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PLEASE READ THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION BEFORE PLANNING YOUR PERFORMANCE

Under the Copyrights, Designs and Patents Act (1988), it is a legal requirement for schools to comply with copyright law, and ensure they hold the correct licences for performing musicals. As experienced teachers ourselves, we understand that time restraints and lack of advice can sometimes mean this aspect of your production is not dealt with, or that the details and requirements are not fully understood. We therefore try to make the process of licensing your performances as simple as possible.

General Guidelines

You are free to use any of our material for all classroom teaching purposes and for performances within school to only pupils and staff. However, if our musicals are to be performed to an audience other than pupils and staff from your school (eg. parents or other people from the wider community) then a performance licence must be obtained directly from Edgy Productions.

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The performance of works involving drama, movement, narrative or spoken dialogue requires a title and date specific licence from the copyright holder/publisher – in this case Edgy Productions. The requirement for a licence is irrespective of admission charges. **Your PRS, PPL, CCLA or any equivalent local authority-issued licences do not cover you for such performances.**

A performance licence from us will permit the holder to do the following:

- Perform a musical up to 5 times in one academic year, to a public audience, within your school.*
- Reproduce song lyrics on paper or for display on interactive whiteboards or similar screens.
- Photocopy the script and score for the cast to learn lines, and musicians to play the songs.

* **If you are performing outside of your school premises, for example in a local theatre, please contact us as further conditions apply. For more information, visit www.edgyproductions.com/licences**

Audio and Video Recordings

If you wish to make an audio or video recording of the performance of any of our musicals, you will need an additional **recording and duplication licence** from Edgy Productions. This will also allow you to make and sell copies of your recordings if you wish to do so. We no longer request that you pay a commission to us on the money you raise from the sale of recordings.

File Sharing

You are not permitted to share any of our copyrighted material, either in printed form, on disc or in digital file format, with anyone who is not a pupil or teacher within your school or organisation. We will take immediate action should an incident of illegal file-sharing be reported or discovered.

You can, of course, phone or email us for advice – we are more than happy to discuss all your licensing needs.

PERFORMANCE LICENCE APPLICATION FORM

For any performance of any part of ‘**Reach For The Sky**’ to an audience other than staff and children (eg. to parents), a valid performance licence from Edgy Productions must be held. Please note, your PRS, MCPS, CCLI or similar local authority-issued licence does not cover you for this.

Unless you purchased an instant performance licence and/or a recording & duplication licence when you bought this production pack, please ensure you complete and return this form at least 28 days before your first performance:

- by post – Edgy Productions, 8 Roman Way, Market Harborough, Leicestershire LE16 7PQ
- by FAX – 0845 833 33 49
- by email – info@edgyproductions.com

The performance licence will permit the holder to do the following:

- Perform a musical up to 5 times in one academic year, to a public audience, within your school.*
- Reproduce song lyrics on paper or for display on interactive whiteboards or similar screens.
- Photocopy the script and score for the cast to learn lines, and musicians to play the songs.

Contact name:

Name of school / organisation:

Address:

..... **Postcode:**

Tel: **email:**

Number of performances: **Performances Dates: from** **to**

By ticking, select one of the performance licence options below:

Standard Performance Licence ☐ **£30.00** *(including VAT)*
(no admission charged and no tickets sold)

or

Performance Licence with charges ☐ **£36.00** *(including VAT)*
(admission **is** charged and/or tickets **are** sold)

☐ * Tick if you are performing outside your school premises, for example in a local theatre, as further conditions apply – see www.edgyproductions.com/licences

If you are recording any performance, and/or selling copies of the recording, you will **also** need a recording and duplication licence.

Recording and Duplication Licence ☐ **£30.00** *(including VAT)*

By ticking, select one of the payment options below:

☐ **I enclose a cheque for £..... made payable to Edgy Productions Ltd**

☐ **Please send me an invoice for £.....** *(payment terms 30 days)*

**Writers rely on payments from public performances for their livelihoods.
Please ensure they receive their dues.**

INTRODUCTION

With the underlying message that if we try our best in all that we do then our rewards will be plentiful, this feel-good musical production takes a celebratory (and typically humorous) look at some of the sporty and PE-based things that happen at primary school.

PLOT SUMMARY

Following the opening song (***Reach For the Sky***), we join a family at the breakfast table. Lucy and Adam are excited because today at school it’s sports day! Mum and Dad are equally excited about the prospect of watching their children take part and the conversation turns to all the sporting opportunities that school provides. Through this conversation we witness some truly amusing snapshots of primary school life and learn that there’s more to being a winner than simply crossing the finish line first!

Firstly we encounter the glamorous Miss Burberry, who is keen to point out to her class that their interpretation of the word ‘kit’ leaves a lot to be desired! Maybe a rummage through lost-property is the answer.....or maybe not!
(song – *Can I Borrow Some Shorts?*)

Next we join Mr Starkey who is boring his class to tears, lecturing them on the historical facts of Ancient Greece. However, following a bit of independent research, the children’s discovery of certain ‘traditions’ from the ancient Olympic games are more than enough to lighten the mood!
(song – *Boy, That’s Bound To Itch*)

We then consider the ‘big event’ at any school sports day – the parents’ race! It quickly becomes apparent that, when grown ups are required to push themselves to their physical limits, a keen competitive spirit may not be quite enough to overcome the effects of age! **(song – *My Dad’s Faster Than Your Dad*)**

After that it’s a trip to the swimming pool, where even those ill-fitting rubber hats, UFOs (unidentified *floating* objects) and water-shy lifeguards can’t spoil the excitement! **(song – *Swimming Today*)**

Then there’s the horror of lining up against the wall in the playground, waiting to be picked for one team or the other in the playtime ‘kick-about’! Who will have to suffer the humiliation of being picked last!? **(song – *Left Till Last*)**

We come to the conclusion that sport can be enjoyed on many levels, and that by simply taking part and trying our best, each one of us is a winner. By giving it our all in everything we do, by making the most of our opportunities, and by supporting those around us, there is no limit to what each of us can achieve!
(song – *The Best That I Can Be*)

CHARACTERS

(Speaking parts in order of appearance)

