

Having Fun At Christmas

Infant & Junior Script

by

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SYNOPSIS

This is a Christmas-themed musical production for children in Key Stage 1 and 2 with the emphasis very much on fun and comedy.

It can be performed as a complete work by a whole school (total running time approximately 50 to 60 minutes) or used as single songs/sketches by individual classes, perhaps for assemblies.

The sketches are short (average duration 5 to 8 minutes). The themes range from complete farce to caring for each other all year round so the spirit of the Christmas season is not forgotten.

Here is a more detailed look at the various songs and sketches. There are eight songs in all, six of which have accompanying sketches. All of the sketches are simple and inexpensive to stage.

Scenery is not required, but perhaps a simple backdrop (either of plain fabric or paper covered board) with Christmas shapes attached, or large brightly coloured letters spelling out 'HAVING FUN AT CHRISTMAS' would be attractive and welcoming and could remain in situ for the entire performance.

The Top Of The Show Play on

This track can also be used between scenes if you need a longer play on/off at any point.

We're Having Fun At Christmas - Song

This song opens the show. It's a very up-beat song with a great driving rhythm and an underlying message in the words which will put everyone in a good mood.

The Top Of The Tree - Sketch and Song

This item is for Key Stage 1 pupils with some scope for including Reception children. It can also be performed by Year 3 children. In the sketch, the Christmas decorations come to life and argue about which one of them should be at the top of the tree. Both the song and sketch carry a simple age-appropriate message whilst being very funny at the same time. There are lots of small parts, both speaking and non-speaking, with some slightly larger parts for more able children.

A Kangaroo At Christmas - Sketch and Song

An Australian family visit their English relatives on Christmas Day. There are lots of laughs as Greg, the classic alpha-male Aussie dad brings his character to bear on the scene. The song is a fantasy about a real kangaroo being given as a Christmas present and all the antics he gets up to. This item will suit Years 5 and 6.

Christmas In '63 - Sketch and Song

Present day - two grandparents reminisce about their childhood Christmas experiences in the year 1963. This is a real trip down memory lane as we return to the time of the Beatles, twanging guitars and Sindy dolls; again, lots of laughs followed by a slice of Merseybeat in the shape of the title song. The older children of Key Stage 2 will have great fun with this item.

Socks And Pants And Handkerchiefs - Sketch and Song

Three dads bemoan their annual fate of always receiving the same old boring presents. There is true farce when all the family Christmas gifts get mixed up and for a while it seems that the dads might have had a change of luck this year! The song gives the audience a chance to join in with the singing. All children from Key Stage 2 will be able to manage this item.

Prancer Pays A Visit – Sketch and Song

Prancer, one of Santa's reindeer, crash-lands on a suburban rooftop and asks the family inside for help. The police are called and Santa and the rest of the reindeer turn up to reclaim their lost friend; funny and farcical with a very catchy song to follow and suitable for the whole of Key Stage 2.

Don't Wait Until Christmas – Sketch and Song

A sweet sketch and song for the younger members of Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4). The class prepares for the Christmas concert. In addition to the classic Christmas repertoire, they are to perform a new song written by their music teacher. The class teacher brings the message in the song alive for the children in a very special way.

Christmas All Over The World – Song

The grand finale. This is a real rocker to end the show and have everyone clapping their hands to.

TRACK 1: THE TOP OF THE SHOW PLAY ON (OPTIONAL)**TRACK 2: (SONG) WE'RE HAVING FUN AT CHRISTMAS**

WE'RE HAVING FUN AT CHRISTMAS, WE'VE COME TO SING AND PLAY
 WE'RE HERE TO TELL YOU WE'RE SO GLAD, DON'T BE SAD TODAY
 WE'RE HAVING FOOD AT CHRISTMAS, THERE'S SOME WE KNOW WHO WON'T
 WE'RE HERE TO TELL YOU THAT WE CARE, WE'RE AWARE, SO DON'T

SING A SONG ABOUT A SILENT NIGHT OR THE FIRST NOWELL
 GOOD KING W OR JINGLE BELLS, UNLESS YOU UNDERSTAND
 WHAT YOU'RE SINGING ABOUT
 DON'T SING A SONG ABOUT A LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM
 A GUIDING STAR OR THE THREE WISE MEN
 UNLESS YOU REALLY KNOW JUST WHAT IT MEANS

WE'RE HAVING GIFTS AT CHRISTMAS, WE KNOW WE GET A LOT
 WE KNOW SOME KIDS WHO NEVER GET HALF OF WHAT WE'VE GOT
 WE'RE GIVING LOVE AT CHRISTMAS, THERE'S PLENTY LEFT FOR YOU
 WE CAN'T PRETEND THAT WE DON'T CARE, COME AND SHARE, BUT DON'T

