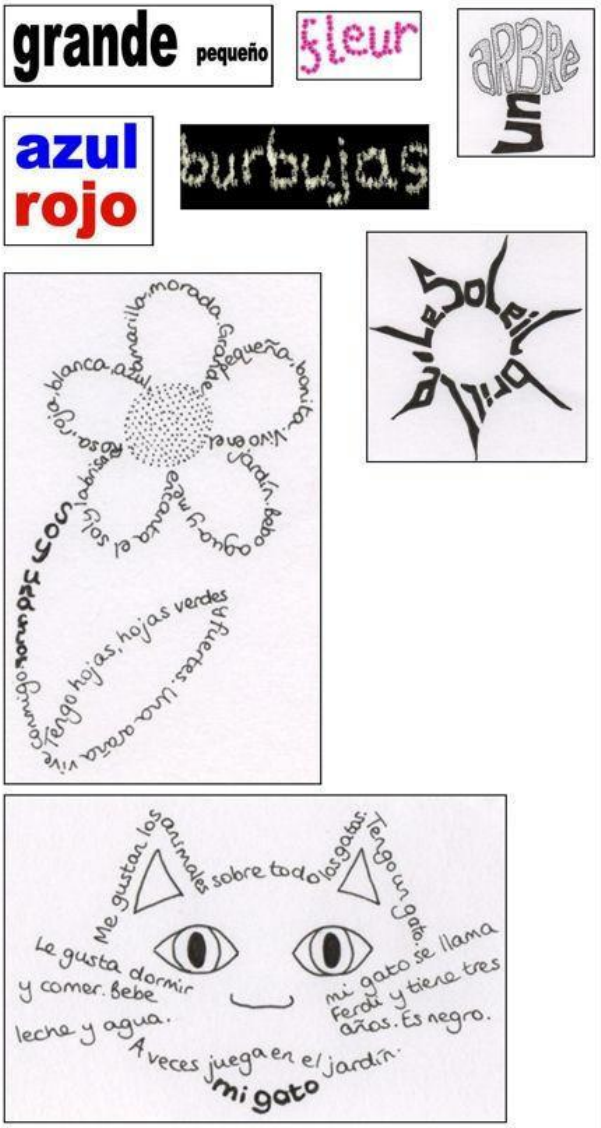
Closing date

- Monday 22nd February 2027.
- The school's chosen calligrams (3 max. in each age category) should be digitally photographed or scanned and emailed to the organiser's email caligram24@gmail.com with email title 'Primary Calligrams'.
- We hope that teachers might create a classroom display of children's work and share images on social media to inspire others and celebrate creativity.
- Each school that enters will receive an ALL certificate to display in school.
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North-East Festival of Languages 2026

Please note that a special version of this celebration is also running as part of this Festival, open only to schools in the Festival region.

Notes



Thanks to Clare Seccombe for these notes selected from her blog (link below)

So what is a calligram? According to Wikipedia, *"A calligram is a poem, phrase, or word in which the typeface, calligraphy or handwriting forms an important part of the focus."*

Google says *A calligram is a set of words arranged in such a way that it forms a thematically related image.*

Other sources just refer to its being a poem, but I like the idea that it can branch out into phrases and words as well, especially when thinking from a Languages point of view.

How can we use calligrams to enhance teaching and learning a language? Pupils are introduced to them in Y3 Literacy in England and so it's a concept with which they may are already be familiar. In Y3 they look at examples of calligrams and then have a go at making their own using ICT. (Clare's examples here.)

Clare suggests using them as a way of **displaying key words** or **phrases** visually(for Y3), and **sentences** for Y6.

*'I think I see the most potential for them as creative writing activities. Instead of writing a short paragraph about a dry topic like, say, a pet, pupils can **write their text as a calligram**, which might just motivate them a bit more, and will make for a good display for you.'*

One idea: You need a pencil outline of your picture - Neil Buchanan (Art Attack presenter on TV) used a skier zooming downhill. Then you fill each area of the picture with words pertaining to that picture.

For example, he wrote the word "cold" over and over again on the skier's coat.

https://changing-phase.blogspot.com/2009/06/calligrams.html

https://ideaseducationltd.sellfy.store/p/c0hsxq/