Adam, Lucy, Mum and Dad – *enthusiastically preparing for sports day.*

Miss Burberry – *dressed to impress, but not to teach PE.*

Her Class (7 speaking) – *kitted-out in all manner of ways.*

Mr Starkey – *his methods are as ancient as the Greek history he teaches.*

His Class (6 speaking) – *trying to drag him into the 21st century.*

Mrs Christie – *in charge of making sports day run smoothly.*

2 Mums & 2 Dads – *reluctant competitors in the parents’ race.*

Competitive Dad – *in it to win it.*

Grandma – *never too old to have a go.*

2 Swimming Instructors – *thrown in at the deep end.*

Swimmers (6 speaking) – *causing a splash and making waves.*

Playtime Players (4 speaking) – *picked for teams on everything **but** merit.*

(Ensemble Characters – for featured songs and choreography)

PE-kitted Children

Classroom Kids

Sports Day Mums & Dads

Swimmers

Playtime Players

Scene 1

*(As the **intro music (track 8)** plays, the whole cast enters and positions are taken for the opening song. Fade music when ready.)*

Song Reach For The Sky *(tracks 1 & 9, lyrics p18)* (Whole Cast)

*(When the song finishes, the **intro music (track 10)** is played and all sit. Fade the music when ready. There is a separate smaller stage to one side of the main stage, set up to represent a family kitchen – see **staging suggestions/scenery & furniture**.*

Adam and Lucy sit at a table eating cereal. They wear their school uniforms. Dad enters and sits down.)

Dad Morning Lucy. Morning Adam. So, are you two looking forward to sports day? It is today, isn't it? I hope it's today! I've booked this afternoon off work to come and watch.

Lucy Yes Dad. It's 1.30 this afternoon, although you really should have booked the whole day off so you can get there early. There'll be parents arriving at 9.30 to bag all the spectating spots closest to the track!

Adam They'll all be jostling for the best position to film the races, so if their child wins they can put the clips on Facebook and YouTube! Or if they film someone tripping over and knocking themselves out, they can get £250 from You've Been Framed!

Dad Well, your mum and I don't go in for any of that nonsense. Don't worry, there'll be no embarrassing clips of you falling flat on your faces in the sack race, I guarantee!

(Mum enters carrying a phone charger. She sits at the table.)

Mum Panic over, I've found the charger! I don't want my phone to run out of battery when I'm filming your races this afternoon.

Lucy & Adam Mum!

Mum Oh shush! There's nothing wrong with being a proud parent. Now you two, your PE kits are in the tumble dryer. Give it ten minutes then they should be ready to put in your bags.

Adam I hope so. We'll get into real trouble if we don't have them.

Lucy Yeah. School's got so strict about PE kit recently, which can sometimes make things a little...errr...difficult.....

*(As a **harp** sound effect plays (**track 11**), the action moves to the main stage. Miss Burberry, a teacher in glamorous, 'non-sporty' clothes, stands before six children who either lean against or sit on two classroom tables – see **staging suggestions p25**. They wear PE kit of various 'sorts' whilst a seventh child, Charlie, is still in his school uniform. Names can be changed to those of the children playing these parts.)*

Miss Burberry (*inspecting the children*) Hmmm. I’m not sure all of you appreciate that there’s a certain ‘dress code’ we have for PE lessons.

Luke (*aside to Simon*) Well, Miss Burberry’s hardly going to find it easy demonstrating a vault off the springboard in those heels!

Miss Burberry For example, Luke, a Manchester United football strip, although very smart, isn’t really appropriate. And Megan, you shouldn’t be wearing jogging bottoms for indoor PE. Simon, you look like you’re going surfing! Those shorts are far too long.....and far too patterned.

Simon (*aside to Luke*) Whereas her chiffon scarf is totally appropriate for teaching gymnastics....not!

Miss Burberry Oh dear Daisy, has that t-shirt ever been near a washing machine? And Jack, that big hole in the underside of your shorts should really be sewn up before you can even consider doing any forward rolls!

Luke (*aside to Simon*) She’s obviously completely unaware of that big ladder up the back of her tights!

Miss Burberry But Alice, (*pulling Alice to her feet*) you look immaculate! Everyone, this is how I expect you to be kitted out for PE; a pristine white t-shirt and black shorts – nothing more, nothing less. Well done Alice.

(*The other children mumble as Alice proudly twirls, showing off her perfect attire. The teacher then notices Charlie, who is still in his uniform.*)

Miss Burberry Hurry up and get changed, Charlie.

Charlie (*subdued*) I can’t, Miss Burberry. I’ve forgotten my kit.

Miss Burberry Then borrow what you need from one of the others. Now, I’m just nipping into the hall to hurry along Year 3 – they’re never out on time. I want you changed when I get back. (*She exits*)

Charlie (*hopefully*) Please can any of you guys lend me some kit? Jack?

Jack Sorry mate. D’you think I’d be wearing these shorts if I had a spare pair?

Charlie Megan? Daisy?

Megan Ha! As if I’d let a *boy* wear any of my clothes! I’d have to throw them away afterwards!

Daisy I’m with Megan on this one – it’s a ‘no’ from me.

Alice And don’t even think about asking me. (*pompously*) Perhaps this will teach you not to forget your kit in the future.

Charlie Luke? Simon? Please, I’m desperate! I don’t want to miss PE!

Luke Sorry, this is all I’ve got! Hey, maybe you’ll have to do the same as my dad had to when he forgot his kit at school.....do PE in your pants! Ha ha!

(The other children laugh. Charlie looks mortified! Miss Burberry re-enters.)

Miss Burberry OK! Year 3 are now out of...Charlie, are you still not changed?

Daisy *(hopefully)* Will he have to do PE in his pants, Miss Burberry?

Miss Burberry Of course not Daisy! *(sighing, she exits again)* Right, wait there!

Simon You know what this means, don’t you....

All LOST PROPERTY!

(Miss Burberry re-enters with a tub/box of clothes, labelled ‘Lost Property’.)

Miss Burberry There you are Charlie! Some of these bits are a bit whiffy and stained, but I’m sure you’ll find something suitable. Right the rest of you, while Charlie gets changed, please follow me into the hall in an orderly fashion.....

(To the opening bars of the next song, the children and Miss Burberry line up along the front, obscuring Charlie and the tub from the audience’s sight. Alternatively, Charlie could exit for a moment or two. During the final verse, when prompted by the relevant lyric, Charlie triumphantly steps into view, standing in the centre of the line, now wearing an ill-fitting leotard! If the child playing this part can conquer the embarrassment and really ‘go for it’, and you time the reveal properly, this should be a very funny moment!)