SING A SONG ABOUT A SILENT NIGHT OR THE FIRST NOWELL
 GOOD KING W OR JINGLE BELLS, UNLESS YOU UNDERSTAND
 WHAT YOU'RE SINGING ABOUT
 DON'T SING A SONG ABOUT A LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM
 A GUIDING STAR OR THE THREE WISE MEN
 UNLESS YOU REALLY KNOW JUST WHAT IT MEANS

SING A SONG ABOUT A SILENT NIGHT OR THE FIRST NOWELL
 GOOD KING W OR JINGLE BELLS, UNLESS YOU UNDERSTAND
 WHAT YOU'RE SINGING ABOUT
 DON'T SING A SONG ABOUT A LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM
 A GUIDING STAR OR THE THREE WISE MEN
 UNLESS YOU REALLY KNOW JUST WHAT IT MEANS

At this point (overleaf) the singers break into three groups. Groups 1 and 2 sing overlapping phrases, and just before the fourth "Christmas" Group 3 enter. See the score or listen to the vocal track for clarification.

THE TOP OF THE TREE**CAST LIST FOR 28 ACTORS**

N.B. In the following list, the bracketed number shows the number of spoken lines each role has.

The Bossy Fairy.....	(9)
Mother	(9)
The Star.....	(8)
The Wooden Soldier.....	(8)
The Angel	(6)
Susie.....	(5)
Father Christmas	(4)
The Green Ball	(3)
Archie	(3)
The Red Ball.....	(2)
The Snow Man	(2)
The Gingerbread Man.....	(2)
The Robin	(2)
The Reindeer.....	(2)
The Christmas Pudding	(1)
The Gold Ball.....	(1)
The Sun.....	(0)

Character Groups with lines to say en masse:

The Lights (4 actors).....	(2)
The Paper Chains (4 actors).....	(2)

Non-speaking decorations could be a Snowflake, Candle or Fir Cone.

SUGGESTED REDUCED CAST LIST FOR 19 ACTORS

N.B. In the following list, the bracketed number shows the number of spoken lines each role has.

The Bossy Fairy.....	(9)
Mother	(9)
The Star.....	(8)
The Wooden Soldier.....	(8)
The Angel	(6)
Susie.....	(5)
Father Christmas	(4)
The Green Ball	(3)
Archie	(3)
The Red Ball.....	(2)
The Snowman	(2)
The Robin.....	(2)
The Christmas Pudding also covers The Gingerbread Man's lines	(3)
The Gold Ball.....	(1)
The Sun.....	(0)

Character Groups with lines to say en masse:

The Lights (2 actors).....	(2)
The Paper Chains (2 actors).....	(2)

(The Reindeer's lines can be deleted.)

LIST OF PROPERTIES

A Small Undecorated Christmas Tree.

The Top Of The Tree - a cardboard representation of the top of the Christmas tree. This could be made from a large cardboard box with two sides left attached to be used to stand it up. The front facing the audience should be cut to look like the top of a Christmas tree and painted green. This should not have any decorations or trimmings incorporated in the artwork.

A Chiming Clock (optional) - this doesn't have to be real (the clock chimes are on the CD) – a cardboard, painted grandfather clock would be fine.

The Bossy Fairy's Wands – one broken, which should be hidden behind The Top Of The Tree.

PRODUCTION NOTES

(For guidance only, by all means come up with your own ideas!)

DESCRIPTION AND ADVICE

In this sketch, the Christmas Tree decorations come to life during the night of November 30th/December 1st.

They argue all night as to who should be at the top of the tree. Eventually the sun starts to rise and they all have to get back in their box before they are discovered. The mother and her two children come down and look at the decorations, deciding which one should be placed at the top of the tree.

SUITABILITY

Key Stage 1 or Year 3 children. Year 2 or 3 children can be given the spoken parts – this very much depends on the capability of the children involved.

CHARACTERS

The main characters are:-

The Bossy Fairy, The Star, The Wooden Soldier, The Angel and Mother who all have in excess of six lines to say. The characterisation is obvious from the script.

COSTUMES

The Bossy Fairy, Father Christmas and The Angel will all need “proper” costumes.

The Wooden Soldier could wear black school trousers, waistcoat, braces (can easily be made), a white shirt and a home made tall hat. A touch of red lipstick on the cheeks would complete the look.

The Star could utilise a headband with a large star for the sake of simplicity. A plain yellow or white T shirt could be worn.

