

COPYRIGHT AND LICENSING

PLEASE READ THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION BEFORE PLANNING YOUR PERFORMANCE

Under the Copyrights, Designs and Patents Act (1988), it is a legal requirement for schools to comply with copyright law, and ensure they hold the correct licences for performing musicals. As experienced teachers ourselves, we understand that time restraints and lack of advice can sometimes mean this aspect of your production is not dealt with, or that the details and requirements are not fully understood. We therefore try to make the process of licensing your performances as simple as possible.

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.

Performance of Musical

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, CCLI 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

Audio and Video Recordings

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, to stream live performances and upload recordings to social media platforms such as Facebook and YouTube. We no longer request that you pay a commission to us on the money you raise from the sale of recordings.

File Sharing

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.

Tel: 01858 288081

Email: info@edgyproductions.com

PERFORMANCE LICENCE APPLICATION FORM

For any performance of any part of ‘Wow! What A Year!’ to an audience other than staff and children (eg. if you perform to parents), a valid performance licence from Edgy Productions must be held. Please note, your PRS, MCPS, CCLI or similar local authority-issued licences do not cover you for this. **Unless you purchased a 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 email – info@edgyproductions.com
- by post – please check www.edgyproductions.com for address details

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)

☐ *Tick if you are performing outside your school premises, for example in a local theatre, as further conditions apply – see www.edgyproductions.com/licences

If you are recording any performance, streaming it, uploading to social media, 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)**

Displayed prices subject to change after 31/08/2021

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

PLOT SUMMARY

A teacher and her/his class reflect on the monumental events that have shaped our lives in recent times. They discuss the pandemic and how various aspects of lockdown have put us all in some quite challenging situations. As we look at snapshots of these situations, we see that amongst the sadness and frustration there have been moments of hope, heroism and even humour. **Song – Wow! What A Year!**

Firstly, home-schooling! As two siblings squabble about whose turn it is on the laptop, Mum and Dad try to juggle the demands of working and housekeeping, whilst making sure their children are breakfasted and educated! As things get comically fraught, they find ingenious and slightly unorthodox solutions to making sure all bases are covered! **Song – Round The Twist**

Next, we celebrate those frontline workers whose amazing efforts provided a lifeline during lockdown. In a cinematic scene, we imagine them as a team of Marvel superheroes, assembled to battle an evil foe! With KERPOWS aplenty, they emerge triumphant, but acknowledge the sacrifices and efforts made by all of us in this epic struggle! **Song – H.E.R.O.**

Heroes come in different shapes and sizes...and ages. We take a moment to focus on one in particular, as we mark the fabulous achievements of Captain Sir Tom Moore and commemorate his remarkable life. **Song – Captain Tom**

Remember when certain items were in short supply on the supermarket shelves? As a family hungrily awaits the return of Dad from the shops, they worry why he’s taking so long. When he finally staggers into the kitchen, battered and bruised by the panic-buying hordes, he enthusiastically tries to convince the family that tonight’s dinner will still be delicious, even though he had to make a few ‘substitutions’ to things that were on the shopping list! **Song – None Left**

We then consider all the rules and restrictions we were subject to during lockdown, how confusing they could be and how they seemed to change from one announcement to the next! We join three ‘experts’ as they prepare to give another Covid briefing to the nation, in which they will outline their latest ideas to flatten the curve. Realising that perhaps previous instructions had been less than straightforward, they decide to inject some pizzazz into today’s briefing, hoping the message will really hit home! **Song – Put That Mask On**

Of course, the pandemic and lockdown have had serious consequences for many people. Livelihoods have been destroyed, loneliness and isolation have affected the vulnerable, and lives have tragically been lost. We take a moment to recognise the sacrifices that have been made by so many and, where fitting and appropriate, to pay our respects on a more personal level. **Song – A Place In My Heart**

However, there is light at the end of the tunnel, with the development and roll-out of a vaccine. This has been a cause for celebration and we take a fly-on-the-wall look at how such celebrations may have taken place amongst the scientists responsible! **Song – A Shot In The Arm**

So, here we are! Having lived through our very own piece of history, we can now look to the future with hope. Things may take a while to get back to normal, but there will soon be possibilities and opportunities to make the most of and enjoy – a chance, at last, to live our lives and be anything and everything we want to be. **Song – Running Free**

CHARACTERS

50 speaking parts

(Approximate number depending on scenes 5 & 7. This number can easily be increased or reduced to suit your cast size – see suggestions on p30.)

All continuity scenes

Teacher and 6 Children

Scene 1 *(change the family members to represent different set-ups as you feel appropriate)*

Mum

Son

Daughter

Dad

Scene 2

Iris the Virus

Nurse

Doctor

Bus Driver

Shop Worker

Construction Worker

Teacher

For a
character
line-count
& costume
suggestions,
see p31

Scene 3 *(change the family members to represent different set-ups as you feel appropriate)*

Son

Mum

Daughter #1

Daughter #2

Dad

Scene 4

3 Experts

Rock Singer

Rock Guitarist

Scene 5

Approx. 5 of your children sharing their personal thoughts

Scene 6

Professor Hans Facenspace

Professor Pam Demic

2 Scientists

Scene 7

As many children as possible sharing their personal thoughts

Non-speaking characters *(if numbers allow)* for featured songs

Home-schooling children & parents

Costumed heroes

Shoppers

Rock band

Scientists



Scene 1

*(As the **intro music** plays (**track 10**) the cast enters and all sit on, around and in front of the main stage, apart from six children and their teacher who sit at tables on a smaller stage to one side.)*

Teacher Wow! What a year it's been! In fact, what a year and a *half* it's been! As we reach the end of term, I think we should look back on the things we've been through during these extraordinary times. So, how about something positive to start with. Any ideas?

Child #1 *(raising a hand)* Well, last year we had four months of no school followed by the summer holidays! And then no school again at the start of 2021!

Teacher I said tell me something *positive*! Anyway, I'm glad that all of you...well, most of you...still kept up with your schoolwork at home! What else?

Child #2 Having time to just take things a little slower.

Child #3 Binge-watching my favourite boxsets!

Child #4 Following Captain Tom doing his amazing walk for the NHS!

Teacher Ah, Captain Tom. What a hero, and what a legacy he's left. Let's talk more about him later on, shall we? So, what else made things bearable?

Child #5 Not having to go to the hairdressers, because they were closed! Result!

Teacher Okay, thank you. So on the flipside, what about things we struggled with?

Child #5 My mum deciding to cut my hair herself! She made a right mess of it!

Teacher Yes, I had noticed! Don't worry, it'll grow back! So, what else was difficult?

Child #6 Nothing left on the supermarket shelves during the first lockdown.

Child #1 Watching my parents struggle to keep their small business going.