Song Can I Borrow Some Shorts?

(tracks 2 & 12, lyrics p19)

(Miss Burberry’s class, supported by the whole cast)

*(When the song finishes, the **intro music (track 13)** is played and the children sit down. Fade the music when ready for the next scene. The action moves to the small stage.)*

Scene 2

Dad The times I did PE in my underpants ’cause I’d forgotten my kit!

Mum Please don’t talk about your underpants while we’re trying to eat!

Lucy Actually, in the olden days, as far as physical exercise went, it got a lot worse than people doing it in just their underwear.

Mum Whatever do you mean? I can’t think of *anything* worse than your father doing PE wearing only his undies!

Adam Oh, it’s just something we learned in a History lesson recently.....

*(As the **harp** sound effect plays (**track 14**), the action moves to the main stage. A teacher, Mr Starkey, stands in front of a white board, on which is written the title ‘Ancient Greece’ with mundane facts beneath. Six children sit at two tables, looking thoroughly bored – see staging suggestions p25.)*

Mr Starkey Now, copy down these facts and learn them for a test tomorrow.

Child 1 Mr Starkey, are we ever going to watch that DVD of the Trojan Wars that I brought in?

Mr Starkey Goodness me, no! It’s full of historical inaccuracies. The best way to learn about Ancient Greece is to memorise the facts.

Child 2 Well, could we visit the museum? Apparently there’s some amazing stuff to see, like Greek helmets, shields, swords and even part of a real...(struggling to pronounce) ...ti..tri..tree..mi....

Mr Starkey It’s called a ‘trireme’, an ancient battleship. No, we’re not going to the museum, because the only thing you’ll be interested in is spending money on cheap trinkets in the gift shop.

Child 3 Well, can we act out a Greek tragedy or a comedy? We could make masks, write speeches in verse, have a traditional ‘chorus’ to narrate the.....

Mr Starkey No, no! That’s too much trouble to arrange.

Child 4 Well, what about using some traditional ingredients to make a Greek meal? We could get olives, flat-breads, honey.....

Mr Starkey Absolutely not! The last thing I want is lots of sticky fingers everywhere. You’ll make a mess of all the reference books, which are on loan from the county library – we’d lose our deposit!

Child 5 Reference books? I never knew we had any reference books! How come we’ve not seen them?

Mr Starkey As I said, they’re on loan – I don’t want you lot ruining them!

Child 6 But what’s the use of having reference books if we can’t look at them? Just imagine how much we’d learn about Ancient Greece if we could at least see some pictures, or photos of old artefacts.

Child 1 Please will you get the books out? We promise to look after them.

Mr Starkey Well.....OK then. But any damage and they go straight back in their box and your parents get the bill.

(He exits and the children punch the air with a ‘Yesssss!’ He then returns with some text books on Ancient Greece and distributes them amongst the children.)

Mr Starkey There you are. You have ten minutes to find ten facts about...
(*thinking*)....let’s see....yes, about the Ancient Olympic Games.
You may begin.....and don’t rip any pages!

(*He continues to write facts on the board with his back to the children, who excitedly turn the pages of the books. Child 1 finds a picture, gasps and then giggles.*)

Child 1 Hey you lot! (*giggling*) Look what I’ve found!

(*Unnoticed by Mr Starkey, who is still writing on the board, the others huddle round, holding their own books. They too giggle at the picture in Child 1’s book.*)

Child 2 That can’t be right! Did they really do that?

(*Still huddled together, the other children eagerly flick through their own books, all stopping at pages with similar content, sharing it and continuing to giggle!*)

Child 3 Yes! Look I’ve found a similar picture too!

Child 4 And me! It must be true – this is proper historical evidence.
These are photos of *real* Ancient Greek pottery, all decorated
with the same images, depicting the same thing!

Child 5 And look at these illustrations – artists’ impressions of what
really happened at the Ancient Olympics! (*more giggling at the pictures*) They look so funny! Imagine if Usain Bolt did *that*!

Mr Starkey (*turning round*) I assume by all the noise that you’ve finished. Who’s
going to tell me something of interest and importance that they’ve
found out about the Ancient Olympics? (*more giggling*) Well come
on, you were all so eager to look in the books, so give me some
facts. (*more giggling*) Come on, one of you!

Child 6 (*hesitantly, stifling the giggles*) Well, there is one thing. According to
these pictures of pottery, and these illustrations showing scenes
from the Ancient Olympics.... (*about to burst*)....it appears that all
the athletes all the athletes.....

Mr Starkey (*impatiently*) Well come on, spit it out!

Child 6they all competed.....NAKED!!!! (*The children erupt into laughter!*)

Mr Starkey I knew this was a silly idea! You’re given resources with which to
do some serious historical research, and what do you do instead?
You find pictures of people with no clothes on! Typical! Right,
close those books, back to your places, and copy down the facts
on the board – it’s the only way to learn History properly!

Song Boy, That's Bound To Itch

(*tracks 3 & 15, lyrics p20*)

(*Mr Starkey’s class, supported by the whole cast*)

(*When the song finishes, the **intro music (track 16)** is played and the children sit down.
Fade the music when ready for the next scene. The action moves to the small stage.*)

Scene 3

*(Mum is standing by the work-surface in the kitchen – see **staging suggestions/ furniture** – rummaging through a basket of clothes. She takes out two tee-shirts.)*

Mum Look what your dad and I will be wearing at your sports day!

(She holds up a tee-shirt which reads ‘GO ADAM AND LUCY!!!’ in bold letters on the front and ‘MUM AND DAD’S LITTLE CHAMPIONS!!!’ on the back!)

Lucy No way Mum! You can’t wear those! What will our friends say?

Dad What will *our* friends say?

Adam There’s going to be enough embarrassing parents at sports day without you making fools out of yourselves, and out of us.....

*(As the **harp** sound effect plays (**track 17**), the action again moves to the main stage. Twelve ‘adults’ sit on two rows of chairs or PE benches – see **staging suggestions p25**. All are dressed casually apart from ‘Competitive Dad’ who wears trainers, a headband and a track suit under which is a sports vest and lycra shorts. One of the women is elderly and has a walking stick. She should sit somewhere on the back row. A teacher, Mrs Christie, stands at the front. She holds three skipping ropes.)*

Mrs Christie And there we are ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls; we’ve come to the end of another successful sports day. Congratulations to all those who took part. Now, all that remains.....