The Christmas Pudding could wear a dark brown T-Shirt (with padding!), dark brown leggings and a white over-collar.

The coloured balls’ costumes would work as black leggings or tights with a red, green or yellow (gold) t-shirt (padded out underneath if possible) with a simple card hat (headband with a piece of card looped over the top from ear to ear to look like the hook at the top of the balls).

The Snowman should be all in white with some big black buttons sewn on the front of the top. A false carrot nose and a jolly scarf would add to the effect.

The Gingerbread Man should be dressed in brown with some coloured buttons sewn on. The face could be painted or you could use a mask.

The Robin and The Reindeer could wear illustrated headbands or masks pushed up so the audience can see their faces. The Robin needs to wear a plain red T shirt.

The Paper Chains should be dressed in bright colours and have paper chains round their wrists and waists. The Lights should be wearing plain, brightly coloured T shirts with cardboard headbands, illustrated to suggest Christmas lights.

The Sun should wear a bright yellow headband with the sun's "rays" sticking out, a sun painted on each cheek and a plain yellow T shirt with yellow leggings/trousers. If the sun is played by a girl she could wear a yellow dress.

SCENERY

None required.

MUSIC

All the music including the sound effects can be found on the Backing Track CD.

ADAPTABILITY

Feel free to change things to suit your needs and what resources are available to you. If you have a large number of children taking part that you cannot accommodate on stage during the sketch you can always dress them as decorations and have them standing just off-stage or to the side but in plain sight of the audience.

THE TOP OF THE TREE SKETCH

The idea is to create a circular pattern of cast members with the “Top Of The Tree” at the centre. Thus it is very important that the children are arranged on the stage correctly and this will, of course, entail some forward planning. By all means create your own stage plan, perhaps on different levels. At the start of the sketch the stage is empty apart from a small, undecorated Christmas Tree upstage-centre (or perhaps on the floor in front of the stage) and The Top Of The Tree dead-centre. The broken fairy wand should be secretly placed behind this. The clock, if used, should be placed out of the way, either at the back or the side. The cast should be led on-stage in the following order: The Bossy Fairy, The Star, The Wooden Soldier, Father Christmas, The Christmas Pudding, The Green Ball, The Red Ball, The Gold Ball, The Snowman, The Gingerbread Man, The Robin, The Reindeer and The Angel {these children should be positioned near the centre of the stage around The Top Of The Tree}. The Paper Chains and then The Lights (holding hands) should come on last and form a complete circle (if possible) round the outside of the stage enclosing the other cast members. If the Paper Chains and the Lights are holding hands they should let go when they reach their places on the stage. The children should be seated until everyone is on stage and then lie flat on their backs or sides when a teacher gives them a cue (a double hand-clap?). The idea is that the decorations are in their box waiting to be placed on the tree the following morning. The Sun, Mother, Susie and Archie all appear later in the sketch and should be off-stage at this point.

TRACK 3:**SFX MIDNIGHT CHIMES**

- BOSSY FAIRY:** *(Stands up, stretching and then jumps up and down)* I'm so excited. It's December 1st and once again the lady of the house will be down in the morning to decorate the tree. **(Boastfully)** As usual, I shall be at the top!
- STAR:** *(Stands up, quickly)* Not so fast Fairy! Everyone knows that the Star should be at the top of the tree. It's traditional you know!
- BOSSY FAIRY:** *(Annoyed)* Don't be silly! Anyway, I'm far prettier than you!
- WOODEN SOLDIER:** *(Stands up)* That's quite enough of that, thank you very much.
- FATHER CHRISTMAS:** *(Stands up)* Well I'm fed up with always being in the same place. **(Points at the Christmas tree upstage)** **(Wearily)** There I am, year after year, fourth branch down, right hand side - seeing my reflection in that Green Ball for 36 days!
- GREEN BALL:** *(Stands up)* **(Indignant)** **(To the Father Christmas)** You should be glad that I am so shiny and beautiful. You wouldn't be able to see your ugly mug otherwise!
- RED BALL:** *(Stands up)* Green Ball, you're such a big-head. Aren't you ashamed to be so full of yourself?
- GREEN BALL:** *(In a superior voice)* Not really darling. At least I don't look like a metal tomato!

(The Red Ball looks upset.)

TRACK 4:**SFX ONE O’CLOCK CHIMES**

At this point all the characters start to stir – perhaps a teacher should help cue this. The outside ring of Lights and Paper Chains should only sit up or kneel, otherwise the audience’s view of the central characters will be blocked. Generally, try to make sure that everyone can be seen. Cast members should kneel or sit down when they are not saying their lines or involved in a conversation.)