Child #3 Not being able to give my grandparents a hug. That was awful.

Child #4 At a time when we were a bit scared and just needed to be close to people, we were told we had to keep our distance.

Teacher Yet here we are, over the worst, we hope, and slowly getting back to normal. But it was tough for a while. As I said, what a year it's been...

Song **Wow! What A Year!**

Track 1 - vocal demo
Track 11 - backing track
Lyrics p20

(The whole cast stands to sing. As the song finishes, all leave the main stage, which is already set up for the next part of this scene. But first we return to the side stage...)

- Teacher** Okay then, let’s wind the clock back to March 2020. Who’d like to remind us what happened?
- Child #2** *(raising a hand)* Well, with cases of the Covid 19 virus increasing, to slow the spread and to stop the NHS being overwhelmed, we went into lockdown.
- Child #5** We were told to stay at home, not to socialise, to only go out for essential shopping and exercise, and to wash our hands...a lot!
- Child #6** Restaurants, bars, theatres, cinemas, sports venues, a lot of shops and most offices closed, and people were told to work from home, unless they were keyworkers.
- Child #1** Schools stayed open for keyworkers’ children, but for most of us, at the time, I suppose it felt like the summer holidays had started early!
- Child #3** Yeah, but that feeling didn’t last long. Remember?
- All Children** Of course...home-schooling!



- Mum** Yes, Karen, I know I said I’d get that report written by last Friday...no, I’m not taking advantage of the working-from-home arrangements...yes, I realise this isn’t a holiday...yes, I’ll email it this afternoon...no, I won’t watch Loose Women and forget...yes, I promise...goodbye Karen!

(She ends the call, breathes deeply, forces a smile and sits by her son who is frowning at the laptop screen.)

- Son** Mum, is this a subordinating conjunction or a co-ordinating conjunction? I think it’s subordinating, but I’m not sure.
- Mum** *(harassed and confused)* Subordinating what?! In my day it was just nouns, verbs and adjectives we needed to know about! Let’s have a look...

(She is interrupted by her phone ringing (track 13). She takes another deep breath and answers.)

- Hi Karen...yes, of course I’ll spell-check it...yes, I know the directors will be reading it...no, it won’t be full of grammatical mistakes like last time...yes, Karen...no, Karen...*(through gritted teeth)* you have a good day too, Karen! *(to son)* Now, a conjunctivating submarine, you say?
- Son** It’s okay, Mum. I’ve done it. Right, *(typing)* now I need to do History.
- Daughter** But it’s my turn on the computer! It’s not fair! Mum, tell him!

(The children start squabbling. Mum puts her head in her hands. Dad enters, also in pyjamas.)

- Dad** Hey now! What’s all this noise? I’m trying to sleep! You know I’m working nights at the minute, so please just keep it down a bit, okay?

Daughter Sorry Dad, but he’s hogging the computer and I’ve got my Maths to finish.

Son Yeah, right! You just want to play games on it!

(They start squabbling again. Mum still has her head in her hands!)

Dad Enough! Right, *(to son)* you eat your cereal and you *(to daughter)* do your maths. What is it you’re doing exactly? Show me.

(He sits next to his daughter, who takes the laptop and starts typing. The son eats his cereal. Mum looks at her phone, reading a message.)

Daughter Long multiplication, *(pointing at the screen)* but I’m really stuck on all these.

Dad Well, let’s see your working-out. *(She shows him an exercise book)* Eh? That’s not how we were taught long multiplication when I was at school! What’s all that grid nonsense? Look *(writing in the book)*, just stick a zero in that column, times that by that, then times that by that, then add ’em up!

Daughter But why do you...

Dad *(interrupting)* Just do it like that – you don’t need to know why! Right, can I go back to bed now?

Mum Not yet. *(pointing at her phone)* There’s a message from your mother. Will you call her for a chat? She’s bored being stuck at home on her own.

Dad But I spent three hours with her yesterday, talking to her through the kitchen window when I delivered her shopping! Can’t you phone her?

Mum No! She’s your mother! Anyway, I’ve got that report to write for Karen at work...and there’s these two to supervise.

(The children begin squabbling loudly again and Mum holds her head in despair. Dad stands up.)

Dad Stop it, you two! Okay, what schoolwork do you still have to do?

Son There’s my History to start and I have a science worksheet on electricity.

Daughter And I’ve got Art and RE.

Dad Right, here’s what we’ll do. *(to son)* Electricity you say? Well, I suggest you plug in the Hoover and clean upstairs. Then there’s a lightbulb needs changing in the downstairs loo. And History...let’s see...I know, you can phone your Grandma and listen to her talk about the olden days for an hour! *(to daughter)* Okay, Art...right, you can give the garden fence a coat of creosote. Now, something for RE...hmmm...let me think....

(Mum’s phone rings again (track 14). She takes a deep breath and answers.)

Mum Hello Karen...yes I’m just about to...no, I’m not on the settee with my feet up...yes, I know you’re under a lot of pressure...yes, I know how hard you work...no, I’m not taking advantage of your good nature...it’s just that my children are...yes, I understand...goodbye, Karen.

(Mum lets out a huge ‘AAAAAAAGH!!!’, kneels on the floor, clasps her hands together and looks to the ceiling!)

Mum DEAR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN, HEAR MY PRAYER! TAKE PITY ON ME IN MY HOUR OF NEED AND DELIVER ME FROM THIS TORTURE! AMEN!

(Dad and the children look at her in stunned silence. Mum then composes herself, stands up and calmly turns to her shocked family.)

Mum There you are, that’s your RE sorted. Right, I think I’ll put my feet up for an hour and watch Loose Women.

*(As the **comedy fail motif** plays (track 15), Dad and the children watch, open-mouthed, as Mum calmly exits! If numbers allow, more pyjama-wearing children and parents enter to lead the song.)*

Song **Round The Twist** Track 2 - vocal demo Track 16 - backing track Lyrics p21

*(As the **intro music** plays (track 17) all exit and the main stage is made ready for the next scene.)*



Scene 2

(As the intro music fades, the action returns to the side stage.)

Teacher I think all of us were looking forward to returning to school after that, weren’t we?

All Children *(all shrugging slightly)* Hmmmm.

Child #2 I know my parents were happy when the new school year started in September. Mum said she has a new-found admiration for teachers and can’t believe what they put up with!

Teacher Haha! Well, what can I say? We do try! But there were so many people who worked hard during lockdown, even though there were risks, just to keep us ticking over.

Child #4 I remember! It was like watching a whole new set of Marvel characters coming together to battle a super villain!

Child #5 Yeah, ‘Covid Heroes – Unite and Fight!’ I reckon that would make a great film!

Teacher It certainly would.....



