

STOP I WANT TO GET OFF! NATIVITY 2008

Down on earth Catfish John and his grandchildren are fishing. It begins to rain but that doesn't bother seasoned fisherfolk. The children explain the water cycle and are surprised by Little Dropling and his friends, Splish Splash and Splosh, who decide to stay just where they are.

Up in heaven the angels can see nothing but trouble down below, with greedy Gryphon and his dragon pals demanding gold from everything that goes round - water cycles, life cycles, days of the week, months of the year and the seasons - and that's just for starters.

From a toll house in Charlton Road they demand gold from Butterfly, Apple and Broad Bean. The angels will be in trouble with Angel Gabrielle if they don't sort it out soon - no seasons - no winter, months in a muddle - no December 25th and no Nativity! They go down to earth to investigate, where they find Catfish John and the children cheering up the raindrops with a ring dance.

Out of the darkness appear Owl and three cats who introduce the angels to Hansel and Gretel. This problem solving pair persuade Gryphon that dancing and singing, plus a hug and a smile, will give him more happiness than gold ever would. But the Nativity is still not ready to start as the stars have lost their sparkle (an apple a day keep the stars at play). Once again Hansel and Gretel come to the rescue by introducing them to children from around the world who eat good food galore. The stars are now beaming with a healthy glow and ready with donkey to begin the Nativity.

Donkey leads Mary and Joseph safely to Bethlehem where, after much searching, they find a place stay. Angels tell the shepherds about the birth of a special baby. They follow the star and bring him fruit, grown in their orchards.

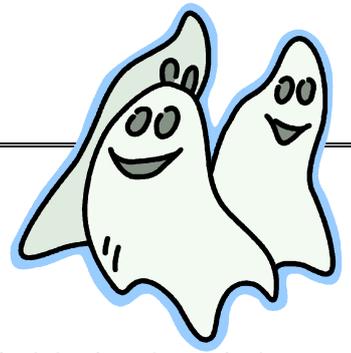
Twinkling stars lead the Three Kings and children from lands, near and far, to the stable in Bethlehem. Here the baby delights in their smiling faces and the loving arms of his mother Mary.

It is now time to leave our Nativity play - stop, get off, fly away - but all around the world Christmas festivities will continue this year and for many years to come. Gryphon is no longer greedy, but grateful for the simpler things in life and children in many parts of the world can enjoy happy healthy lifestyles.

Join with us to sing Away in a Manger (verse 2 and 3) and to celebrate the birth of that little baby Jesus so long ago.



OH! STARRY NIGHT NATIVITY 2008



Daylight is fading and the stars (and starlets) have begun to twinkle in the night sky. High on Clinch Mountain where the rest of the world is just a little bitty spot a family sing and dance. It's the night before Christmas Eve - Uncle Joe puts his fiddle away and helps mother to get ready for the celebrations, the children are sent reluctantly up to bed.

Up in heaven Angel No-No is woken by their protestations as they stamp their feet and shout 'No no no!' And then the mischief begins – the tickled clouds rain, Angel Cool shows his 'darn cool flappers', Angel Best covers the earth with snow and Angel No-No blows the stars right out of heaven. Angel So-So tells the others it's not far from heaven to the mountain top but they need to be quick to catch those stars.

The angels fly through a chimney and land with a bump in the children's room. With the children they chase the stars through the dark forest on Clinch Mountain and meet WOOSH - a helpful owl service, and a strange assortment of creatures: funnybone skeletons, a cat in a pink hat, a witch, a spider and some impressive ghosts with telescopes who know the names of all the stars in the galaxy. The night creatures fade away as Moonbeam and Moonshadow appear leading them to where the stars are sleeping. The Narrators persuade the stars to return to the heavens so they can tell the Nativity story.

The dark of a starless night has gone and the sun is ready to brighten the day. The children fly with the angels to sleep on the clouds and wake up with the evening star. From there they watch how the stars arrive in time to light Mary and Joseph's way to Bethlehem. They watch as Mary and Joseph eventually find a stable where the baby Jesus is born, and up above a star shines more brightly than the others.

