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PLEASE READ THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION BEFORE PLANNING YOUR PERFORMANCE

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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, CLA 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**

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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.

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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 ‘**Let Loose**’ 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 – please check website for current address details
- 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 ☐ **£36.00** (including VAT)
(no admission charged and no tickets sold)

or

Performance Licence with charges ☐ **£42.00** (including VAT)
(admission **is** charged and/or tickets **are** sold)

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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 ☐ **£36.00** (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)

Prices subject to change after 31/08/2024

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

INTRODUCTION

Join a group of eager (and some not-so-eager) school children on their week’s residential visit to the aptly-named ‘Slippery Slopes Activity Centre’. This hilarious musical sees them experience a catalogue of mishaps on their way to learning one very important lesson....good friends are worth their weight in sweets!

Plot Summary

As the annual school residential visit approaches, Headteacher Mrs Grimm and teachers Mr Dainty and Miss Manly are holding a presentation evening to parents (your audience), to share details of the trip’s itinerary and basically give assurance that their children will be in safe hands! As each aspect of the forthcoming trip is explained, we witness flashbacks to the previous year’s ‘eventful’ visit, which didn’t exactly go according to plan!

After sharing in the children’s initial excitement about the prospect of being away from home (**song – *Let Loose!***) we see the impact that the pending separation has on their doting parents. As three sets of mums and dads fret about the sleeping arrangements and the potential non-brushing of teeth, one couple cracks open the champagne to toast the fact they’ll have the house to themselves for five blissful days! (**song – *Peace And Quiet***). Next we meet five bus drivers who, over a cuppa in the café, nervously await the first glimpse of next week’s rota, to see which of them has been given the job of taking the school trip. Even sympathy from the friendly waitresses doesn’t calm them, as they explain just what it’s like being on a bus with children! (**song – *Bus Driver Blues***).

Excitedly awaiting the arrival of their young guests are the staff of the Slippery Slopes Activity Centre, who discuss last-minute preparations which they hope will help avoid the need to give any more refunds this year! Having assured the manager that a list of challenging activities has been planned, that most of the toilets now flush, that there is warm-ish water in some of the bathrooms and that the air-ambulance is on standby, they throw open the doors! (**song – *Roll Up, Roll Up***).

However, poor plumbing, five-mile hikes and hole-digging (then hole-filling) challenges aren’t exactly what the children and their teachers had hoped for, and they become disillusioned with their residential experience. They argue amongst themselves and find it impossible to work as a team, culminating in a disastrous attempt to build and sail a raft! (**song – *Let’s Build A Raft***). The whole thing is made worse by the fact they are ridiculed by the other residents of Slippery Slopes, the smug and highly competitive pupils and teacher from the Toffington College of Excellence and High Achievement. (**song – *Toffington College***). Can the children pull together to gain something positive from their five days away, or will it all have been just a waste of time?

A secret midnight feast is planned for their last night at Slippery Slopes (**song – *Midnight Feast***). However, with adults on the prowl, a shortage of suitable confectionary and the Toffington lot threatening to ‘dob them in’, the children must be resourceful, dig deep and find a bit of team-spirit which will ensure they finish their trip on a high. In a nail-biting climax they pull out all the stops and come to realise that anything can be achieved with the trust and support of good friends....and the ability to shin down a drainpipe! (**song – *Forever Your Friend***).

CHARACTERS

Note – if you have a smaller cast, because most characters only appear in one scene, multiple parts can be played by a single child. Alternatively, for extra-large cast numbers, many speaking parts have enough lines to be divided between any extra characters you want to create.

(44 Speaking parts in order of appearance)

Mrs Grimm – headteacher

Mr Dainty – teacher

Miss Manly – teacher

*hosting the presentation evening for the
parents of children going on the residential
visit to Slippery Slopes Activity Centre.
* names can be changed to real adults in your school*

4 Mums & 4 Dads – how will they cope with an empty, quiet, clean house?

5 Bus Drivers – eager to check out the week’s rota over a cuppa.

2 Waitresses – offering them sweet tea and sympathy.

Manager

4 Activity Instructors

3 Cooks

Odd-Job Man/Woman

the inept staff of the Slippery Slopes Activity Centre.

Mr Sharp

Miss Blunt

8 Children

*checking-in to Slippery Slopes without the faintest
idea what they’re letting themselves in for!*

6 Toffington College Pupils – they consider themselves the cream of the crop.

Mr/Miss Finster – their fuhrer...ahem, sorry, their teacher!

(Ensemble Characters, if you have the numbers, for featured songs and choreography)

Bus Drivers

Waitresses / Waiters

Activity Centre Staff

Children

Toffington College Pupils and Staff

Scene 1

*(As the **intro music** plays (CD track 9) the cast enters and seats are taken to the side of and/or in front of the main stage. Fade the music when all are in position. Headteacher Mrs Grimm and teachers Mr Dainty and Miss Manly stand centre stage to address the audience – NB names (and gender) can be changed, perhaps to those of real adults in your school. They hold clipboards on which their lines are written for them to refer to.)*

Mrs Grimm Good evening to all of you. I am Mrs Grimm, headteacher here at *(insert your school name or a fictional school)*. Along with Mr Dainty and Miss Manly here, your children’s teachers, I would like to welcome you to this evening’s presentation to parents about our forthcoming five-day residential visit to the Slippery Slopes Activity Centre.

Mr Dainty Now, last year’s very successful trip to Slippery Slopes was led by our colleagues Mr Sharp and Miss Blunt. They would have been in charge again this year and would have been giving this evening’s presentation, but unfortunately both went on long-term sick leave shortly after returning from the visit.

Miss Manly That’s not to say that they and the children didn’t get a lot out of last year’s trip. By all accounts it was full of exciting challenges which tested their ingenuity and helped them discover skills and talents they never knew they possessed!

Mrs Grimm Yes, it certainly lived up to expectations. And what expectations they were! Weeks before they even got on the bus, the children were so excited about the prospect of.....well, I suppose the prospect of being.....let loose!

Song Let Loose *(CD track 1 & 10, lyrics p20)* *(Whole cast, led by the ‘trip’ children)*

*(The **intro music** then plays (CD track 11) and everyone resumes their seats. Fade the music when ready. Mrs Grimm, Mr Dainty and Miss Manly stand centre stage again.)*

Mrs Grimm Now, as parents some of you will, of course, be a little anxious about your child being away for the best part of a week. That’s understandable – this may well be the first time they’ll be spending more than a few hours out of your care.

Mr Dainty But you can be certain that their safety and well-being is always our priority. *(waving a certificate)* We have received training and have been awarded a certificate in residential leadership, so your children will be in very capable and caring hands.

Miss Manly But if you still have concerns, why not talk to the parents of the children who went last year? They’ll be able to put your minds at rest. As I recall, those mums and dads all seemed very relaxed and happy about the prospect of their loved-ones going on the trip.....