*(We hear **harp music** (track 18) and the action moves to the main stage. A cloaked figure, Iris the Virus, sits in her villainous lair, typing on a laptop. She hits a final key, closes the laptop triumphantly and stands up.)*

Iris And with a single click, my masterplan for world domination is now implemented! Mwahahaha! *(The audience boos)* Ah, hello you pathetic bunch. Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Iris...Iris the Virus. Yes, okay, it's not the greatest name for a super villain, but there isn't much that rhymes with virus! I did consider 'Mona Corona', but that just sounds like a whinging bottle of beer, which isn't very awe-inspiring. 'The Big V' was an option, but I figured people would think I was a second-rate rapper, whereas I'm more of a heavy metal fan. 'Louise the Disease', which was my mother's idea, well, the less said about that the better! So 'Iris the Virus' it is. Soon, everyone will know my name and all will bow before me as I wreak havoc, bringing Earth's inhabitants to their knees! Mwahahaha!

*(We hear an **alarm (track 19)** and Iris rushes to her laptop and opens it, staring in disbelief!)*

Iris Intruders have breached my defences! Who dares to challenge me?!

*(To a **fanfare (track 20)** the heroes enter, striking heroic poses. As each delivers their line, a cartoon Batman-style placard is held up; BAM! WHACK! etc and we hear a sound-effect. With each one, Iris winces and staggers until, with the final blow, she falls to the floor!)*

Nurse I and my fellow NHS workers will not cease in our efforts to keep people strong and healthy in their battle against you! **(BAM! track 21)**

Doctor We will work tirelessly in hospitals, surgeries and clinics, treating the ill and needy. We will not stop until we have found a vaccine that will put an end to your wicked plan! **(WHACK! track 22)**

Iris *(reeling)* Curses! Doctors and nurses! But it will take more than you to defeat me! I am not just a threat to your health. The chaos I have created in your daily lives will be the ruin of you!

Bus Driver The nation's transport workers will make sure things keep moving. You might think you can bring life to a grinding halt, Iris, but not on our watch! **(ZAP! track 23)**

Shop Worker And we will continue to serve our communities, whatever the risks to ourselves might be, to make sure families always have food on their tables! **(THUNK! track 24)**

Iris *(reeling)* This can't be possible! I thought you humans had no backbone. You were supposed to crumble as I unleashed my devastating power!

Construction Worker Well, that's where you're wrong. We will keep building for our future, so when you are nothing but a distant memory, we shall still be standing strong! **(WHAM! track 25)**

Teacher And we will teach our future generations about how we stood together until you were no more. Time to face facts, Iris, you will be defeated! My fellow Covid heroes, UNITE AND FIGHT!

*(All the heroes thrust out their chests to a final **KERPOW! flurry (track 26)**. The audience cheers and Iris lets out a blood-curdling screech and falls motionless on the floor. The heroes line up across the front of the stage, resembling the Village People, and prepare to sing.)*

Nurse

Listen everyone, we are just the tip of the iceberg. Many millions more risked their own safety in the fight against this virus. And you yourselves showed such bravery, battling through hardship, loneliness and drastic change, going without your comforts and remaining steadfast throughout. And remember how you clapped for the NHS? Well, here’s a chance to clap along with us again...HIT IT!

(If numbers allow, more costumed heroes enter to lead the song.)

Song **H.E.R.O.**

Track 3 - vocal demo
Track 27 - backing track
Lyrics p22

Doctor

That was fantastic! Just what we needed! Now, before we go, we’d like to tell you about another hero.

Bus Driver

As my colleague explained, there were so many heroes who emerged during this pandemic, but none of them captured our imaginations as much as one certain person.

Shop Worker

An army veteran of WW2, in April 2020 he decided he was going to raise £1000 for NHS charities by walking 100 laps of his garden, before his 100th birthday!

Construction Worker

As his story became national news, he was soon a household name and his fundraising snowballed!

Teacher

He completed his 100 laps in the 24 days running up to his birthday, and the money he raised went a little beyond the £1000 he’d hoped for! Donations totalled over £30 million, and this is still going up!

Nurse

In recognition of his amazing efforts, he was made an honorary colonel, and on July 17th 2020 he became a knight of the realm when her majesty the queen asked him to ‘arise Captain *SIR* Tom Moore’.



*(All applaud. At this point, display **backdrop 4**, a picture of Sir Tom.)*

Doctor

Sadly, this remarkable gentleman passed away in February 2021, but the example he set and the inspiration he gave us to push through, to care for each other and to be positive, will never be forgotten. Rest in peace, Captain Tom.

Bus Driver

So, join us in an uplifting song to celebrate the life and achievements of this great man. Move over Captain America; here’s to a real superhero... here’s to Captain Tom!

Song **Captain Tom**

Track 4 - vocal demo
Track 28 - backing track
Lyrics p23

*(As the **intro music** plays (**track 29**) all exit and the main stage is made ready for the next scene.)*



Scene 3

(As the intro music fades, the action returns to the side stage.)

Teacher Well, we certainly needed inspirational characters like that to give us a lift through lockdown, didn't we?

Child #6 Ha! It's a shame they couldn't inspire a bit of common sense into some people. Do you remember what happened in the supermarkets?

Child #1 Yeah! Panic-buying. What was all that about?

Child #2 If you didn't get to the supermarket super early, there wasn't anything left on the shelves!

Child #3 Well, except for stuff like broccoli, and who wants to eat that?! Eurgh!

Child #4 And why did everyone suddenly start stocking-up on toilet roll? I read a bit about coronavirus and nowhere could I find that one of its symptoms was an increased need to go to the loo!

Child #5 We went weeks without any! We had to use kitchen roll...until that ran out too.

Child #1 Then what did you do?

Child #5 You don't want to know.....



*(We hear **harp music (track 30)** and the action moves to the main stage. Mum and three children are sitting round the kitchen table, which is set for a meal. The children are impatiently playing with their cutlery whilst Mum keeps nervously glancing at her watch.)*

Son Mum, where's Dad? He should've been back from the shops ages ago. It's way past dinner time and I'm starving!

Mum I'm sure he won't be long now, then we can have dinner. It's going to be fish fingers, chips and baked beans tonight!

Daughter #1 Yes! My favourite. You can't beat fish fingers, chips and beans.

Daughter #2 And is he getting those deluxe creamy yoghurts I like for pudding? And a bottle of Coke? It's Friday remember – we're allowed Coke on Friday!

Mum Well, they were on the shopping list I gave him, so I expect so.

(Suddenly, Dad staggers in! His hair is ruffled, his shirt is ripped and he has a black eye! He drops two full carrier bags on the floor and collapses onto a chair!)

Mum Crikey, love! What on earth has happened to you?!

Son Have you been run over, Dad?!

