

As I write our Reception children are busy rehearsing their nativity play, 'Shine Star Shine'. If you enter the EYFS classroom it is buzzing with children learning their lines and practising the songs with gusto! I know that other children, the staff and parents all look forward to watching the nativity and it is a highlight of the Christmas period in school.



The nativity play itself has long been a tradition in schools up and down the country. Based around the traditional story of the first Christmas, the nativity is first and foremost a way for children to understand the Christmas story in more detail, to step back over two thousand years and immerse themselves in a story about a king born in a humble stable. However, the joy of the nativity is that it is literally the gift that keeps on giving. Any school play, such as nativity, is a great method for children to learn a whole host of skills that can benefit them throughout their entire schooling as well as provide a firm foundation for years to come.



Imagination – performing in role requires the children to imagine what it is like to be that person and it also boosts their ability to empathise with somebody by acting as them.



Communication – acting enables children to improve their communication skills in a context that is fun and exciting and develops excellent interpersonal skills between the performers and the audience.



Confidence – Speaking in front of their peers and parents allows children to develop self-confidence and is great practise not only for later on in education but eventually the workplace too.



Teamwork – Any play can give children and adults the opportunity to work together in new and exciting ways as they learn their lines, choreograph where to stand on stage, design the set and work as a team to pull off a good performance.

As our children perform 'Shine Star Shine' this December they will be receiving vital personal development, and the confidence that children can gain out of being a part of a performance such as this can benefit them for life. The more interpersonal skills and self-confidence a child has, then the greater their growth and ability to **shine** as they progress through school and later life.

I personally can't wait to watch yet another great performance, I know it will make my Christmas.

Happy Christmas

Mrs Helen France