



Scene 1

(The whole cast enters and is on stage for the opening song.)

Song 1 – Primary School Christmas Musical *(CD Track 10, lyrics p18)* *(Whole cast)*

(Play the backing track to song 1 again (CD Track 10) as all sit. Fade the music when ready. 4 'empty' display boards stand at the back of the stage – see staging suggestions. On stage is an arrangement of chairs to represent a staffroom. Headteacher, Miss Bright, stands in front of the stage. She can use cue cards for this and further addresses to the audience.)

Miss Bright Good evening everyone. My name is Miss Bright, Headteacher, and I'd like to welcome you all to our school's Christmas musical. I guarantee you're in for a real treat! The children and staff have worked incredibly hard to put this show together, and I know they've found it a thoroughly enjoyable experience.....
(pausing, ignoring cue cards)..... Actually, that's not entirely true! There have been one or two ups and downs.....in fact that's not entirely true either – there have been **lots** of ups and downs, which all began way back in September.....

(We hear a Harp (CD Track 11) signifying a journey back in time. Miss Bright sits on the middle chair on stage. 10-20 other teachers, as your numbers allow, enter and sit either side of her, creating a visible divide between KS1 and KS2 staff.)

Miss Bright Well, that's all the items on the agenda dealt with. Is there any other business? *(Mrs Jolly raises her hand.)* Yes, Mrs Jolly.

Mrs Jolly There is the matter of this year's Christmas play. I know it's early in the term, but it would be useful to decide what we'll be doing. I myself, Mr Keen and Miss Swift here, do have a few ideas.

Mr Keen Yes, we've still got summer tans, and Christmas seems ages away, but it wouldn't hurt to start planning the production now.

Miss Swift I agree, Mr Keen. It's never too early to start thinking about Christmas. I've already bought my presents, and my decorations will be going up no later than October half term!

Mrs Curtly Well I don't care what you decide, as long as we in Key Stage 1 don't have to do it again. Year after year of 'Away In A Manger' is starting to grate a little! Don't you agree Mr Short?

Mr Short I do Mrs Curtly. It's not helped by the fact that even at the end of Year 2 most of the little dears still don't have a grasp of melody! I don't think I can stand another term of their squealing!

(The other KS1 teachers murmur their agreement.)

Mrs Jolly *(gesturing towards the KS2 staff)* So why not let us in Key Stage 2 handle things this year? I know we'd all relish the opportunity, wouldn't we Miss Swift?

Miss Swift Indeed we would! I’m already quite excited about the prospect!

(The other KS2 teachers murmur their disapproval, in particular Mr Thorn and Miss Picket)

Mr Thorn Woah! Just hang on a minute! What about the extra work it’ll create? Finding costumes and props, making scenery, sitting through excruciating auditions and excruciating rehearsals!

Miss Picket We don’t have the time in Key Stage 2 to do a Christmas show!

Mr Keen But Mr Thorn, Miss Picket, if we do a nativity musical we’ll have most of the things we need in school already!

Mrs Jolly And with the Key Stage 2 children involved, it’ll be a nativity with a bit of glitz! It’ll be a lot more ‘showbiz’ than the run-of-the-mill productions we usually see at Christmas!

KS1 Staff Oh! Thanks a lot!

Mrs Curtly Go ahead then, be our guests. At least there are plenty of wigs in the costume cupboard for when you’ve all pulled your hair out!

Mr Short *(laughing mockingly)* Well, I for one think it’s a great idea – a Key Stage 2 nativity! It’s revolutionary! Oh, *(to all the KS2 teachers)* and good luck you lot.....you’ll need it.

(Mr Short and the rest of the KS1 teachers snigger, while Mrs Jolly, Mr Keen and Miss Swift give encouraging smiles to their nervous KS2 colleagues!)

Song 2 – Let’s Get This Show On The Road *(CD Track 12, lyrics p19)*
(All Teachers, supported by whole cast)

(The backing track is played again (CD Track 12) as all exit, and the stage is made ready for the next scene. Fade the music when ready. Miss Bright addresses the audience again.)

Scene 2

Miss Bright So it was decided – Key Stage 2 would do a nativity. The enthusiastic teachers didn’t waste any time, and set about holding auditions, which proved.....erm....eventful.....

*(She exits to the **Harp (CD Track 13)**. To one side of the stage Mrs Jolly, Mr Keen and Mr Swift sit at a table. They have clipboards on which their lines could be written as prompts. A sign reading ‘AUDITIONS IN PROGRESS’ stands prominently.)*

Miss Swift It’s been a mixed bag so far. We’ve filled some of the lead roles, but I’m worried there’s not enough talent out there to fill the rest.