- Daughter #1** Have you been mugged?!
- Daughter #2** Have you been attacked by next door’s Jack Russell again?!
- Dad** No...not that...I’ve been to....to...Tesco!
- Mum** Yes, we know that! I sent you there with a list two hours ago! How did you get yourself in this state just going to Tesco?
- Dad** You don’t know what it’s like out there! Since they announced this lockdown, the world’s gone mad! It’s every man for himself! They’re stripping the supermarket shelves of everything! There’s fighting in the aisles! I don’t know how I managed to get out of there alive!
- Son** *(pretending to be sympathetic)* That sounds terrible, Dad....*(hardening his tone)* ...but did you get our dinner?
- Daughter #1** Fish fingers, chips and beans?
- Daughter #2** Deluxe creamy yoghurts? And a bottle of Coke?
- Dad** Errr...yes...I...errr...got what was on the list...more or less.
- Mum** More or less? What do you mean? Did you, or didn’t you?
- Dad** *(putting the first carrier bag on the table)* I did my best to make sure we have fish fingers, chips and beans for dinner, with yoghurt for pudding and Coke to drink...sort of. *(putting his hand in the carrier bag)* It’s just going to take a bit of imagination. Okay...*(taking out a head of broccoli and a bag of frozen peas)*...now, I know they weren’t on the list, but I’ve been thinking for a long time now that we don’t eat enough green veg, and there were plenty of peas and broccoli left in the shop, so...
- Son** Eurgh! What about the stuff you were supposed to get? Oven chips?
- Dad** Yes...right...oven chips. Okay, they’d run out of those, but...*(taking two parsnips out of the bag)* they had parsnips! If we cut them up, brush them with oil and oven-bake them...tada! Chips!
- Daughter #1** You’re joking! I’ll just stick to the fish fingers and baked beans.
- Dad** Ah yes, beans. They’d run out of those too, so I thought...*(presenting a tin of chickpeas and a tube of tomato puree)* lovely chickpeas in tomato puree!
- Daughter #1** Dad! That’s gross! At least tell me you got the fish fingers?
- Dad** Technically, yes, we have fish fingers. Maybe not quite what you’re used to, but fingers of fish nonetheless! I managed to get four tins of sardines, *(presenting four tins of sardines)* which we can mush up then roll into finger-sized portions. And here’s the best bit...they don’t need cooking! We can eat them cold!

- Daughter #2** (*gagging*) No way! Tell me you at least managed to find yoghurts?
- Dad** Haha, yes! See, (*taking out a container of milk*) I got the last 2 litres of milk in the shop! The good thing is, it's out of date! If we leave it in a warm place for a while, hey presto....yoghurt!
- All** That is disgusting!
- Mum** Well what about the Coke? Let me guess; you got some Oxo cubes and thought you could just pop one in a bottle of sparkling water and give it a quick shake?
- Dad** (*sheepishly taking sparkling water and Oxo cubes from the bag*) Great minds think alike, eh love! (*despondently*) Oh, I'm sorry everyone, but I tried, I really did. Chips, fish fingers, beans, yoghurt, coke...there's just none left.
- Mum** (*sympathetically*) We know it's not your fault. Well done for trying your best. Okay, I suppose we can get a take-away. I think I saw on the news that they're allowed to stay open. I'll give the Chinese a ring, shall I?
- Daughter #2** Yes, Chinese! Great idea. So, Dad, what's in the other bag?
- Dad** (*putting the other bag on the table*) Ah, yes! Look, I managed to pick these up from the newsagents on the way home. (*emptying the bag*) Twenty copies of today's Daily Mail. (*substitute for the newspaper of your choice*)
- Son** And what, may I ask, are we supposed to do with those? It's not an attempt to get us to read more instead of being on our screens, is it?
- Dad** Well, there was one more thing on the shopping list that they'd run out of.
- All** What was that?
- Dad** (*scrunching up a newspaper sheet and holding it aloft triumphantly*) Tada...loo roll!
- (As the **comedy fail motif** plays (**track 31**), Mum and the children hang their heads in disbelief! If numbers allow, shoppers with bags enter to lead the song.)

Song None Left

Track 5 - vocal demo
Track 32 - backing track
Lyrics p24

(As the **intro music** plays (**track 33**) all exit and the main stage is made ready for the next scene.)



Teacher

Scene 4

(As the intro music fades, the action returns to the side stage.)

Lockdown certainly did present us with a few challenges, didn't it! So many rules and regulations which meant big changes to our lives.

- Child #1** I found some of the instructions that we were given really confusing. And they were always changing! The people in charge were struggling to know what to do for the best sometimes.
- Child #2** Ha! It seems even experts don't agree all the time. The thing is, if they can't make their minds up, how are we supposed to know what to do?
- Child #3** Shops had to shut, then they could open, then they had to shut again!
- Child #4** We couldn't go to restaurants, then we were told to 'eat out to help out', then we were told again that we couldn't do that!
- Child #5** We weren't allowed to play sports, then we were, but only outside, but we couldn't go and watch our favourite teams play! I couldn't keep up!
- Child #6** And the whole thing about bubbles and tiers, who you could see, where you could see them and for how long! I really don't envy the people who had to stand up week after week, in front of the cameras and update the nation...



*(We hear **harp music (track 34)** and the action moves to the main stage, where three lecterns/music-stands are centrally placed, but socially-distanced. Behind the lecterns is a drum kit and electric guitars and microphones on stands – all will be revealed! To one side, three 'experts' stand, socially-distanced and holding documents. If you choose, they can bear resemblances to the prominent politicians and scientists who have delivered the Covid updates we have watched.)*

- Expert #1** Here we go again! I didn't get any sleep last night worrying about this.
- Expert #2** Me neither. It seems that every week we have to tell the people something different that they have to do to stop this virus spreading.
- Expert #3** No wonder they're getting confused. Maybe we're just not making things clear enough for them. 'Don't leave the house...unless you have to leave the house!' 'Don't go to work...unless you have to go to work!'
- Expert #1** 'You can mix with people in a bubble of six...unless there's an R in the month and it hasn't rained for three days!' Then there's the tiers; 'You're in this tier, they're in that tier!' This whole thing has had me in 'tears'!
- Expert #2** Which is why we need a different approach. So, did you manage to read the document I prepared? *(waving his/her own copy)* Do you think it'll work?
- Expert #3** *(waving his/her own copy)* Well, it's worth a try. It can't do any harm.
- Expert #1** It's certainly radical, I'll give you that. We might as well give it a shot.
- Expert #2** Okay then, let's do this....

(They move to take their positions behind their respective lecterns to address the audience.)

- Expert #3** Thank you everybody for joining us at today's Covid briefing. Now, as you are aware, the situation with regard to this virus remains serious.

