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- 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.

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PLOT SUMMARY

Without knowing why, the teachers of Pepperton Primary School are summoned to an emergency staff meeting! Could it be to discuss the recent Year 2 trip to a chocolate factory, when all ‘freebies’ were eaten on the bus home, leading to travel-sickness on a scale that has never been witnessed before? No, it’s worse than that! Headteacher, Mrs Wright, delivers the news that, although this is the last week of the summer term and lots of end-of-year activities have been planned, the school is to receive a visit from the inspectors....tomorrow! **(song – ‘They’re On Their Way’)**

The first job is to put the old hall display back up on the bare wall. With the adults busy checking that paperwork is up-to-date, this job is given to a group of children. As they sift through the tatty, torn and smudged pictures and pieces of writing that once made up a display entitled ‘The Ancient Greeks’, the children wonder how they can re-use it all to make something presentable. And does it matter that the ‘R’ is missing from the selection of letters forming the title? **(song – ‘Deck The Hall’)**

The next day, in front of a haphazard display now entitled ‘The Ancient *Geeks*’, the whole school gathers in the hall. With some children more than a little fidgety and talkative, Mrs Wright tries to bring some calm to the room. However, at the peak of the fidgeting and talking, the three inspectors enter! When all are finally silent, lead inspector, Mr Sourbottom, introduces himself and his two colleagues, Miss Schneider and Mr Measley. They give shallow assurances that their visit is ‘nothing to worry about’ **(song – ‘Inspectors’ Song’)** then they exit to begin their inspection. Though anxious, everyone in school is determined that nothing more will go wrong over the next few days and that the inspectors will see their school at its best!

Of course, more things do go wrong! First off, in an effort to impress the inspectors with her teaching, Mrs Barker decides to ‘recycle’ a successful literacy lesson from last term! She hopes her class will answer her questions with confidence and produce work of a high standard, whilst at the same time not letting on to the inspectors that this is stuff they have already done before and know inside out! Needless to say, it doesn’t quite go to plan! **(song – ‘In One Ear, Out The Other’)**

The annual staff versus children rounders match, usually a good-natured event, also proves to be the cause of some concern for the inspectors. **(song – ‘Rounders’)** They smell something fishy when it appears that one member of staff seems to be doing all he can to ensure his team loses the game! Then there’s the summer fete; the culmination of tireless efforts by the PTA to bring the school community together! Not even large quantities of candy floss can distract the inspectors from the fact that there seems to be quite a long queue at the first aid tent! **(song – ‘Splat The Rat’)**

As their visit draws to an end, in the light of these ‘incidents’ it seems the inspectors’ impression of Pepperton Primary School may not be a positive one. However, the discovery of a mysterious envelope and its contents soon convinces Mr Sourbottom and his team that there are much more important things on which to judge a school, things that Pepperton has in abundance! **(song – ‘This Special Place’)**

At the end-of-term disco, with all staff and children present, the inspectors decide to announce their findings and make their thoughts known. Of course, they’re full of praise and, as they ‘loosen up’ and join in the dancing, the school gives itself a well-deserved pat on the back for all it has achieved! **(song – ‘Celebrate’)**

CHARACTERS

NB – for larger schools, extra speaking characters can easily be added to scenes and the existing lines shared out between them. Equally, for smaller schools, because many characters only appear in one scene, multiple parts can be played by a single actor.

(43 speaking parts in order of appearance)

The teachers of Pepperton Primary School

Miss Cropper

Mr Savage

Mrs Barker

Mr Cane

Mrs Childs

Miss Kidd

Mrs Stamp

Mrs Wright

**For a
character
line-count &
costume
suggestions
see p28**

6 children – *tasked with getting hall displays back on the wall...quickly!*

School Inspectors

Mr Sourbottom

Miss Schneider

Mr Measley

6 more children – *having a bit of trouble remembering what a noun is!*

4 rounders-players – *eager to give the teachers’ team a trouncing!*

Bookie – *offering good odds on a teachers’ win!*

Commentator – *keeping us up-to-speed as the action unfolds!*

3 more children – *learning the hard way that gambling never pays!*

PTA Chairperson – *running a tight ship at the annual summer fete!*

St John’s Ambulance representative – *dishing out the first aid!*

5 parents – *with one or two health and safety concerns!*

4 letter-writers – *telling us what they love about school.*

(Ensemble characters for featured songs and scenes)

More children

More staff

Extra rounders players

PTA members

More parents

Dancers



Scene 1

(As **intro music** plays (**track 9**) the lights come up on the main stage, where two tables stand. On the tables are piles of artwork, pieces of writing, posters etc and cut-out letters that once formed a display about the Ancient Greeks. All pieces still have backing paper attached, though most are a bit tatty, grubby and ripped. At the back of the stage stand two display boards, bare apart from backing paper, staples and the ripped corners of the ex-displayed work. To the side of the main stage is a smaller stage representing a staffroom, with eight chairs arranged in a V-shape – **see staging suggestions/scenery – p26**. Here, two teachers sit, looking nervously at each other. NB – all the following teacher names and genders can be changed, maybe to those recognisable in your school.)

Miss Cropper An emergency staff meeting?! In the last week of term?!

Mr Savage I know! What’s so important that it can’t wait until after the holidays?

(Mrs Barker and Mr Cane enter and sit.)

Mrs Barker Anyone know what this is about? Have we had more complaints about that historical theatre group who visited Year 4?

Mr Cane In my defence, when I booked them I didn’t know they would re-enact the beheading of Anne Boleyn quite so....realistically!

(Miss Kidd and Mrs Childs enter and sit.)

Mrs Childs I bet this is about your Year 2’s trip to the chocolate factory last week. I’ve heard it all got a bit messy!

Miss Kidd Look, we told the children not to eat all their freebies on the bus home. They obviously didn’t listen and, well, let’s just say I’ve never seen travel sickness quite like it!

(Mrs Stamp rushes in, flustered.)

Mrs Stamp The head’s coming! She’s carrying a brown envelope and she doesn’t look happy!

Mrs Childs I knew it! There’s going to be an investigation into Year 2’s mass chocolate regurgitation!

Mrs Barker *(to Mr Cane)* Or she could be announcing that you’re for the chop, just like Anne Boleyn!

(They all talk in flustered, panicky voices, then fall silent as Mrs Wright enters. She stands before the seated teachers, holding a brown envelope from which she extracts a letter.)

All Teachers What is it Mrs Wright? Why the emergency staff meeting?