- STAR:** Well I don’t see why we always have to be in the same place every year. *I fancy a change!*
- BOSSY FAIRY:** *You would!* Just because you want to take my place at the top of the tree!
- WOODEN SOLDIER:** *(To The Bossy Fairy and The Star)* Let’s not fall out over this. Surely we can sort this out ourselves.
- LIGHTS:** *(In a superior tone)* Well, without *us*, *none* of you would be seen!
- PAPER CHAINS:** *(Proudly)* We were around long before *any* of you!
- PUDDING:** *(Waddles over)* How about having *me* at the top of the tree?
(Everyone looks shocked)
- BOSSY FAIRY:** *(Sarcastically)* I don’t think so dear!

(The Christmas Pudding waddles back looking disappointed.)

- PUDDING:** Okay, okay – it was just an idea!
- GOLD BALL:** *(Regally)* I am made of pure gold and should be at the top of the tree!
- SNOWMAN:** *(to the Gold Ball, wisely)* All that glitters is not gold. You’re not really made of gold you know - no more than *I* am made of snow.

TRACK 5:**SFX THREE O’CLOCK CHIMES**

- WOODEN SOLDIER:** *(Crossly)* We’ll have to sort this out soon or we’ll run out of time! Ok, Lights, arrange yourselves on the tree first.

TRACK 6:**THE MARCH OF THE LIGHTS**

(There is a count-in on the track in the form of a two-bar snare drum pattern which The Wooden Soldier can mime to. The Lights stand up, hold hands and march around clockwise in a complete circle, ending up where they started.)

- WOODEN SOLDIER:** Now *you* Paper Chains.

TRACK 7: THE MARCH OF THE PAPER CHAINS

(Once again, The Wooden Soldier mimes to the count-in on the track and The Paper Chains also stand up, hold hands and march around anti-clockwise in a complete circle, ending up where they started.)

- THE STAR:** *(Frustrated, hands on hips)* Well, that didn't get us anywhere did it! What a complete waste of time!
- BOSSY FAIRY:** I don't know what we're arguing about. Everyone knows that / should be up at the top!
- THE STAR:** *(Sarcastically)* Do they?.....really?
- GINGERBREAD MAN:** I *like* being near the bottom of the tree. I have such fun when the children think I'm real and take me off the tree. They soon put me back!
- ROBIN:** *(pointing to himself)* Nothing says "Christmas" like a robin so perhaps I should be up high for all to see.
- REINDEER:** Pah! Ever heard of Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer? I think you'll find that people always think of reindeer when they think of Christmas.
- ANGEL:** *(kindly)* It seems to me that we could *all* make a case for being at the top of the tree but does it really matter where we are?
- LIGHTS:** What do you mean?
- PAPER CHAINS:** Yes, what are you trying to say?
- ANGEL:** We all have our part to play in Christmas. No-one is more important than the next so why are we arguing? As long as I get to see the look on the children's faces on Christmas day when they open their presents, I'll be *more* than happy.

(Everyone nods in agreement except for the Bossy Fairy and The Star who look very cross indeed.)

- BOSSY FAIRY:** *(Stamping her foot)* Well. I *do* care about who is at the top. It's going to me and that's that!
- STAR:** Oh no you don't!

(The Bossy Fairy and The Star barge their way through to the middle of the stage behind The Top Of The Tree. The Fairy slips, falls over and cries out {picking up the broken wand which will be behind The Top Of The Tree and hiding the unbroken wand in the same place }. CHILDREN SHOULD TAKE CARE HERE NOT TO GO TOO "OVER THE TOP" FOR THE SAKE OF SAFETY.)

- BOSSY FAIRY:** *(Crying and looking at the broken wand)* Oh no! My beautiful wand!

STAR: *(Triumphant, dancing around)* Yippee! I'm *bound* to be chosen to be at the top of the tree now!

TRACK 8: **SFX EIGHT O'CLOCK CHIMES**

(All of the decorations look at each other in panic. The Sun walks across the front of the stage slowly, smiling at the audience as all the cast stare up at it. The Sun moves to the back of the stage, facing the audience, "beaming down" on everyone.)

WOODEN SOLDIER: *(Agitated)* Quickly, everyone. Back in the box. You've argued the entire night away and the lady will be down soon to decorate the tree.

(The decorations start to lie down. The Bossy Fairy is furious and shrugs off The Angel's kind hug. Eventually all of the decorations are still. The Sun should remain standing. Make sure that the Bossy Fairy and The Star are positioned so that the action after Susie's speech works. The mother and her two children (Susie and Archie) enter and walk around the stage examining the decorations. The Father Christmas, The Bossy Fairy, The Star and The Angel all need to try and look lifeless when they are propped up in the next section.)

