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Christmas Celebration 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Usually at this time of year, rehearsals would be well underway for a whole range of festive musical events! Whilst we know that things can sadly not be the same this year, we would still like to see music and singing taking place, although this obviously has to be in a different way!

So, how can you get involved?



Marvellous Musicians

Normally, we are treated to Christmas carols and tunes being played by our very talented musicians, and we would like to continue that tradition, but with a twist! We are looking for anyone who can play an instrument, whether you learn through school lessons or outside school, and we would like them to record themselves making a Christmas-themed performance. It could be on the piano, a flute, a clarinet, a cornet or any other instrument you might be able to play, just make sure it fits in with the festive theme! Please send your video recording, which should be filmed in **landscape**, to **Mr Horner** (head.3082@chesterton.oxon.sch.uk) and we will use your musical offerings to create a virtual Music Sharing Worship video. You are welcome to record more than one piece (you might even be able to play the same piece on a different instrument), but please record each separately.



Calling all keen solo singers!

We would also invite you to sing a festive song of your choice and record your performance for us to include in our virtual celebration of music. It could be a traditional carol, a Christmas classic or a modern favourite. You will need to choose a Christmas song that you enjoy performing and one that you have a backing track for or which you can sing a cappella (no tracks with voices please....we want to hear your beautiful singing only!). These **landscape** videos should also be sent to **Mr Horner**.

*If your child is part of the Year 5/6 'virtual choir', they are also welcome to contribute to this section. You will receive a separate letter regarding this.

Group Songs

We always enjoy listening to groups of children singing together and at Christmas it is one of the highlights in our usual celebrations. We will really miss our annual 'Singing Around The Tree' and hearing the singing voices of the children at our church service. Therefore, we like to create a Lower School version of '**Away In A Manger**', an Upper School version of '**We Three Kings**' and a whole school



rendition of 'Rudolf The Red Nosed Reindeer'. If you would like to take part in this, you will need to choose a verse from the relevant song to learn and sing. Please video record yourself singing your part of the song (also in landscape) and send it in. It is important that we don't hear the backing music on your recording, so please wear headphones to hear the backing track as you sing. If our video editing skills are up to the task, we are planning to put all of the singing videos together and add in the backing track to create virtual choirs.

'Twas The Night Before Christmas

Another part of our virtual Christmas offering will be a dramatic reading of everyone's favourite Christmas poem, A Visit from St. Nicholas (also known as 'The Night Before Christmas'). The plan is for a child to choose one line from their class' section of the poem, practise it until they know it well (this will be trickier for our younger pupils who may need some adult help) and then perform it to be filmed at home (see details below). If they want to include expression or gesture to enhance their performance, all the better!

The videos will then be put together to create a whole school dramatic reading similar to this. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sL9Hqo7h8Bk> However, we think you will be much more lively and can do even better!

Filming details:

- Record one line at a time. Your child may choose to record more than one line, but please record each as a separate file.
- To be filmed landscape only.
- Try to be as clear and expressive as possible.
- Please wear a Christmassy outfit. This could be a Christmas jumper, or something more extravagant!
- Aim for a Christmas backdrop. It could be in front of a wreath on the front door, by the fire or next to the Christmas tree!

The closing date for all contributions is Tuesday December 8th. This will allow time for Mrs Salter and I to put any finishing touches to recordings on the Wednesday, before editing together to be shared in school before the end of term. Any contributions submitted will earn points for your house too, but please be aware that we may not be able to include all videos.

If you have questions about any of the requests, please don't hesitate to ask.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Horner and Mrs Salter

*Please see separate copy of lyrics and words. Backing tracks will accompany the email version of this letter.



Virtual Christmas Celebration – Group Songs

Please learn and record yourself singing a verse or chorus from the relevant song.

Away In A Manger - Lower School

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus, laid down his sweet
head

The stars in the bright sky, looked down
where he lay
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes
I love thee Lord Jesus, look down from
the sky
And stay by my side, until morning is
nigh

Be near me Lord Jesus I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me I pray
Bless all the dear children in thy tender
care
And fit us for Heaven to live with thee
there.

Upper School – We Three Kings

We three kings of orient are,
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

CHORUS
O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright.
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light!

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign

CHORUS

O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright.
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light!

Frankincense to offer have I,
Incense tells of Deity nigh,
Prayer and praising, all are raising,
Worship Him God most high!

CHORUS
O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright.
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light!

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom,
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone cold tomb.

CHORUS
O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright.
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light!

Glorious now behold Him arise,
King and God and sacrifice!
Alleluia, Alleluia,
Heaven to earth replies

CHORUS
O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright.
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light!

Virtual Christmas Celebration – Group Songs

Please learn and record yourself singing a verse or chorus from the relevant song.

Whole School – Rudolf The Red Nosed Reindeer

Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer
Had a very shiny nose
And if you ever saw it,
You would even say it glows.

All of the other reindeer
Used to laugh and call him names.
They never let poor Rudolph
Join in any reindeer games.

Then one foggy Christmas Eve
Santa came to say:
Rudolph with your nose so bright,
Won't you guide my sleigh tonight?

Then how the reindeer loved him
As they shouted out with glee
Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer
You'll go down in history.

Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer
Had a very shiny nose
And if you ever saw it,
You would even say it glows (like a light bulb)

All of the other reindeer
Used to laugh and call him names.
They never let poor Rudolph
Join in any reindeer games. (like Monopoly)

Then one foggy Christmas Eve
Santa came to say:
Rudolph with your nose so bright,
Won't you guide my sleigh tonight.

Then how the reindeer loved him
As they shouted out with glee (yippee!)
Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer
You'll ...go ...down ...in... his-tor-y.

Virtual Christmas Celebration – Group Songs

Please learn and record yourself performing a line from your class' section of the poem.

A Visit from St. Nicholas

BY CLEMENT CLARKE MOORE

(Maple)

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;
The children were nestled all snug in their beds;
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap,
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.

Away to the window I flew like a flash, (whole Maple Class)

(Beech)

Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.
The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow,
Gave a lustre* of midday to objects below, (*pronounced lust-er)
When what to my wondering eyes did appear,
But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny rein-deer,
With a little old driver so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment he must be St. Nick.
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name:
"Now, *Dasher!* now, *Dancer!* now *Prancer* and *Vixen!*

On, *Comet!* on, *Cupid!* on, *Donner* and *Blitzen!* (whole Beech Class)

(Ash)

To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"
As leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky;
So up to the housetop, the coursers they flew
With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas too...!

Virtual Christmas Celebration – Group Songs

Please learn and record yourself performing a line from your class' section of the poem.

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.
As I drew in my head, and was turning around,
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.
He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot, (whole Ash Class)

(Apple)

And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a pedlar just opening his pack.
His eyes—how they twinkled! his dimples, how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard on his chin was as white as the snow;
The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke, it encircled his head like a wreath;
He had a broad face and a little round belly

That shook when he laughed, like a bowl full of jelly. (whole Apple Class)

(Oak)

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,
And laying his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;
He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.

But we heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight... (Whole Oak Class)

“Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night!” (special guest!)