

# QUESTIONNAIRE AND RESPONSES

The following questions were used with groups of children in a number of primary schools prior to writing the script for this project. We were very keen to gauge children's understanding of the nativity and to incorporate their own thoughts and reflections as part of the final work. Their responses (some of which we include below) make for interesting reading! We recommend you take some time to talk to your children as preparation to putting on this nativity play. It will be an enlightening and, undoubtedly, an entertaining exercise! If you wish, you could substitute their own ideas for some of those we used in the script provided.

## NATIVITY STORY

### WHAT DO THEY UNDERSTAND BY THE WORD 'NATIVITY'?

- It means you're doing a play
- I don't know
- It's a job. A person comes to sort things out
- A shed where Jesus was born
- It's a Christmas play where everyone takes part
- It's a play about the birth of Jesus
- Like a festival

### WHY DO WE DO NATIVITY PLAYS?

- To cheer the teachers up (!)
- To help the teachers
- To show that we care for God
- To remind us about Jesus
- So we can celebrate Christmas and show it to our brothers and nanny and granddad

### WHO WROTE THE NATIVITY STORY?

- God?
- Jesus
- Jesus' dad?
- Mary?
- Joseph?

### DO THE TEACHERS ENJOY DOING NATIVITY PLAYS?

- Yes! They like us to dress up. They like us to sing
- No! It's too much hassle and stress
- No, I don't think so. They like changing the words, but they don't like it if we get the words wrong!

- I think they enjoy doing plays so that they can see what talents they have
- Yes, because it's like doing a lesson but doing it for fun as well
- No, because you do the same things every year
- Yes, because it's fun for them
- It depends what the weather is like

## BIRTHPLACE

### WHERE WAS JESUS BORN?

- Jesus was born in a barn
- In a shed
- In Bethlehem

### WHERE ARE BABIES USUALLY BORN?

- In hospital
- At home
- In your mummy's tummy
- My sister was born on the toilet!

### IF YOU WERE GOD, WHERE WOULD YOU WANT JESUS TO BE BORN?

- Somewhere cosy
- In hospital
- Somewhere safe
- In the kitchen in a pod
- Under a tree to keep him from getting sunburnt
- Somewhere where there's no rats
- Not in an extension

## TRANSPORT

### WHERE DID JOSEPH AND MARY HAVE TO TRAVEL TO?

### HOW DID THEY GET THERE?

- Bethlehem
- Stable
- On a donkey
- They had to walk
- Not a horse or a car or a taxi
- They didn't have many cars in those days
- A superhero could get there in 4 minutes
- Joseph pulled the donkey with a rope. I was a donkey. I liked being a donkey. Mary was tired

# SHEPHERDS, ANGELS AND GOOD NEWS

## WHAT DO PEOPLE DO THESE DAYS TO TELL THEIR FRIENDS IF THEY'VE HAD A BABY?

- They have a wedding
- Phone them up, or tell them in person, and they have a party
- They invite them to a baby shower
- They go round to their house and show them the baby
- They have a baby shower and they explain about their lumps
- They go to the pub and have a party
- They send out invitations

## WHO DID GOD TELL ABOUT JESUS BEING BORN?

- Everyone
- The Queen
- Shepherds
- The three kings

## HOW DID GOD TELL THE SHEPHERDS ABOUT JESUS BEING BORN?

- He telephoned them and told them to go
- They didn't have telephones then!
- He spoke to them
- He shouted!
- He sent a message
- He got an angel to give them the message

## WHAT IS AN ANGEL?

- A kind person
- A spirit
- Someone that is very kind and giving and beautiful
- A truthful person?
- Somebody that has wings and a ring on their head, and they do magic
- A messenger of God
- A person in white that lives in heaven
- Angels are half human and half butterfly

## **THE ANGELS TOLD THE SHEPHERDS THE GOOD NEWS. WHAT'S THE BEST NEWS THAT YOU'VE EVER HAD?**

- When my brother was born
- I got to play for Southampton
- When my mum said I could get a drum kit for Christmas
- When I found out my cat was having kittens
- When I caught a 49-pound carp
- When I got a part in the school play
- When France went in the final
- When I got a certificate

## **WISE MEN AND PRESENTS**

### **WHAT DOES IT MEAN IF WE SAY SOMEONE IS WISE?**

- You're smart
- Smart and old
- A man that tells the truth and you can rely on him
- Someone who's intelligent and thoughtful
- A magical person
- An old man in a blue robe, very like a wizard
- Old, experienced and clever
- Clever person who helps

### **WHO DO YOU THINK OF AS BEING WISE?**

- The Queen
- The Prime Minister
- Tony Blair knows a lot of things. He rules the world
- The Pope
- My mummy
- My granny
- Tony Blair with lots of doves

### **WHAT PRESENTS DO PEOPLE NORMALLY GIVE TO NEWBORN BABIES?**

- Soft toys
- Teddies
- Baby blankets
- A dummy
- Rattles
- A teddy and a bicycle
- Nappies
- Baby clothes

## **WHAT GIFTS DID THE WISE MEN TAKE TO JESUS?**

- Presents – I don't remember what exactly
- Expensive things
- A sheep
- Some wine?
- Gold
- A wish
- Gold and something else beginning with 'F' and 'M'
- Gold, 'For Instance' and 'Murphy'!

# **NATIVITY STORIES**

## **WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE IN THE SCHOOL NATIVITY PLAY?**

- I would like to be Mary because I would have to look after Jesus
- The angel, 'cause they learn to fly
- The donkey – because I like plodding
- Joseph, so I could marry Mary
- Mary. I like to wear pretty dresses. And have an umbrella
- I'd like to be Father Christmas. Or one of the elves, and I'd make all the things on the Christmas tree to come alive in the night and decorate it themselves
- Father Christmas, so I could have all the presents
- Mary or a tree

## **DO YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING INTERESTING FROM ANY OF THE NATIVITY PLAYS YOU'VE DONE BEFORE?**

- Mary and I got on stage and I turned round and my dress was stuck in my knickers
- I remember when I was an angel arc
- When I was a donkey in Year Two, and I used two halves of a coconut to make the clip-clopping sound
- When ten people, including me, were the ten-headed monster
- I remember when I was the background person
- I remember I pretended to be an angel and I walked on to stage with my trousers on my head!
- I was Joseph and I tripped up on stage
- Max forgot all his words
- My best memory is singing all the songs as I still remember some of them now

# UNDERSTANDING OF JESUS

## WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT JESUS?

- Jesus was a great father and he asked everyone to be good
- He told people to stop all the bad things
- He had a friend called John the Baptist and he used to chuck people in the water
- Jesus was very lucky to have such a kind mother and father
- He was the son of God
- Jesus drank the wine which was the blood and he ate the bread which was the body
- He was born in Bethlehem
- Jesus died on Christmas day and he came back again

## WHY DO YOU THINK GOD SENT JESUS TO THE EARTH?

- To help people
- To be kind
- To make a person who was dead to come back to life again
- To tell people how to live
- Well, he had to stay in heaven to keep things going, so he sent Jesus down to earth to sort things out there

# QUESTIONNAIRE FOR YOUR USE

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