- Expert #1** We understand that the instructions we have previously given may have been unclear, leaving many of you unsure about what you need to do.
- Expert #2** However, while we wait for the next set of scientific findings, from which we will come up with *another* set of different instructions for you, there are three things we need you to do; three things which have remained the same since the beginning of all this.
- Expert #3** And today we would really like to reinforce these, just so you are in no doubt. Firstly, wash your hands at every opportunity, as we know you can pick up the virus from infected surfaces. Secondly, keep a two-metre distance from people when you leave your homes for essential activity.
- Expert #1** And thirdly, wear a mask to reduce the risk of transmitting and contracting the virus through your breath. Now, we have said these things before, but many people still don't seem to understand.

(At this point, a rock band enters. They wipe their hands with sanitizer then pick up/stand/sit behind their instruments, looking cool! All wear a mask and there is distance between them.)

- Expert #2** *(sounding like a fish out of water!)* So, to shake things up a little bit, to make the message a little more, ahem, funky and groovy, especially for you younger, cooler ‘dudes’ out there, let’s...in a socially-distanced manner, of course...ROCK!

(The experts take their lecterns to the side, from where they enthusiastically, if awkwardly, dance and sing along! Although the song is fronted by the band on stage, it should be sung by all.)

Song **Put That Mask On**

Track 6 - vocal demo
Track 35 - backing track
Lyrics p25

(As the song finishes, the ruffled and breathless experts come back to the middle. Expert #3 awkwardly tries to hi-five the singer, who backs away.)

- Singer** Hey! Back off man. Social distance, remember!
- Expert #3** Oh yes! Silly me! Well, my word, that was very energetic! I got a bit carried away there. Look, I even took my tie off! Rock and roll!
- Expert #1** *(to a guitarist)* I’m sure you’ll need refreshments after that performance, so we’ve laid on cups of tea and biscuits back stage, if you’d like to join us?
- Guitarist** That’s very kind of you, but we’ll pass. Gotta keep safe, right?
- (The band members exit.)*
- Expert #2** Yes...well...I think that worked very well indeed. So, same time next week.
- Experts #1 & 3** Can’t wait!

*(As the **intro music** plays (track 36) all exit.)*



Scene 5

(As the intro music fades, the action returns to the side stage. The following lines are as much an address to the audience as they are a conversation between the characters.)

NB – be sensitive to the individual circumstances of those in your school community and edit this part of the script accordingly.

Teacher I think we’ve found that having a sense of humour certainly helps us cope with life’s challenges.

Child #1 But we mustn’t forget that the Covid pandemic and lockdown have been devastating for so many people.

Child #2 Jobs have been lost, livelihoods have been ruined and families have struggled to adapt to huge changes.

Child #3 Yes, we’ve taken a look at a few aspects of lockdown in a light-hearted way this evening, but the pressures these and other things have created are very real.

Child #4 And the effects of social distancing have led to loneliness, isolation and depression in lots of vulnerable people. In our efforts to shield older family members, they have often gone months without contact with the people they love.

Child #5 And, of course, lives have been lost. Some of us may have been more personally affected by this than others, but as individuals, families, a school, a community, a nation and the world, we have all been touched by what has happened.

Child #6 So let’s take a moment to think about and remember those who, throughout these difficult times, have paid the highest price.



If your children have any personal thoughts, experiences or dedications they would like to share, they could take the opportunity at this point.

Song

A Place In My Heart

Track 7 - vocal demo
Track 37 - backing track
Lyrics p26

(As the intro music plays (track 38) all exit and the main stage is made ready for the next scene.)



Scene 6

(As the intro music fades, the action returns to the side stage.)

Teacher Come on, let’s try and finish on something positive, shall we? What has given us hope? Any ideas?

Child #6 The vaccine! It’s the light at the end of this tunnel.

Child #2 What a fantastic job those scientists did! How hard they worked to get it ready so quickly.

Child #6 I bet there were some celebrations in the laboratory on the day they made the breakthrough. I wish I’d been a fly on the wall....



*(We hear **harp music (track 39)** and the action moves to the main stage, where laptops and scientific equipment are set up on tables. There are champagne glasses, a celebration cake and other evidence of partying! Four scientists, in white lab coats, enter. They wear party hats, they are draped in streamers and they blow party whistles – they seem quite happy! Scientist #2 slumps in a chair and snoozes, while the other three dance around! Scientist #1 is filming on a mobile phone.)*

Scientist #1 *(filming a selfie video)* Hello YouTube! You join us at the lab where we’re having a PARTY! We’ve done it! The final test results are back and, ladies and gentlemen, we have an effective vaccine! Needless to say we are very jolly! Let’s get a reaction from Professor Hans Facenspace who co-led this research. *(putting an arm around Hans for a joint selfie video)* Professor Hans Facenspace, tell us how you’re feeling.

Hans *(waving into the camera)* Hello everyone! Yes, it’s been a crazy few months! We haven’t stopped! But here we are, with the finish line in sight...and we’re celebrating!

Scientist #1 *(to the other upright scientist)* Hey, Pamela, say hello to YouTube! Come on Pam, don’t be shy. The great professor Pam Demic, without whose efforts we wouldn’t be here! Come on Pam, say something!

Pam *(shyly joining in the video selfie)* Hi! Well, yes, it’s been an amazing breakthrough. But we’re only doing our jobs – this is just what we do.

Scientist #1 *(filming the lab)* And this is where it all happened! We’ve been locked in this lab 24/7. We haven’t seen daylight for months, but now we can relax a little. And some of us *(filming the snoozing Scientist #2)* seem a little more relaxed than others! *(back to the selfie)* Right, we have some final loose ends to tie up before we send this vaccine off to the manufacturers, so it’s goodbye from the lab! *(putting phone away)* So Professor Facenspace, Professor Demic, let’s crack on!

Hans *(nervously searching through the mess on the table.)* Err...hang on...where is it? The final formula...I left it here! I’m sure I did!

(Scientist #2, unnoticed by the others, starts to film them on his/her mobile phone.)

Pam *(frantically joining the search)* What the...! You have got to be kidding! Don’t tell me, after all our hard work, we...I mean YOU...have lost it!

Hans *(getting angry)* Don’t blame me! I know I left it here! RIGHT HERE!

Scientist #1 *(helping search)* This cannot be happening! I’ve given up my life to work on this. I haven’t seen my children in a year! You idiots!

Pam Who are you calling an idiot? I have a PHD from Oxford University!

Hans And I’ve been nominated three times for a Nobel prize! If anyone’s an idiot, it’s you! This party was your idea!

(The three of them continue bickering and name-calling. It gets very heated. Scientist #2, still filming their squabbling, lets out a loud snigger. The other three hear this and stop arguing.)

Pam *(to Scientist #2)* Oh! So you’re awake, are you?!

Scientist #1 And what are you sniggering at? This isn’t funny!