MOTHER: *(Looking around)* Well children. It's December 1st so today's the day we decorate the tree.

SUSIE: Brilliant! Can we help this year Mum?

ARCHIE: Yes, we're definitely old enough now!

MOTHER: I expect so! Let's have a look.

(She looks at Father Christmas. She and the children "sit him up".)

MOTHER: *(Tenderly)* Dear old Father Christmas. He was on my tree when I was very young. He's a bit tatty now but I still love him.

(They carefully lay him down. They "sit up" the Bossy Fairy who is clutching the broken wand.)

ARCHIE: This fairy is always at the top of the tree. I suppose it will be the same this year.

SUSIE: *(Sees the broken wand – holds it up)* Oh no! That's a shame. She's got a broken wand. We can't have *her* at the top this year.

(They lay her down. As they go over to The Star they turn their back on her and the Bossy Fairy sits up on her own and rudely pokes her tongue out at them whilst waving her hands – thumbs-in-ears. It's very important that the Mother and two children don't see this or react to the laughter from the audience. They should look back to see The Bossy Fairy, innocently lying down again. The three help The Star into a sitting position who has a grin on its face, though lifeless.)

SUSIE: How about putting The Star at the top this year?

MOTHER: Yes, it is very traditional but I'm not sure – *this* Star has got a bit of a smug look to it.

(It might be fun for The Star's expression to change from a grin to a frown (down-turned mouth). They help The Star to lie down again. The three go over to the Angel – they prop her up.)

ARCHIE: *(To Mother)* I love this Angel. She looks kind, wise and good!

MOTHER: Yes, Archie, you're right! Let's put the Angel at the top of the tree this year.

(They stand The Angel up behind the top of the tree.)

SUSIE: *(Looking around)* Well I don't care *where* the decorations go on the tree. I love them all!

MOTHER: I guess there's a lesson for us *all* here. It doesn't matter who we are, or what we do, there's a place for everyone in this world.

TRACK 9: **(SONG) THE TOP OF THE TREE**

(Whole cast stands to perform the song. If there were some children who could not get onto the stage during the sketch or who were not confident enough to perform, this would be an excellent opportunity to let their parents see them and for them to take part. It might be a nice touch for a teacher or teaching assistant to help a few children, who perhaps didn't play a key role in the sketch, place some decorations on the undecorated tree during the singing of the song. For this purpose you might want to bring the tree to the front so that this cameo can be seen.)

ALL: HAVE YOU EVER LOOKED AT THE
TOP OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE?
STAR THAT'S SHINING BRIGHT
IS A SIGHT THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE SEEN
OR A FAIRY IN A PRETTY DRESS
GAZING DOWN AT YOU
HAVE YOU EVER LOOKED
AT THE WONDERFUL VIEW?

HAVE YOU EVER LOOKED AT THE
PEOPLE YOU MEET EACH DAY?
EVERYONE'S A STAR, YES THEY ARE
JUST IN THEIR OWN WAY,
WHETHER YOU ARE NUMBER ONE IN CLASS
FIRST OR IF YOU'RE LAST
JUST TO DO YOUR BEST, THAT'S THE TEST
WE MUST PASS

AT THE TOP OF THE TREE
IS THE FAIRY OR THE STAR
BUT IT JUST WOULDN'T BE
AS GOOD WITHOUT THE DECORATIONS
FILLING US WITH FASCINATION

ALL THE LOVELY THINGS
THAT YOU FIND ON THE CHRISTMAS TREE
ALL HAVE GOT A PLACE
AND A SPACE JUST LIKE YOU AND ME
AND NO MATTER IF THEY'RE HIGH OR LOW
BIG OR IF THEY'RE SMALL
I CAN TELL YOU IT
DOESN'T MATTER AT ALL
YES, NO MATTER IF THEY'RE HIGH OR LOW
BIG OR IF THEY'RE SMALL
I CAN TELL YOU IT
DOESN'T MATTER AT ALL.

(Whole class bow over applause.)

TRACK 10: **THE TOP OF THE TREE PLAY OFF**

A KANGAROO AT CHRISTMAS**CAST LIST FOR 23 ACTORS**

N.B. In the following list, the bracketed number shows the number of spoken lines each role has.