(The three teachers exit and a Mum and Dad enter. Mum is holding a letter from school.)

Mum 1 *(fretting)* Oh, I’m not sure about this. Five days away from us in an environment which is, *(reading)* ‘challenging to mind, body and spirit.’ She’s a ten year-old schoolgirl, not an SAS soldier!

Dad 1 Let me see the letter. *(reading)* I don’t think there’s much to worry about. It says here that the place they’re visiting is ‘very stimulating yet child-friendly.’ I’m sure she’ll be fine.

Mum 1 It’s called ‘Slippery Slopes Activity Centre’ for goodness’ sake! Slippery Slopes! The name hardly inspires confidence!

Dad 1 Look, why not give Kate a ring? I was speaking to her and Bill yesterday and they seem happy to let their Harry go on this trip. Call her now and see what she says.

Mum 1 OK then. *(taking out a mobile phone and dialling)*....Hi Kate, it’s Jenny.....

(Mum 1 and Dad 1 exit. Mum 2 enters, talking on her mobile phone.)

Mum 2 *(fretting)* Oh Jenny, I’m glad you called.....well yes, we were happy about it at first, but then I googled ‘Slippery Slopes Activity Centre’. Do you know, they serve chips with every meal and the orange juice they give the kids at breakfast isn’t freshly squeezed.....I know.....
(Dad 2 enters waving the letter).... Listen, I’ll call you later. It looks like Bill’s found something else. Bye.

Dad 2 I’m just re-reading the letter from school. It says here that the children will be in dormitories of four, sleeping in bunk beds! Bunk beds?! Harry can only sleep when he has his own space and he’s surrounded by all his cuddly toys.

Mum 2 And I bet they don’t have a Winnie The Pooh night light. What will he do without a Winnie The Pooh night light? Do you think he’ll be allowed to take his own?

Dad 2 Look, why don’t you give Annie a ring? She and Mike are bound to be on top of this. I bet they’ve already seen Mr Sharp and insisted that their Jessica is allowed to take her own Upsy Daisy pillow case and duvet cover. Go on, call her now.

Mum 2 Yes Bill, you’re right. *(taking out a mobile phone and dialling)*.....Oh, Hi Mike, it’s Kate. Is Annie there.....?

(Mum 2 and Dad 2 exit. Dad 3 enters, talking on a phone.)

Dad 3 Hello Kate. I’m afraid Annie has locked herself in the bathroom, sobbing, and she refuses to come out until I tell our Jessica she can’t go on this trip. To tell you the truth, I’m not sure she should go either. We saw Mr Sharp today and he said the children couldn’t take their own bedding! Imagine that! *(shouting to his wife)* ANNIE!
IT’S KATE ON THE PHONE!

- Mum 3** *(from off-stage)* TELL HER I’LL CALL BACK WHEN I’VE CALMED DOWN!
- Dad 3** Kate, Annie will call you back in a while when she’s calmed down..... OK.....bye now. *(Mum 3 enters, blowing her nose and dabbing her eyes with a tissue.)* Ah, there you are. Feeling any better, Darling?
- Mum 3** A little bit. I’m sorry Mike, it’s just that I can’t bear the thought of our baby stuck in that awful place, desperate to be with us, but feeling abandoned by the people that love her most. Oh! *(she sobs)*
- Dad 3** Now now, come on Darling. We just need to be strong. Those five days will simply fly by and she’ll be back in no time. And hey, if *we* feel bad, imagine what Pete and Yvonne are going through. *Both* of their children are going on this trip.
- Mum 3** Oh, I didn’t think! Poor Pete and Yvonne! I should really call them. *(taking out a mobile phone and dialling)* Hello Yvonne, it’s Annie.....
- (Mum 3 and Dad 3 exit. Dad 4 enters and stands facing the audience, holding a letter and smiling contentedly. Mum 4 follows, carrying a bottle of champagne and two glasses, her mobile phone tucked between ear and shoulder.)*
- Mum 4** Oh, hi Annie.....yes.....right.....actually Annie, Pete and I are in the middle of something right now. Can I call you back?.....OK, bye. *(handing a glass to Dad 4)* Time for a celebration I think! *(pouring champagne into his glass, then her own)* Here you go!
- Dad 4** Yes indeed! *(waving the letter)* It’s official! Both of them will be out of our hair and out of this house for five blissful, wonderful days! I tell you what, this trip can’t come soon enough.
- Mum 4** Just think, no mess to tidy up, no noise and no tantrums. We’ll get to sit in peace and quiet, in *our* lounge, watching telly programmes *we* want to watch! Heaven!
- Dad 4** And best of all, it says here *(reading)* ‘Under no circumstances will mobile phones be allowed’, which means we don’t even have to talk to them! Now that’s a result!
- Mum 4** I’ll drink to that!
- Both** *(clinking glasses and relaxing)* CHEERS!

(The intro music then plays (CD track 12) and everyone gets into position for the next song. Fade the music when ready.)

Song Peace And Quiet *(CD track 2 & 13, lyrics p21)*

(Whole cast, led by the parents)

(As the intro music plays (CD track 14) everyone resumes their seats and the main stage is set up for the next scene. Fade the music when ready.)

Scene 2

(Mrs Grimm, Mr Dainty and Miss Manly stand centre stage again.)

Mrs Grimm Now, let's see...(consulting her notes)...what's the next thing to tell you about? Ah yes, travel arrangements. The bus company we will be using is the same as last year. Prangit Coaches are a local company with over two and a half years' experience taking school trips. They pride themselves on the fact that their buses are the only ones in the county which still have fully-functioning ash trays on the back of every seat!

Miss Manly Now, some of you may have heard that drivers don't tend to stay long at Prangit Coaches, but the company strenuously denies the rumours that this is due to driver incompetence. They state that they train their drivers to such a high standard that many are 'head-hunted' by large companies such as National Express, hence their frequent turn-around of employees.

Mr Dainty Another good thing about Prangit Coaches is that they pay very low wages, which means the saving can be passed onto us, or rather you. But money aside, the main reason we use this company is because the drivers are all so jolly.....

(The three exit. On the main stage is a café table, with a tablecloth, salt and pepper pots and, if possible, one of those ketchup bottle shaped like a large tomato. Four grumpy bus drivers are seated. Two waitresses bring drinks— see staging suggestions/costumes.

NB - names can be changed for a male/female mix of drivers and waitresses/waiters.)

Waitress 1 White with two sugars for you Clive. White with three for you Alan.

Waitress 2 A hot chocolate for you Derek and a can of Coke for you Ron. All that should make the four of you feel sweeter than you look. What's the matter? You've got faces like wet weekends!

Driver 1 Sorry, Cath. I guess we're all just a bit uptight at the minute.

Waitress 2 Whatever for? It can't be work, surely? You all love driving buses.

Driver 2 Well, we haven't seen the rota for next week's jobs yet. We heard there's one job coming up that's a right stinker and each of us is nervous about being given it.