Competitive Dad *(eagerly standing and interrupting)* But Mrs Christie, what about the parents’ race? Surely you’ll be having a parents’ race?

Mrs Christie Yes, I was coming to that. Now, as you know it’s traditional for us to finish off the day’s events with a parents’ race. Any adult wishing to compete, please join me here on the starting line.

(The competitive dad jumps to his feet, strips off his tracksuit and stands by Mrs Christie, doing stretches, lunges and jogging on the spot! No-one else comes forward.)

Comp. Dad *(to the adults)* Are you lot afraid of the competition? Don’t worry, I’ll go easy on you. I’ll even give you a ten metre head-start!

Mrs Christie We can’t have a parents’ race without some more parents. Just another five of you, that’s all we need. Come on, it’ll be fun!

(Two mums reluctantly remove their shoes and join the line.)

Mum 1 *(to Mum 2)* It’s been years since I broke into a jog, let alone a sprint!

Mum 2 Me too! This could be a bit embarrassing, but what the heck!

Comp. Dad *(still limbering up)* Well I try to do at least half an hour’s cardio every day. You can probably tell I take physical fitness seriously.

Dad 1 *(stepping forward)* I’ll give it a go. The knees aren’t what they used to be, but I should make it to the finish line in one piece!

Dad 2 *(joining him)* Go on then. At least it’ll give the kids a laugh!

Mrs Christie Thanks to all of you for volunteering. Now, this year’s parents’ race will be a little different. Instead of a straight sprint, we thought we’d spice things up and have.....a three-legged race!

Comp. Dad What! A three-legged race! That’s ridiculous! Can you imagine Olympic athletes taking part in a three-legged race!

Mrs Christie Well, this isn’t the Olympics, it’s a school sports day, and a three-legged race is what we’ve decided to have. Now, if each of you could choose a partner we’ll get you tied up!

Comp. Dad Well, I’m not happy, but I suppose I’ll have to make the most of it. Right, *(to the other volunteers)* I’m sorry but I can only be a partner with one of you – the unlucky ones will have to be with someone less athletic. So..... *(sizing them up as potential partners)*

(The two mums and two dads eagerly ‘partner-up’, leaving the competitive dad by himself! He pretends not to be bothered. Mrs Christie kneels to tie the adults’ legs.)

Comp. Dad Yeah...right....no, that’s fine. You’re all obviously worried about slowing me down. You probably wouldn’t be able to keep up with my pace anyway, so....yeah....no, that’s fine.

Mrs Christie *(to the seated adults)* Would someone like to partner this gentleman?

Comp. Dad Come on, one of you! I guarantee we’ll win! *(nodding dismissively at the other two couples)* Ha! I mean, just look at what we’re up against!

Mrs Christie Anybody?

(From the back row of the seated adults, the elderly grandma raises her walking stick!)

Grandma *(with frailty!)* I’ll be the gentleman’s partner.

(Helped by another adult, she feebly makes her way forward, to the horror of the competitive dad! She eventually stands by him, tugging his arm enthusiastically.)

Grandma Come on handsome, let’s show ’em what we’re made of!

(To the smiles of everyone else, Mrs Christie kneels to tie their legs together. As the music to the song starts, the competitive dad despairingly holds his head in his hands.)

Song My Dad's Faster Than Your Dad

(tracks 4 & 18, lyrics p21)

(Sports Day characters, supported by the whole cast)

*(When the song finishes, the **intro music (track 19)** is played and the children sit down. Fade the music when ready for the next scene. The action moves to the small stage.)*

Scene 4

*(Mum takes the children’s PE kits out of the tumble dryer – see **staging suggestions/furniture**. She inspects them then puts them back in.)*

Mum No, not quite dry yet. Another ten minutes should do it.

Dad You did remember to switch the dryer on last time, didn’t you?

Mum Yes I did, thank you! It must be because their swimming kits are in there too. Those wet towels seem to slow down the drying time of everything else. In fact I think I’ll take them out.

(Mum takes the towels out and puts them on the work surface.)

Dad I really don’t understand why swimming kits need to be washed. I mean, you wear them to lessons every week, so doesn’t the actual splashing in the water keep them clean?

Lucy Eurgh, Dad! Of course they still need to be washed. The water in swimming pools is full of yucky stuff!

Adam In fact there are a number of things that make swimming lessons really quite hazardous.....

*(As the **harp** sound effect plays (**track 20**), the action again moves to the main stage. Two swimming instructors stand centrally each wearing a whistle round their neck. As they have a lot of lines, these could be written as cues on clipboards which they hold.)*

Instructor 1 So, who have we got coming in next?

Instructor 2 A group from St Joseph’s Primary School *(change this to your school’s name)*. It’s their first time, so I don’t know what they’re like.

Instructor 1 *(suspiciously)* Hmmmm, St Joseph’s. Haven’t they got a bit of a..... reputation? I hope they’re no trouble!

Instructor 2 *(looking at watch)* Well at this rate we’re never going to find out – they’re taking ages to get changed. *(blowing whistle)* COME ON YOU LOT! WE HAVEN’T GOT ALL DAY!

(A child wearing trunks/swimsuit and a verruca sock enters. S/he holds a swimming cap. A towel can be wrapped round the body if you feel it is more appropriate.)

Instructor 1 You took your time.

Child 1 Sorry. I got my verruca sock on fine, but I’m still struggling with my swimming hat, even though my mum put talcum powder in it.

Instructor 1 *(tutting)* Give it here then!

(S/he takes the hat and a huge puff of talc billows out, causing a bout of coughing! There then follows a comical struggle with both instructors trying to force the hat on the poor child’s head! They eventually manage, but leave the hat in a ‘disfiguring’ position! The child forlornly stands to one side, trying to make the hat sit more comfortably!)

Instructor 2 *(blowing whistle)* WHERE ARE THE REST OF YOU?

(A second excited child enters, wearing swimming kit....and carrying an inflated lilo!)

Instructor 1 A lilo?! Why on earth have you got a lilo? This isn't the seaside!

Child 2 Well I didn't know what we'd be doing. I'm just being prepared!

Instructor 1 Put it down and stand over there with your friend. *(blowing whistle)* HURRY UP THE REST OF YOU!