This star guides first the shepherds and then Kings from Eastern lands afar to the stable. Dancing stars lead poor children to the stable too, they have no gift but the baby is glad to see them as the heavens blaze with thousands of twinkling lights.

The children return to Clinch Mountain and Angel No- No renounces mischief... for as long as children remember not to use the N-O word! And as all parents know children can't be little angels all the time.

Join in with Away in a Manger (verse 2 and 3) to celebrate the birth of the baby Jesus.



All are welcome to walk with us through...



THE OPEN DOOR

Outside a storm rages – what is the tap-tapping on the door?

At home – an e-mail brings Aunt Jemima on a visit with her magic plasters

KALAMAZOO! - and off to Aunt Jemima's - a house with many doors

Her visitors include: Children from many lands

Four rogues and a policeman

Father Christmas

Mummers (audience participation needed for the play of St George and the Dragon)

Mary and Joseph knock on doors in the little town of Bethlehem, they find no room

Behind royal doors, in King Herod's palace, dancers entertain the Three Kings

Out of doors in the hills above Bethlehem, angels give shepherds the good news

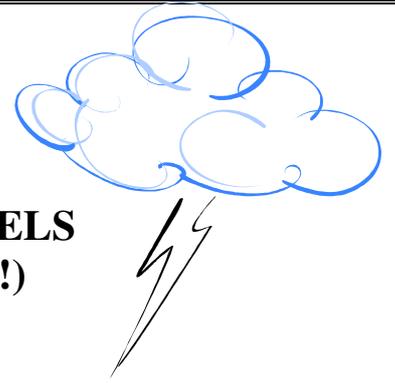
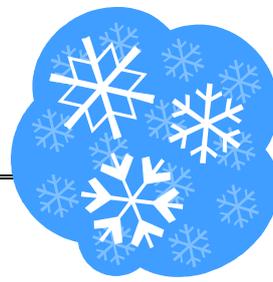
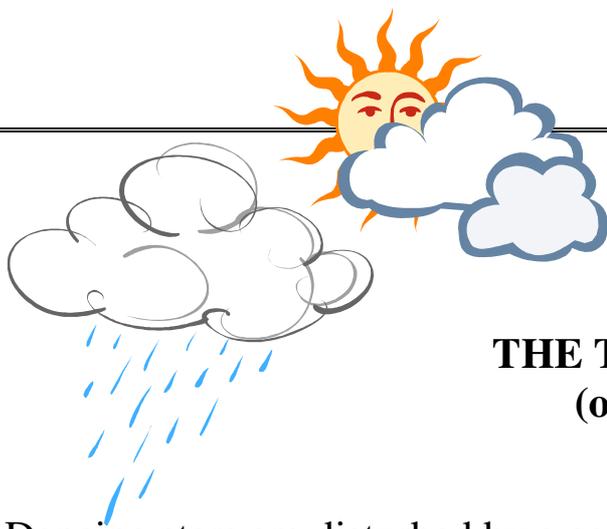
Lift up lightly the stable bar - Three Kings come calling

All are welcome to walk with us through the open door to the stable

Away in a Manger – the first two verses will be sung by small groups of children, join in with the last verse

A child is born – we take our leave

Back to our families and then through our very own doors to where Christmas is waiting



NATIVITY 2008
THE THREE LITTLE ANGELS
(or Here Comes Trouble!)

Dancing stars are disturbed by a commotion in heaven, the angels usually sing so beautifully. Grumbling clouds work themselves up into a storm as their fluffy ears are hurt by the noise up above. Big Cloud reassures them that three noisy little flappers are being sent down to Earth for their misdemeanours. Will the stars and the clouds get some peace at last?

Our three Little Angels find themselves, minus wings and halos, in Bethlehem. Here they meet some children whose parents are innkeepers at the Charlton Arms.

Magi, three wise men, have been following a star that will take them to a new baby king. The little angels ask if they have bought presents for him. Although wise, the Magi have not thought of this, and are delighted when the Little Angels make helpful suggestions directing them to a nearby bazaar. The Little Angels go home with the children and sleep on their floor.

