

BANJO
ROBINSON

IN

SCHOOLS!

RECEPTION.



Banjo in Schools is a free resource. If you haven't already signed up, please sign-up here for extra content and offers delivered via email:
www.banjorobinson.com/schools-resources/



BANJO IN SCHOOLS! AT A GLANCE!



1. Personalise and read out Banjo's UK letter



2. Children follow his journey on the Classroom Wall Map

3. Children write or draw responses and post their letters under your desk...



4. You write a note back in Banjo's voice on his headed paper



5. After a few days, personalise and read out Banjo's next letter... and continue the cycle!

Keep reading for:

1. How it works
2. A letter to your colleagues
3. Using Banjo in your classroom: an overview





Banjo in Schools: How it Works (RECEPTION CLASS)

Banjo Robinson is a magical cat who travels around the globe sending personalised letters and activity packs to children from each of his destinations.

Banjo's letters encourage a reply, resulting in a truly magical correspondence between child and cat!

In collaboration with children's author Sylvia Bishop and primary school teachers, the team at Banjo HQ has now created a **free school product** so that classrooms up and down the country can enjoy exploring the world with Banjo.

Banjo in your Reception Classroom

This pack supports EYFS areas of learning including:

- communication and language
- literacy
- learning about the world

Suggested structure

1. All resources are printed from banjorobinson.com/banjo-in-schools.
2. *Classroom World Map* is displayed on the wall.
3. Banjo's first letter, from the UK, is personalised by the teacher.
4. Banjo's UK letter is read out to the class.

Please note: Lesson plans and supporting materials are available for a KS1-level classroom which can be downloaded from banjorobinson.com/banjo-in-schools as challenge activities if required.

5. Children are encouraged to write back to Banjo using the stationery provided and leave their letters in a designated classroom spot for secret collection by the United Paws Postal Service.
6. Pawprints around the edge of the *Classroom World Map* are coloured in by children when they have written their replies.
7. The next day, the children's replies have disappeared, and children believe they are on their way to Banjo.
8. Teacher can write a note from Banjo on *Headed Paper* to thank the class for their letters.
9. After a break of 1-2 weeks, the teacher personalises Banjo's letter from Uganda.

The personalised PS message can refer to class and school news, or things the children have asked in their letters to Banjo.

10. The cycle continues with the final letter from Fiji. Once all three letters have been read, discussed and replied to, children can receive a **completion certificate** (see banjorobinson.com/banjo-in-schools).

Why use Banjo in your classroom?

Banjo's letters provide the perfect introduction to learning about the world through northern hemisphere, southern hemisphere and equatorial countries which can be identified on the Classroom Wall Map.

Banjo is the perfect way to reinforce reading and writing for pleasure, whilst supporting EYFS areas of language and communication.

'The children were obsessed with Banjo!' Teachers report that the personalisation on Banjo's letters ensure that the class feels connected to their new cat friend and can't wait to write back to him.

Tell your colleagues about Banjo

We've written a handy introduction about Banjo in Schools for you to pass on to your colleagues and others in the teaching community – turn to the next page for a printable/ customisable version!

For additional support and questions, visit Dory at Banjo HQ: <https://banjorobinsonhelp.zendesk.com/hc/en-gb> or email heythere@banjorobinson.com





Dear Colleague,

Banjo Robinson has just launched a new, completely free resource for primary schools which can be adapted to each school's context and curriculum intent.

Using personalised letters from a magical, globetrotting cat as a starting point, the team has worked with teachers to create a wealth of **KS1 geography curriculum-aligned materials** which can be used as a hook within an existing scheme or as a standalone unit of work.

Banjo Robinson supports reading and writing for pleasure, and works with acclaimed children's authors to create high quality texts with rich vocabulary.

Banjo in Schools can be used across Years 1 and 2 with lesson plans and activities that can extend higher attainers and provide motivation for reluctant writers to write for a purpose. A mini version of this resource which can be used in Reception classrooms is also available.

If you would like further information and to explore the offering, please visit www.banjorobinson.com/banjo-in-schools.

I hope you like it!



USING BANJO'S letters with your class: AN OVERVIEW

When & How Often

We recommend you engage with the letters once every few days. This gives Banjo the time to see the world in between his letters. **Adding personalisation to each letter will help the children in your class to connect meaningfully with Banjo.**

To introduce Banjo

1. Start with the UK Letter

Banjo's first letter includes an introduction. If you want to know why Banjo is travelling the world, you can buy his background story from our website or watch it on YouTube https://youtu.be/I3_tp9xfA4k

2. Look at Classroom World Map and display it

Use this as an opportunity to find out prior knowledge. Consider using talk partners/ small group discussion or post it/ whiteboard responses to find out -

- What continents do you know? What countries can you name?
- Where would you like to travel in the world? Why?
- What questions would you want to ask a world-travelling cat?