Mrs Wright Well Miss Cropper, Mr Savage, Mrs Barker, Mr Cane, Mrs Childs, Miss Kidd and Mrs Stamp, despite this being the last week of the school year and despite our having lots of end-of-term activities planned, it appears that Pepperton Primary School is going to be.....visited! *(NB - the school’s name can be changed to your school.)*

All Teachers You mean.....?

Mrs Wright That’s right.....the school inspectors are on their way!

Song They're On Their Way

(tracks 1 & 10, lyrics p18)

(Whole cast, led by the teachers)

(As the song finishes, the teachers sit, leaning in to listen to Mrs Wright who occupies the central chair.)

Mrs Wright Right, they’ll be here tomorrow! So, first things first, we have to get those hall displays back up on the wall. Any volunteers.....?

(As intro music plays (track 11) the teachers huddle in conversation. After a moment, they nod at each other in agreement, then they exit.)

Scene 2

(Fade the intro music when ready. Six children enter and stand around the tables on the main stage. They look a bit fed-up.)

Child 1 How did we get lumbered with this job? And after school as well! This stuff has only just been taken down off the walls – I don’t understand!

Child 2 Well, Mr Savage said it was urgent. Our hall display needs to be back up by tomorrow morning. Goodness knows why! He said none of the staff can do it ‘cause they all have important ‘paperwork’ to do. Still, he told us we’d get extra merit points for helping.

Child 3 He also said if I helped, I’d get to play centre-forward in the football team next year. That kind of makes it worth the effort.

Child 4 But you’re in Year 6! You won’t be here next year to play in the football team. Ha! Mr Savage has really stitched you up!

Child 5 Listen, the teachers must have their reasons, so let’s just get on with it shall we. The sooner we finish, the sooner we can go home.

Child 6 *(leafing through the paper on the tables)* Look at all this – it’s so tatty! The backing paper’s ripped, corners are missing, the paint’s faded and there are grubby, brown fingerprints all over everything!

Child 1 That’ll be chocolate! While the teaching assistants were taking it all down off the wall last Thursday afternoon, they got through a packet of Kit Kats, two packets of Jaffa Cakes and a box of Cadbury’s Heroes between them! It was actually quite impressive!

- Child 2** *(holding up a picture with the corner missing)* Well, it looks like they were still hungry and started eating the paper!
- Child 4** They can’t seriously expect us to make a nice display with this load of rubbish. Something weird is definitely going on here!
- Child 5** Maybe the teachers decided to save themselves a job next year. Think about it, how much time will it free-up if they don’t have to create new displays when they can simply recycle the old ones?
- Child 6** But look at the state of this stuff. This was a display about the Ancient Greeks. They were a civilised society, weren’t they? Their art and poetry were the best in the world! This hardly celebrates their achievements....or ours!

(Mr Savage enters.)

- Mr Savage** Come on you lot! Haven’t you made a start yet? I can’t stress enough how important it is that you get this back up on the wall. I’m just finishing some marking in my classroom then I’m going home. I need this done before I leave.

(He exits, with Child 3 in hot pursuit.)

- Child 3** *(exiting after him)* Errr, Mr Savage, can I have a quick word? It’s about your promise to make me centre-forward next year.....
- Child 1** Ha! I don’t think he’s going to get a satisfactory answer. Mr Savage is looking a bit wound up!

(Child 3 re-enters.)

- Child 3** Boy, Mr Savage is a bit wound up! I think we’d better make a start. Right, let’s see what we can do with this lot.....

*(During the next song the six children attach the artwork, pieces of writing and title letters to the display boards – **see staging suggestions/props – p27**. Practise this so the display is finished as the song ends. It’s a haphazard arrangement, with the letter ‘R’ missing from the title, so it reads ‘THE ANCIENT GEEKS’!)*

Song Deck The Hall

(tracks 2 & 12, lyrics p19)

(Whole cast, led by the children)

(As the song finishes, Mr Savage enters to survey the children’s efforts.)

- Mr Savage** Hmm. It’s not quite how I remember it looking, but I suppose it’ll do. Right, let’s all get home – we’ve a big day tomorrow.

*(As **intro music** plays (**track 13**) the children exit after Mr Savage, carrying off the two tables, with Child 3 still wanting to talk about football!)*

- Child 3** So, Mr Savage, about that centre-forward thing, I was thinking.....

Scene 3

(Fade the intro music when ready. All the teachers, except Mrs Stamp, sit in the staffroom.)

Miss Cropper *(nervously)* So, Mrs Wright, have the inspectors arrived yet?

Mrs Wright They have, Miss Cropper. Three of them!

Miss Cropper Well, where are they?

Mrs Wright They're in the office, going through some paperwork.

(Mrs Stamp bursts in, breathless, her blouse untucked, the back of her skirt hem tucked into her tights and her hair a mess!)

Mrs Stamp I'm sorry! I was up most of the night worrying about today and only dozed off at 5 o'clock. I didn't hear my alarm! I need to get in my classroom and prepare the first lesson! How long have I got?!

(A school bell sounds (track 14) and the teachers stand up.)

Mrs Childs No time at all, Mrs Stamp!

(Those playing children's characters move in an orderly fashion from their seated area at the side and sit in lines facing the main stage, as in a school assembly. As they fidget, the teachers move from the staffroom and stand in a line on one side of the main stage. Mrs Wright stands centre stage, addressing the lines of seated children facing her.)

Mrs Wright Good morning children.

All Children Good morning Mrs Wright. Good morning everyone.

Mrs Wright *(slowly)* Now children, I want you....in fact, no, I NEED you to listen very carefully to what I am about to say. We have some extremely important visitors in school for the next few days and.....

(At the mention of important visitors, the children start bouncing excitedly on their bottoms, raising their hands and shouting out questions such as 'Is it Harry Styles?' 'Is it Wayne Rooney?' 'Is it the Queen?'.....etc! Mrs Wright tries to shush them but fails! Gritting her teeth, she motions to the teachers to go amongst the children to try and settle them. The teachers are unsuccessful and are soon swamped by the excited, talkative children. Mrs Wright panics, making even louder 'shushing' noises.)

Mrs Wright *(exasperated)* WILL YOU ALL PAY ATTENTION BEFORE I.....

(As menacing music plays (track 15), the three inspectors, each carrying a clipboard, enter and stand behind Mrs Wright. This music is a signal for her to stop talking and to look over her shoulder. She sees the lurking inspectors and stands open-mouthed, rigid with fear! The music is also a signal for children to fall silent and for the teachers amongst them to stand still in shock. The lead inspector, Mr Sourbottom, leans forward to talk in Mrs Wright's ear.)

