3.6.20

**Mary Poppins – the show must go on!**

Dear cast of Mary Poppins**,**

You all worked so hard before lockdown and we were so impressed with the standard of your work so we are going to try to produce as much of Mary Poppins as we can as a **video**! **All future information** will be on the **whole school page** on the website – please check at least twice a week! scroll to the bottom of the list under Parents (below classes) [www.barham.kent.sch.uk/parents/whole-school](http://www.barham.kent.sch.uk/parents/whole-school) .

Each song (or section of dialogue) will need to be **recorded as a video** and sent **by email** to Mr Johnson or another member of the production team. You will need to **record only your voice**, so you must play the backing track though **headphones**, so you can sing along in time. Hopefully you have the rehearsal backing tracks safely, but if not, you can find them on Jonah Ruderman’s Youtube channel. They must be the Mary Poppins **Junior** Version. [www.youtube.com/watch?v=qotUVbf\_O5s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qotUVbf_O5s). We will then put all the clips into a video.

When you come to record you should **wear** a plain, brightly coloured t-shirt and ideally have a white or plain, light colour **wall** behind you. **Look into the camera** as much as possible **the whole time you are recording**, whether or not you are singing – this will be like looking at the audience! Try to **smile** as much as possible. Try to **articulate the words** clearly by moving your lips and opening your mouth wide! Show appropriate **expression** on your face to communicate the message of the song: think about whether what you are saying is funny, happy, surprising or sad. Please **check the instructions for each song** which I will give. These will vary depending on whether you are singing in the chorus or a solo or group part. I will tell you where to start and stop the recording. Each song may have one or more parts. Make sure you always record a few seconds before you start singing so you are ready and add a few seconds after you stop before ending the recording. We will then cut these parts out when we make the video! We will decide who will be shown on screen for each part of the song.

**Uploading the video** can be tricky. Teachers have found that **compressing** the file using Videocompressor or Vimeo is often necessary. Try to choose **medium quality**, as low quality might be blurry, but blurry is better than nothing! We recommend sending each song separately and using **Wetransfer** to send it to Kieran.johnston@barham.kent.sch.uk.

We expect you will find it more work than you expect.

* Read carefully through all **instructions** telling you **when to sing** and any **actions** you need to add! Watch the demo video if there is one! P**ractise** singing along with the backing track, so you know exactly where to come in and where to sing. Try to **learn lyrics,** but if you can’t, put them on a piece of paper right next to your camera.
* Next set up **a device to record** (I use my phone for this) and **another device** to play the backing track through some headphones. **Practise** starting the backing track and then starting recording from the right place.
* When you’ve had a few trial runs, go for it - **record**! **Check** the recording from beginning to end then **save** it carefully and do not delete it! Delete unwanted files so you don’t send the wrong one by mistake! Please **name your recording** with the name of the song and your name e.g. Prologue Mrs W, when you send it.
* Last, but definitely not least, find a way of **sending your video** to Mr Johnston or one of the production team, as requested.

The **first song we will try is the Prologue, track #1.** This has just 3 lines of chorus singing, so it is a simple one to start with. Bert (Charis) will record the rest of the song. Deadline Sunday night! The next song we would like the whole cast to do is **Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious**! Deadline Wednesday night. This is much more difficult, so it will show us what is possible. Start practising this song in good time.

Other members of staff may join the production team and eventually we may even have some Year 6 members helping too. As they say on the stage - Break a leg! Best wishes from

Mrs Washington

and Mrs Sharpe, Mrs Gurney and Mr Johnston.