Mary and Joseph need to find a place to stay, they try the Grove Inn but there is no room to spare. Joseph suggests trying the Wantage Bed and Breakfast down the road, but they have no luck here. When they knock at the door of the Charlton Arms the Little Angels have another opportunity to be helpful, they remind the innkeeper that there is room in the stable with the animals. That night a special baby is born in a manger and the animals sing songs to him.

Out on the hillside the Little Angels and the children pretend to be wolves when they find the shepherds sleeping. They lead real wolves away from the sleeping shepherds. Once again the Little Angels have saved the day. Angels from on high tell the shepherds Good News.

Big Angel tells the three Little Angels that Gabriel is pleased with them. They ask for their wings and halos. Children come from around the world, they ask for wings too. Big Angel tells them they do not need wings as they have the whole world to explore.

Everyone joins in with the heavenly chorus to celebrate the birth of the baby Jesus.

NATIVITY 2008

DANIEL'S GIFT

(Based on the story by M.C.Helldorfer)

One winter's night, when a star shines brighter than the moon and the sun, six brothers watch over their sheep. Daniel is the youngest. His lazy brothers go to sleep leaving him in charge. Mammoth his favourite sheep snuggles close to him blinking his bright eyes.

Daniel plays a dreaming song on his pipe that floats gently to lands afar. There three wise men hear the music that whispers their names: Melchior, Balthazar and Casper. Wolves miss a meal of cabbage soup but howl as they smell sheep on the wind.

During the night Max the sheep stealer comes by and tells Daniel stories of those kings and of shepherds from other lands too.

Down in Welsh valleys shepherds look after their sheep. Their children love a good story.

Russian shepherds dance The Hopak. Their children meet Baboushka who only brings toys for good children.

Christmas Eve in Australia is very hot and the shepherds there have a barbecue on the beach.

Max steals Mammoth. Daniel and the shepherds run to his house. They hunt high and low. Daniel wants to give Max's baby a gift, first Max is pleased but then becomes angry when he realises it is just an old pipe. Daniel plays it and Mammoth answers from a cradle.

Back once again on the hillside angels tell Daniel of the birth of the baby Jesus. The shepherds run to the stable. Kings and assistants bring gifts for the baby. Daniel has no gift, only the wooden pipe he plays for his sheep. Joseph tells him it is a lovely gift and the baby smiles.

As the music plays angels gather to keep the baby safe from harm. And then from all around the world shepherds and kings, rich and poor, young and old, celebrate the birth of that baby king who was born in Bethlehem so long ago.



BABOUSHKA

NATIVITY 2008

(Based on the traditional story retold by Arthur Scholey)

Angel Gabriel appears while Mary is walking in her garden and announces that Mary will soon have a baby. Mary excitedly calls her cousin Elizabeth

Children dance in the town square at Nazareth but their dance is interrupted by noisy soldiers. They tell the people they must return to the town where they were born so that they can be registered.

Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem. The town is crowded and there is no room for them to stay. An innkeeper and his wife allow them to rest in their stable.

In Russia children dance to sleigh bell music. Other grander music is heard as kings and queens approach the village. They need a place to rest during the day so they can follow the star in the evening and then through the night.

Baboushka's is the smartest house in the village. The kings and queens stay there and invite her to travel with them as she wishes to bring toys for the baby. She has a house to clean so she promises them that she will follow later but tired after all the excitement she falls asleep.

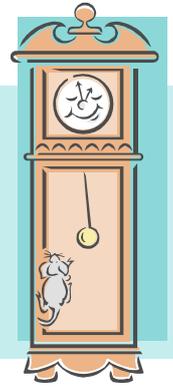
The kings and queens stop at Herod's palace, he becomes angry when he hears there is a baby king in his land and he wishes to kill him.

Shepherds are told of the birth of the baby Jesus by a host of angels and run quickly to the stable. The Kings and queens arrive too.

People and children come from everywhere to worship the baby king. Mary and Joseph, are warned of Herod's wicked plan and escape to Egypt.

