

Grow stronger, together

Exploring creativity in your community



This [#CelebrateArtsmark](#) resource is designed to support pupils to explore and understand the importance of school community.

Connecting with your school community

Creating a strong sense of community can unite us, support wellbeing, and help young people's personal development. As young people spend so much time in their school environment, schools become one of the most important communities in their lives.

We want pupils to understand that we are stronger together, as part of a community. Creativity can play a key role in strengthening connections and sense of belonging. Exploring your school community through creativity can really enrich your Artsmark journey, enabling your students to grow both as individuals and together.

How it works

1

Discuss

Get talking about the brilliant ways you make up your school community. What makes us different, what brings us together?

2

Create

Explore discussion ideas through creativity and create a communal art piece that celebrates the diversity of your school community.

3

Showcase

Display pupils' artwork and share photos or videos on social media: tag us using the hashtag [#Artsmark20](#)



1 Discuss

In this activity, we use a tree as a symbol of your school community. A tree needs various things (light, water, nutrients, etc) to grow and thrive. In small groups, or as a class, list what your school community might need to flourish.

All trees have a trunk, anchoring it to the ground. This provides structure and stability. Compare this to your school, classroom, the people who look after you and your daily routines. What makes you feel strong and secure?

A tree also has twigs and branches that can be easily broken. When we bundle them together, they become stronger. Our school community is strengthened by everyone within it, supporting each other. How can we help and support each other?

Finally, the leaves – all leaves are unique and tell their own story. They are all different colours, shapes and sizes. Discuss with your class, the ways we are unique, and how, just like the leaves on a tree, we can be different but beautiful together.



2 Create

Our Community Tree

Create your own 'Class Community Tree' to celebrate your classroom community. Ask pupils to design their own leaf, responding to the themes discussed earlier. What shapes, colours, textures will they choose? Maybe they could include a self-portrait, or collages of images or words to represent who they are. Use the leaf templates provided if you wish.

3 Showcase

Assemble the leaves together to create your own class or school community tree. Use paper, paint or collaged photographs to create the trunk and branches. Display a forest of trees from across the school for all to see - a celebration of your pupils' individuality and community spirit.

Don't forget to share your work on social media tagging @ArtsmarkAward using the hashtag #CelebrateArtsmark.



Other ideas

Create a community map

Create a 'community map' based on places that are important, or special, to students in your class. Ask them to draw, photograph or create models of their chosen place and put them together to create your own class map. Discuss with your students why they chose their particular place. The map will be a creative representation of place and tell a story of your students' individual experiences of their community.



Pen Pals

Write letters to another school in your area. Pupils will communicate with other students of similar age and express what it means to them to be a part of their school community, as well as any other communities they're a part of. They can send letters, pieces of artwork, poems, or any other creative work. You can download our template email to reach out to a school near you to join the celebrations.



Don't forget to share your work:

Share your work on social media and tag us using the hashtag #CelebrateArtsmark



[@ArtsmarkAward](https://twitter.com/ArtsmarkAward)



