

Scene 1

(As **Intro Music** plays (**CD2 - track 1**) four children, Ben, Ali, Rachel and Emma, - names can be changed to those of the actors - take their positions on a smaller separate stage to one side of the main stage. This smaller stage should be made up to look like a bus stop.)

Ben So, are you guys ready for your last ever day at primary school?

Ali Well, unless this bus gets here soon it doesn't look like we're going to have a last day! We'd have been better off walking.

Rachel It's always late on a Friday. My dad says it's something to do with Thursdays being the driver's darts night down at the pub!

Emma I wish Sundays were his darts night, then he'd be late on Monday mornings instead.

Ben Why? What difference does it make?

Emma Well, think about it. If the bus was late on Monday mornings, it means we'd arrive at school late on Mondays. We'd avoid all the chaos!

Ali Ah yes, our Monday morning routine! Chaos indeed!

Rachel But I love all that! The hustle and bustle, and the frantic to-ing and fro-ing! It leaves you in no doubt that another school week has well and truly begun!

(The action crosses to the main stage where chairs and 3 tables are arranged for 12 children – **see staging suggestions on page 48**. A teacher sits nervously at his/her desk, looking at his/her watch. **S/he will have a lot of lines so these could be written on the registers s/he is holding**. The children are yet to enter.)

Teacher Right. Ok. It's a new week, which means a fresh start and a clean slate. Last Monday morning was just a blip, a one off.....and so was the one before that! I'm sure today will be different....(looking at watch and breathing deeply).... right....here goes....three, two, one...

(A **school bell** is heard (**CD2, track 2**). Five children, Sarah, Hannah, Peter (who is still wearing his coat), Becky and Lee charge into the classroom. All but Lee sit at tables and begin to chatter. Lee stands unnoticed just behind the teacher's shoulder, patiently holding an envelope.)

Teacher Thank you Year 6. Settle down please while.....

Sarah Mr/Mrs (name), someone's stolen my indoor shoes.

Teacher They're probably in lost property along with half your other school clothes. Now Year 6, can I have some quiet for the regist...

Sarah Shall I go and look?

- Teacher** Not now, wait until I've done the regist.....
- Peter** *(getting up and walking back out)* Silly me! I've still got my coat on.
- Teacher** Sit down 'til I've done the register. *(He sits)* Thank you. Right *(looking at register)*. Simon Atkins..... Simon Atkins? Has anyone seen Simon?
- Peter** *(walking back out)* He's still in the cloakroom trying to untie his laces. Shall I fetch him?
- Teacher** Oh...yes, but quickly. *(He exits)* Peter Brown...? Where is Peter Brown?
- Becky** You just sent him out to fetch Simon Atkins. Shall I go and get him?
- Teacher** Nobody else is leaving the room. *(shouting)* Simon! Peter! Hurry up! Josephine Carter.....Josephine Carter? Where is Josephine Carter?
- Hannah** Her sister's in Year 3. Shall I go and ask her where she is?
- Teacher** *(getting flustered)* No!
- Sarah** Mr/Mrs (name), what about my shoes. Mum says if I lose.....
- Teacher** Not now Sarah!
- (Peter comes back, now without his coat on, accompanied by Simon. They sit.)*
- Simon & Peter** We're here!
- Teacher** Yes, I can see that. Right....*(looking at the register)*....Sarah Gardner?
- Sarah** Here!
- Teacher** Hannah Johnson?
- Hannah** Here!
- Teacher** Josh McKenzie.....Josh McKenzie? Has anyone seen Josh?
- Simon** He's in the loo putting on hair gel.
- Teacher** Right, *(standing and shouting)* will everybody who is outside gelling their hair, putting on makeup, swapping stickers, chatting about last night's Eastenders or doing anything else they shouldn't be, please come in here now!
- (Josh, Laura, William, Oliver and Lucy (names can be changed) noisily enter and sit.)*
- Teacher** Thank you. Quiet please. *(Sitting down)* Right....Becky Parker?
- Becky** Here.

Teacher Good. Lee Pearson?

(Lee is still standing unnoticed at the teacher's shoulder. He leans forward and yells...)

Lee Here!

Teacher *(startled)* Aaaaah! Oh goodness me, Lee! You nearly gave me a heart attack! Go and sit down.

Lee But I've got my dinner money and permission slip for our trip.

Teacher Take them back to your place. I'm collecting those when I've done this register. *(Lee sits)* Lucy Roberts? *(She replies)* Good. William Scott? *(He replies)* Thank you. Laura Turner? *(She replies)* And finally Oliver Watson? *(He replies)* Good. At last. OK, would anyone with dinner money please bring it to.....

(Josephine's mum appears at the door with her daughter.)

Mum Excuse me Mr/Mrs (name), I'd like a quick word about Josephine.

Teacher Well, if you could wait five minutes, Mrs Carter, I'm just.....

(She barges her way to the teacher's table dragging Josephine, and proceeds to rant at the teacher, who looks gob smacked!)

Mum It's her chest you see. I'm convinced it's pneumonia, but the doctor says it's a just a cold, but what does he know? Anyway, I'd rather she didn't do PE today. I know it's warm weather but you can't be too careful. She's like me, I always had a dodgy chest as a girl. I nearly kept her off today but I'm having my roots done at 10 o'clock. I'd ask my mother to look after her, but with her hip she just can't manage. I tell you, she's been on a waiting list for a replacement for 18 months. It's disgraceful. I wrote to our MP but he's useless. Well aren't they all? My husband says.....

Teacher Mrs Carter! I really don't have time for this! Josephine can miss PE, but I must get on now. Goodbye.

Mum *(affronted)* Well, how rude! *(She stomps off and Josephine sits down.)*

Teacher Where was I? Let's see....yes....please bring permission slips and dinner money to me now.

(The teacher sits back down. Only Lee steps forward. He hands over his envelopes.)

And the rest of you? Where are your slips and dinner money?

All children In my bag in the cloakroom.

Teacher Well go and fetch them! Quickly!

(While Lee sits down they all exit, then rush back and crowd round the teacher's desk.)

Laura All the other classes are in the hall for assembly.

Teacher Yes, OK! I'm going as fast as I can! Form an orderly line please.
(*They line up.*) OK, who's first? Josephine?

Josephine I've not got mine.

Teacher Well why are you standing here?! Sit down. (*She sits.*) Now, William.
(*William plonks down a large handful of coppers on the desk.*)

William That's all mum had round the house. She says sorry!

Teacher I haven't got time to count all this! Just sit down! I'll have to do it later. Lucy, quickly!

Lucy I'm afraid I've only got a twenty pound note. Dad told me to make sure you gave me the right change after getting it wrong last week.
(*She hands over the money then fishes through her pockets*) Now...my slip... I've got it somewhere...no...not that pocket...

Teacher (*about to blow*) Right! That's it. All of you just leave your money and slips on my desk and get yourselves into the hall now!

(*The children dump their change and slips onto the desk and dash out.*)

OK, I've got about twenty minutes while they're in the hall to sort through this lot, then we'll be just about ready. (*Oliver comes back into the room*) Yes Oliver, what is it now?

Oliver Everyone's waiting for you, Mr/Mrs (*name*).

Teacher Waiting for me? Why? (*realisation dawning*) Oh no! It's not.....

Oliver Your turn to take assembly? I'm afraid so. I'll tell them you're on your way shall I?

(*Oliver exits and the teacher slumps forward on the desk with a groan!*)

(*As intro Music plays (CD2, track 3) the teacher stands and the children come back on to sing. Fade out when all are ready.*)

Song Monday Morning Routine

.....continued.....