Waitress 1 A 'right stinker'?

Driver 3 Look, in our line of work there are the jobs that we all hope to get, like taking the pensioners to the seaside for the day. The noise level never gets above a polite chit-chat on the way, and coming back most of them are asleep. They're the kind of jobs you want.

Driver 4 Yeah, or taking the historical society to the museum. They rarely open their tupperware on the bus, but if they do they always seal their litter back inside and take it home with them.

- Driver 1** But now and again you’ll be the one chosen to drive a load of United supporters to an away game. For starters, the language is bad enough to make a squaddie blush! Then there’s the yelling and banging on the windows every time we pass another coach.
- Driver 2** Sometimes we need a police escort ’cause rival fans attack the bus! Oh, and the litter when we get back! I can’t begin to tell you some of the things we find under the seats!
- Waitress 1** Hmmm, that does sound bad. And that’s what’s in store for one of you guys next week is it?
- Driver 2** If only, Maggie. No, the job in question is a hundred times worse.....
(Driver 5 excitedly enters, waving a sheet of paper.)
- Driver 5** I’ve got it! Next week’s rota! Here it is!
- Drivers 1, 2, 3, 4** Well read it out then!
- Driver 5** OK, here goes. Are you ready?...*(reading)*...oh thank goodness! I’ve got the daily city-centre run via the villages, plus two evening theatre trips. Clive, you’ve got a four day business convention in Birmingham and a thirty-strong hen party into town on Friday.
- Driver 1** *(punching the air)* YES!
- Driver 5** Alan...a seven day Club 18-30 package tour to Benidorm.
- Driver 2** Phew!
- Driver 5** Derek....you’ve got three days with the pensioners in the Cotswolds, Thursday and Friday off, then United’s cup tie away on Saturday.
(Driver 3 is visibly relieved) Which means Ron.....
- Driver 4** *(hands to cheeks)* NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!
- Waitress 2** What? What is it? What’s he got?
- Driver 5** Dear ol’ Ron here has only gone and landed the job of driving the kids from *(insert school name)* on their five day residential trip!
- Waitress 1** A school trip? What’s so bad about a school trip?
- Driver 5** Well Maggie my dear, how can we put it.....?

Song Bus Driver Blues *(CD track 3 & 15, lyrics p22)*

(Whole cast, led by the bus drivers.)

*(As the **intro music** plays (CD track 16) everyone resumes their seats and the main stage is set up for the next scene. Fade the music when ready.)*

Scene 3

(The three teachers stand centre stage again. Each has a Slippery Slopes pamphlet.)

Mrs Grimm I think we should spend a few minutes telling you about the Slippery Slopes Activity Centre itself. I know last year the name ‘Slippery Slopes’ raised a few eyebrows amongst parents, as they thought it suggested a rather relaxed attitude to health and safety.

Miss Manly Far from it. The name ‘Slippery Slopes’ was chosen because, according to the brochure, *(reading)* ‘the morning frost on the hillside sparkles like a blanket of diamonds which, although quite difficult to walk on, is beautiful to look at, especially close up when you’ve fallen flat on your face during the 6am five-mile hike.’

Mr Dainty Furthermore, Slippery Slopes describes itself as *(reading)* ‘a peaceful haven for children, an escape from the trappings of modern life and a place where traditional values and lifestyles can be experienced.’

Mrs Grimm And by all accounts the team at Slippery Slopes are a super bunch. They certainly made last year’s children very welcome indeed.....

(The three exit. On the main stage is a ramshackle sign which, because some letters are missing or hanging off, reads, ‘SLIPP Y SLOP S A TI TY CE TRE’ or any amusing arrangement you can think of that’s not too rude! A computer sits on an untidy office table, surrounded by some chairs and a tatty sofa – see staging suggestions/furniture. A scruffy suited office manager paces the floor while four bedraggled instructors, three dirty cooks and a bandaged odd-job man lounge around – see staging suggestions/costumes.)

Manager They’ll be here in half an hour! Are we ready, team? This season *must* go without a hitch. If we have to give another refund we’ll be well and truly sunk!

Instructor 1 Ha! A bit like that boatload of kids we took out onto the lake last year. Mind you, because the baths and showers weren’t working, that sinking was their only opportunity for a proper wash!

Manager Which reminds me Stan, did you check the plumbing?

Odd-Job Man Don’t you worry boss. Nearly all the leaks have been sorted, we’re up to fifty percent of toilets now flushing and almost every bathroom has at least one bath or shower with warm-ish water.

Manager Great work Stan. Now, mealtimes; have we plenty of fresh supplies in? We absolutely cannot run out of food.....again!

Cook 1 We’ve got loads stocked up boss. The freezers are bulging! They’re so full we can’t shut the doors.

Cook 2 Which might explain the puddles on the floor and the smell in the kitchen! That food should really be kept cold. The last thing we need is *another* case of food poisoning.

- Cook 3** Well how about we store some of the food in the dormitories? The temperature in there at night regularly gets close to zero.
- Manager** Good idea! Right Stan, make sure you take the glass out of a few of those dormitory windows, just so it doesn’t get too warm.
- Odd-Job Man** Consider it done.
- Manager** Excellent! This is real progress. Now, what about the activities the children will be doing?
- Instructor 2** Got it covered boss. The usual 6am five-mile hike over the hillsides will be a daily event.
- Manager** OK. Just one thing though, the air ambulance *has* been given advance warning this time hasn’t it? I think their crew felt a little overstretched last year with our continual phone calls.
- Instructor 2** Don’t worry boss, all the emergency services have been notified and will be on high alert over the next five days.
- Instructor 3** As for the team-building activities we’ve laid on, the first will be... hole-digging! The children work in teams of eight to dig holes, and at the end of four hours the team with the deepest hole wins!
- Odd-Job Man** But won’t that mean we’ll have lots of holes all over the place?
- Instructor 3** Which brings us to our next team-building activity....hole-*filling*! Basically, the children work in teams of eight to.....
- Manager** Yes, I think I get the picture. That all sounds fine, but isn’t there anything that might be considered more ‘value-for-money’?
- Instructor 4** Well, there is the raft-building challenge. Using materials available to them the children construct a working raft that can get their team across the lake in one piece. Well, that’s the plan.
- Manager** Excellent! You know, for the first time in years I feel confident about a school party coming to visit. I tell you, with the negative publicity we’ve received in the past, to the general public Slippery Slopes must have seemed like....well, like a complete circus!

Song Roll Up, Roll Up *(CD track 4 & 17, lyrics p23)* *(Whole cast, led by the Slippery Slopes staff.)*

(As the song finishes the staff sit down again and lounge around, as Mr Sharp and Miss Blunt lead the children on. Their number should ideally no fewer than eight, four boys and four girls. They all carry rucksacks. The manager rushes forward to meet them.)

- Manager** Ah! You must be the party from *(insert school name)*. Welcome to the Slippery Slopes Activity Centre!