Epilogue – Quiet again as Baboushka looks for the baby Jesus and finds him gone. Children from other lands are still sleeping in the stable, they are delighted to receive gifts from Baboushka.

Baboushka continues to travel the world looking for the baby king but every Christmas so it is said, especially in Russia, she leaves presents at the houses of all good children.



STARCATCHER 2008

(This play was specifically written for the Millennium but could be adapted for the New Year)

Hickory Dickory Dock, the mice dance round the clock.

Grandma tells the children of Starcatcher, a very magical time wizard.

As the children sleep something strange happens to time in the nursery, story characters come alive and everything goes wrong.

The Man in the Moon, Winken Blinken and Nod call down their friends the Starchildren.

As a reward for helping him polish the stars, Starcatcher takes the children on a time journey.

First to the planet of the Millennium Bugs, astronauts from Earth have made friends with these tidy aliens who have a habit of causing havoc every 1000 years with their multidistance zappers. Mother Christmas who just happens to be passing by returns lost objects to Earth.

Next Starcatcher returns the children to a future earth where robots do all the work but still have time to rock and roll.

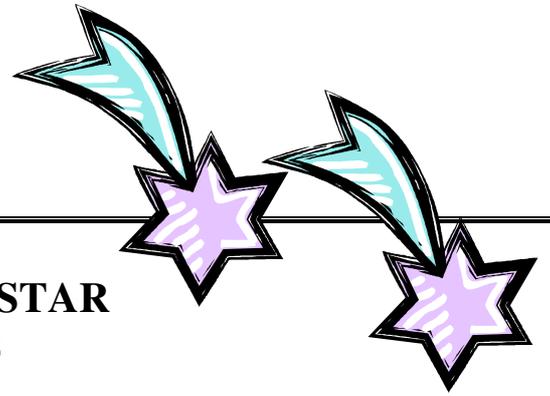
The children wonder what has happened to the endangered animals is there a future for them too?

Time gently rolls back through the present and down into the past where a special star shines down on a stable at Bethlehem.

Wise Men bring rich gifts.

Angels chivvy sheep and shepherds down to the little town but the Littlest Shepherd is worried, he has no gift for the baby.

As end of a Millennium approaches we think of that baby born 2000 years ago that bought hope and joy to so many. And especially of our own children who bring their own special gifts, those of cheerfulness, wisdom and hope, to welcome in the dawn of the New Millennium.



CATCH A FALLING STAR NATIVITY 2008

Falling star crash lands, she is not impressed by Planet Earth.

The children are indignant about her attitude but look forward to a journey to other planets.

Meg the witch produces a rocket and a few astronauts with her wobbly wand.

Off to Planet X where they find the extraordinary, exterminating astronauts.

Next, on to Planet Y inhabited by the friendly Tumptyties.

Past Planet Z (they are all in bed) and a collision with Father Christmas. They are joined by a constellation of stars.

Back on Earth they introduce the stars to the children from other lands.

Starchild jumps into the Nativity story, the children watch what happens.

Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus are serenaded by a Cow, Lamb and Robin.

Three Kings study the stars and journey to Bethlehem helped by the Starchild.

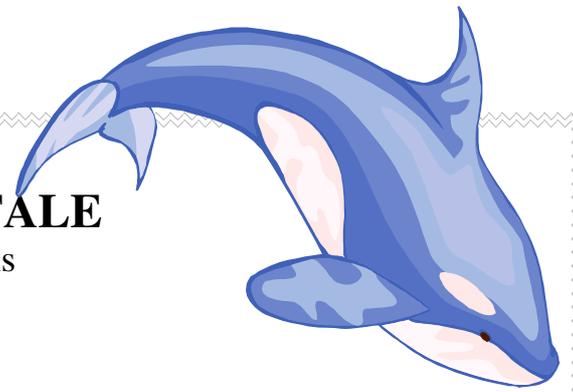
Angels bring good news and shepherds follow the heavenly lights.

The children and stars leap into the story. They are joined by other characters where they celebrate our wonderful world and rejoice at the birth of the baby Jesus.





A WHALE OF A TALE or Great Expectations



In the smoky city, in the foggy street, with mist around the houses and water at his feet, the **milkman**, followed by some cheeky birds, delivers his milk.