Mr Sourbottom Before you do what, Mrs Wright?

Mrs Wright No....what I meant....I thought....I didn't know that you had come in....oh dear!

(The inspectors look at Mrs Wright, say ‘Hmmm’, shake their heads and, with exaggerated movements, mark an X on their clipboards. They step to the front of the stage as a dejected Mrs Wright moves to the side and the teachers come back onto the stage to stand with her.)

Mr Sourbottom Now that you at last seem to be settled, please allow us to introduce ourselves. My name is Mr Sourbottom, to my left is Miss Schneider and to my right is Mr Measley. We are school inspectors and we’re here at Pepperton Primary School to see.... hmmm, how can I put it....to see how you’re all getting on.

(As Miss Schneider is named she clicks her heels together and stands to attention. Mr Measley gives an oily smile and a weak fingertip wave from behind his clipboard.)

Miss Schneider We will be observing you and your teachers during lessons, at lunch, during your break-times and in your extra-curricular activities over the next few days.

Mr Measley In this way we will be able to get an idea of how your school is performing and whether there are any improvements to be made.

Mr Sourbottom *(unconvincingly)* But please be assured, we are very friendly and you have nothing, absolutely nothing, to be worried about.....

Song **Inspectors' Song**

(tracks 3 & 16, lyrics p20)

(Whole cast, led by the inspectors)

(As the song finishes the inspectors turn to look at the Ancient ‘Geeks’ display. Again they shake their heads and, with exaggerated movements, mark an X on their clipboards.)

Mr Savage Errr...I can explain about that! We only had a couple of hours to.....

Mr Sourbottom All in good time Mr Savage, all in good time. Now, Miss Schneider, what is on the list of things to look at first?

Miss Schneider We need to review the school’s Health and Safety policy and try to get to the bottom of a couple of ‘incidents’. According to my notes, during a school trip last week every child in Year 2 suffered a case of projectile vomiting!

(Miss Kidd groans and holds her head in her hands!)

Mr Measley *(looking at his clipboard)* And I see there has been a recent concern regarding the portrayal of extreme violence in a history lesson.

Mr Cane *(raising his hand)* But I didn’t know.....

Mr Sourbottom Excellent! Plenty to be getting on with then. Let’s begin, shall we?

(As menacing music plays (track 17) the inspectors exit. Then, as intro music plays (track 18) the teachers escort the children from the front of the stage, then exit. The lights fade and the main stage is made ready for the next scene. The display boards are turned round, showing on the reverse a depiction of a classroom window looking out onto a field.)



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'An Inspector Calls' by Andrew Oxspring

Scene 4

(Fade the intro music when ready and bring the lights up. The teachers sit in the staffroom.)

- Mrs Wright** So, yesterday wasn't a great start to our inspection, was it.
- Mr Savage** Well, what do they expect, springing it on us like that?
- Miss Kidd** It didn't help with little Sam Jones asking the inspectors if they were the police, come to arrest me for forgetting to feed the class gerbil!
- Mrs Childs** Also, it's the last week of term. There are parties, trips, plays and celebrations, so they can't expect to see the things we normally do.
- Mr Cane** I know. It's not fair coming to inspect us when we're winding down.
- Miss Cropper** I can't believe that in the last week of the school year I'm going to have to teach grammar and punctuation, then mark and assess what the children have done, just so Sourbottom and his gang can.....

(Mrs Stamp bursts in, again breathless and looking dishevelled!)

- Mrs Stamp** I'm sorry! I was up all night planning my literacy lesson and I missed my alarm....again! Still, all sorted *(patting her bag)* and ready to go!
- Mrs Barker** Planning a new lesson? You're mad! I'm just going to repeat one from last term that went really well. My Year 3s know everything already so there'll be lots of hands up, lots of good answers to my questions, lots of good pieces of work produced and therefore lots of good comments by the inspectors about my teaching!
- Mrs Childs** Great idea. What could possibly go wrong.....?

(The school bell sounds (track 19) and the teachers exit, except Mrs Barker who crosses to the main stage. Here, three classroom tables, each with two chairs, face a whiteboard by which she stands. As the bell finishes ringing, five children noisily enter and sit down.)

- Mrs Barker** Shhh! Settle down quickly before the inspectors get here! Now, about this morning's literacy lesson.....
- Child 7** Literacy!? But what about the staff versus children rounders match?
- Mrs Barker** That's been postponed until this afternoon. Please, just settle down and listen – they'll be here any moment! Now, what we're doing is a simple lesson classifying words, you know, nouns, verbs, adjectives, that sort of thing. It's all stuff you're familiar with, in fact it's a lesson we've already done, so it should all go without a hitch.
- Child 8** But if we know it already, why are we doing it again?
- Mrs Barker** So it looks like you're learning fast because of my excellent teaching! Now, you must not let on to the inspectors that we've already had this lesson. They need to believe it's all new. Can I trust you?

All Children Yes Mrs Barker! We won't let you down!

(As menacing music plays (track 20) the three inspectors enter and stand at the back.)

Mr Sourbottom Don't mind us Mrs Barker. You just carry on.

Mrs Barker Right Year 3, today we'll be classifying words into different types. Now, as we've...ahem *(winking at the class)*...never done this before, would anyone like to guess what I mean by classifying words? *(looking at their blank faces)* Anyone? One of you must remember ...ahem...I mean have some idea. No? *(glaring at them)* Really?

Child 9 *(raising a hand)* Sorry Mrs Barker, but because we have never done this before, not ever, *(winking at her)* we have no idea what you mean.

Mrs Barker *(glaring at child 9)* Thank you Mary. Well, what I mean is sorting words into nouns, verbs, adjectives, that kind of thing. So, *(turning to write 'Nouns' on the board)* who can give me some examples of nouns? *(turning back to blank faces)* No? Have you *all* forgotten.... ahem...I mean has nobody any ideas?

Child 10 *(raising a hand)* Mrs Barker, *(winking at her)* what is a noun?

Mrs Barker *(smiling nervously)* Children, about that...err...'little chat' we had earlier, I'm not sure you quite understood what I wanted you to do.

(Child 11 enters and sits in the empty chair.)

Child 11 Sorry I'm late, Mrs Barker. I had a dentist's appointment.

Mrs Barker Not to worry, Daisy. We'd just started a *brand new* lesson on classifying words – nouns, verbs, adjectives, that kind of thing.

Child 11 *(confused)* Oh right. But didn't we do that last.....

Mrs Barker and the other children Shhhhhhhhhh!

Child 11 But I'm sure that I remember.....

Mrs Barker and the other children Shhhhhhhhhh!