Hans And why are you filming this? You should be helping us!

Scientist #2 *(laughing gleefully and still filming!)* Oh my goodness, you should see your faces! It’s hilarious! This is definitely going on YouTube!

Hans Excuse me?! Have you lost your marbles?!

Pam Are you for real?! Do you understand what is happening here? We’ve lost the formula!

Scientist #1 And you’re going to put this disaster on YouTube?! Stop filming at once!

Scientist #2 *(still filming)* Relax! You’ve just been pranked! Oh, your faces! Comedy gold! We haven’t lost the formula. It’s here in my pocket! *(reaching into lab coat pocket)* Err...at least I thought it was! OH NO! It’s not there! It must have fallen out when we went to buy more champagne!

All YOU IDIOT!

Scientist #2 *(still filming)* Haha! Only joking! *reaching into the other pocket and retrieving a test tube and a sheet of data, which s/he puts on the table)* Here it is, safe and sound! But really, your faces!

Hans You pranked us?! Why would you prank us?!

Scientist #2 Oh, come on! It’s just a bit of fun. And anyway, now everyone will see that scientists aren’t boring, that we do have a sense of humour!

(The other three, faces like thunder walk slowly towards him/her, hands outstretched as if to commit strangulation! Scientist #2 suddenly looks afraid and backs away, still filming!)

Scientist #2 Guys? Come on! Sense of humour? Scientists can take a joke, yes? No? *(as they get nearer)* Please, guys! Surely you can see the funny side? *(they’re nearly on top of her/him!)*...oh cripes!

(Scientist #2 yelps and runs off, dropping the phone. The other three’s faces relax into smiles.)

Hans Ha! Talk about ‘looks on faces’! Did you see his/hers!

Pam Is s/he right though? Do people think we scientists are a boring bunch? How can we change that?

Scientist #1 *(picking up the dropped phone and starting to film)* By singing a song and sticking it on YouTube! Come on gang, let's show the world there's more to us than meets the eye!

(If numbers allow, more scientists enter to lead the song.)

Song **A Shot In The Arm**

Track 8 - vocal demo
Track 40 - backing track
Lyrics p27

(As the intro music plays (track 41) all exit.)



Scene 7

(As the intro music fades, the action returns to the side stage.)

Teacher Let me say it again...Wow! What a year! Such extraordinary times we've all lived through. One day, children like you will learn about our experiences in *their* history lessons.

Child #4 I suppose this has been like our Blitz, hasn't it? Everyone standing together in the face of a common enemy.

Child #5 And when it's properly over, maybe we'll notice that things have changed for the better. Maybe we'll all learn to appreciate what we have and not take anything, or anyone, for granted.

Child #6 And we'll make the most of the opportunities to do all those things and to be with all those people we've missed since this craziness started.

Allow your children to share their hopes and wishes at this point. They could each say what and who they have personally missed, and what they are especially looking forward to, now/once things have returned to normal.

(The whole cast gathers on, around and in front of the stage.)

Teacher *(to the audience)* So, everybody, all that's left to say is thank you for joining us this evening. How wonderful that we can all, at last, be together again. Here's to the future and finally being free to explore our possibilities, to imagine and realise all that we can be. Now...LET'S LIFT THE ROOF OFF THIS PLACE!

Song **Running Free**

Track 9 - vocal demo
Track 42 - backing track
Lyrics p28

THE END

Wow! What A Year!

Chorus *We rode a rollercoaster,
Lost the plot there for a while!
But even through the dark times,
We’ve found things to make us smile.
A crazy situation,
Can’t believe the things we’ve seen.
Wow! What a year it’s been!*

Verse 1 It started with a call to arms,
Everybody had to toe the line,
Wash our hands and stay inside,
Enjoy some family time.
As days turned into weeks
We had to show some self-control,
And focus all our efforts on
The hunt for toilet roll!

Chorus *We rode a rollercoaster.....*

Verse 2 Our parents kept us schooled at home,
It really drove them up the wall!
Grannies learned the art of Zoom
To make a conference call!
We saw heroic deeds
And everybody clapped along,
To get behind our NHS
And fantastic Captain Tom!

Chorus *We rode a rollercoaster.....*

Repeat *Wow! What a year it’s been!*

WHAT A YEAR IT HAS BEEN!



Round The Twist

Verse 1

(Children)

Mum's trying to teach us history,
The baby's throwing food across the floor!
This algebra's a mystery –
No-one can tell us what we learn it for!

(Dad)

Dad says that he wishes
He had listened more in school,
“I was always round the bike sheds,
Just trying to look cool!”

Chorus

(All)

Ohhhhhh!
There's got to be a better way than this.
We're going round the twist!

Verse 2

(Children)

This long multiplication
Is dividing us in two!
We thought we'd never say it,
But we can't wait to go to school!

(Parents)

Trying to teach these children
Is like herding grizzly bears!
Our hats are off, our caps are doffed
To teachers everywhere!

Chorus

Ohhhhhh....

Middle

Life used to be so simple,
The old morning routine,
Just give 'em all some cornflakes
And wave them off till three fifteen!

Chorus

Ohhhhhh!
There's got to be a better way than this.
Ohhhhhh!
There's got to be a better way than this.
We're going round the twist!
We're going round the twist!
We're going round the twist!
We're going round theTWIST!



H.E.R.O.

Verse 1 Sometimes life can be tough
And you feel like you've had enough
Of the bad stuff coming your way,
And you need some help today.
Don't worry if you're under attack,
There are people watching your back
And they're with you every step of the way,
And they make the world a better place....

Chorus *Every one of them's an H.E.R.O!
Yes, every one of them's an H.E.R.O!
If things get too hot, or you're in a tight spot,
Your back's to the wall,
Well you know you can call on an H.E.R.O!
Yes, every one of them's an H.E.R.O!
They'll fight to the end to protect and defend,
You can't wish for a better friend!*

Verse 2 Maybe there'll be a time,
When the mountain you gotta climb
Is so high you want to give up,
'Cause the road is just too rough.
Don't worry, someone's taking a stand
And they'll give you a helping hand,
To get through all the strain and the stress.
Will they save the day? The answer's YES!

Chorus *Every one of them's an H.E.R.O!*

Repeat Chorus



Captain Tom

Verse 1 Now, heroes come in different shapes and sizes,
Big and small and young and old as well.
And no matter what your age,
You’ve still got a part to play,
So there’s a story that we’d like to tell.
See, down in England there lived such a hero,
A soldier by the name of Captain Tom.
And as the virus hit,
He vowed to do his bit
And he pulled his marching boots right on!