Mrs Jones with a baby on the way is run off her feet by the demands of a lively family.

Lulabel, Lizzie and Luke begin their magical journey, from bathtub to sewers and out into a clear stream where they meet the **Three men in a tub**.

The stream widens to a river. With **Little Boy Fishing** they whizz through their first magical tunnel (transporting them through time and space), to meet a family in the United States of America, the USA mum is about to pod.

Onwards and out at sea, danger lurks as they climb aboard a **pirate ship** and very soon are made to walk the plank!

Kind **fishermen from Trinidad** haul them ashore in their nets. Here another mother is pregnant and they meet **Father Christmas**.

Once again through the magical tunnel and they find themselves watching as a **North American Indian** family also prepare for the birth of a new baby.

Next they journey to Spain and hear how traditionally **Spanish children** leave hay in their shoes to feed the Three Kings camels.

The children follow the **Three Kings** to Bethlehem as they travel across land, rivers and sea to find the new-born baby Jesus.

Shepherds dance to the ricketty, racketty sound for the baby.

Angels sing songs that twinkle the stars and ripple the oceans.



All gather together to sing songs for all the babies of the world, join with them to sing **Away in a Manger**



WINGS ACROSS THE WORLD NATIVITY 2008

The Narrators, high fliers all, can't see a thing up in heaven with all those clouds drifting by but they can hear and feel the flapping of wings.

The angels are in a flutter as they've been given the job to find the very best place for the baby Jesus to be born. The angels need to search the four corners of the world.

The first two travel to Finland where they meet Father Christmas and his Finnish friends. The third and fourth land in China. Chinese children show the angels round their garden. The next two find skiers on a snowy mountain in Switzerland. Angel seven arrives in North America where native Americans tell stories round a camp fire. Angels eight and nine are entertained by cheerful music in Jamaica, they dance the Limbo.

But what about the Littlest Angel who had been sleeping all this time? She landed with a bump in a stable. The innkeepers children asked her to stay and play with them but she is late for a meeting in heaven.

On their return the angels tell God about the wonderful places they have seen but God wants his son to be born in a humble place. He recognizes this special place when the Littlest Angel comes hurrying in and explains where he went.

Jesus was born in that stable and shepherds and kings came to visit him. Following them came the angels and children from the four corners of the earth. They sang songs to him and gave their love to the little baby.



All are welcome to come for a walk among

The Whispering Trees

In the treetops the birds listen as the trees tell their stories

Hiawatha, Nokomis and tribe - hear the whisperings of
the pine trees

Noah and his family - hundreds of trees get the chop

Off to the rainforest - strange and colourful happenings

A little house in the woods - a family's surprise Christmas

Once upon a mountaintop - a story of three trees

Angels visit the shepherds in an olive grove and tell them
of a baby soon to be born

Three kings bring gifts from afar

around the manger and away

A collection will be made for the RSPB



Nativity timetable

31/08/08

Date	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		Nativity songs practiced		Parent workshop Thurs pm with TA↓	
			KS1 Staff meeting Allocate parts		Read story
	<i>Small group practice at storytime →</i>	Christmas carols with pianist		Practice 11.00 - 12.00 (TAs find / sort clothes)	Whole production 9.40 to 10.30 (TAs find/sort clothes)
	Practice 1.00-1.30 <i>Small group practice at storytime →</i>				Whole production 9.40? to 10.30 (TAs find/sort clothes)
	Practice 1.00-1.30 <i>Small group practice at storytime →</i>		Stage up after school		Practice getting on and off stage 9.40 to 10.30 (TAs find/sort clothes)
	Practice 1.00-1.30 <i>Small group practice at storytime →</i>			Practice with pianist 11.00 - 12.00 (TAs find/sort clothes)	Whole play with pianist 9.20
	Practice 1.00-1.30 <i>Small group practice at storytime →</i>				Dress rehearsal with pianist 9.20
	Practice in afternoon <i>Small group practice at storytime →</i>	Nativity play 1.30 / 6.00			