(The child seated next to Child 11 whispers in her ear, telling her what's going on. Child 11 touches her nose and winks at Mrs Barker, showing she understands the situation!)

Mrs Barker Actually Daisy, maybe you can tell us what a noun is? *(glaring at the others)* Nobody else seems to have any idea.

Child 11 Sorry Mrs Barker, I don't have a clue, not ever having done this before....*(winking at her)*....not ever.

Mrs Barker *(forgetting herself)* But you just said you remember doing this last....

The other children *(at Mrs Barker)* Shhhhhhhhhh!

Miss Schneider Mrs Barker, is everything alright? There seems to be some confusion amongst you and the children.

Mrs Barker Everything is fine thank you. It just seems that Year 3 (*glaring at the children*) have left their brains in their breakfast bowls this morning!

Mr Measley Indeed it does, Mrs Barker. Well, I think that we’ve seen enough for now, so we’ll leave you to your ‘brand new’ lesson.

(The inspectors shake their heads and mark an X on their clipboards. They then exit)

Mrs Barker Well, you lot, thanks for nothing!

Child 12 But we did what you asked, Mrs Barker. We didn’t let on we’d done all this before.

Mrs Barker Yes, but you were supposed to pretend that you were picking it up really quickly, to make me look good in front of them!

All children (*realising*) Oh, right!

Mrs Barker Never mind. Well, we may as well finish the lesson now we’ve started it. Ok, someone tell me what a noun is and give me some examples. (*The children look at her with blank faces*) It’s ok, they’ve gone, so you can drop the act now. (*still blank faces*) Well? One of you? Nouns? Examples? (*still blank faces*) You mean to tell me you really have forgotten it all?!

All children Sorry, Mrs Barker!

(As the opening bars of the next song begin, Mrs Barker faces the whiteboard and repeatedly bangs her forehead against it! The other children enter for the song.)

Song In One Ear (Out The Other)

(tracks 4 & 21, lyrics p21)

(Whole cast led by the children)

*(When the song finishes, **intro music** plays (track 22), all exit and the main stage is made ready for the next scene.)*

Scene 5

(The inspectors are sitting in the staffroom, eating their lunches from Tupperware boxes. Mr Measley is trying to do a bottle-flip with his drinks bottle!)

Mr Sourbottom What are you doing, Mr Measley? It really is most annoying!

Mr Measley It’s called ‘bottle-flipping’ and it’s all the rage. I’ve just been watching the children in the dining hall doing it. The idea is you have to....

Mr Sourbottom Yes, yes, I can see what you have to do. It’s not really a suitable pastime for a school inspector though, is it!

Miss Schneider Or for children, in my opinion! That constant thudding is extremely irksome, not to mention the spillages that occur. I have made some notes on the bottle-flipping epidemic in this school, Mr Sourbottom. Perhaps you’d like to read them?

(The school bell sounds (track 23) and Mr Sourbottom stands up.)

Mr Sourbottom Later, Miss Schneider. First we need to go and observe the staff versus children rounders match. This should be interesting.....

(The Inspectors exit. A crowd of children enters and they sit in two lines along the main stage, looking out onto the audience. Eight more children, the rounders players, dressed in PE kit and carrying bats, stand in a group at the front of the stage to one side.)

Player 1 Are we ready then, team? Time to avenge last year’s defeat!

Player 2 It won’t be easy. The teachers have some really strong players.

Player 3 Yeah, but they’ve got some pretty lame ones too! Have you seen Mrs Stamp try to throw a ball?!

Player 4 Well, we’ll soon find out – here they come!

(The teachers, with the exception of Mrs Stamp, dressed in tracksuits, enter and stand in a group opposite the children’s team. Miss Kidd stands forward.)

Miss Kidd Lovely to see you all out here on the field, on this beautiful afternoon, for the annual staff versus children rounders match.

(As menacing music plays (track 24) the inspectors enter and stand at the back. Miss Kidd notices them, puffs out her chest and continues speaking, directing her words at them.)

As you all know, I organise this match every year, in my own time, even though I’m extremely busy planning lessons, which shows how dedicated I am to.....

(Mrs Stamp rushes on, still in her high heels and teaching clothes, carrying a bat!)

Mrs Stamp Sorry! I couldn’t find my kit and nothing in lost property fits me.

(The inspectors shake their heads and mark an X on their clipboards.)

Miss Kidd Yes, well, we have two full teams now, so let’s get out onto the pitch!

(The rounders players, ie the eight children and the staff, exit through the audience as if out onto the field. The remaining crowd of children stand up on the stage. One child, the ‘bookie’, stands forward, opens a notebook and takes a pencil from behind his/her ear.)

Bookie *(to the other children)* Right, quick you lot, just before the game starts I can take some last-minute bets. I’m offering great odds of 10:1 on a staff victory. It’s definitely worth a punt! Who’s up for it?

(An excited group gathers round the bookie, cash is handed over and betting slips given out. The inspectors shake their heads disapprovingly and mark an X on their clipboards. We then hear a whistle (track 25) and the bookie closes his/her book.)

Bookie That’s it! No more bets. The game’s starting! Here we go.....

Song Rounders *(tracks 5 & 26, lyrics p22)*

(Whole cast, led by spectating children)

(Alternative backing track including ‘match commentary’ - see below – track 27)

In the instrumental section, a child with a microphone steps forward and, looking out into the audience (as if watching the game), commentates on the action, as written on p22.

The backing track with the commentary (track 27) can be used instead. All the children on stage look out into the audience during the commentary, watching and reacting to the action as it is described. NB – don’t try to act out the game being described. What’s happening is implied by the reactions of the children watching and by the commentary.

(As the commentary finishes, the crowd of children throw down their betting slips in disgust!)

Child 13 Mr Cane’s rubbish fielding just cost me £5! What was he doing?!

Child 14 The staff were going to win before he messed it up.....twice! That’s my pocket money gone for the week. Thanks a lot Mr Cane!

Child 15 Anyone would think he was trying to lose the match on purpose!
What on earth was he playing at? Thanks to him I’m down a tenner!

(The crowd exits angrily. The inspectors are exiting as Mr Cane enters and cautiously approaches the bookie. The inspectors hang back to observe, out of sight.)

Mr Cane *(cautiously to the bookie)* Well, I think that all went according to plan!

Bookie You’re not wrong, Mr Cane. We’ve cleaned up!

Mr Cane I don’t think anyone suspects I threw the game, do they? Right, what’s my cut of the cash?

(The inspectors step forward and cough to show Mr Cane they are listening!)