Mr Sharp Thank you. I’m Mr Sharp and this is Miss Blunt. I must say, you’re a bit off the beaten track here. It took us ages to find you.

Miss Blunt It’s put our bus driver in a really bad mood. Mind you, he was hardly full of the joys of spring when we set off!

Manager Well you’re here now. Right, first things first, let’s get these children to their dormitories. When they’ve unpacked and freshened up, we have a lovely meal prepared for them. *(to the other staff who are still lounging around)* Well come on you lot....!

(The instructors, cooks and odd-job man spring into life and escort the excited children off-stage. The manager follows them. Mr Sharp and Miss Blunt are left alone. They gaze at their surroundings.)

Mr Sharp So, what do you reckon?

Miss Blunt I don’t know, but I’ve a feeling I’m going to need a long holiday when all this is over!

*(As the **intro music** plays (CD track 18) they exit and the stage is cleared for the next scene. Fade the music when ready.)*

Scene 4

(Mrs Grimm, Mr Dainty and Miss Manly stand centre stage again.)

Mrs Grimm Now, one of the things we feel is important about residential trips is the fact that our children get to mix with others from different places and different backgrounds.

Miss Manly There’s a chance that groups from other schools will be staying at Slippery Slopes, so we will encourage our children to offer the hand of friendship.

Mr Dainty I know last year there was another school party with whom our children formed very close bonds. They certainly found that they had plenty in common.....

*(The three exit. Instructors 1 and 2 enter, each with a compass and map and wearing a rucksack. Our eight children follow on, limping and gasping. They collapse exhausted on one side of the stage. **NB – Children 1, 2, 3 and 4 are boys, 5, 6, 7 and 8 are girls, for reasons made clear in scene 6.**)*

Instructor 1 Dear oh dear! That was only five kilometres! How are you lot going to manage when we step it up to ten?

Child 1 But we’re not used to such early mornings! Can we go back to bed?

Child 2 Or at least have some proper breakfast! A small bowl of cold, salty porridge is hardly going to keep us going till lunchtime!

Child 3 I’ve decided I don’t like it here. I want to go home! Now!

Instructor 2 Oh, don’t say that. It’ll be OK, I promise. You just need to dig deep and find some inner-strength....a bit like that lot over there.

(In perfect formation, the pupils from Toffington College march on and stand to attention on the other side of the stage, while their military-type teacher, Miss Finster, inspects their ranks – see staging suggestions/costumes. Two pupils carry a banner showing their coat of arms or insignia, which is perhaps something sinister like a hammer! Also shown is their Latin motto: Victoria Omni Pretio.)

Child 4 Wow! Check *them* out! Are they soldiers or something?

Instructor 1 Not exactly. They’re from the ‘Toffington College of Excellence and High Achievement’, the other school that are staying here! And that’s their teacher, Miss Finster.

Child 5 The Toffington College of Excellence and High Achievement? That certainly sounds like a fun place to go to school....not!

Miss Finster *(over-hearing the last comment and coming over)* Whether it is fun or not is of no concern to you. In fact it is of no concern to *our* pupils either. They attend Toffington College to learn discipline and how to achieve highly in everything....*(arrogantly)*....that’s obviously not the case at your school.

(Instructors 3 and 4 enter, limping and gasping. They steady themselves with a hand on the Toffington pupils’ shoulders, who look at them with disdain.)

Instructor 3 These lot....*(gasp)*....are like robots! We couldn’t....*(gasp)*....keep up!

Pupil 1 We are not robots. We are just disciplined and fit.

Pupil 2 We have the highest standards which we never fail to live up to.

Pupil 3 We believe it’s not the taking part that counts, but the winning.

Pupil 4 To us, coming second is failure, so we always come first.

Child 6 *(calling over)* What are those funny words on your flag?

Pupil 5 That is our Latin motto. Don’t you recognise Latin?

Pupil 6 Victoria Omni Pretio. It means ‘win at any price’.

Instructor 4 Well....*(gasp)*....if that hike is anything to go by....*(gasp)*....there’s no doubt you lot....*(gasp)*.... mean business!

Song Toffington College *(CD track 5 & 19, lyrics p24)*

(Whole cast, led by the Toffington lot)

(As the song finishes the Toffington pupils march off behind Miss Finster. Instructors 3 and 4 stagger after them.)

Child 7 So, we’re competing against that lot in every challenge are we?

Child 8 They’ll wipe the floor with us. Hey, maybe we should have a school motto; how do you say ‘can’t cope particularly well away from home’ in Latin?

Instructor 2 Oh you’ll be fine. Anyway, come on, it’s nearly time for lunch.

Child 7 Or ‘horribilis sloppius maximus’ as it should be known.....

*(As the **intro music** plays (CD track 20) they exit and the stage is set up for the next scene.
Fade the music when ready.)*

Scene 5

(Mrs Grimm, Mr Dainty and Miss Manly stand centre stage again.)

Mrs Grimm As you know, one reason for sending your children on a residential visit is so they can learn to work successfully in a team.

Mr Dainty And the challenges the children will face at Slippery Slopes mean that they should all return as confident, skilful team-players.

Miss Manly Last year’s group had a bit of a shaky start with regard to some of the activities, but they did get a lot out of the challenges and thoroughly enjoyed them.....

(The three exit. Mr Sharp and Miss Blunt enter looking worried.)

Mr Sharp Our lot haven’t been doing too well, have they? The litter-picking task was a disaster! All they seemed to get out of the wood-cutting challenge was a load of splinters! And who’d have thought that digging holes could be so difficult? Mind you, that Toffington lot certainly know how to handle a spade!

Miss Blunt I can’t believe how many of our children managed to get themselves buried during the hole-filling challenge? I tell you, it’ll be a miracle if we go home with the same number we brought!

Mr Sharp You do know they’re building rafts this afternoon, don’t you? That means they’ll be out there....on open water!

Miss Blunt What?! Oh, I don’t think I can take much more. What with the lack of decent food, a freezing bedroom and that rat I saw in the shower this morning, my nerves are in tatters!

(They exit one side of the stage as the children, now wearing life jackets and helmets – see staging suggestions/costumes – and instructors 1 & 2 enter on the other side.)

Instructor 1 Don’t be down-hearted. So the Toffington lot can dig and fill holes quicker than you – big deal. You’ll beat them on this next challenge.

Child 1 Which is?

Instructor 2 Raft-building! It requires you to plan, to be resourceful, to communicate....basically to work as a team. Are you up to the job?!

All Children (enthusiastically) YEAH!

Song Let's Build A Raft (CD track 6 & 21, lyrics p25)

(Whole cast, led by the children and instructors)

(As the last line of the song tells us, the children have lost interest and slouch around with their hands in their pockets. The two instructors try to encourage them.)

Instructor 1 What do you mean ‘you might give it a miss’? You can do this! You just need to get organised. Share the jobs out like we discussed. Play to your strengths. First off, the energetic ones need to collect the wood, barrels, rope and oars from over there (pointing off stage).