Chorus *Captain Tom, Captain Tom!
When others stopped he just kept marchin’ on!
Up and down the garden until the race was won,
Everybody raise a glass to Captain Tom!*

Verse 2 Now, the more he walked, the more folk kept donating!
The money that he raised just grew and grew!
And at the final round,
More than 30 Million pounds
He gave to all the charities he knew!
Now, the army they promoted him to Colonel
And standing proud they pinned his medals on,
And Her Majesty the Queen
Liked what she had seen,
So she knighted him – arise Sir Tom!

Chorus *Captain Tom, Captain Tom....*

Verse 3 Now, heroes they don’t stay with us forever,
The time will always come to say ‘so long’.
And at a hundred years of age,
His final walk he made...
Rest in peace and thanks a million, Captain Tom.

Chorus *Captain Tom, Captain Tom....*

Repeat *Everybody raise a glass to Captain Tom!*



None Left

Verse 1

(spoken)

*‘This is a staff announcement. Member of staff to aisle 12.
We seem to have run out of food again!’*

We’re here at the local shop,
The queue goes right around the block,
It’s everybody for themselves!
And now that we’re all inside,
We can’t quite believe our eyes,
There’s not a bean left on the shelves!

Chorus

*None left, nothing for our tea!
None left to feed the family!
A shopping trip’s not how it used to be.
None left, it’s a catastrophe!
None left, except for frozen peas
And loads and loads of broccoli*

Verse 2

There’s lots on our shopping list,
We’ve looked, but they don’t exist.
Who’s taken all the toilet roll?
It’s like the apocalypse,
We just want some oven chips,
But we’ve more chance of striking gold!

(spoken)

*‘This is a staff announcement. Member of staff to aisle 6.
There’s two old ladies fighting over the last tin of corned beef!’*

Chorus

None left, nothing for our tea.....

(spoken)

*‘This is a customer announcement. Please make your way to
the exits. We seem to have run out of absolutely everything
and the shop is now closed!’*



Put That Mask On

Verse 1

HEY! YEAH! HEY!
We're heading into lockdown for our security,
There's gonna be some changes to
The lives we used to lead. COME ON! HEY!
Yes, we see the reason, we understand the goal,
But all the same it's still a pain –
It just ain't rock'n'roll! COME ON! HEY!
But if we're gonna get through it,
We just gotta do it. HEY!
And if we're pullin' together,
This storm we can weather.
It's all for one and one for all! YEAH!

Chorus

Put that mask on your face,
Give each other some space,
Wash your hands every chance you get.
We'll beat this yet!
Ha! No sweat!

Verse 2

HEY! YEAH! HEY!
No, it won't be easy, not hanging out with friends,
But we'll keep social distance
Till this situation ends. COME ON! HEY!
And coverin' our faces, that look ain't flatterin',
But there's one bright side; a mask can hide
That pimple on your chin! COME ON! HEY!
And though it's doin' your brain in,
Ain't no use complainin'. HEY!
And no it don't make us fools if
We stick to the rules, so
It's all for one and one for all! YEAH!

Chorus

Put that mask on your face...

Repeat Chorus

YEAH!



A Place In My Heart

Verse 1 I believe there is a place in my heart,
I can go there when I please.
It is filled with the things that I love
And memories I keep.
I believe there is a place in my heart
And I go there when I choose.
I can see all the things that I love
And that's where I see you.

And even though you had to go,
Still we see your light.
In my heart, we're not apart,
We fly so high,
We fly so high.

Verse 2 I believe there is a place in my heart,
I can go there when I please.
It is filled with the things that I love
And memories I keep.
I believe there is a place in my heart
And I go there when I choose.
I can see all the things that I love
And that's where I see you,
See you.



A Shot In The Arm

Verse 1 Edward Jenner, a clever fella,
Noticed people weren't very well,
Apart from all those milking maids
Who didn't catch smallpox – hmmm, very strange!
He had a notion and made a potion
Which caused a scientific commotion,
A way to keep us safe from harm –
Ain't that a shot in the arm!

Chorus *Now they've found a vaccine for Covid 19!
We'll all roll up our sleeves and send it on its way.
Arrivederci! Au revoir!
Oh jubilation and celebration,
Because with just a little prick, we won't get sick,
And that will be an end to it!*

Verse 2 So if you find a sneaky virus
Trying to find its way inside us,
Clever folks in their white coats
Will set to work upon their microscopes.
And they'll mix a fine elixir
To keep us healthy, fighting fitter,
Hoping it will work a charm –
Ain't that a shot in the arm!

Chorus *Oh Covid 19, you can't fight this vaccine!
We all rolled up our sleeves and sent you on your way.
Sayonara! On yer bike!
Oh jubilation and celebration,
Because with just a little prick, we won't get sick,
And that will be an end to it!*

Instrumental *during which the scientists dance!*

Repeat *Ain't that a shot in the...
Ain't that a shot in the...
Ain't that a shot in the arm!*



Running Free

Verse 1 So now the darker days
Are falling far behind us
And rainbows are filling the sky.
A sign of better times,
They’re shining to remind us
That love and hope never die.
And though we hid amongst the shadows for so long,
We held it all together and we stayed strong!

Chorus *Now we’re running free,
Living our lives and
Exploring our possibilities.
Now we’re running free,
Dreaming our dreams and
Imagining all that we can be.
We’re running free.*

Verse 2 How long we’ve waited and
How hard have we been wishing
That beautiful moment would come,
When we can put our arms
Around those we’ve been missing
And be afraid of no-one.
And though we had to keep our distance for so long
We’re all coming together and standing strong.