Mr Cane What! No, wait....I...it’s not....it’s all going to charity....oh great!

(As intro music plays (track 28), the inspectors shake their heads and mark an X on their clipboards, then exit. They are followed by a subdued Mr Cane and the bookie.)

Scene 6

(Fade the music when ready. The PTA chairperson is in the staffroom, practising her speech to open the school’s summer fete. She has a piece of paper from which she nervously reads.)

Chairperson *(breathing quickly)* Come on, you can do this! *(reading)* ‘Hello everyone, and wel...welcome to P...Pepperton Primary School’s s...summer f...fete....’ Oh, I’m so nervous! My first year as PTA chairperson, my first school fete and the inspectors turn up! I’m a complete mess! I’m not even going to be able to do my introduction speech without making a fool of myself. Come on, pull yourself together! You can do this!

(She exits the staffroom as more PTA members line up along the main stage. They each hold a sign or placard displaying the name and picture of a stall typically seen at a school fete. Amongst them is a St John’s Ambulance representative, at a table, with a first aid kit and a sign advertising her organisation. The chairperson enters and stands centrally.)

Chairperson Hello everyone! I’m Wendy Allsop, the new chairperson of Pepperton Primary School’s PTA. Welcome, all of you, on this sunny evening, to our annual summer fete. As well as a splendid array of stalls and attractions, we’re also very lucky to be joined this year by a representative from St John’s Ambulance, who’ll be giving first aid demonstrations all evening, so make sure you take a break from splatting the rat and hooking a duck to go and see her in action. Anyway, I do hope you all enjoy yourselves....please, please enjoy yourselves! So, without further ado, I now declare our school fete officially.....OPEN! *(She punches the air, amazed she’s got through it!)*

Song Splat The Rat *(tracks 6 & 29, lyrics p23)*

(Whole cast, led by fete-goers an the PTA)

(As the song finishes, all exit apart from the St John’s rep and the PTA chairperson.)

Chairperson Thanks again for being here. Hopefully there’ll be a few people over to see your demonstration in a bit. I’m just going to do some circulating, then I’ll be back to see how you’re getting on.

*(She exits and the St John’s rep sits and waits expectantly. As **menacing music** plays (track 30), the inspectors enter, hiding behind candy-floss! They peek out to talk to the rep.)*

Mr Measley Don’t mind us. We’re just having a quiet look round.

St John’s Rep Oh, right. Not a lot to see here yet. I’m just waiting.....

(A parent, carrying a welly, rushes on, dragging a face-painted child who rubs her head!)

Parent 1 Oh, thank goodness you’re here! I knew the welly-wanging was set up too close to the face-painting. My baby was nearly knocked out!

St John’s Rep Oh dear! Well, bring her over here and I’ll have a look.

(She sits the child to one side to examine him/her. Another parent and child approach.)

Parent 2 *(with a child covering his eye)* Is this where we get first aid?! You’ve got help my little Jack! I tell you, there should be notices on that coconut shy – DO NOT STAND BEHIND THE COCONUTS.

St John’s Rep. Oh dear! Right, bring him over here and I’ll have a look when I’ve....

Parent 3 *(with a child whose hand is stuck in a jar)* Quick! Quick! You’ve got to help! I told her you have to *guess* how many sweets are in the jar, not actually stick your hand in, but does she listen? Now it’s stuck!

St John’s Rep. Erm, right. Ok, I’ve got to deal with this person first, then I’ll be.....

Parent 4 *(with a child sucking his thumb)* I think he’s going to lose his thumb! He should have been told that you hit the rat with the stick as it comes down the pipe, not grab it and then start beating the daylights out of it while you’re still holding it! Can you help him?

St John's Rep. I'll do my best, but he'll have to wait his turn. Let me just deal with.....

Parent 5 *(with a child in tears)* She won't stop crying! It's that stupid tombola you see. She chose a winning ticket and got her prize, fine, but it only turns out to be this same Malibu Barbie that we donated in the first place! Look at her, now she's hyper-ventilating! Please help!

St John's Rep. Ok, look, it's getting a bit crowded and I haven't even seen to my first patient yet. I'll have to ask you all to wait while I try.....

(The chairperson rushes on. She looks at the queue of patients in dismay!)

Chairperson It's true then! They said this was the most popular stand at the fete, but I thought they meant because people were interested in learning first aid, not because they needed it! What a disaster! This is the worst school fete ever, and I'm in charge! *(spotting the inspectors)* And they're here to see it all! I knew I wouldn't last ten minutes in this post. It's an absolute catastrophe. It's....it's.....

*(She faints backwards into a parent's arms as **intro music** plays (track 31). The inspectors shake their heads disapprovingly and mark an X on their clipboards, then all exit.)*

Scene 7

(Fade the music when ready. The inspectors sit in the staffroom, looking at their clipboards.)

Mr Sourbottom Hmmm. It doesn't look good, does it? There are certainly many issues that Pepperton Primary School needs to address.

Miss Schneider Indeed. We have witnessed quite a few causes for concern.

Mr Measley If last night's fete is anything to go by, we really....*(noticing a large envelope on the chair next to him)*.....hang on, what's this? *(reading the front)* 'FOR THE URGENT ATTENTION OF MR SOURBOTTOM'

(Mr Sourbottom takes the envelope and opens it. He takes out a pile of handwritten letters.)

Miss Schneider What do you have there, Mr Sourbottom?

Mr Sourbottom *(leafing through)* Letters from the children of this school. It would appear they have some things they want to tell us. Let's see...*(reading the first letter)*...'Dear Mr Sourbottom, before you leave Pepperton Primary school, there are a few things you should know.....

(A child enters the main stage and continues reading the words of the letter.)

In preparation, have a number of children write real heart-felt words about what school means to them (or write them together in class) and read them out on stage in turn. Themes of friendship, community, caring etc. should be included. Personal accounts of how school has helped them through adversity may be appropriate, or how they have grown under the guidance of the people they have met. Year 6 (P7) leavers may want to talk about what they'll miss about school and how it has prepared them for the next step in their journey. This is a thank you to school which will be echoed by the parents watching, so make it emotional! As the last child reads, begin playing the next song (it has a long intro), so all are ready to sing as the letter is finished being read.

Song This Special Place

(tracks 7 & 32, lyrics p24)

(Whole cast)

(The three inspectors sit in silence for a moment. Mr Sourbottom then stands.)

Mr Sourbottom Come Miss Schneider, Mr Measly – we have a report to write.

Scene 8

(A current chart hit plays at low volume. The teachers and children enter the main stage, wearing party hats and carrying plastic cups. The teachers stand to one side while the children spread out and dance unenthusiastically. Everyone looks glum.)