Instructor 2 Whoever’s good at art and design, you draw a plan. A couple of you with nimble fingers can tie the knots in the rope. The strong ones lift the raft to the water. The ones that are good at maths can work out where everyone should sit so you don’t sink. And someone needs to be in charge. Come on!

All Children (unenthusiastically) Tut! Alright then.

(As the instructors stand back the children form a huddle and begin discussing the task. They quickly begin to argue and we hear words like ‘Why are you in charge?’, ‘I’m not carrying all that on my own!’, ‘That’s not fair’, ‘I’ve hurt my leg, you do it’ etc etc etc. Shortly after the arguing begins, the **task music** plays (CD track 22) and the children sulkily attempt to collect the resources and build a raft, whilst still arguing.)

NOTE – the building of the raft can be acted out in various ways. One way would be to have a selection of real oars, barrels, ropes and lengths of wood which some of the children grumpily drag/carry into place at the front of the stage and half-heartedly lash together and sit on. The other children keep hands in pockets and can’t be bothered to join in. In place of real barrels and wood you could use cardboard cut-outs to represent these items. Alternatively, in the absence of any ‘physical’ resources, the children could simply mime the raft construction.

(As the task music finishes the children are seated/positioned at various points round the raft, holding oars and looking nervous. Instructors 3 and 4 and the Toffington lot enter at the side and watch with smug grins.)

Child 2 Oh no! What are they doing here? Come for a gloat no doubt.

Child 3 Just ignore them. Come on, let’s see if this thing floats.

(The **sinking music** plays (CD track 23) and the raft goes down!!)

NOTE – the sinking of the raft can be shown as follows. Across the front of the stage, just in front of the raft, have a length of blue material laid out (or lots of different pieces sewn together) to represent the water. Have a child holding either end and as the sinking music plays they slowly lift the material up in front of the raft and children, until all are obscured. As the bubbles are heard, the children ‘bob up’ so only their heads are visible over the material. They cough and splutter and wave their arms!

Miss Finster (to her pupils) You see what a lack of discipline leads to. Well, it’s no more than I expected from the likes of those urchins.

(The Toffington lot sneer and exit with instructors 3 and 4. Instructors 1 and 2 pull the miserable children from the water. The material representing the water is lowered.)

Child 4 I’m so glad tonight’s our last night. I can’t wait to go home....

*(As the **intro music** plays (CD track 24) they all exit despondently and the stage is set up for the next scene. Fade the music when ready.)*

Scene 6

(Mrs Grimm, Mr Dainty and Miss Manly stand centre stage again.)

Mrs Grimm Now, one thing we would like to make clear is that bad behaviour on this trip will not be tolerated. The children will be representing our school and we expect them to conduct themselves properly.

Mr Dainty For example, talking after lights-out is frowned upon. We will be patrolling the corridors and will take a pretty dim view of anyone found making a noise when they should be asleep.

Miss Manly And under no circumstances will the children be having any midnight feasts. Yes, there’s a rumour going around that last year the children organised a, quote, ‘wicked knees-up’, but we assure you this is not true. Nothing like that happens on *our* trips.....

(The three exit. Children 5, 6, 7 & 8, the girls, sit in their dressing gowns, chatting. Each has a pillow and blanket/sheet. Miss Blunt knocks and enters.)

Miss Blunt Time for lights-out girls. We need to be up at the crack of dawn to get started on our long journey home.

Child 5 Are you going straight to bed too, Miss Blunt?

Miss Blunt I am indeed....*(exiting)*....although I doubt I’ll get any sleep!

Child 6 *(checking she’s gone)* Good, she’s gone. Right, let’s get started!

Child 7 But we said we’d wait for the boys. They’re bringing the goodies.

Child 8 They should be here any moment. I just hope they keep quiet and...

(Children 1, 2, 3 & 4, the boys, burst in wearing dressing gowns and carrying blankets/sheets.)

Children 1, 2, 3 & 4 PARTY!!!!

Song **Midnight Feast** *(CD track 7 & 25, lyrics p26)*

(Whole cast, led by the children)

Child 1 Cool! So girls, where’s all the food? You’ve got it hidden, yeah?

Child 5 Errr.....no! You lot were supposed to bring the food. Remember?

- Child 6** We all gave you our left-over money and you were going to get loads of goodies from the vending machines. Don't say you forgot?
- Child 2** *(taking a handful of change from his dressing gown pocket)* Errr...we forgot!
- Child 6** So what now? The vending machines are in the entrance hall on the ground floor. We have to go past the teachers' rooms to get to them!
- Child 7** And because there's no carpet in this place and the floorboards creak, they're bound to hear anyone walking past, even on tiptoes!
- Child 3** What do we do? We've got to have a midnight feast on the last night!
- Child 8** Well, the only way to the vending machines is through the front door. And the only way to the front door is out the dormitory window!
- Child 4** But we're two floors up! And anyway, won't the front door be locked?
- Child 5** This is Slippery Slopes. Do you really think they remember to lock the front door at night? Listen you lot, we need to look at this as just another challenge, but one we need to pull together on!
- Child 1** She's right! What did the instructors say? We've got to play to our strengths, work out what needs doing then divide the jobs up! Forget hole-digging and raft-building, this is the important one! Come on, we can still salvage something from this trip!
- Child 5** *(taking charge)* Right, Here's what we do. You two *(to children 1 & 6)* are the lightest so we'll lower you out the window on blankets which you two *(to children 2 & 7)* need to tie together, 'cause you've been in the cubs and brownies and know about knots, right? Go to the vending machine, get the goodies then climb back up!
- Child 3** You and I *(to child 8)* are the strongest so we'll hold the blankets while they climb down and back up!
- Child 4** And we a need look-out. I'll stand by the door and check for adults!
- Child 5** OK, so what are we waiting for? Come on team, let's do this!
- (The children get busy. The blankets/sheets are knotted together – or you could have pre-knotted ones ready – as child 4 mimes peeping round the door. Child 5 tests the knots, then the blankets/sheets are extended off-stage as if through a window. With lots of whispers of encouragement children 1 & 6 hold the blankets/sheets and back out off the stage as children 3 & 8 take the strain. With children 1 & 6 gone, the others 'lean out' to watch their progress, giving more whispers of excited encouragement. Child 4 stays at the door.)*
- Child 2** *(looking down)* Yes, they're through the front door! Go on you beauties!
- Child 3** You see what teamwork can achieve! This is going to be the best.....
- Child 4** Shhhhh! It's the Finster with her Toffington lot! They're coming down the corridor!

*(In dressing gowns, led by Miss Finster, the Toffington pupils assemble on the other side of the door, which child 4 is keeping shut with his shoulders. NB – **the position of the door is of course mimed/imaginary.** Miss Finster knocks. The children freeze!)*

Miss Finster What’s going on in there?! Come on, open up!

