

PEACE CRANES



Thank you for taking part in our peace crane project.

Background

Visitors to Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima, Japan, see brightly coloured paper cranes everywhere. These paper cranes come originally from the ancient Japanese tradition of origami or paper folding, but today they are known as a symbol of peace. They are folded as a wish for peace in many countries around the world. This connection between paper cranes and peace can be traced back to a young girl named Sadako Sasaki, who died of leukaemia ten years after the atomic bombing.

Sadako was two years old when she was exposed to the atomic bomb in 1945. She had no apparent injuries and grew into a strong and healthy girl. However, nine years later, in the Autumn, when she was in the sixth year of primary school, she suddenly developed signs of an illness. In February the following year, she was diagnosed with leukaemia and was admitted to the Hiroshima Red Cross Hospital. Believing that folding paper cranes would help her recover, she kept folding them to the end, but on October 25, 1955, after an eight-month struggle with the disease, she passed away.

Sadako's death triggered a campaign to build a monument to pray for world peace and the peaceful repose of the many children killed by the atomic bomb. The Children's Peace Monument that stands in Peace Memorial Park was built with funds donated from all over Japan. Later, this story spread to the world, and now, millions of cranes are placed each year before the Children's Peace Monument.



Our project

We are asking children, their teachers, parents and carers to create beautiful peace cranes and doves and send them to us to create a fantastic art installation in the centre of historic Durham city. Everyone can take part and instructions on how to make the cranes are attached.

You can make the cranes from any paper; Christmas wrapping paper, coloured sheets of paper or origami squares.

We would like the children to write a personal message about peace in their own language or one they are learning on the reverse of the crane. Younger children may want simply to write the word PEACE in English or in any language on their crane.

There is a helpful video to show your pupils. Watch it as you fold your crane.

[Origami: Crane \[tutorial\] \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

Your completed cranes should be sent to us at

Sarah Edgar, Education, (School Effectiveness), Newcastle Civic Centre,
Newcastle NE1 8QH

You must post your cranes to us to arrive NO LATER than 6 March.

The cranes will be displayed in Prince Bishops Place in central Durham from 18 March for one month. Afterwards a selection of the cranes will be sent to Hiroshima to be placed at the peace memorial.

We are delighted that the project has caught the interest of schools in North East England as well as schools across Europe and beyond.

The project is part of the regional festival of languages, Express Yourself, which runs from January to March 2024

www.expressyourselfne.com

For queries, contact

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