



Picture News

What's going on this week?

School nativity plays and musical concerts have taken place in various formats this year, with some schools hosting events entirely online, others taking a hybrid approach and some even opting for performances outdoors. Health minister, Edward Argar, had said festive plays in school are "important to young people who've had a rough time" during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Main question:

Who are school performances for?

Listen, think, share

- Look at this week's poster and talk about what you can see. Share your own experiences of school plays and concerts.
- Do you enjoy performing in front of others? Talk about how some people love to perform, whilst others may feel differently, perhaps feeling nervous.
- Thinking about school plays and performances, who are the people involved in the process? E.g. the teachers who choose the parts and direct, parents who help provide costumes, the actors who say the lines and the audiences who enjoy the show! Do you think that everyone involved benefits?
- Many plays this year and last year have taken a different form, for example pre-recorded, streamed online or as an outside performance. How are these different from traditional performances?
- Read through the examples of how some schools performed in front of others in December (found on the assembly resource). Share the benefits and drawbacks of each. Are there any that you would have liked to take part in?
- Watch some of Twynholm School's nativity (useful video link found over leaf). This nativity has had over 2,000 views and has been watched by people in countries all around the world. Talk about the different skills required to make and share a production like theirs.

Reflection

School plays and concerts are often lots of fun and can be enjoyed by all involved, the performers, the audience and the people working hard behind the scenes – and in recent times, we've found new ways to enjoy these performances - online or even outside!



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KS1 Focus

Question:

Does everyone like performances?

Listen, think, share

- Explain that a performance is when we act or perform something such as a play, a song or a piece of music in front of an audience. Record a list of examples of performances e.g. a pantomime, a theatre production, an orchestral or music concert.
- Look at resource 1, which shares some of the roles found in a performance. Can you think of any others? Do you think all of these roles need to be filled in order for a performance to take place? Do you have to have a camera person or a stagehand? Would it be a performance without the performers or an audience?
- For each role, discuss if you think you would like doing it or not. Does everyone feel the same? Is there at least one role within a performance that everyone would like or do you think some people won't like any part of it?
- Think about some of the performances you have taken part in. What was your role? Did you enjoy it? How did it make you feel?
- Focus on the audience. Have you enjoyed watching a performance? What was it and why did you like it? Are there any performances you do not enjoy watching?

Reflection

There are many different roles and jobs within a performance. This means most people can find something they like about them so they can either enjoy taking part or enjoy watching.



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KS2 Focus

Question:

What skills can performing in front of others develop?

Listen, think, share

- Think about some of the performances you have been involved in, either in the past or this week! What was the performance e.g. a play, a pantomime, singing/choir, playing a musical instrument or orchestra, a class assembly?
- What was your role in the performance? Did you/do you enjoy your role? What other roles are there e.g. stagehand, director, lighting/sound technician, set designer, costume designer, hair and makeup?
- Often, we are encouraged to be a performer in our school plays and productions, whether it is something we enjoy or not. Why do you think this might be? What skills do you think we can develop from performing in front of others?
- Look at resource 2, which shares some of these skills. Can you think of any others? Do you agree that we can develop each of these through performing in front of others? Are there other ways these skills could be developed?
- How do you feel about performing in front of others? Is it something you enjoy? Do you agree that the more you do something, the more confidence you gain?
- Focus on 'managing emotions'. Can you describe your emotions at different points throughout performances e.g. whilst you are rehearsing, at the beginning, middle and end of the performance? Does everyone feel the same?

Reflection

We have opportunities to perform in front of others, which can help us develop skills. Often, the more we do something, the more confident we become.

KS2 Follow-up Ideas

Option 1: Ask the children to think about performing in front of an audience.

- When was the last time you did this?
- What were you performing?
- Did you enjoy it?

Ask the children to discuss the range of emotions they may have felt and how they may have changed before, during and after a performance e.g. nervous/excited at the beginning, relieved/proud at the end.

- How might we show these emotions through art? What colour/shape/line might show that we are nervous?

Explore different shapes, colours, lines and tones that may represent different emotions before asking the children to produce a piece of art to represent their emotion journey throughout a performance.

Option 2: Use school performances to inspire some writing! You could select one (or more) of the following:

- A poster or leaflet advertising a school performance.
- A performance programme.
- Write a script for your own performance.
- Write a review of a performance you have watched.
- Write a thank you letter to someone else in school who put on a good performance for you!
- Write to a theatre company to find out more about how they organise their performances.

KS1 Follow-up Ideas

Option 1: Explain that people often need to purchase a ticket for a performance.

- Have you ever bought tickets for a performance?
- Do you know how much they cost? Was the price for children and adults the same?

Share the price list below or create your own:

THEATRE TICKETS	
Child	£2
Adult	£5
Senior citizen	£3

Ask the children questions such as the following:

- How much would it cost for you to go to the theatre?
- How much would it cost for you to go with your friend?
- How much more is an adult ticket than a child ticket?
- If I bought a child ticket, an adult ticket and a senior citizen ticket, how much would it cost?
- How much would it cost to buy tickets for everyone in your class?

Option 2: Ask the children to think about the many different plays and performances that we may either watch or perform.

- Can you name any characters in a performance that you have watched?
- Can you describe them? What did they look like? How did they behave? What were they wearing?

Sometimes, the performances we watch use puppets for the characters. Ask the children to design and make a puppet they could use in a performance. You could create these using either a sock or make lolly pop stick puppets. Once their puppets are made, ask the children to work with a partner or as part of a small group to create a performance to share!

This Week's Useful Websites

This week's news story

<https://bit.ly/3o2CKnn>

This Week's Useful Videos

Twynholm Nativity 2020

www.youtube.com/watch?v=AUOTm2rVpLU

This Week's Virtual Assembly

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

This Week's Useful Vocabulary

Concert – a musical performance.

School plays and **concerts** are often lots of fun.

Direct – give performers instructions, organise and be responsible for the performance.

...the teachers who choose the parts and **direct**.

Hosting – being the person or organisation to provide the facilities for an event to take place.

...with some schools **hosting** events entirely online.

Hybrid – a mixture of two things.

...others taking a **hybrid** approach.

Opting – making a choice from a range of possibilities.

...some **opting** for performances outdoors.

Streamed – digital data (such as videos) played over the internet.

Many plays this year and last year have taken a different form, for example pre-recorded, **streamed** online or as an outside performance.