Mr Keen Well, let’s see what the next two are like. It’s Sonia and Craig from Year 5 – they’re certainly not short on.....attitude!

(Sonia and Craig enter wearing Hip-Hop gear, and strike a ‘gangsta’ pose.)

Mrs Jolly So Sonia, Craig, what do you think you’ll bring to our musical?

Sonia We’ll keep it real, yeah. We’ll bring a slammin’ old-skool vibe!

Craig We’ll haul out some g-funk, y’all, from the def-jam tip!

Miss Swift Errr....yes....very nice I’m sure. Well, would you like to begin?

(Sonia and Craig perform a short unaccompanied rap – perhaps something current and slightly inappropriate for a school musical audition! The three teachers are stunned!)

Mrs Jolly Ok.....that was very....interesting! Sonia, Craig, we’ll let you know. Please send the next two in.

(Sonia and Craig exit as the flamboyant Leona and Kyle enter. Kyle whispers to Leona....)

Kyle Our Saturday morning stage school training in singing, drama, and modern dance will give us the edge over that lot out there.

(They exaggeratedly ‘flounce’ over to the teachers, and assume theatrical poses.)

Mr Keen Ah, Kyle and Leona, nice to see you. So tell us, why do you want a main part in this musical?

Leona To share with the world this unique talent God has given me.

Kyle *(with a fake dab of the eyes)* I’m doing it for my dear Grandmother who’s lying in a hospital bed. This is her dream too.

Mrs Jolly Ah yes, she’s having an in-growing toenail removed isn’t she? Give her my best when you next visit her. Ok, in your own time.

(Kyle and Leona perform a cheesy, unaccompanied version of a well-known bland pop or west-end number, complete with even cheesier dance moves. Their vocals are passable, though the whole thing is a cringe-worthy audition. They finish with a ‘jazz-hands’ pose!)

Miss Swift *(hiding a smile)* Thank you very much. That was a very confident audition. We’ll let you know. Please send in the final pair.

(Leona and Kyle exit, high-fiving each other, as Jamie and Lily enter. As they cross paths, Kyle and Leona do an ‘L for loser’ sign on their foreheads, directed at Jamie and Lily.)

Mr Keen Right! Jamie, Lily, we’re a bit short on time, so let’s hear you.

(Lily and Jamie take a nervous deep breath, but stumble on their first lines.)

Jamie I’m so sorry. We’re both really nervous.

Mrs Jolly Well do try and get over it – we’re in a hurry. Come on!

Lily Yes, of course. Sorry.....

(They both take another deep breath then begin to sing a well-known Christmas song or carol, very sweetly but with little confidence. They finish and look nervously at the teachers.)

Mr Keen Well, it was very pleasant, I’ll give you that. But I do wonder how you’d cope in the glare of the spotlight. We’ll let you know. Please ask all the children to come back in now.

(Jamie beckons all the KS2 children – as many as your numbers allow – who excitedly enter and gather expectantly as the teachers discuss the auditions, consulting their clipboards. Kyle and Leona push their way to the front, while Jamie and Lily are lost in the crowd.)

Miss Swift Thank you for your patience everyone. We’ve made our final decisions. We’ve given leading roles to those who not only have talent, but to those we feel will be able to perform with confidence.

Mr Keen So will the following people pop back here during lunchtime break, and we’ll tell you more about the parts you’ve been given.

(As their names are announced the ‘chosen ones’ step forward and punch the air.)

Alice, Oliver, Sam, Megan, Daniel, Charlotte, and... *(looking at Mrs Jolly and Miss Swift)*...if you’re sure about this... *(they nod at him)*...Ok then.....and Kyle and Leona.

Mrs Jolly Now the rest of you, don’t be down-hearted. You’ll all be in the chorus line, which is the back-bone of any musical production.

Alice But you haven’t told us yet what the actual production is.

Oliver Is it something really glamorous, funky and exciting?

Mrs Jolly It certainly is. Boys and girls, this year Key Stage 2 will be performinga nativity!

All Children WHAT! A NATIVITY? YOU MUST BE KIDDING!

Miss Swift Now, now! Don’t be like that. It’ll be fabulous!

Sam But it means we’ll be wearing tea-towels on our heads!

Megan Dressing gowns, white sheets and too much tinsel!

Daniel And the songs will be really naff! Stuff that little kids sing!

Charlotte Please, not a nativity!

Mr Keen Well, there’s no time to discuss it now, and anyway, the decision has been made. We’ll see you lot at lunchtime. Don’t be late.

(The teachers make a swift exit, leaving the disgruntled children seething on stage.)

Song 3 – Don’t Wanna Do No Nativity *(CD Track 14, lyrics p20)*
(Children)

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