

Japanese Taster Sessions in 2015

If you would like to arrange a Japanese Taster Session at your school, please email info.language@jpf.org.uk for more details about our Japanese Tasters for Schools (JTS) Programme.

Connaught Schools for Girls, Waltham Forest

One volunteer came to this school in July as part of a Gifted and Talented day for able linguists. She was assisted by a student at the school who had been learning Japanese from a private tutor. The taster began with an introduction to Japanese greetings, followed by learning the numbers 1-99 in Japanese. The volunteer next gave an introductory presentation about Japan, including the Tanabata Star Festival that happened to be the same day as the taster. Finally, the pupils learned about Japanese writing and how to correctly pronounce the sounds of Japanese. Mrs Patterson, Head of MFL, said the taster gave *"Excellent coverage of language skills and culture."*

NEW! North Harringay Primary School, Haringey

One volunteer held a Japanese taster at this school in June. The volunteer first taught how to introduce one's self in Japanese, followed by the Japanese numbers 1-10. He then told the Japanese children's story "Naita Akaoni" ("The Red Ogre Who Cried"), and followed by a Japanese school's song (in Japanese)! This was followed by an introduction to more numbers, and ended with saying "Sayounara" (Goodbye) and "Arigatou" (thank you) in Japanese. Ms Gordon, MFL Coordinator, said, *"The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the session, they were all engaged and [the volunteer] helped them pick up the key vocabulary very quickly in a short amount of time."* Since having the taster, the school have expressed an interest in starting a Japanese club and requested a copy of our [Class Acts DVD](#) to help guide them.

Reading School, Reading

This school organised a Japan Day in June and invited four JTS volunteers to deliver taster sessions. The tasters included introductions to Japan, greetings and self-introductions in Japanese, writing names in Japanese, numbers in Japanese, and making wishes for the *Tanabata* Star Festival. Mrs Kesteven, the School Librarian, commented, *"It was very well organised and staff and pupils have commented on how professional and well prepared all the volunteers were. The feedback from our pupils has been overwhelmingly positive with boys enjoying the cultural information as well as learning the language."* There was also positive feedback directly from the students; Muhammed (Year 8) said *"The whole lesson was good as we learnt about different aspects of Japan"* and Manas (Year 7) said *"It was very interesting and I loved learning new letters"*. The visit was featured on Reading School's website here:

www.reading-school.co.uk/31/latest-news/article/408/japan-day-2015

Photos from the Reading School taster below:





Cayley Primary School, Tower Hamlets

As part of their Year 6 Languages Day, Cayley Primary School invited two volunteers to deliver Japanese taster sessions in June. The taster began with an introduction to Japan, followed by learning greetings in Japanese. The pupils then learned how to count from 1-10 in Japanese, and finally learned about Japanese writing and even how to write their own name in Japanese *katakana* characters! The class teacher Mrs Stride commented, *"The session was extremely well planned. Our pupils loved learning about a new culture and language and were highly motivated. They particularly enjoyed rehearsing Japanese phrases with a partner, discovering new information about Japanese lifestyles and practising their names in katakana."*

Mytchett Primary School, Surrey

One volunteer visited this school in June as part of a Japan Day. The taster began with an introduction to Japan, followed by learning greetings in Japanese. The pupils then learned Japanese numbers, which they then used to play Bingo. Finally, all the pupils learned how to say their age in Japanese. Mrs Emsden, the MFL Subject Leader, said, *"[The volunteer] was well prepared and delivered the lessons confidently and enthusiastically. The children greatly enjoyed the sessions, some children in my class saying it 'was the best afternoon!'"* The school has since expressed an interest in starting a Japanese club.

Hitchin Boys' School, Hertfordshire

This school organised a Japan Day in June and invited a JTS volunteer to come to give a Japanese taster. The taster began with an introductory presentation about Japan, followed by teaching Japanese greetings (including different types of bowing). The pupils then learned how to count in Japanese. Finally, the volunteer introduced the pupils to words for different parts of the face using the Japanese game "Fuku-warai," a game similar to "Pin the tail on the donkey" in which blindfolded pupils had to try and put the eyes, nose and mouth in the right place on the face! The school was "very satisfied" with the taster and is now interested in starting Japanese classes.