(The second child puts the lilo down and stands by the first child. A third child enters.....wearing a face mask and snorkel!)

Instructor 2 What's with the mask and snorkel?!

Child 3 There are old plasters, scabs and clumps of hair floating about in the water! I want to be able to see them so I don't swallow any!

Instructor 2 Look, the pool was cleaned last Christmas, so there's nothing nasty in there. Now, take those off and stand with the other two. *(blowing whistle)* WILL THE REST OF YOU GET A MOVE ON!

*(The third child takes off the face mask and snorkel, places it with the lilo and stands by the other two children. A fourth child enters.....wearing a wetsuit, flippers and scuba gear – see **staging suggestions/props and costume.**)*

Instructor 1 We're not exploring the seabed, looking at coral and fancy fish! This is a swimming lesson! You do a few widths, backwards and forwards and then you get out! Simple as that!

Child 4 But I'm not a very good swimmer – I tend to sink! At least this way I won't drown!

Instructor 1 You're not going to drown! We're qualified instructors and life guards. Now, take off all that gear and stand over there. *(blowing whistle)* THOSE THAT AREN'T YET CHANGED, HURRY UP!

(The fourth child removes the scuba gear, places it with the other discarded items and stands by the other three children. Two more children enter, both still in school uniform.)

Child 5 I've got a note. My mum doesn't want me to swim because I'm prone to ear infections. She says public pools are a breeding ground for germs.

Child 6 And I'm sensitive to sudden temperature changes. If I go in that cold water I'm bound to catch a chill.

Instructor 2 What's with children today? No backbone! Well, you two can sit and watch with your teacher. Where is she by the way?

Child 2 *(pointing)* Over there....walking along the side of the pool.... towards the deep end....talking on her mobile phone.....not looking where she's going!

Instructor 1 What! Hasn’t she heard of health and safety?! *(blowing whistle)*
EXCUSE ME MISS! WATCH YOUR STEP! PLEASE MOVE
AWAY FROM.....

*(We hear a **splash (track 21)** and everyone freezes! There is a stunned silence. The children and the instructors are open-mouthed in shock. After a comic pause.....)*

Instructor 2 Well, I’m not going in after her – I’m sensitive to sudden temperature changes!

Instructor 1 But I’m prone to ear infections!

Instructor 2 Well I don’t want to swallow any old plasters, scabs and clumps of hair floating about!

Instructor 1 But I’m not a very good swimmer – I tend to sink!

(Mirroring the previous words of the children, the argument continues throughout the opening bars of the next song!)

Song Swimming Today *(tracks 5 & 22, lyrics p22)* *(Swimmers, supported by the whole cast)*

*(When the song finishes, the **intro music (track 23)** is played and the children sit down. Fade the music when ready for the next scene. The action moves to the small stage.)*

Scene 5

Mum I must say, I am impressed with how much exercise you get at school. You seem to be doing something sporty every day.

Dad Yes, you’d think by the end of the day you’d be tired out, yet you never seem to want to go to bed! I only have to stand up too quickly these days and I need a lie down to recover!

Lucy That’s ’cause you’re old Dad! Even in between PE lessons and after-school clubs we fill our playtimes and lunchtimes with lots of chasing games, skipping, kick-about, all that sort of stuff, and we can still run home without being out of breath!

Adam Hmmmm, I tend to avoid those lunchtime kick-about. It’s not that I can’t handle all the exercise; it’s just that I can’t stand that ritual of picking teams. Sometimes it’s so humiliating.....

*(As the **harp** sound effect plays **(track 24)**, the action again moves to the main stage. Thirteen children gather centre-stage, wiping their mouths having just finished their lunch. One of them, James, carries a football. Another child, Amelia, has one foot in a bandage and is on crutches!)*

Charlotte Right you lot, up against the wall. Josh and I are captains.

(The other children line up along the back wall. Sam, the child in the middle of the line looks excited. Josh and Charlotte stand at either side of the line and slightly forward.)

Josh OK, I’ll have.....

Charlotte Hang on! Why are you picking first?

Josh Because you picked first at morning playtime. It’s my turn.

Charlotte Yeah, but my team won at morning playtime, and you know the rule – winning captain picks first next time.

Josh That’s not a rule! You can’t just invent rules!

Charlotte I didn’t invent it! It’s always been.....

James For crying out loud! Playtime’s going to be over soon! Can we just get on with it? Now, it’s my ball and I say Charlotte picks first.

Charlotte Yesssssss! OK, I’ll pick you, James.

(James, with the ball, moves to stand with Charlotte. In that familiar ritual, as subsequent names are called, the children move to stand by their respective captains. Sam continually gestures to catch the captains’ attention.)

NOTE – the next section uses the recorded voice on the CD to show the Sam’s thoughts as other children are picked – (*track 25*). The right gap has been left between each of Sam’s thoughts to allow people to speak their lines, but it will need practising. You could re-record these thoughts using the actual voice of the child playing Sam. Alternatively, the child could simply speak the words as asides.)

Sam’s thought 1 Oh, pick me! Go on, pick me! I’m great at footy!

Josh Hmmm....I think I’ll have.....Emma.

Thought 2 No way! She’s not half as good as me! OK, she’s tall and can win headers, but I’m nimble and skilful! Oh, please pick me!

Charlotte Errrrrrrr.....Abigail.

Josh And I’ll have Ben.

Thought 3 What! That’s just because they’re cool and have i-phones! They’ll just stand there posing and won’t kick the ball. But me, I’m a natural goal scorer! Please pick me next! Please...!

Charlotte Daniel.

Thought 4 OK, I understand that. Everyone’s scared of Daniel and he’d get a bit angry if he was picked last. Oh no! What if *I’m* picked last? The humiliation.....nah, I won’t be picked last, surely!

Josh Hmmmm....let’s see....I’ll have.....Kate.

Thought 5 Kate! That’s crazy! OK, calm down, take a deep breath...be positive...I won’t be picked last...I *won’t* be picked last!