Mrs Childs This is the most depressing end-of-year disco I’ve ever been to.

Miss Cropper Well, what do you expect? Nobody’s going to feel like dancing after the week we’ve just had. Could it have gone any worse?

Mr Savage Everything that could have gone wrong did go wrong, with those inspectors here to see it all. No wonder we’re all thoroughly fed up.

Mrs Wright And we don’t get to read their official report for a few weeks yet, which means we’ll be spending the whole holidays worrying.

(The inspectors enter and move to the front of the stage. Everyone eyes them with contempt.)

Miss Kidd Why are they here? Can’t they even let us have a party in peace?

Mr Sourbottom Excuse me everyone, we’re sorry to interrupt your party, but could we please just have a moment of your time. Now, we know it has been a somewhat uncomfortable few days for you all and you may be worried we’ve not seen you at your best.

Miss Schneider Yes, there have been one or two little incidents that have raised a few eyebrows, but we believe we have discovered the real heart of Pepperton Primary School. We can see what it means to you, how happy you are here, how much you learn and how sad you’ll be when the time comes for you to leave.

Mr Measley Your school is full of joy and happiness. You care for each other, you support each other through difficult times, and share together in the achievements made by every single one of you. A scruffy display in the hall, or a bruised finger at the summer fete, don’t count for anything when you are part of such a truly special place!

Mr Sourbottom So, isn’t this supposed to be a party? Come on, let’s CELEBRATE!

Song Celebrate (tracks 8 & 33, lyrics p25)

THE END

To help your cast learn and practise the songs from this musical at home, they are available to stream on all major platforms.



Simply search each song by its title and by artist ‘Edgy Productions’

They're On Their Way

(At some point during the song Miss Kidd and Mr Cane, or two others, could perform a tango on the main stage!)

Chorus *They're on their way! They're on their way!
‘But it's the last week of the term!’ I hear you say.
If we're to see this challenge through
We have so much to do,
There's a million jobs to start without delay!
They're on their way!*

Verse 1 Let's get tidying our classrooms till they sparkle,
Put back up displays we just took down.
Check the state of all our books,
Just in case somebody looks.
Make inspectors smile, don't make them frown!

Chorus *They're on their way.....*

Rap Health and Safety, SEN, see they are in order, then.
Planning and Assessment folders,
Up to date the Head has told us!
Documents and policies, make sure we've enough of these!
Can't leave any stone unturned,
Get it right, or crash and burn!

Chorus *They're on their way.....*

Verse 2 Children's toilets must be cleaned and carpets hoovered!
Make school dinners fit for VIPs!
And as everybody knows,
Smarten up and iron your clothes,
Get in bright and early, if you please!

Chorus *They're on their way.....*

Repeat x2 *They're on their way!*



Deck The Hall

Verse 1 This pile of grubby pictures
And some writing which has
Got to be made into a display,
Is looking tired and jaded,
All the colour's faded
And it really should be thrown away!
But we are in a spot and this is all we've got
To fill the spaces on the wall!
Though we're a bit downhearted, come on, let's get started
And together we will deck the hall!

Verse 2 Look at these bits of paper,
Long ago they gave a
Good impression of the work we did.
But now they're all so tatty,
So dog-eared and ratty,
We should now consider getting rid.
It's looking tired and old, but we have still been told
To get it back up on the wall!
We have some time to spare, it's going to earn us merits,
So together we will deck the hall!

Verse 3 Laurence Llewelyn Bowen,
How about you showing up
And doing something to impress?
'Cause someone helping us
To make this fabulous
Would really get us out this sticky mess!
But we know pigs don't fly and so we'll have to try
To work some magic on this wall!
No reason we can't do it if we all jump to it!
Yes together we will deck the hall!

Repeat No reason we can't do it if we all jump to it!
Yes together we will deck the hall!

Repeat No reason we can't do it if we all jump to it!
Yes together we will deck the hall!



Inspectors' Song

(Verses can be spoken or sung)

Verse 1

(Mr Sourbottom solo, or all 3 inspectors together)
Isn't it a lovely day? We're happy to be here.
Look, our cheerful, smiling faces
Prove that there is nothing much to fear.
We sense apprehension, there's no need for tension.
It's our job to see how you're getting on this year.

Chorus

(Children and teachers)
Actually that's not the case.
They wouldn't tell us to our face,
They're really here to dig the dirt, you see!
Any secrets we have tried to cover up and hide
They'll expose them all eventually!

Verse 2

(Miss Schneider solo, or all 3 inspectors together)
Carry on, don't change a thing, act normally, please do.
Though you'll see us in your classrooms,
On the playground, in the lunch hall too,
Ignore what we're writing, it's not that exciting.
Be yourselves – let us get to know the 'real you'.

Chorus

Actually that's not the case.....

Verse 3

(Mr Measley solo, or all 3 inspectors together)
If there's anything you want to tell us, just drop by.
Are your teachers ever late for class
And do you know the reason why?
Mischievous, when reported, is it always sorted?
Talk to us, we'll be confidential – don't be shy!

Chorus

Actually that's not the case.....

Repeat

Any secrets we have tried
To cover up and hide
They'll expose them all eventually!



In One Ear (Out The Other)

Verse 1 Sitting down for morning lessons,
Some of us still half asleep,
Longing for our comfy pillows,
Wishing we were counting sheep!
Then we're hit with facts and figures,
So much stuff to memorize!
The strain we're under, it's no wonder
That occasionally it all goes.....

Chorus *In one ear and out the other,
Can't retain it - can't explain it!
In one ear and out the other,
Such a shame it won't remain.
It's all a mystery. How can it be,
Though we've really tried,
It all goes in one ear and out the other side?*

Verse 2 A classroom in the afternoon
Can be a hot and stuffy place,
'Specially if you're by the window,
Sunlight shining in your face!
Trying hard to concentrate,
To make the information stick.
The pressure's rising, not surprising
That occasionally it all goes.....

Chorus *In one ear and out the other.....*

Middle Just a bit of understanding's all we're asking for,
When, in weekly tests, we've maybe got a dismal score!
Preposition, article and subordinate clause,
Our enemies and nemesies....to use some metaphors!
(spoken) Aha! Metaphors! Well that's one thing we've remembered!

Chorus *In one ear and out the other.....*

Repeat *And out the other side!*



Rounders



Verse 1

Each girl and boy is jumping for joy,
‘Cause we’re gonna play rounders today!
Nothing can beat our favourite treat –
To get the whole class out on the grass!
What a perfect game, puts the rest to shame,
It’s the ultimate ‘sport for all’!
No better fun can be had with a bat and ball!