South End Junior School, Northamptonshire

As this school were teaching about Japan for a full half term, they invited a volunteer from our JTS Programme to give a Japanese taster in June. The volunteer first taught greetings in Japanese, followed by the number 1-99. This was followed by an introduction to Japanese writing, and concluded with making origami kabuto (samurai helmets) out of newspaper! The school said that the taster was *"Very professional and organised. The children thoroughly enjoyed it and it was invaluable to have elements of the language taught by a first language speaker."*

Five Ways Primary School, Staffordshire

The school requested a Japanese taster session as part of their school enrichment day. One volunteer came in June to hold the taster. She began by teaching the students basic Japanese greetings, followed by introducing facts about Japan's geography, seasons and food. She then taught all about Japanese numbers, and finally introduced Japanese writing. The school commented, "The children really enjoyed learning some Japanese and writing their names in Japanese characters." They are now planning to further develop their Japan unit in Geography and establish exchange activities with a primary school in Japan.

Tivetshall Primary School, Norfolk

This school decided to have a Japanese taster session to celebrate the Japanese festival of Kodomo no Hi (Children's Day) on May 5th. The taster began with the pupils learning how to introduce themselves in Japanese, followed by an overview of Japanese culture and what happens on Kodomo no Hi. Finally, they made their own *meishi* (Japanese name cards) and exchanged them with other pupils, practising the Japanese they had learned. The school was very satisfied with the taster and is now planning on introducing Japanese extra-curricular classes (they have applied for funding through the Japan Foundation's [Japanese Language Local Project Support Programme](#) to help them).

The Priory School, Hertfordshire

The Priory School held a Staff Conference in April in which members of staff had to learn a new skill. As part of the conference, two JTS volunteers came to the school and held a Japanese taster session for the staff as well as interested students! The taster began with greetings in Japanese and an introduction to Japan. Participants then learned to sing "Atama, Kata, Hiza, Ashi" (*Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes*) and how to introduce one's self in Japanese while exchanging business cards. Assistant Head Teacher Mr Foster commented, *"This was an excellent session, delivered with enthusiasm, by informed and welcoming staff. Students and staff alike really enjoyed the variety of activities planned and the 'teachers' took to the spirit of our day fantastically well. I never thought our site manager would be seen completing Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes in English, let alone Japanese!"*

Bushey Manor Junior School, Hertfordshire

A JTS volunteer held a Japanese taster at this school in early March, around the same time as the Hina Matsuri (Doll's Festival) in Japan. She therefore planned a Hina Matsuri themed taster, beginning with an introduction to Japan and the festival, which included learning some basic Japanese such as greetings and numbers. The session concluded with making origami Hina Matsuri dolls. Mr McCreadie, Headteacher at the school, was *"very satisfied"* with the taster.

The Grove Academy, Hertfordshire

As part of the school's International Week, a JTS volunteer delivered Japanese language tasters at the Grove Academy in March. The taster opened with greetings in Japanese (with bowing), followed by a quiz about Japan. Pupils then learned how to count up to 100 in Japanese (easier than you think!) and finally learned how to write their names in Japanese. The Grove Academy has since said that they are interested in starting extra-curricular Japanese lessons.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Bromley

In March, one volunteer held a Japanese taster at this school as part of the class topic on Japan. The pupils first learned greetings and self-introductions in Japanese, as well as the numbers 1-10 in Japanese. They next tried a quiz about Japan, and then learned how to make origami *neko* (cats) and *inu* (dogs). Finally, they played a game of *janken* (rock, paper, scissors). The school commented, *"It was brilliant! The children absolutely loved it."* The teacher will continue to teach Japan as a topic to her pupils.

Paulton Junior School, Bristol

After hearing about the successful Japanese tasters run at St Michael's CofE Junior School in 2014, Paulton Junior School booked a visit from two of our JTS volunteers in February as part of the school's Japan Day. The volunteers taught an introduction to Japan, body parts in Japanese, self-introductions in Japanese and the numbers 1-10 which the pupils practised with a game of Bingo. The Year 4 teacher Mrs Goucher commented, *"The children really enjoyed the different activities and learning some Japanese!"* The school is now interested in funding to develop their Japanese provisions.

St Antony's RC Primary School, Newham

Four volunteers visited this school in January as part of their Citizenship Week to deliver a taster in Japanese language. The tasters included an introduction to Japan, learning greetings and self-introductions in Japanese, learning the song *"Atama, Kata, Hiza, Ashi"* (or "Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes" in English), counting in Japanese and even name-writing in Japanese. Class Teacher Mrs Seshie commented, *"It was well received by the children. They enjoyed it. One of the Year 3 classes presented what they learned in the sharing assembly for Citizenship week."*

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