- Charlotte** And I’ll have.....Tom.
- Josh** Alex, over here.
- Thought 6** This can’t be happening! We’re down to the last three! And these other two hate football – they’re just here to make up the numbers! I know I’ll be picked before them.....won’t I?
- Charlotte** Well it’s hardly much of a choice, but OKChristopher.
- Thought 7** So, it’s now between me and Amelia. On the positive side, she sprained her ankle at dance club on Tuesday, so she’s hardly going to be an asset to Josh’s team.....
- Josh** I suppose I’m left with Amelia.
- Charlotte** *(counting the children)* Great, that’s six a side. Let’s get started!
- (The children excitedly exit, leaving Sam alone on the stage, looking longingly after them. After lots of ‘aaahs’ from the audience, James comes back on, smiling at Sam.)*
- James** Hey, Sam, what are you still doing here? Come on!
- Sam** *(perking up)* You mean....I can join in?
- James** Well yeah, sort of.....after all, we will be needing a referee!
- (To the opening bars of the next song, a sulky Sam is joined by the rest of the players.)*

Song Left Till Last *(tracks 6 & 26, lyrics p23)*
(Playtime players, supported by the whole cast)

*(When the song finishes, the **intro music (track 27)** is played and the children sit down. Fade the music when ready for the next scene. The action moves to the small stage.)*

Scene 6

- Mum** *(taking the PE kits from the dryer and putting them in to bags)* There, all done. Nice clean kit! Well, I can’t have you winning your races wearing dirty tee-shirts, now can I?
- Dad** *(noticing Adam’s worried expression)* Hey Champ, what’s up?
- Adam** Well, what if we *don’t* win our races? Won’t you be disappointed?
- Lucy** I’m against Emily King in all my races and she’s super-fast! I’ll not win anything mum.....sorry.
- Mum** Oh now, please you two, I never ever meant you to think I’d be disappointed if you didn’t win!

- Dad** Of course not! Mum and I will be proud of you wherever you finish.....and do you know why?
- Lucy** Why?
- Dad** Because we know you always try you best at everything you do. Whether it's things you're good at or things you struggle with, you both always give one hundred percent.
- Mum** And when we come to watch you play for your teams, win lose or draw you never give up. You encourage the others, play fairly and respect your opponents; those are the things that make us proud.
- Dad** And you're very lucky to go to a school where everyone gets to take part in all sorts of things, and where everyone has the chance to shine and make the most of the talents they have. *(looking at his watch)* Ooh! Speaking of school, hadn't you two better get going?
- (Adam and Lucy stand up and Mum hands them their kit bags.)*
- Mum** There you are. So I suppose we'll see you this afternoon then. Lots of luck, we'll be cheering for you.
- Adam** Thanks...but don't cheer *too* loudly, please Mum! And don't forget, you and Dad must *not* wear those silly tee-shirts, ok?
- Mum** *(coily)* I'll *try* to remember..... I can't promise anything though!

Song The Best That I Can Be *(tracks 7 & 28, lyrics p24)*
(whole Cast)

THE END

Reach For The Sky

Verse 1 There's so much potential in you and me,
 There's talent in everyone.
 And given the right opportunity
 We'll all have our day in the sun!
 So, whether in class, or outside on the grass....

Chorus *We've got to grab hold of each situation,
 And give it our very best try!
 With energy and dedication,
 We're all gonna reach for the sky!*

Verse 2 Well, some of us shine individually,
 And others work better in teams.
 What matters is giving our all, as we
 Pursue our goals and our dreams.
 Come on, get stuck in! Let the challenge begin....

Chorus *We've got to grab hold of each situation,*

Verse 3 Now, being a winner is not about
 The glory, the fortune or fame.
 To be a true champion, without a doubt,
 Depends on how we play the game.
 So, this is the plan, follow it if you can....

Chorus *We've got to grab hold of each situation,*

Repeat *We're all gonna reach..... we'll reach for the sky.*

Can I Borrow Some Shorts?

Verse 1 I jump out of bed, there’s a great day ahead,
I’m as happy as a child can be.
Yes, my spirits are high and the reason why
Is today’s the day we do PE!
But when the time arrives to change into my kit,
My whole world crumbles as I realise
That I’ve forgotten it!

Chorus *Please Miss, can I borrow some shorts,
Some trainers and a tee-shirt too!
I don’t care if they’re dirty or a bit too small,
Just get me kitted out, I’m begging you!*

Verse 2 The look on her face tells me I’m in disgrace,
As she asks if anyone can provide
All the things I request to have me properly dressed,
So our lesson can begin on time.
But all my so-called friends, they just don’t seem to care.
They’re hoping I’ll be made to do PE
In just my underwear!

Chorus *Please Miss, can I borrow some shorts....*

Verse 3 My options are few, I don’t know what to do!
Guess it looks like I’ll be missing PE?
But a glimmer of light is the fact that I might
Find the things I need in lost-property.
And so I hold my nose and have a rummage round,
But one discarded infant’s leotard
Is all that can be found.....

Spoken Oh well...it’s better than nothing!

Chorus *I don’t have to borrow some shorts,
I now have all the kit I need.
Yes it’s a little dirty and a bit too small,
But now at least I get to do PE!
YEAH!*

Boy, That's Bound To Itch

Verse 1 Nearly three thousand years ago,
The Ancient Greeks said, “Hey!
We want to honour our god Zeus –
We think we’ve found a way!”
The first Olympic Games
Brought athletes in from near and far.
The place where they met up, of course,
Was called Olympia!

Spoken All very grand, but.....

Chorus *Everyone competed naked,
In the buff, without a stitch!
They were starkers on the starting line,
And nudey on the pitch!
But baring all in public
Didn’t come without a hitch,
‘Cause sand and dust get everywhere,
And boy, that’s bound to itch!*

Verse 2 First they held just a sprinting race
But that was over, fast!
Then more events were added
As the years went quickly past.
Like wrestling, boxing, long jump,
Javelin and discus throw.
And racing chariots, for those
Who dared to have a go!

Spoken Quite impressive, but.....

Chorus *Everyone competed naked.....*

Verse 3 While the games were in flow
A special truce was put in place,
So city-states who were at war
Could have some breathing space!
And laurel wreaths, like medals,
Were awarded to the best....
Much easier to wear them
On your head than on your chest!

Spoken The reason being.....