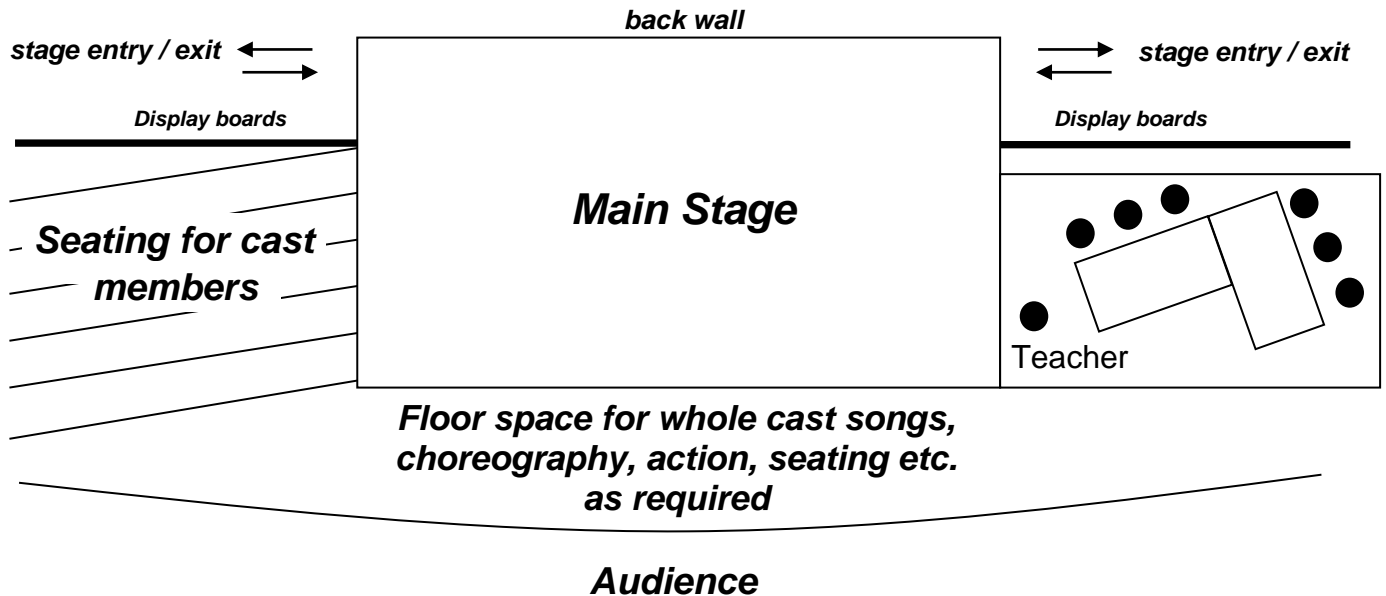
Chorus *Now we’re running free,
Living our lives and
Exploring our possibilities.
Now we’re running free,
Dreaming our dreams and
Imagining all that we can be.
We’re running free.*

Repeat Chorus x2



STAGING AND PRODUCTION SUGGESTIONS

‘Wow! What A Year!’ has been written to be adaptable to most school hall set-ups, whether you have a stage or not. Below is just one representation of a possible staging layout.



- **Scenery**

We recommend using our digital backdrops for display behind the main stage (see www.edgyproductions.com for details). However, if you prefer to create your own scenery, decorate the back wall and display boards with newspaper headlines and images that detail the events of lockdown – use the front cover as a starting point.

- **Furniture**

Continuity scenes: 7 chairs and 2 tables.

Scene 1: 3 chairs and a table covered in a table cloth.

Scene 2: 1 table.

Scene 3: 5 chairs and a table covered in a table cloth.

Scene 4: 3 music stands

Scenes 5 & 7: N/A

Scene 6: 1 chair and 2 tables

- **Props**

Scene 1: A laptop. Pencil cases, pens and paper. 2 exercise books. 2 bowls and spoons. A mobile phone.

Scene 2: A Laptop. Comic exclamation signs ‘ZAP!’ ‘BAM!’ ‘KERPOW!’ etc.

Scene 3: Cutlery and crockery for 5 people. A carrier bag containing: broccoli, frozen peas, parsnips, Tomato puree, a tin of chickpeas, 4 tins of sardines, 2 litres of milk, a bottle of sparkling water, a box of Oxo cubes. A second carrier bag containing a pile of newspapers.

Scene 4: Instruments for a rock band. 3 paper documents.

Scenes 5 & 7: N/A

Scene 6: Scientific equipment (test tubes, flasks etc). 2 laptops. A cake. 2 Champagne/prosecco bottles. 4 glasses. Party hats, streamers and whistles. 2 mobile phones.

- **Costumes** – For individual character suggestions, **see p31**.
- **Use of Space**
Larger groups can be involved in the performance of most of the songs. A space on the floor in front of the main stage could be used to accommodate extra singers and the cast could perform a dance routine. A seating area for resting performers could be allocated each side of the stage. This lets them enjoy the performance as part of the audience, allows easy movement on and off the stage, and of course eliminates the need for back-stage supervision.
- **Making the cast smaller**
Have as few as 2 children for the continuity scenes.
Reduce the superhero group to just 2, a doctor and nurse who can speak of the other keyworkers’ efforts.
The family at the dinner table can just have one child.
2 experts can deliver the Covid briefing and the rock band need only have 3 members.
Drop either Hans Facenspace or Pam Demic from scene 6 and re-distribute their lines.
Reduce the number of extra singing parents, heroes, shoppers and scientists.
Making the cast larger
Increase the number of children for the continuity scenes to as many as you can accommodate, and write extra lines for them, or share lines already written.
Increase the superhero group to include more keyworkers and write lines for them to explain their contribution during lockdown.
The family at the dinner table can just have extra children.
5 or 6 experts can deliver the Covid briefing and the rock band could have more members.
Add more scientists to the lab scene and write lines to extend their dialogue.
Increase the number of extra singing parents, heroes, shoppers and scientists.
- **Audience seating** – The audience could be in one block facing the stage, or in two blocks separated by an aisle wide enough for the entrance and exit of some characters to and from the back.

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

NB - a spoken line is defined here as each time a character speaks, usually between 1 & 10 actual lines of text.

Speaking character	Spoken lines	Costume suggestions
Teacher	15	As per the teaching staff in your school
Child #1	7	School uniform
Child #2	7	School uniform
Child #3	6	School uniform
Child #4	7	School uniform
Child #5	9	School uniform
Child #6	8	School uniform
Mum	7	Pyjamas and dressing gown
Son	4	Pyjamas and dressing gown
Daughter	5	Pyjamas and dressing gown
Dad	8	Pyjamas and dressing gown
Iris the Virus	4	Black hooded cloak
Nurse	3	Nursing ‘greens’
Doctor	3	Doctor’s ‘greens’ plus stethoscope
Bus Driver	3	Peaked cap, black jacket and trousers, white shirt
Shop Worker	2	Plain tee-shirt, tabard, trousers
Construction Worker	2	Hard hat, overalls
Teacher	2	As per the teaching staff in your school
Son	5	Boy’s casual clothes
Mum	7	Adult’s casual clothes
Daughter #1	5	Girl’s casual clothes
Daughter #2	5	Girl’s casual clothes
Dad	12	Ripped shirt, trousers
Expert #1	7	Suit
Expert #2	6	Suit
Expert #3	6	Suit
Rock Singer	1	Band tee-shirt, jeans, studded belt & bracelet, bandana
Rock Guitarist	1	Band tee-shirt, jeans, studded belt & bracelet, bandana
Scientist #1	7	White lab coat
Prof Hans Facenspace	8	White lab coat
Prof Pam Demic	6	White lab coat
Scientist #2	5	White lab coat
Children scenes 5 & 7	TBC by you	School uniform

Non-speaking characters	Costume suggestions
Home-schooling parents & children	Pyjamas and dressing gown
Superheroes	Different keyworkers’ clothes
Shoppers	Coats, carrying shopping bags
Rock band	Band tee-shirt, jeans, studded belt & bracelet, bandana
Scientists	White lab coat