Pupil 1 It’s a midnight feast, Miss Finster. We heard them planning it earlier.

Miss Finster Just the sort of reckless behaviour I’d expect from those reprobates. Genevieve *(to pupil 2)*, fetch the manager. Crispin *(to pupil 3)*, go and wake up their teachers. We’ll soon put a stop to this!

Pupils 2 & 3 *(exiting)* Yes Miss Finster. Right away Miss Finster.

Child 4 *(in a loud whisper)* They’ve gone to get Mr Sharp, Miss Blunt and the manager! What do we do now!

Child 5 *(to children 2 & 7)* Quick you two, go and help keep the door shut.
(leaning out the window) Hurry up you two! Time’s running out!

*(As the **panic music** plays (CD track 26) children 2, 4 & 7 press their shoulders to the door as the Toffington lot push from the other side! If possible turn the lights on and off quickly to give a strobe effect and add to the excitement. Children 3, 5 & 8 heave on the blankets/sheets until children 1 & 6 are pulled back through the window with carrier bags full of goodies.*

*The blankets/sheets are then un-knotted and some used to cover all the boys so as to completely hide them. Child 7 is left holding the door. Meanwhile Mr Sharp and Miss Blunt arrive in dressing gowns, followed by the manager and pupils 2 & 3. As the music stops the last boy is hidden, child 7 moves away from the door and, along with the other girls, lies down as if asleep. The Toffington lot, Mr Sharp, Miss Blunt and manager then burst into the room. NB – **practise this to get the timing spot on with the end of the music.**)*

Miss Finster Ah ha! Caught you red-handed! *(seeing no sign of anything amiss)* Oh!

Children 5, 6, 7 & 8 *(rubbing eyes and pretending to yawn)* Yes? What’s the matter?

Manager Well, we were told you were up to no good, but.....

Children 5, 6, 7 & 8 *(innocently)* Up to no good? We’ve been asleep since lights-out.

Pupil 1 But...but...we overheard you planning a midnight feast.

Children 5, 6, 7 & 8 *(innocently)* A midnight feast? Not us.

Manager Good, *(exiting)* so I can get back to checking the mousetraps in the kitchen.

Miss Finster *(angrily to her pupils)* Right! Back to your dormitories this instant! How can make such a silly mistake? Toffington pupils do not make mistakes! You’ll regret this.....*(the Toffington lot exit.)*

Miss Blunt For the first time since being here I was actually sleeping, only to be woken up for nothing! Never again...never again! *(she exits)*

Mr Sharp Hmmm. I smell something fishy, but I’m so exhausted I really couldn’t care less. Goodnight. *(he exits.)*

(Child 7 checks the door then gives the thumbs up to the other girls who pull the blankets/sheets from off the boys. They all high-five each other!)

Child 3 We did it! We did it! We pulled together, we worked as a team and we won!

All Children *(in a loud whisper)* LET’S GET STUCK IN!

*(As the **intro music** plays (CD track 27) they excitedly start rifling through the bags and the lights fade. As the music finishes, the lights come up and the stage is clear. Mrs Grimm, Mr Dainty and Miss Manly enter.)*

Scene 7

Mr Dainty So there we have it; everything you need to know about our school residential trip, which your children will remember for a long time...and for all the right reasons.

Miss Manly A chance for some wholesome, enriching experiences, meaning they will return to you as ‘fuller’ and ‘more rounded’ individuals. A chance for them to enjoy new surroundings and meet new people. The lessons learned from their time away will stay with them for a lifetime!

Mrs Grimm But the most important thing is that it will give them a chance to cement the friendships they have with each other, friendships that were made here at this school, friendships that we hope will last for many years to come. And as the children move on, the steps they take and the choices they make will lead them all in different directions. But we know that the start they’ve had here means that wherever they go and whatever they do, this school and the people here will be their friends forever.

Thank you everyone.....and goodnight.

Song Forever Your Friend *(CD track 8 & 28, lyrics p27)*
(Whole cast)

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’

Let Loose

Verse 1 Well, now we’re not such little things,
It’s time to think about those a-apron strings.
Though it’ll be to mum’s dismay
We’re gonna have a few days awa-a-ay.
No parents watching over you,
No silly rules...well maybe one or two.
We’ll do just what we wanna do.
Oh, we can’t wait to be.....

Chorus *Let loose for a week of adventure!
School’s out and life is sweet!
Let loose for a week to remember!
Come on, bring on this residential treat!*

Verse 2 We didn’t sleep a wink last night.
You see, we’re feeling high as a ki-i-ite,
’Cause each and every one of us
Is dying to be on board that bu-u-us.
We’re riding out into the blue,
A great escape, a chance for something new.
We’ll do just what we wanna do.
Oh, we can’t wait to be.....

Chorus *Let loose for a week of adventure.....*

Middle 8 Come on, bring it on. Come on, bring it on.
Come on, bring it on. 1, 2, 3, 4!

Chorus *Let loose for a week of adventure.....*

Repeat chorus



Peace And Quiet

Verse 1 * Seems like not so long ago
I pushed you around in your pram.
Now you’re leaving me for five whole days,
So forlorn I am!
How will I survive not making your bed,
Not cooking your meals,
Not tucking you in, not saying ‘Goodnight’?
How wrong this all feels. But then again.....

Chorus *We’ll get some peace and some quiet,
A tidy house, no mess to clear,
No sticky fingerprints,
In fact no sign that children live here!*

Verse 2 Who’ll make sure you brush your teeth
And see that you’re properly fed?
Who will kiss it better when you
Get a bump on your head.
How will I survive not taking you out,
Not watching you play,
Not hearing you cry whenever you’re not
Getting your own way? But then again.....

Chorus *We’ll get some peace and some quiet,
The stress and strain will disappear.
No tantrums or hissy-fits,
In fact no sign that children live here!
We’ll watch what we want on telly,
And we’ll relax in our front room.
So go, enjoy yourself,
No need to come back any time soon!*

* *The verses could be sung as solos or duets by the fretting mums and dads, with everyone joining in for the choruses.*



Bus Driver Blues

Verse 1 We spend our lives behind the wheel,
Manoeuvring ten tons of steel.
There’s nothing in the world that we love more.
It’s complete and utter bliss,
The perfect job, until that is
Our rota shows we’ve drawn the shortest straw!
A school run (*ooh-ooh*)*, it ain’t fun (*ooh-ooh*),
It ain’t no vacation in the sun!
It’ll be (*ooh-ooh*) purgatory,
While we’re driving them around
They’ll be driving us crazy!

Verse 2 The thunder of stampeding feet
As they all rush for the back seat,
’Cause that’s where everybody wants to be.
Then they’ll shout before too long,
“Hey! Turn the radio on!”
And they’ll all sing along but out of key!
Girls and boys (*ooh-ooh*) and their noise (*ooh-ooh*)
Is a thing that no grown-up enjoys.
It’ll be (*ooh-ooh*) purgatory
While we’re driving them around
They’ll be driving us crazy!