Chorus *Everyone competed naked.....*

My Dad's Faster Than Your Dad

- Verse 1** My Dad's faster than your dad,
He's a man who's in his prime.
He'll set such a pace in the parents' race,
And he'll win it in record time!
'Cause he is on a mission
To be in pole position,
To leave the other dads behind.
And he'll bust a gut
To be first across the finish line!
- Verse 2** My Dad's faster than your dad,
He's a man who's at his peak.
Well maybe of late he's put on some weight,
And his knees have begun to creak!
Okay, he's getting podgy,
His back is kinda dodgy,
But he is feeling far from weak,
And beneath his clothes
Well, he swears he's got a fine physique!
- Verse 3** My Dad's faster than your dad,
'But,' you ask, 'how can that be?'
It's not in him to join the local gym
Yet he can 'leg-it' very fast indeed!
Well, you see, the fact is he gets a lot of practice
Trying to run for cover
When he's wound up my poor mother.
'Cause fear of getting clobbered
Makes him run at lightning speed!

Swimming Today

Verse 1 I'm queuing up to get on the bus
And I'm ready to rock!
My towel is packed, got my rubber hat
And my verruca sock.
I'll be giving it my all
At breaststroke, backstroke and front-crawl,
And having too much fun to be watching the clock.

Chorus *We're all taking a little trip
To the local pool for a little dip.
We'll be causing a splash,
We'll be making waves,
'Cause all my friends and me....
We're going swimming today!*

Verse 2 The smell of chlorine, the slippery floor
In the damp changing room,
Are not enough to put me off
From what's happening soon.
Absolutely nothing tops
Handstands, bombing and belly-flops,
Oh, 'water' way to spend an afternoon!

Chorus *We're all taking a little trip....*

Middle 8 Yes, the water's on the cold side,
And strands of matted hair and scabs and plasters lurk!
And though an ear-infection's probably on the cards,
It all beats being stuck back in the classroom doing work!

Instrumental *(during which everyone performs a piece of choreography
made up of swimming strokes!)*

Chorus *We're all taking a little trip....*

Repeat Chorus

Repeat *We're going swimming today!*

Left Till Last

Verse 1 We’ve got some free time now our lunch is done,
To organise a game of something fun!
We’re keen to get started, but first of all
We need to line up against the wall,
So two of the older kids
Can check the rest of us out,
And pick a team to reign supreme
In this not-so-friendly kick-about! Oh.....

Chorus *My palms are sweaty and my knees are shaking,
My pulse is racing fast.
Any moment now my heart could be breaking,
I pray it isn’t me who’s left till last.*

(NB – the following names can be changed – see Scene 5, pages 14 and 15)

Verse 2 Well James is picked first ’cause we’re using his ball,
And Emma’s next because she’s scarily tall!
Then Abigail and Ben ’cause they’re so cool,
Then Daniel who’s the ‘hardest’ boy in school!
I’m trying to catch their eye,
To make them notice me,
’Cause I’ve got skill that surely will
Carry any team to victory! Oh.....

Chorus *My palms are sweaty....*

Verse 3 There’s five of us still waiting anxiously,
Then Tom and Kate are chosen – that leaves three!
I’m really very sporty, this can’t be right!
Oh, what is it about me they don’t like?
Then, guess what, the other two
Are picked ahead of me,
And ’cause I’m now the odd one out,
They say I’ve got to be the referee! Well....

Chorus *Stuff that for a game of soldiers!
It’s not what I call fun.
And although I am considerably older
I’m off to play in the sand with Key Stage one!*

The Best That I Can Be

Verse 1 Many races to be run,
Many battles to be won,
And many hurdles that I must overcome.
And where I'm headed nobody knows,
But at my heels there's a strong wind that blows.
I'll celebrate the highs and learn from the lows,
And face the challenges of life,
With my shoulders back and my head held high. I'm.....

Chorus *Gonna treat every new day just like an adventure.
Gonna make the most of every opportunity.
Gonna make every new day a day to remember
Gonna be no less than the best that I can be.*

Verse2 Many places yet to see,
Many friends I've yet to meet,
And many possible paths lie at my feet.
And yes, there'll be some twists and some turns,
But in my heart there's a fire that burns.
My mind is open and I'm ready to learn,
And face the challenges of life,
With my shoulders back and my head held high. I'm.....

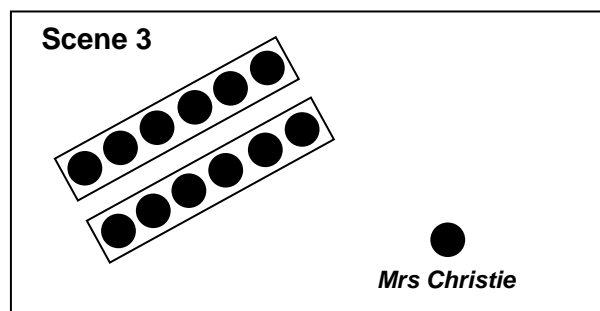
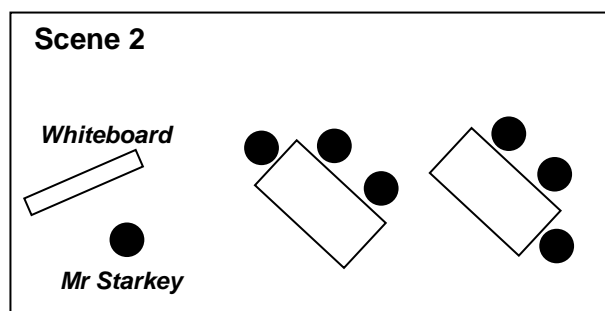
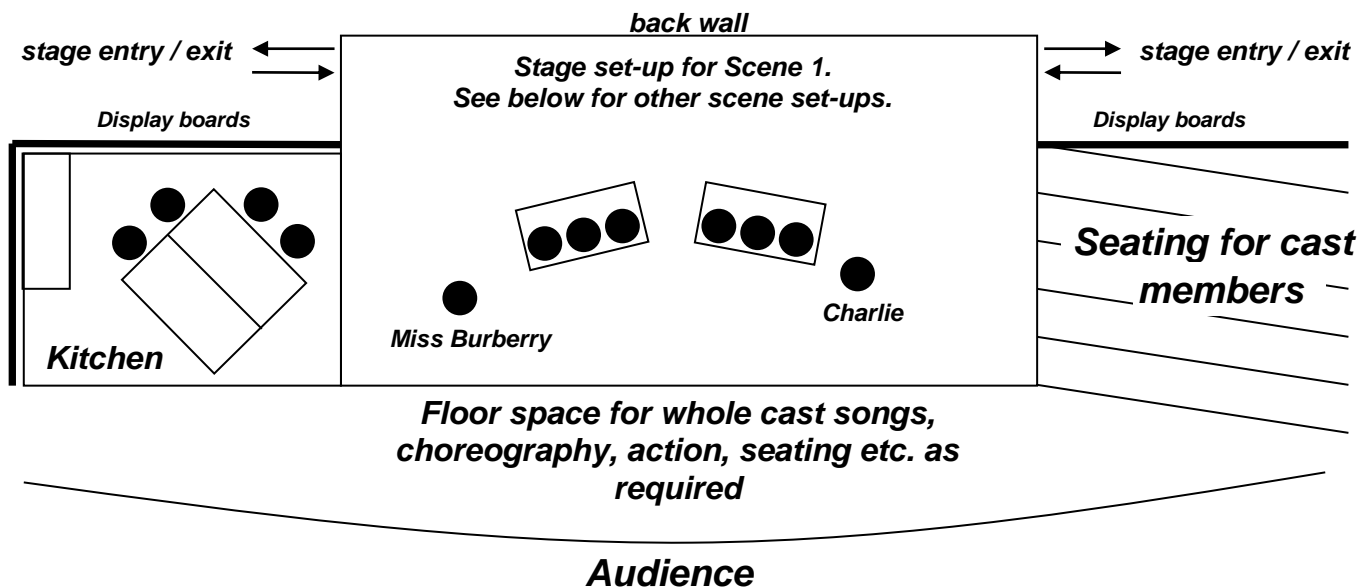
Chorus *Gonna treat every new day....*

