

Scene 1

*(As the **intro music** plays (CD track 10) the cast members enter and take their seats to the side of and/or in front of the main stage. Fade the music when all are in position. On a separate smaller stage to the right is a representation of a park, with a bench positioned centrally – see staging suggestions/scenery & furniture. Chloe sits on the bench. She wears her primary school uniform and nervously clutches her school bag.)*

Chloe So, today's the day we go to look round our new school....our new secondary school, or 'big' school as Mum insists on calling it. We'll meet the teachers, find out which form groups we'll be in, sample a couple of lessons and, because it's such a massive place, probably get completely lost!

(George and Isobel enter, also dressed in primary school uniform and carrying bags/rucksacks. They sit on the bench.)

Isobel Hi Chloe! Great idea to meet in the park so we can all go together. I'd be scared stiff walking through those school gates on my own.

George Scared? Not me, Isobel, I can't wait! It's going to be fantastic starting secondary school. I heard they've got vending machines and that there's chips on the lunch menu every day!

Chloe *(sarcastically)* What more could you ask for, George?! I think there'll be more to secondary school than that.....*(nervously)* a lot more!

(Harry enters, wearing an over-sized, ill-fitting secondary school uniform – a huge blazer, shirt, trousers and badly-tied school tie. He carries a briefcase.)

George Blimey Harry! What have you come as? It's not fancy dress day you know!

Harry I told Mum we had to go in our primary school uniform, but she insisted I put on my new secondary school one! So I did, then she got all weepy and went on about how her little boy is 'all grown up'!

Chloe But it doesn't even fit you!

Harry I know, but Mum says I've got the summer to grow into it.

Isobel Well, if the summer holidays were six months long you might just manage! But it's only six weeks! Six weeks, plus a few more days left at primary school, to get ourselves ready for the next big step.....

Song **The Next Big Step** *(CD track 1 & 11, lyrics p25)*

(Whole cast)

*(The **intro music** then plays (CD track 12) and everyone resumes their seats for the next scene. Fade the music when ready.)*

Scene 2

Chloe Secondary school is going to be a real shock to the system. I've heard we'll get at least five hours of homework every night!

Isobel And what about the timetable? Having to go to different rooms at different times, for different lessons with different teachers!

George It'll be a breeze. It's all about learning self-discipline. You know, getting organised, having books ready the night before, making sure we take our PE kit in on the right day...that kind of thing.

Harry I won't manage all that! I'm too used to having everything done for me. Mum complains that I can't even keep my bedroom tidy!

Isobel Well, you're going to need to learn quickly! I can't see our new teachers letting us get away with being disorganised and untidy.

Harry That's exactly why I'm going to miss primary school so much. There just seems to be a more relaxed approach to that sort of thing.

All Are you kidding.....!

(The action moves to the main stage. Six children, in PE kit, sit at two tables, three to a table. On the floor around them are items of school uniform, newspaper sheets, pens, paintbrushes, paint pots etc. A teacher's desk is at one side of the stage, cluttered with as many coffee cups as it can take, books, papers, jars of pencils, her coat and scarf etc. The teacher enters and stands on the opposite side of the stage to her desk.)

Teacher Have you seen the state of that cloakroom out there? We are not starting our PE lesson until all bags and coats are hanging on pegs.

(The children sigh and exit the stage, walking past the teacher who shakes her head disapprovingly. They quickly return and sit down again.)

Child 1 All bags and coats on pegs, Miss. Now can we do PE?

Teacher *(peering off-stage)* What about all those outdoor shoes lying around?

(The children sigh and exit the stage again. They quickly return and sit down.)

Child 2 All outdoor shoes tidied away, Miss. Now can we do PE?

Teacher *(peering off-stage again)* Hmm. Well it's a bit of an improvement I suppose. However, it looks like a bomb's landed in *here*! All the art material from last lesson seems to have found its way onto the floor!

(The children sigh again and pick up the newspapers, pens, paint pots etc and take them off stage. They quickly return and sit down again.)

Child 3 All art material in its proper place, Miss. Now can we do PE?

Teacher Well now.....I'm looking down at the floor and wondering why I still can't see it! Could it possibly be because it's covered in school uniforms, which should be neatly folded on your tables?

(The children sigh again and try to fold their clothes....with little success! The teacher watches their attempts, tutting!)

Child 4 All clothes folded, Miss. Now can we do PE?

Teacher That's what you call 'folded' is it? I bet that's not what you do when you tidy up your clothes at home.

Child 5 *(confused)* I don't understand, Miss. Tidy up our clothes at home? Isn't that a grown-up's job?

Teacher Did you really just say that?! Oh my word, you're in for such a shock when you get to secondary school. If you don't quickly learn some sense of responsibility and self-discipline, you'll find it pretty tough going!

Child 6 But surely being a bit untidy isn't the end of the world, Miss?

Teacher Of course it is! If you can't keep yourself and your personal space well-organised then you're on a very slippery slope. It's important you understand that.

Child 6 We understand, Miss? Now please can we do PE before our hall time runs out. They'll be setting up for lunch in there soon.

Teacher Well, if you're sure that message has sunk in, then yes, I suppose we can start PE now. Right, you line up while I fetch my whistle.

(The children line up on the same side of the stage by which they have been exiting and re-entering. The teacher crosses to where her desk is. There then follows a comical few moments as she desperately searches through the mess for her whistle! Coffee cups clatter to the floor, as do the pencils, the exercise books and the papers etc! She throws down the coat and scarf in a heap on the floor as the search continues. She gets increasingly frustrated as the children watch her, shaking their heads.)

Child 4 Miss, they're getting the lunch tables out. We've missed our PE time!

(The teacher is too distracted by her search to be at all bothered.)

Teacher What? Oh....right....errr....in that case you can just go outside and run five times round the field. I'll be out in a moment.....

(The children sigh and exit. As they leave the teacher looks up and shouts after them...)

TeacherAND DON'T GET MUD ON YOUR PLIMSOLLS!

*(The **intro music** immediately plays (CD track 13) and everyone gets into position for the next song. The children and teacher stand centre-stage. Fade the music when ready.)*

Song Born To Make A Mess *(CD track 2 & 14, lyrics p26)*
(Whole cast, led by the teacher and her class)

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