

*Nativity scene set up . Mary, Joseph, lambs and manger*

Ello I am Mr/Miss Polaroid the photographer you booked for your Christmas shot!

Brilliant, I want a great piccy for my Christmas card; I want to be really ready this year!  
No last minute rush for me!

So what's ya theme? Have you got a colour scheme? Plenty of razmataz, bit a sparkle!

Well I've got Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus.

Ooo I see where you're going , 'Mother and baby in stable condition!'

Yeah something like that

It needs something to remind us that we're preparing for Christmas.

Yeah - a countdown to the big day

( Child has ADVENT CALENDAR )

Nope we need more... PRESENTS we need presents. Where are those men with the presents for the baby?

(Gets three children to hold presents and kneel by baby)

Has anyone got a TREE ? ... That's great

What about this???  
(add tree)

Sparkle baby! We need sparkle!

I've got some TINSEL will that do? (looking a little concerned)

Gorgeous darling!

Something to make the children laugh, something funny?

Erm what about this?

He's great! ( Child brings DANCING CHRISTMAS DECORATION !)

We all love a bit of food at Christmas what ya got a turkey? Christmas pudding? One of those chocolate logs?

(one more child with joke chicken)

That's probably enough now

You can never have too much at Christmas! (sings) I am dreaming of a white Christmas..... Music!!! That's what we need, every good party needs some pumping tunes!

We need a choir!

Erm what about these guys?

Perfect (moves arms across air as if imagining the scene). The children singing carols in the snow.

It's not quite a carol? But you know the tune! This song goes to the tune of jingle bells but the words are a little different.

Many years ago in a stable far away  
Christ the Lord was born  
What a joyful day!  
Singing filled the air, glory shone around  
Shepherds on the hillside  
Were astonished by this sound.

*Have no fear! Have you heard?  
Christ is born today.  
Go and see him lying there  
In a manger filled with hay - hey!  
Then the sky came alive  
Angels everywhere  
Singing hymns of joyful praise  
To the God who sent them there.*

On to Bethlehem in a most exciting way  
Shepherds went to see  
Christ the Lord that day.  
When they saw him there,  
they were filled with joy  
On their knees they worshipped him  
God's special baby boy.

(Infants - Since we're celebrating Jesus' birthday why don't we sing happy birthday to Jesus? we always sing happy birthday at parties)

Happy birthday to you  
Happy birthday to you  
Happy birthday, dear Jesus  
Happy birthday to you

God's love is for you  
God's love is for me  
God's love came at Christmas  
In a tiny baby

A gift of great worth  
We think of your birth  
Our best Christmas present  
When you came to earth.

*Sing song*

Just a bit more ..... Something to put a bang into Christmas. How about a CHRISTMAS CRACKER.

( child brings Christmas cracker )

*Are we done yet?*

So close, we're sooo close. One more thing something that can brighten the place up, bring a bit of colour, bring a smile to the little children's faces!

SANTA we need santa!

(add santa)

I think that's probably enough now! (rather concerned) Shall we take the picture?

*Takes picture*

*To chn at front:*

Thanks for helping me with my picture. I've got my photo now.

As Christians, our Christmas *does* involve all these things, the tree, cake, decorations, presents, etc. But...

*Click PowerPoint to show Nativity stained glass window.*

...this is what I wanted and ...

*Click again to bring in tree / wreath / crackers / presents / pudding*

...it ended up as this.

As Christians, we believe that at the heart of Christmas ...

*Click PowerPoint to show Nativity stained glass window again*

...is the birth of Jesus, when God sent His son to live with us on earth.

Today, for our prayer time, we thought we would ask you if there is anything you would like to thank God for. So, if you would like to say something please put up your hand and we'll ask you, one by one, to shout it out.

Dear God, thank you for.....(children's prayers) and thank you for sending Jesus.  
Amen.

Do you remember our last assembly when we showed you the first of our puzzle pieces?

On one side was the question "Who?" Who do Christians believe Jesus is? (The Son of God) Well, here's the second piece of the puzzle and the question is "What?" What do Christians celebrate at Christmas? Yes! Jesus was born (show other side of puzzle piece). Next time we see you, we will add another piece of the puzzle.

We believe Jesus was a gift from God and we would like to give you a gift to celebrate Christmas. We hope the Nativity set will help you remember the real reason for our celebrations at Christmas.