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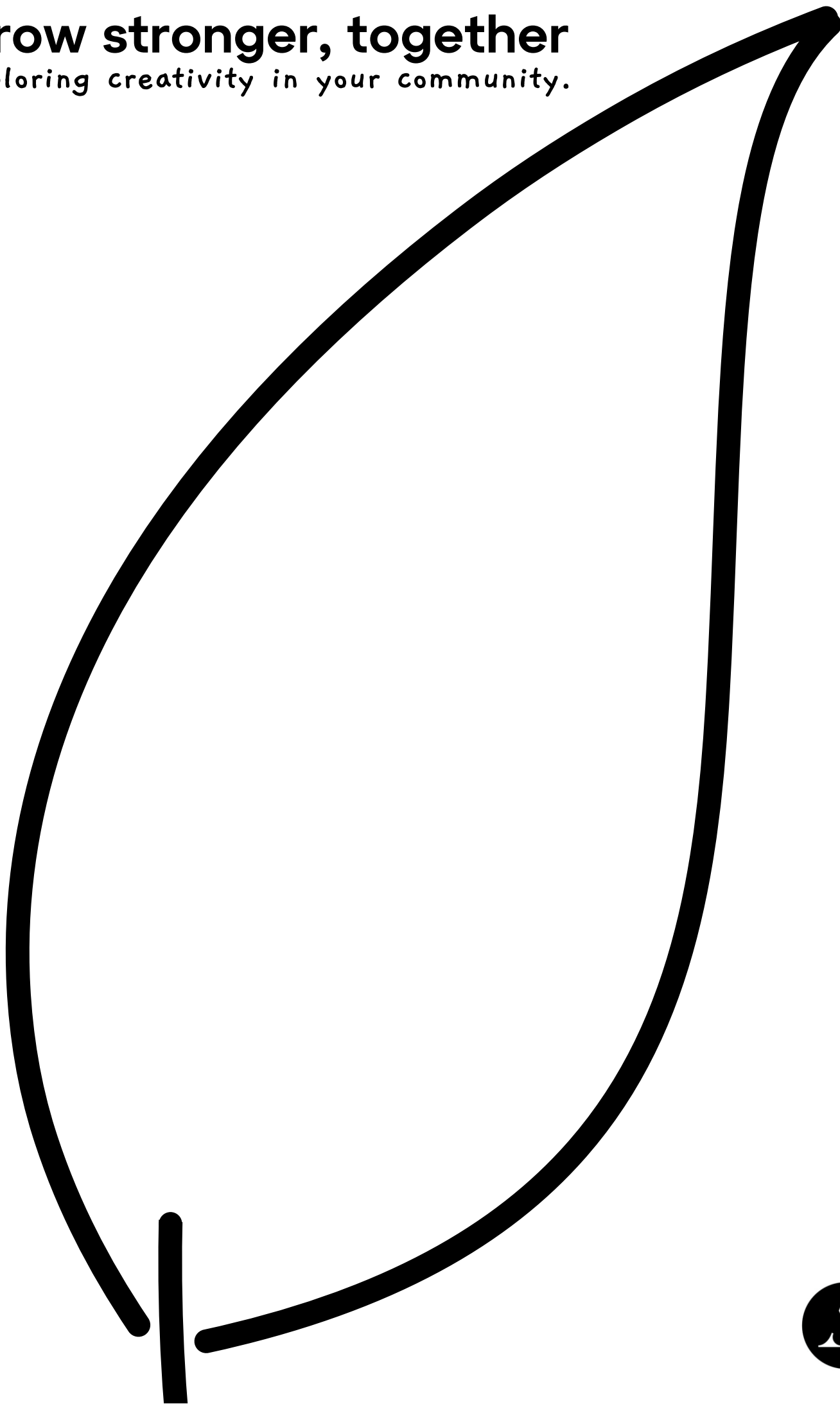
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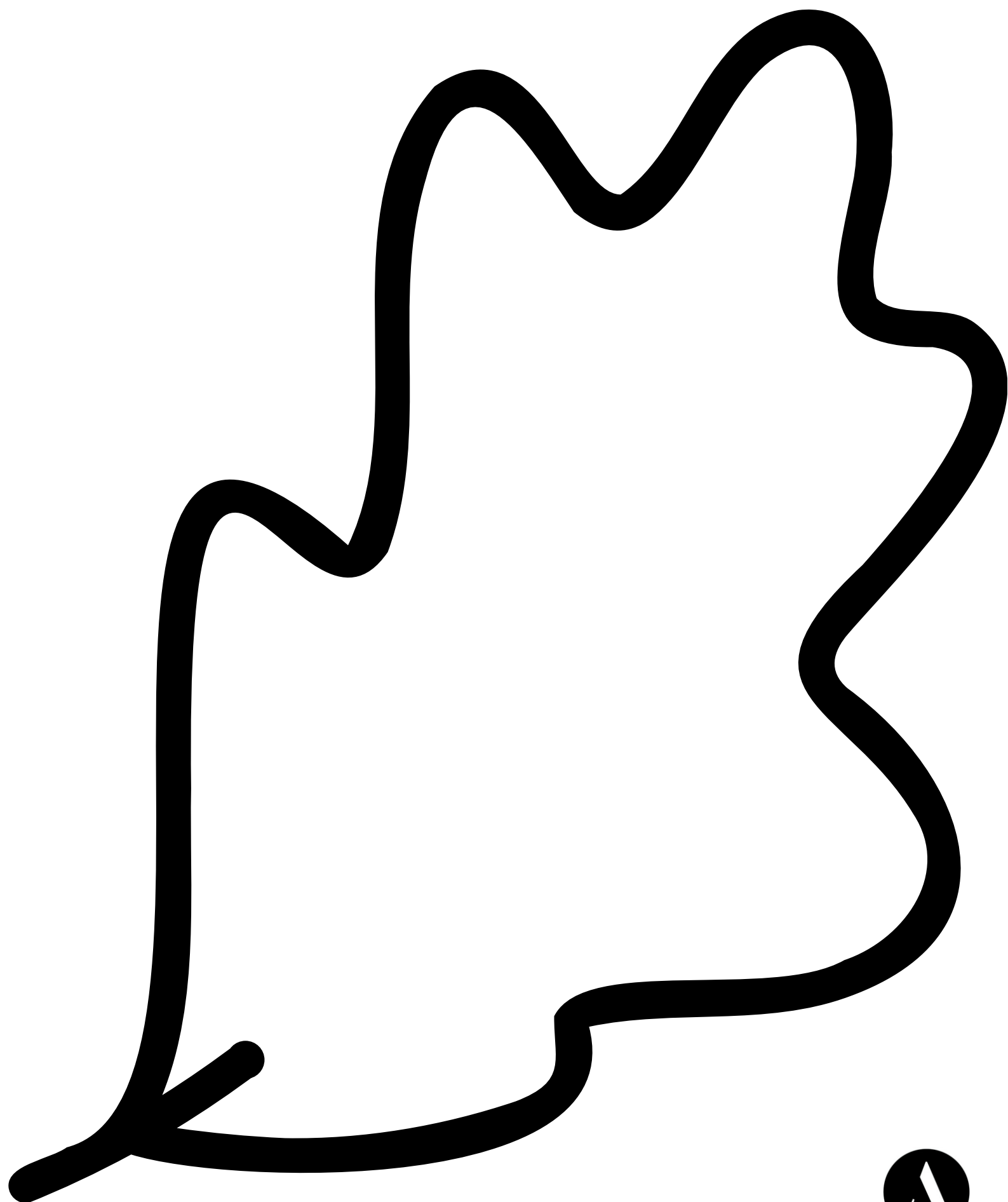
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