

Bicester Primary Schools Embrace Creativity and Community Spirit in Upcoming Arts Festival

03/05/24

18th May 2024, 12pm - 4pm Bicester Library

In a vibrant celebration of creativity, community, and collaboration, we are thrilled to announce the upcoming Bicester Schools Arts Festival.

Showcasing the incredible talent of young artists from five local primary schools who, under the guidance of a renowned community artist **Emily Cooling**, created unique Silk Batik banners for their schools under the theme of 'Stronger Together'. The children will also complete a Discover Arts Award, gaining a certificate from Trinity College London.

All 15 banners will be on display at Bicester Library and the community is invited to immerse themselves in this visual feast on **Saturday 18th May 2024, 12pm - 4pm Bicester Library.**

The **Bicester School Arts Festival** is brought to you by the **Bicester Schools Art Network**, a voluntary group of Art teachers with a passion for celebrating the arts and supported by the Cultural Education Partnership for the area, **OxyGen North**.

Participating schools in this years festival include:

- Bure Park Primary School
- Glory Farm Primary School
- King's Meadow Primary School
- Launton C of E Primary School
- St Edburg's Primary School

Bumble Creatives CIC, a recently established Creative Wellbeing practice in Bicester, has coordinated the workshops, Arts Awards and exhibition, with the support of **Cherwell District Council's Wellbeing Arts** team via funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Special mention also to **86 Creative** who supported the printing of our Arts Award booklets and of

course **Bicester Library** for providing the space for our launch event and exhibition.

The Bicester School Arts Festival aims to empower young people and engage the local community in a shared experience of creativity and connection. The display of Batik silk banners, known for their vibrant colours and intricate designs, should serve as an inspiration to the young participants who took part and the community at large. This event is a celebration of the creativity that flourishes when we come together.





"We believe the arts play a crucial role in promoting mental, emotional, and physical wellbeing," says Nicolette Glashan, Bumble Creatives CIC. "The Bicester Schools Arts Festival is a reflection of our commitment to creating a nurturing environment where young people can express themselves, explore their talents, and connect with their community. We are incredibly proud to showcase the collaborative efforts of our young artists from all five schools."

The children loved taking part, challenging themselves to try something new and growing in confidence with the results. Some of their comments included *"It was really, really hard, but it was still fun!"*, *"When we painted it, it's so satisfying and it's easy."* *"I like the dye- the way you can just put a dot on and it spreads."*

Following one of the workshops, Sarah Lewis of Bure Park Primary school, who leads the schools network said *"Thanks so much Emily and Nicolette for your time and energy today at Bure Park. We LOVED it!"*

The community is warmly invited to join us at the local library on Saturday 18th May from 12pm to witness the remarkable creativity of our young artists and the stunning beauty of Batik silk artistry. Together, let's

celebrate the spirit of creativity, community, and connection that lies at the heart of this collaboration.

For more information on the festival please use the contact details below.

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