3. Plan your responses to Banjo

Allocate a special place in the classroom, such as under your desk, where you will ask children to leave their replies. Explain that Banjo has told you that they will be collected by one of his animal friends at the UPPS (United Paws Postal Service) and delivered to Banjo - this really adds to the magical experience for the children. If you have a school pet or animals that you spot regularly on the school grounds (e.g. a robin or pigeon) it is great to tell the children that they will be the collector of letters on behalf of Banjo.

For each new letter

Personalise each letter before reading

Write on your letter in the white fields (or type, if you have a PDF reader). You will need to write your class name and a PS message, pretending you are Banjo Robinson. This can refer to something the children are particularly interested in, achievements they have made together or something they have written in their replies from the previous letter.

Here's an example:

Class name

HELLO

Ahoy, *Owl Class!*

I'm off to see the world! I've started by seeing every country here at home, in the United Kingdom. Did you know there are four?

I began in London, England, visiting all the famous landmarks: Buckingham Palace, and Nelson's Column, and even a statue of a cat - his name was Hodge, and he has a little bronze statue of his own! It was all so exciting - but also very GOLD. A soldier at the Palace saw me shivering.

"Poor little cat," he said. "Here - have my hat to keep warm." And he gave me his big black bushy hat! (Have you seen a bushy? Ask your teacher to find you a picture - it's almost as fluffy as me!)

Next, I took a train west, to Swansea in Wales. I pressed my nose to the window the whole way, watching hills and valleys roll past.

It was so beautiful at the coast, with sandy beaches, great cliffs and saltmarshes. But it was EVEN colder than in London! Luckily, I met a fisherman, who saw my tail quivering.

"Poor little cat," he said. "Here - have this." And he gave me his knitted hat to put under my bushy, so I could feel snug and cosy while I watched the waves.

My next train took me north to Edinburgh, in Scotland. It was a brilliant city - but, oh, that wind! It whistled round those twisty streets and got

right under my fur! A bagpiper was playing to entertain people, and when he saw me, he smiled.

"Oh dear, kitty," he said. "You've a lovely fur coat, but you aren't dressed for Scotland." And he added his hat to my collection; he said it was called a tam-o-shanter "There," he said, "Now you'll be warm!"

I took a ferry to my last UK stop - Belfast, the capital of Northern Ireland. But when I tried to board, the captain frowned.

"Whose hats are these?" he asked the queue of humans. He pointed to a sign, and read out sternly: "Unaccompanied hats are not permitted on board the ferry."

"I'm NOT unaccompanied hats," I meowed. "I'm a magical globetrotting cat!"

Well! He jumped right up in the air; he was so surprised to hear a pile of hats miaow! But once he understood, he laughed.

"Here," he said. "You need a captain's hat too." And he gave me his cap, so now I'm ready to sail the seven seas! Which is lucky, because after Europe, there are six more continents for me to see. Can you name them?

Wish me luck!

Until next time,

BANJO ROBINSON

PS: I heard that you all had such a good time on your trip to Brighton museum - even though that naughty seagull tried to steal some of Miss Webster's lunch! Why don't you write and tell me about all the things you saw there? I can't wait to read your letters.

PS message

General ideas that can be used across the weeks or as enhancements

- Encourage children to write extra letters to Banjo by having a UPPS post box (which the children could make) in your special agreed place. This can be used by them to share worries or for them to reflect on their learning - telling or drawing pictures for Banjo about what they have been doing.
- Consider putting up a Banjo display: including the map, his letters as the children receive them, examples of their own written replies, drawings or paintings of Banjo. You could add key vocabulary, flags and also plot on the map all the places children come from or have a link to.
- Create a rucksack as a display, or use a real one, and pack it with items (real, photographed or drawn). Use it as an opportunity to learn about geographical items such as a passport, compass, travel tickets, aerial photographs and maps. Ask the children to consider different world climates and how this would change the clothes Banjo needs to pack.

At the end of the project

Don't forget to send home the *completion certificates* to congratulate each child for taking part and keeping Banjo company on his travels! Please check banjorobinson.com/banjo-in-schools for these.