Verse 3 And when the drinks and snacks come out
There’s so much litter thrown about,
As each kid munches till they’re fit to pop!
Then, on top of everything,
We get projectile vomiting
And whose job will it be to fetch the mop?
We can say (*ooh-ooh*) there’s no way (*ooh-ooh*)
This’ll be a busman’s holiday.
It’ll be (*ooh-ooh*) purgatory
While we’re driving them around
They’ll be driving us crazy!
Oh yeah!

* *The ‘ooh ooh’ parts can be sung by the waitresses*



Roll Up, Roll Up

- Verse 1** *(led by the instructors)*
Roll up, Roll up!
We promise you the time of your lives.
(shout) (Oh, such exciting things to do!)
And there’s a chance
That nearly everybody will survive!
(shout) (With just a broken leg or two!)
Your confidence will grow, you’ll gain some self-esteem,
As you pull together, working as a team.
And if it comes to pass you get an injury,
It’s only ninety miles to the nearest A & E!
- Verse 2** *(led by the kitchen staff)*
Roll up, Roll up!
Oh, such delicious dishes we create.
(shout) (And not the slightest trace of horse!)
Our food comes fresh
From out the freezer straight onto your plate.
(shout) (Via the microwave, of course!)
The children don’t complain, there’s very little waste,
’Cause we find lots of ketchup covers up the taste!
And if it comes to pass your guts go into shock,
It’s only ninety yards to the nearest toilet block!
- Verse 3** *(All)*
Roll up, Roll up!
Experience some style and luxury.
(shout) (Yes, our furniture’s antique!)
The beds and chairs
And tables are as ancient as can be.
(shout) (Well, they certainly all creak!)
Some window frames have glass and very little rot,
And every bath has water which is sometimes hot.
And if it comes to pass you want more pamperin’,
It’s only ninety minutes to the nearest Premier Inn!
(shout) ROLL UP!



Toffington College

Verse 1 We’re from the ‘Toffington College Of Excellence’,
Where grades and standards never slip.
Because the ‘Toffington College Of Excellence’
Is such a tightly-run ship.
Our test results are second to none,
And every sporting fixture’s won.
Failure’s not a word we understand.
Consider us the cream of the crop,
We’re always sitting at the top
Of any school league table in the land.

Verse 2 We’re from the ‘Toffington College Of Excellence’,
Where second-best just will not do.
And so the ‘Toffington College Of Excellence’
Will not go easy on you.
Our lessons start at seven a.m.
And if you’re ever late for them
Punishment is given in different ways.
Our teachers favour slipper and cane,
’Cause they’re the sort you hear complain
That children have no backbone nowadays.

Verse 3 We’re from the ‘Toffington College Of Excellence’,
Which caters just for the elite.
That way the ‘Toffington College Of Excellence’
Will never suffer defeat.
We’ll stamp on others every time
To be the first across the line –
Nothing’s ever gained from being nice.
We stand by our latin motto;
‘Victoria Omni Pretio’
Which means that we will win at any price.



Let's Build A Raft

Verse 1

(All)

Let's build a raft,
That's not quite as daft as it appears.
We'll get to share
Plenty of fresh air and good ideas!
Each of us has hidden skills
And talents never seen,
Here's the chance to be much more
Than we have ever been!

Verse 2

(All)

Let's build a raft,
That's not quite as daft as it might seem.
We'll work as one
And so will become a winning team!
We'll be strong and we'll dig deep,
We'll brave the wet and cold.
Shoulders back, we'll grit our teeth
And strive towards our goal!

Verse 3

(Instructors)

OK! Think of what needs doing.
Come on, get organized!
Do a proper job, or
Your raft just might capsize!
Someone fetch the barrels
And someone find the wood.
Someone draw a blueprint,
And choose someone who's good
At tying things together,
And someone who can think
Of ways that you can test it
To make sure it won't sink.
Right! So let's get started
And have a crack at this.....

(Children)

Actually, on second thoughts,
We might give it a miss!



Midnight Feast

Verse 1 Close the door and come on in.
Let the partying begin.
No, it's not allowed, but hey
What harm can be done?
We're a hungry crowd
Who want to have a bit of fun!

Chorus *Let's have a midnight feast,
A little snack, at least,
On fizzy drinks and sweets!
Let's have a chocolate bar
And candy 'mardi gras'
Around the cookie jar!*

Verse 2 Close the door and come on in.
Let the partying begin.
Don't be worried if you're tired,
Trying not to yawn,
All this sugar's gonna keep us
Wide awake till dawn!

Chorus *Let's have a midnight feast.....*

Middle 8 There will be a consequence
If we get caught for this offence,
But all the grown-ups seem to be asleep.
We will get away with it
As long as we clean up a bit,
And none of us forgets to brush our teeth!

Chorus *Let's have a midnight feast.....*

Repeat chorus



Forever Your Friend

Verse 1 Sometimes
Things don't work out quite as you planned them.
Sometimes
Things can come apart at the seams.
So when you find you need someone,
A shoulder you can lean upon,
You won't have to look so very far...

Chorus *'Cause you've got a friend,
A friend in me.
(A friend in me).
And forever your friend
I will be.
(Yes, I will be).*

Verse 2 Some day
All of this will be just a memory.
Someday
We'll look back upon it and smile.
'Cause what we saw through younger eyes,
The very best days of our lives,
We lived through them together, side by side...

Chorus *Well, you've got a friend...*

Middle 8 And though our chosen paths may lead
In opposite directions,
We take our first steps from the same place,
You and I.
And should you stumble or take a tumble,
Or lose your place in the sun,
You'll not walk long beneath a cloudy sky...