The English Family

Julie (Mum).....	(6)
Peter (Dad).....	(4)
Their children:	
Matthew.....	(3)
Martha.....	(5)

The Australian Family

Christine (Mum).....	(6)
Greg (Dad).....	(18)
Their children:	
Shane.....	(2)
Ian.....	(1)
Ricky.....	(2)
Dennis.....	(2)
Donna.....	(1)

The Australians (six non-speaking actors required)**Others**

Footballer 1.....	(1)
Footballer 2.....	(1)
Footballer 3.....	(0)
Footballer 4.....	(0)
Footballer 5.....	(0)
The Kangaroo.....	(0)

SUGGESTED REDUCED CAST LIST FOR 15 ACTORS

N.B. In the following list, the bracketed number shows the number of spoken lines each role has.

The English Family

Julie (Mum).....	(6)
Peter (Dad).....	(4)
Their children:	
Matthew.....	(3)
Martha.....	(5)

The Australian Family

Christine (Mum).....	(6)
Greg (Dad).....	(18)
Their children:	
Shane.....	(2)
Ian.....	(1)
Ricky.....	(2)
Dennis.....	(2)
Donna.....	(1)

Others

Footballer 1 also plays an Australian for the cut-away scene*	(1)
Footballer 2 also plays an Australian for the cut-away scene*	(1)
Footballer 3 also plays an Australian for the cut-away scene*	(0)
The Kangaroo.....	(0)

****Very quick costume change required so have football kit on under "Aussie" outfit.***

LIST OF PROPERTIES

A small Christmas tree

A few chairs placed near the tree for Julie and Christine to sit on. A small sofa would be even better. Perhaps two comfortable staffroom chairs placed side by side would suit.

Large cricket bat (for Greg)

Football (new if possible, if not, a clean one will do)

Large plastic carrier bag for the two presents

Boomerang (wrapped in Christmas paper) – could be made out of cardboard if a real one is unavailable.

Kangaroo stuffed toy (wrapped in Christmas paper)

BBQ – cheap metal one

Fake food for the BBQ, sausages etc.

Large colourful beach towels

Beach Balls, plus assorted beach toys - buckets and spades, inflatable rubber rings, dolphins etc.

Small surfboard (or two) – could easily be made out of cardboard

Toy slug for kangaroo (needed during song)

PRODUCTION NOTES

DESCRIPTION AND ADVICE

This is a humorous sketch about an Australian family visiting English relatives on Christmas Day. It should be very simple and cheap to stage. The song “A Kangaroo At Christmas” is performed at the end of the sketch.

Actors should remember to “react” appropriately to the events/dialogue in the sketch and not stand around looking “wooden” when they are not directly involved. At appropriate points the children could sit down on the stage and pretend to chat to each other to add to the realism rather than standing around waiting for their lines. This applies particularly to Martha and Donna, the two girls from the families.

SUITABILITY

Key Stage 2 (Children aged between 7 and 11). This might be better for slightly older children (Year 5 or 6). It depends on finding a suitable child to play Greg, the Australian dad.

CHARACTERS

The main character is Greg, the Australian dad. He is a classic, larger-than-life “Alpha Male”. If he has a strong physical presence, so much the better. His wife, Christine should be a bit silly and very much in awe of him. The kangaroo in the song should be played by a child who has a good sense of comic timing and general musical rhythm.

COSTUMES

Greg (the Australian dad) should be in a colourful shirt and shorts and wearing sandals.

Avoid the cliché of the hat with the corks!

His children should be similarly dressed. His wife, Christine should be in a summery dress, perhaps with a cardigan over her shoulders. They could all be wearing sunglasses pushed back over their heads.

By contrast the English family should be a bit “trussed up” for the season – Christmas jumpers, etc.

The Footballers could be in football kits or tracksuits.

The “Australians” should all be dressed for the beach – shorts and T-shirts – some barefoot, some wearing sandals.

The Kangaroo:-

Option one (most expensive) an outfit from a fancy dress hire shop.

Option two – a parent or grandparent could make an outfit out of fur fabric or similar.

Option three (least expensive) – a kangaroo mask worn with brown T-shirt/leggings/jogging bottoms or maybe even a suitable “onesie”.

SCENERY

None required.

MUSIC

All the music including the sound effects can be found on the Backing Track CD.

ADAPTABILITY

Feel free to change things to suit your needs and what resources are available to you. The “Australians” in the beach scene can number as many or as few as you want. Likewise, the Footballers can be trimmed down if you think that five is too many.

A KANGAROO AT CHRISTMAS SKETCH

The English family, Julie, her husband Peter and their two children Martha and Matthew gather on stage. There is a small Christmas tree upstage left.

MARTHA: ***(Excited)*** Mum, what time are they getting here?