Middle 8 As I stand on the starting line,
I feel so heavy with expectation.
But I have you standing by my side,
And now I know I can fly!

Chorus *Gonna treat every new day....*

STAGING AND PRODUCTION SUGGESTIONS

‘Reach For The Sky’ has been written to be adaptable to most school hall set-ups, whether you have a stage or not. Below is just one representation of a possible staging layout.



NB – no furniture required for Scenes 4, 5 or 6.

- **Scenery** – On the back wall behind the main stage could be a mural displaying sporting figures and scenes from school life – take inspiration from the script for the content of the mural. If you have an interactive whiteboard or projection screen, interchangeable photos of your children enjoying the sporting activities mentioned could be shown. Using display boards, create walls around two sides of the ‘kitchen’ stage. On these walls you could paint or make collages of kitchen cupboards, a fridge, an oven and a kitchen window with a view onto a garden.
- **Furniture** – All that is required in the way of furniture is standard classroom tables and chairs, for both the kitchen and for scenes on the main stage. Cover two tables with a table cloth to represent a dining table. A table along the side kitchen wall can be the work surface. Beneath this, to represent the tumble dryer, put a large, white-painted cardboard box with a circular ‘window’ cut into.

- **Props** – *listed by scene*
Continuity/kitchen scenes – General kitchen items on the work surface, eg. a kettle and toaster. Bowls, spoons and cereal boxes on the table. A clothes basket. Two printed tee-shirts (see p10). Two towels. Two PE bags. .
Scene 1 – A large box labelled ‘Lost Property’ containing various tatty pieces of school PE kit, including a leotard.
Scene 2 – A whiteboard pen. A selection of textbooks about Ancient Greece.
Scene 3 – 3 skipping ropes. A walking stick.
Scene 4 – 2 clipboards. 2 whistles. A swimming hat. A verruca sock. Talcum powder. An inflated lilo. 2 facemasks and snorkels. A wetsuit. A scuba tank – this can be made from a large card tube. A pair of flippers. 2 written notes.
Scene 5 – A football.
Scene 6 – N/A
- **Costume** – for detailed costume suggestions, see page 27
- **Use of Space** – The whole cast will probably want to be involved in the performance of most of the songs. A space on the floor in front of the main stage could be used to accommodate extra bodies. In this space, for some songs, the cast could perform dance routines. A seating area for resting performers could be allocated to one side of the stage. This lets them enjoy the performance as part of the audience, allows easy movement on and off the stage, and of course eliminates the need for back-stage supervision.
- **Content** – You can personalise your performance by adding characters, and re-writing any parts of the script to make them more appropriate to your particular school. Different songs that the children know and enjoy could replace, or be added to those on the track list. Don’t feel restricted; make the show your own.
- **Audience seating** – The audience could be in one block facing the stage, or maybe in two blocks separated by an aisle wide enough for perhaps the entrance of some characters from the back, or to allow some of the drama and choreography to be performed on the floor.

Character	Number of spoken lines *	Costume Suggestions
Dad	11	Shirt & tie, smart trousers
Lucy	9	Primary school uniform
Adam	9	Primary school uniform
Mum	13	Casual adult clothes
Miss Burberry	9	Designer dress, high heels, tights (with a ladder), chiffon scarf.
Luke	4	Man Utd (or similar) football strip
Simon	3	White t-shirt & long patterned shorts
Charlie	5	Primary school uniform
Jack	2	White t-shirt, shorts with a big hole
Megan	2	White t-shirt & jogging bottoms
Daisy	3	Dirty white t-shirt, dirty shorts
Alice	2	Pristine white t-shirt & black shorts
Mr Starkey	11	Shirt, tie & smart trousers
Child 1	4	Primary school uniform
Child 2	3	Primary school uniform
Child 3	3	Primary school uniform
Child 4	3	Primary school uniform
Child 5	3	Primary school uniform
Child 6	4	Primary school uniform
Mrs Christie	7	Track suit
Mum 1	1	Casual adult clothes
Mum 2	1	Casual adult clothes
Dad 1	1	Casual adult clothes
Dad 2	1	Casual adult clothes
Competitive Dad	7	Tracksuit, lycra shorts, vest & headband
Grandma	2	Tweed skirt, blouse, cardigan, glasses, grey wig & walking stick
Swim Instructor 1	11	Polo shirt, tracksuit bottoms or shorts
Swim Instructor 2	8	Polo shirt, tracksuit bottoms or shorts
Child 1	1	Swimming costume & verruca sock
Child 2	2	Swimming costume
Child 3	1	Swimming costume, facemask & snorkel
Child 4	1	Wetsuit, flippers & scuba gear
Child 5	1	Primary school uniform
Child 6	1	Primary school uniform
Charlotte	10	Primary school uniform
Josh	8	Primary school uniform
James	3	Primary school uniform
Sam	8	Primary school uniform

NOTES