Verse 2

Take a good strike, as hard as you like,
Then with some pace, run to first base.
Then to base two, unless there’s a queue,
Then, if it’s free, base number three,
Leaving just one more! Get to number four,
And you’ve done it, you’re home and dry!
Glory is yours, raise a fist and punch the sky!



Commentator

So, it’s a tense situation in the final minutes of this year’s staff vs children rounders match. The staff are defending a total of seven rounders and the children are currently on six, with just one batter still left in! Here we go then....

Miss Kidd bowls the ball to Samantha Patterson who hits it into the outfield. She gets to first base as Mr Cane runs to retrieve the ball. But what’s this? He’s tripped over and is lying flat on his face on the grass, while Samantha has made it to second base!

Mr Cane finally picks up the ball, as Mrs Barker, fielding on fourth base, shouts desperately for him to throw it to her. Mr Cane launches a wild throw which sails over Mrs Barker’s head and into the bushes! Samantha makes it easily to fourth base, levelling the score! It’s seven rounders each!

Samantha steps up again. Can she score that all-important eighth rounder to secure victory for the children? Miss Kidd bowls and Samantha hits it high in the air to Mr Cane. Surely he’s going to catch it. It’s still in the air as Samantha reaches first base. Mr Cane is under the ball....he’s poised....he....DROPS IT!

Samantha’s now on second base, as Mr Cane picks up the ball and throws it to Mrs Barker on fourth base. But....oh no....he’s thrown it too hard again and once more it sails over her head and into the bushes!

Samantha’s on third base as Mrs Barker, to the frantic yells of her team mates, dives into the prickly hawthorn! She emerges with the ball, but it’s too late! Samantha has got to fourth base, earning her team their eighth rounder and, with it, victory for the children!

(The music finishes)

As Samantha is held aloft on her teammates’ shoulders, the teachers are surrounding Mr Cane, furious at him for costing them the match! What a thrilling finale, and as the players leave the pitch, Mr Cane is left alone to contemplate the series of mistakes that led to his team’s defeat!

Splat The Rat

Verse 1

Look at the sky, it's blue and bright.
We chose today, our choice was right.
Everybody busy as bees,
Organising activities.
Will we be ready on time? It's gonna be tight!
We're here as one to have some fun,
An afternoon spent in the sun.
So come on down and don't be late.
Join us here at our annual summer fête!

Chorus

*You can splat the rat or hook a duck,
On the tombola try your luck,
Call in at the coconut shy
If you're passing by.
Count the sweeties in a jar,
Wang a welly really far,
Have a go and then maybe do it all again!*

Verse 2

Well, if you want a little bite,
The barbeque is now alight,
Over by the beer tent –
I think that's where my father went,
And if he's given the chance, he'll be there all night!
A lively, loud and happy crowd,
The PTA has done us proud!
So come on down and celebrate,
Welcome all to our annual summer fête!

Chorus

You can splat the rat or hook a duck.....

Shout out

HEY! HOW ABOUT A BIT OF MORRIS DANCING!

Instrumental

The Morris Dancers perform a routine! Of course you can have alternative dancing (maypole or line dancing etc) which can be introduced with a shout out. If you don't have dancers, simply have some fete-goers mime taking part in some of the activities.

Chorus

You can splat the rat or hook a duck.....

Repeat

Have a go and then maybe do it all again!



This Special Place

Verse 1

How fast the years seem to fly,
They pass in the blink of an eye.
And yet we've filled the time with
So much joy and laughter
And made some good friends on the way,
On the way.

Chorus

*When I'm old and grey and looking
Back upon my days,
In my mind my book of life
Lies open at this page.
And as I'm reading every line,
A smile upon my face,
I will recall the best of times
I've known in this special place.*

Verse 2

You taught all I needed to know,
You gave all I needed to grow.
And as I fly away
To start a new adventure,
You are the one who gave me wings,
Gave me wings.

Chorus

When I'm old and grey.....

Repeat chorus *When I'm old and grey.....*



Celebrate

Verse 1

Everybody, it's time to have a party!
Hit the floor and we'll dance until we drop!
Time to move on and really get your groove on!
Feels like the music ain't never gonna stop.
So come on, let your hair down
And throw your hands up in the air!

Chorus

*Celebrate this special year together!
Look at everything we've done!
The memories we have will last for ever,
Celebrate this journey we've been on!*

Verse 2

Shout about it, how could we ever doubt it?
Everybody's a winner through and through!
We're all achievers, yes you better believe us,
We got the job done but there's one thing left to do.
So come on, let your hair down
And throw your hands up in the air!

Chorus

Celebrate this special year together.....

Instrumental

*Everyone takes a turn to dance, including the inspectors who cut loose for a few bars as everyone stands round them clapping!
Mr Measley's dance includes some bottle-flipping!*

So come on, let your hair down
And throw your hands up in the air!

Chorus

Celebrate this special year together.....