MATTHEW: Yes, I can't wait!

JULIE: Well, they've had a very long journey all the way from Australia. They stayed last night in a hotel at the airport but I don't expect they will be long now.

PETER: ***(To Julie)*** We haven't seen your sister Christine since she emigrated back in the nineties and married Greg. I can't believe they have five children!

JULIE: Yes, two's enough!

MARTHA & MATTHEW: ***(Sarcastically)*** Thanks!

(The doorbell sounds.)

TRACK 11: SFX "WALTZING MATILDA" DOOR BELL

Julie goes over to stage right and "opens" the door to the visitors. They come in one by one. Christine first, then Greg followed by the five children. The daughter, Donna, should come on last. Greg is carrying a large cricket bat. Christine is holding a large plastic carrier bag. Julie and Christine embrace.

CHRISTINE: It's lovely to be here! This is my husband Greg. ***(She puts out her hand to Greg who nods in a fairly disinterested way.)***

GREG: G'Day. Love the doorbell! Really makes me feel at home! What happened to the sun? Did somebody turn it off? Never been so cold in all my life. ***(To Peter)*** You must be Peter. ***(Shakes his hand vigorously. Peter smiles and then turns away grimacing, obviously in pain.)*** Is it ok if I park my bat over here? ***(He leans the bat against the back wall of the stage {or somewhere else that is suitable})*** Thought I might take the ankle biters down your local park after lunch and get a few overs in before the tea interval!

MARTHA: ***(To Matthew)*** What did he just say?

MATTHEW: ***(To Martha)*** I think he wants to take all of us children for a game of cricket.

MARTHA: Oh!

GREG: These are my kids. I'm proud to say that they're all named after famous Australian cricketers. Legends of the game! **(As he says their names the children wave).** This here's my eldest son Shane. This is Ian. This is my son Ricky. This is my youngest boy Dennis and finally this is my only daughter. If she'd been a boy we would have named her Don after the finest batsman in the history of Australian cricket – Sir Donald Bradman. But as she was a girl we called her Donna.

(All the time he is saying this, Christine is looking on proudly, smiling.)

GREG: Anyway, I put a cricket bat in her tiny hands when she was just six months old and by the time she was seven she could hit a six over long-on – not bad for a Sheila!

CHRISTINE: **(With a silly giggle)** Oh Greg's ever so good at sport!

(Donna looks very proud. Her brothers congratulate her. The English family stare in amazement at each other.)

PETER: So, what's a typical Australian Christmas Day like?

CHRISTINE: Oh, very different from over here.

SHANE: "Barbies" on the beach.

IAN: Swimming!

RICKY: Surfing!

DENNIS: Making snowmen out of sand on the beach

DONNA: But we do wear Santa hats and eat turkey!

TRACK 12: BEACH SOUNDS

(At this point, several "Australians" come onto the stage. The families move upstage. The Australians enact some of the things that have just been described. Two actors bring on a small metal barbecue with some fake (real?) sausages and pretend to cook them. Some children pretend to surf on cardboard surfboards. This "cut-away" doesn't need to last long and these actors should go off stage at the conclusion. The families return to their original positions.)

JULIE: **(Leading Christine over to the chairs by the Christmas tree)**
So what is Australia really like?

(As Christine goes to answer, Greg rudely interrupts. Julie looks annoyed as Christine looks surprised and then stares adoringly at her husband.)

GREG: It's pretty wild. Snakes, poisonous spiders, crocs as big as estate cars.

(The English family look aghast while the Australian family nod approvingly.)

SHANE: Mind you, we live in Adelaide, the capital of South Australia

DENNIS: Yeah, Dad's a construction worker

CHRISTINE: *(With a silly giggle)* Greg's ever so strong!

TRACK 13: SFX "MATCH OF THE DAY" DOOR BELL

(Matthew "answers" the door and five children enter all wearing football kit. One of them carries a brand new football.)

FOOTBALLER 1: *(Carrying the football)* I got this for Christmas and I've been calling on my mates to see if they fancied a kick around before lunch.

FOOTBALLER 2: We heard you had company. *(Looking round)* We've got enough for a decent match.

(All the children look excited and keen.)

GREG: *(Sneering)* Soccer's a game for namby-pambys. You should try Australian Rules Football. Now *that's* a man's game!

JULIE: In any case, there won't be time children as lunch is nearly ready. Pop round later if you like.

(The Footballers exit, dejected.)

RICKY: *(To Christine)* Mum, don't forget the presents we have for Matt and Martha!