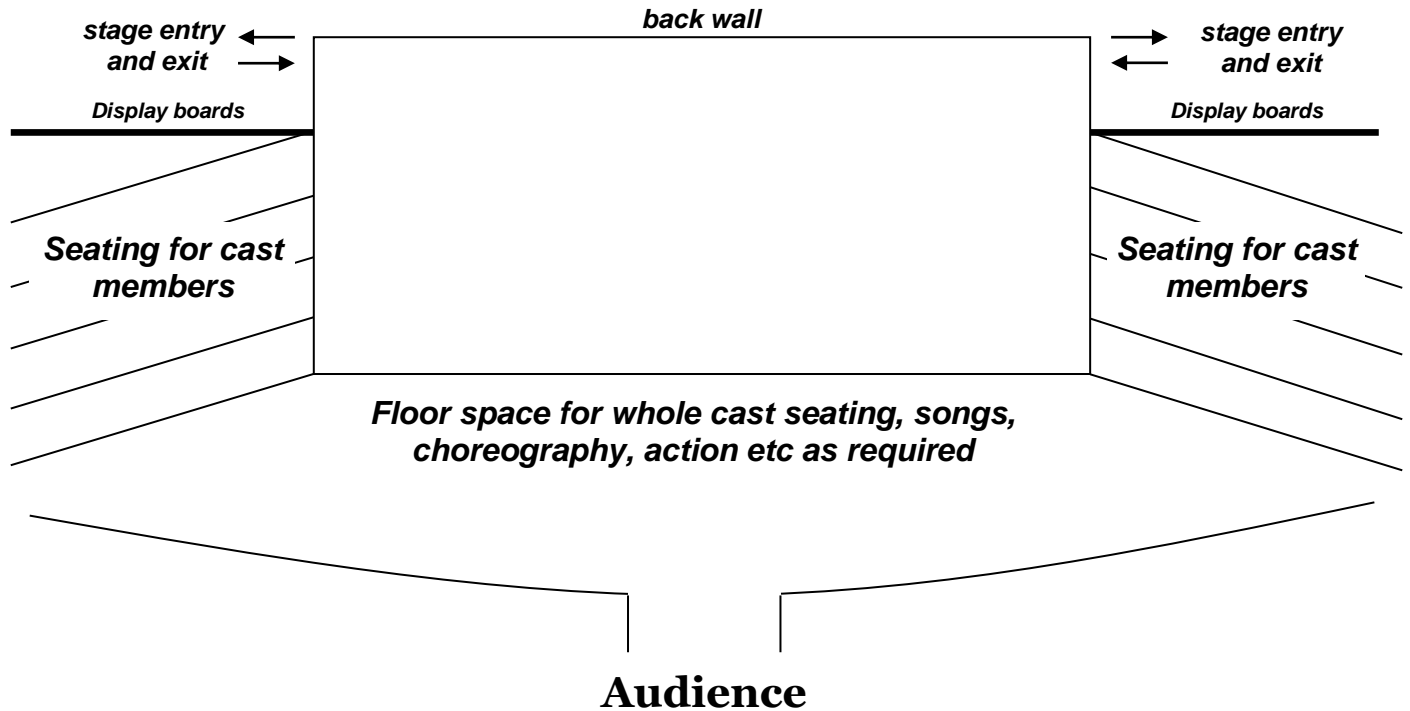
Chorus *'Cause you've got a friend...*

Repeat chorus



STAGING AND PRODUCTION SUGGESTIONS

We suggest a staging layout similar to this, which will allow all the cast to be on view all the time and to be heard during all the songs. Actors and groups seated to the side will easily be able to move into and out of prominent positions for their featured songs, dialogue or choreography. For the entrance and exit of individual characters, space can be made behind display boards either side of the main stage, or a ‘channel’ can be created through the audience.



- **Scenery and furniture** – On the display boards behind the seating areas and on the back wall you could paint a woodland and lake scene, similar to that on the front cover. You might also want to include an old, semi-dilapidated two or three storey building nestling amongst the trees, perhaps with a few broken windows and crumbling chimney stacks. Alternatively you could create a collage of children’s paintings that depict the various characters scenes and themes mentioned in the songs. If you have a digital projector and large white screen on the back wall, why not change the images displayed between scenes. These again could be children’s pictures or alternatively copyright-free pictures/photos from the internet; a family home, a café, a scruffy office, a lakeside scene and a dormitory. Very little furniture is required for the scenes on the main stage and all of it can be found in school. For **scene 2** all that’s needed is a normal classroom table covered with a tablecloth, with four chairs positioned around. For **scene 3** a sofa can be represented by placing three chairs together and covering them with a throw. If you want to represent beds for the dormitory scene simply cover staging blocks with white sheets.
- **Props** – To keep things simple, all props are things that can be made or found in and around school, or at home in most cupboards and on most shelves.
Scene 1: a certificate, four mobile phones, four school letters, a tissue, a bottle (empty!) of bubbly and two champagne glasses. **Scene 2:** a table cloth, a salt and pepper pot, a ketchup bottle, three cups, one can or bottle of cola and a ‘rota sheet’.
Scene 3: three Slippery Slopes pamphlets (use existing tourist information leaflets or make your own), a computer or laptop on a paper-strewn table and rucksacks for

the children and teachers. **Scene 4:** two compasses and orienteering maps, two rucksacks and a banner held up on two poles showing the Toffington College coat of arms and motto. **Scene 5:** a selection of metre-length pieces of timber (perhaps use wooden metre sticks/rulers), skipping ropes, plastic barrels and oars (which could be real or made from card) and a single length of blue material (approx. 3 metres) or a selection of shorter lengths sewn together. **Scene 6:** eight pillows, eight blankets or sheets (whichever are easier to knot together), a handful of coins and carrier bags filled with sweets, crisps, biscuits and cans of drinks

- **Costumes** – The three teachers giving the presentation should be formally/smartly dressed. Dads could all wear a shirt and tie and have a moustache or facial stubble, while mums could wear summer dresses and have make up on to give them an adult look. Mum 3 should have smudged mascara due to her weeping. Each bus driver should wear black trousers, a white shirt with epaulettes and a company badge, a dark tie and if possible a peaked cap. Each waitress could wear a paper catering hat and either borrow a tabard from your kitchen staff or else wear a white blouse, skirt and apron. The Slippery Slopes manager, whether male or female, needs a shabby suit. Instructors could wear matching fleeces, tracksuit bottoms, baseball caps and trainers. The cooks can wear dirty chef’s whites or tabards and the odd-job man needs overalls and various slings and bandages. The children should be in jeans, trainers and school jumpers for their arrival, sports bibs over t-shirts for the first outside scene, then for the raft scene they should wear safety helmets (which can be their cycle helmets) and life jackets (which can be either padded body-warmers or real ‘float jackets’ worn by learner swimmers). They will then need dressing gowns for the dormitory scene. Miss Blunt and Mr Sharp should wear jeans and matching cagoules for their early scenes and dressing gowns at the end. The Toffington pupils could be dressed like army cadets or scouts, with knee-length socks and garters, grey skirt or shorts, pristine white t-shirt, neck scarf, woggle and a beret. Miss Finster could wear an adult version of this, with a different coloured t-shirt and her hair in a tight, severe bun rather than wearing a beret – think Miss Trunchbull from Matilda!
- **Content** – You can personalise your performance by adding or changing character names, and re-writing any parts of the script to relate more closely to the things that may have happened within your particular school or on your residential trips. You may find your children and staff are inspired to recall and write about other humorous or memorable events and characters from their own experiences. This production is perfect for incorporating your own creative ideas. Different songs that the children know and enjoy could replace, or be added to those on the CD. Don’t feel restricted – make the show your own.
- **Audience seating** – Finally, we suggest the audience be seated at tables (cabaret style), and encouraged to bring drinks and nibbles of their choice. If this is being performed as a leavers’ concert, a relaxed party atmosphere will really make the evening go with a swing, and give parents, staff and children something to remember for a long time. Please email, phone or write to us if you have any production queries at all, and we’ll be more than happy to help.