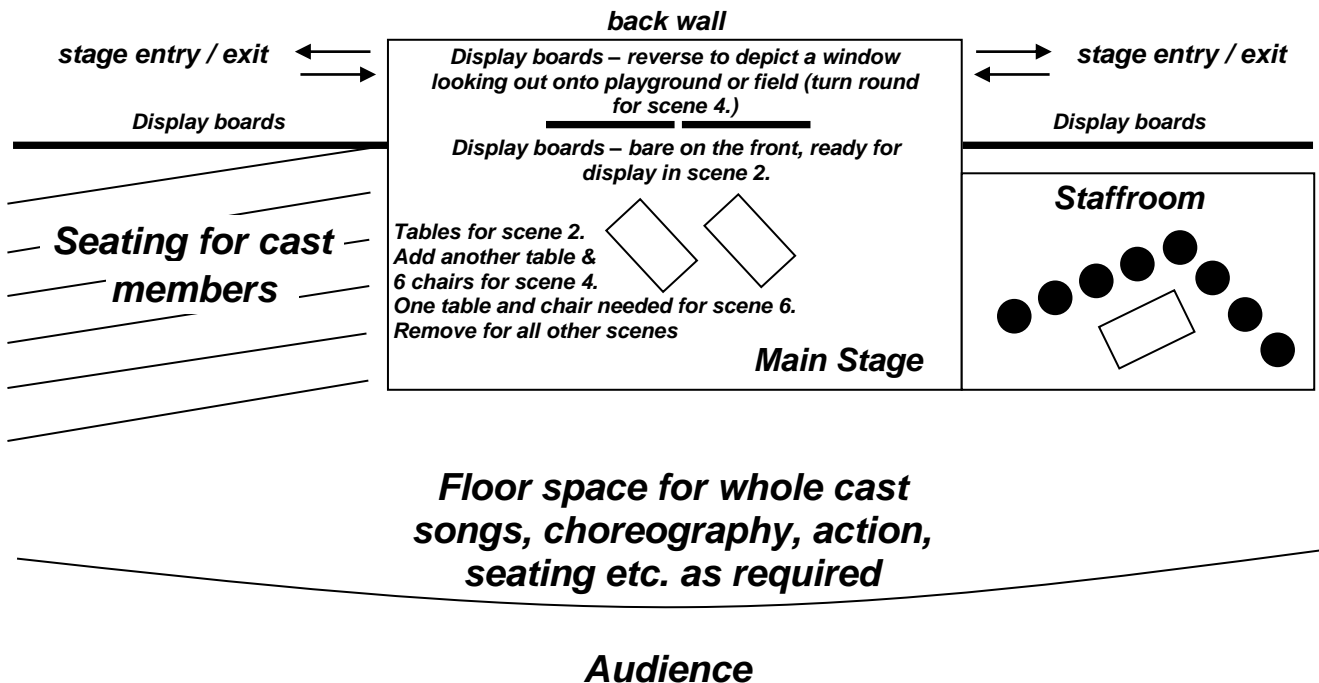
Repeat chorus

Celebrate this special year together.....



STAGING AND PRODUCTION SUGGESTIONS

‘An Inspector Calls’ 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.



- **Scenery** – If the production is being performed as an end-of-year or leavers’ show, the back wall behind the main stage could display a large banner reading ‘Congratulations Class of 2017’, or whichever year you are performing, if later. Below this could be a selection of large paintings depicting school activities, large photos (or perhaps profile silhouettes) of the children leaving, or alternatively a single, colourful mural of fireworks etc. which gives a celebratory/party feel. Or.....



Why not use our NEW DIGITAL BACKDROPS!

Professional hi-resolution images for each scene which can be displayed/projected onto your hall whiteboard or onto the wall behind the stage. See our website for details.

Two display boards should stand together centrally on the main stage. For scene 2 they should be bare, apart from backing paper. Leave them in place for scene 3, now displaying the material attached in scene 2. For scene 4, turn them round and on the reverse they should depict a classroom window looking out onto a playground or field. These boards should be pushed to the side of the stage for all remaining scenes. If possible, a smaller stage to the side should represent a staffroom, with a window, posters and an information board depicted on the wall/boards behind it.

- **Furniture** – Two classroom tables are needed for scene 2 (in place from scene 1). Three classroom tables, six chairs and a mobile whiteboard are needed for scene 4. One table and chair are needed for scene 6. Eight comfy staffroom chairs and a coffee table are permanently in place on the staffroom stage.

- **Props (listed by scene)**

Scene 1: An A4 brown envelope containing a letter.

Scene 2: Tatty, scruffy, smudged display pieces of artwork and writing about the Ancient Greeks. These should be mounted, a few with ripped corners. Title letters spelling ‘THE ANCIENT GEEKS’ (missing ‘R’).

All material to be put on boards can be attached with Velcro tabs for ease and quickness. A staple gun (minus the staples) can be used to give the impression of stapling the pieces to the boards.

Scene 3: Three clipboards with paper and three pens – for use in all scenes with the inspectors.

Scene 4: A whiteboard pen.

Scene 5: Three Tupperware lunch boxes. One plastic drinks bottle, ideal for ‘bottle-flipping’. A selection of rounders bats. A small notebook with pages to tear out and give as betting slips. A pencil. A ‘wad’ of monopoly money. A hand-held microphone.

Scene 6: Signs, A-boards, and/or sandwich boards showing the names and pictures associated with stalls seen at typical school fetes, to be carried or worn by the PTA members. A welly. A clear plastic jar big enough to get a hand into. A first aid kit. A sign with the St John Ambulance logo. Three large sticks of candyfloss. A Barbie doll. Morris-dancing paraphernalia if choosing to do a Morris dance.

Scene 7: A large envelope filled with letters.

Scene 8: Plastic cups and party hats for a large number.

- **Costume** – For individual character suggestions, **see page 28.**
- **Use of Space** – Large groups can 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 on 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.
- **Audience seating** – The audience could be in one block facing the stage, or in two blocks separated by an aisle wide enough for the entrance and exit of some characters to and from the back.

Of course, should you have any questions, or if you want further advice about putting on this musical, please email us and we’ll be happy to give you all the information you need.

Speaking Character	spoken lines	Costume Suggestions
Miss Cropper	5	Smart/casual teacher’s attire then tracksuit
Mr Savage	6	Smart/casual teacher’s attire then tracksuit
Mrs Barker	18	Smart/casual teacher’s attire then tracksuit
Mr Cane	6	Smart/casual teacher’s attire then tracksuit
Mrs Childs	6	Smart/casual teacher’s attire then tracksuit
Miss Kidd	5	Smart/casual teacher’s attire then tracksuit
Mrs Stamp	4	Smart/casual teacher’s attire - no tracksuit
Mrs Wright	11	Smart suit then tracksuit
Child 1	3	School uniform
Child 2	2	School uniform
Child 3	4	School uniform
Child 4	2	School uniform
Child 5	2	School uniform
Child 6	2	School uniform
Mr Sourbottom	14	Pinstripe suit
Miss Schneider	7	Sharp suit
Mr Measley	7	Slightly shabby suit
Child 7	1	School uniform
Child 8	1	School uniform
Child 9	1	School uniform
Child 10	1	School uniform
Child 11	4	School uniform
Child 12	1	School uniform
Rounders-player 1	1	PE kit
Rounders-player 2	1	PE kit
Rounders-player 3	1	PE kit
Rounders-player 4	1	PE kit
Bookie	3	School uniform plus baseball cap
Commentator	2½ min. commentary	School uniform
Child 13	1	School uniform
Child 14	1	School uniform
Child 15	1	School uniform
PTA chairperson	4	Summer dress
St John’s rep.	6	Paramedic outfit
Parent 1	1	Adult summer clothes
Parent 2	1	Adult summer clothes
Parent 3	1	Adult summer clothes
Parent 4	1	Adult summer clothes
Parent 5	1	Adult summer clothes
Letter-writer 1	1	School uniform
Letter-writer 2	1	School uniform
Letter-writer 3	1	School uniform
Letter-writer 4	1	School uniform

NOTES