CHRISTINE: *(Stands and picks up a carrier bag with the presents in that she brought on stage with her)* Here we are. Matthew, this one's for you. *(She hands Matthew his present which is very obviously a boomerang)*

PETER: *(Sarcastically)* Ooh! I wonder what it can be?!

(Matthew unwraps the boomerang and looks pleased. He swishes it around doing pretend throws.)

DONNA: *(Grabs the other wrapped present in the bag and hands it to Martha who unwraps it. It is a soft toy kangaroo. Greg steps forward)*

GREG: Y'know. This is nothing like the real thing. They can grow to over two metres high and can weigh two hundred pounds! I've seen 'em box like Muhammed Ali!

CHRISTINE: Greg's ever so clever isn't he?
(Martha moves downstage centre cuddling the kangaroo looking very pleased.)

MARTHA: *(To audience)* I love my present. *(Dreamily)* I wonder what it would be like to have a real live kangaroo as a Christmas present!

TRACK 14: (SONG) A KANGAROO AT CHRISTMAS

Whole class on stage to perform the song. An actor dressed in a kangaroo's outfit mimes the actions described in the song. This should involve reacting (dancing/miming) with Martha where appropriate. If the song proves too difficult for the whole class to sing, the verses/lines could be divided amongst the children. There is a very convenient split-point at the halfway stage of each verse. Having said this, I would suggest that some lines be sung by the whole class e.g. the "Australian" and end sections.

**Strictly refers to "Strictly Come Dancing" – a hugely popular television show in the UK (2015). Originally this was "Neighbours", the Australian soap opera. Basically any currently favourite TV show can be inserted here according to where in the world this sketch is performed.*

A KANGAROO AT CHRISTMAS MAYBE SOMETHING
THAT IS NOT UPON YOUR LIST BUT IT COULD BE SO GOOD
IT'LL GIVE YOU HOURS OF FUN AND
YOU WON'T HAVE TO BOTHER MUM
WHEN SHE IS TRYING TO MAKE THE CHRISTMAS PUD

KEEP IT IN THE SHED, WRAP A SCARF AROUND ITS HEAD
GET YOUR NAN TO KNIT IT WOOLLY GLOVES
GIVE IT LOTS TO EAT AND SLIPPERS FOR ITS FEET
'CAUSE THAT'S WHAT A KANGAROO LOVES

A KANGAROO WILL KEEP YOU ENTERTAINED
ON ALL THOSE RAINY AFTERNOONS
WHEN YOU ARE FEELING BORED
IT CAN DECORATE THE TREE, MAKE YOUR DAD A CUP OF TEA
IT COULD EVEN HANG THE HOLLY ON THE DOOR

BUT PLEASE DON'T BE SURPRISED

WHEN CHRISTMAS DAY ARRIVES
 IF IT TRIES TO EAT THE CHRISTMAS BIRD
 'CAUSE KANGAROOS ARE FOND OF
 JELLY AND BLANCMANGE AND TURKEY SO I'VE HEARD
 LAYING ON ITS BELLY WATCHING *"STRICTLY" ON THE TELLY
 IS THE ONE THING THAT IT LIKES TO DO
 THEN IT BOUNCES ON THE SOFA
 WHEN THE TELEVISION'S OVER AND IT
 WANTS TO SPEND SOME TIME WITH YOU

(Spoken) SO **(sung)** YOU TAKE IT IN THE SNOW AND LET IT
 HAVE A GO
 AT SLEDGING DOWN THE HILL BEHIND YOUR HOUSE
 BUT THEN IT ALL GOES WRONG, IT ENDS UP IN THE POND
 AND THEN YOU HAVE TO DRAG IT OUT

SO WHEN YOU'RE ASKING SANTA
 FOR A TEDDY OR A PANDA YOU MIGHT
 WANT TO HAVE A TOTAL CHANGE

AND WHEN ALL SUGGESTIONS FAIL YA
 YOU MIGHT THINK ABOUT AUSTRALIA

AND A CREATURE THAT IS REALLY VERY STRANGE

IT WON'T BARK OR YAP. IT MIGHT BE HARD TO WRAP
 BUT YOU KNOW THAT YOU WILL HAVE A FRIEND FOR LIFE
 GIVE IT LOTS OF HUGS – **(spoken)** IT'S VERY FOND OF SLUGS

(Sung) A KANGAROO FOR CHRISTMAS
 ISN'T WHAT YOU MIGHT EXPECT
 TO FIND INSIDE YOUR STOCKING
 BUT YOU NEVER WILL FORGET THIS SONG.

(Whole class bow over applause.)

TRACK 15: A KANGAROO AT CHRISTMAS PLAY OFF