***The Twelve Tasks of Hercules Script***

**Narration 1: St. John's Cathedral Catholic Primary School**

Welcome to our musical retelling of the Twelve Tasks of Hercules – the legendary Greek myth featuring adventure, intrigue, betrayal, revenge, murd...actually before we go any further, we should warn you that some of the content could be upsetting.

Let’s start our show by singing a nice song about those Terrible Greeks.

**SONG 1: *Those Terrible Greeks* ALL**

**Narration 2: Weyford Primary School**

Our story begins by explaining why Hercules was set the twelve tasks in the first place. It was a punishment for his less than heroic behaviour at the start of his life as explained in the song, *Twelve Heroic Tasks*. Listen out for the revelation that he was originally set ten tasks, but two were disallowed after a rather controversial VAR review… yes, referees’ decisions were controversial, even back then!

**SONG 2: *12 Heroic Tasks* ALL**

**Narration 3: St. Edmund's Catholic Secondary School**

Hercules’ first task was to kill the Nemean Lion – a nasty beast famed for murdering all the warriors in the town by disguising itself as a princess before dispatching them to the next world. It is said that the lion’s skin was so tough that no arrow could pierce it. Hercules was sent forth with the simple instruction: That Lion Mustn’t Sleep Tonight.

**SONG 3: *That Lion Mustn’t Sleep Tonight* St. Edmund's Catholic Secondary School**

**Narration 4: New Horizons Primary Academy**

King Eurytheus set Hercules the tasks, but he thought they would be impossible to complete. As a result, when he saw Hercules return wearing the skin of the Nemean Lion that he had killed, the King was very frightened. After all, what chance would Eurytheus have if Hercules decided to attack him? Therefore, the King hid inside, of all things, a two-metre-tall jar called a pithos. What should you do if you’re scared? Simple! Hide in Your Pot!

**SONG 4: *Hide in your Pot* New Horizons Primary Academy**

**Narration 5: Lyndhurst Junior School**

Hercules’ second task was to kill the Lernaean Hydra – a nine-headed creature with the annoying habit of growing back two heads whenever one was cut off. To make matters worse, its blood was poisonous, and it lived in a place where you could not breath the air.

This is one of the two tasks that Eurytheus did not allow. In this case, he discovered that Hercules’ nephew, Iolaus, had helped him. In our next song the hydra is taunting anyone foolish enough to try and slay it.

**SONG 5: *Hiya! Hiya! Hiya!* Lyndhurst Junior School**

**Narration 6: St. John's Cathedral Catholic Primary School**

The third task Hercules was given sounds fairly simple - capture the Cerynian hind which was a female deer. Unfortunately, this particular deer had golden antlers, bronze hooves and was sacred to the goddess of hunting so Hercules could not shoot it.  Even worse, it could run faster than a speeding bullet although in Ancient Greece then, they would probably have said "a flying arrow."  This explains the speed of the next song which has the instruction, "As fast you as can cope with."  We wish our singers good luck as they sing about *The Cerynian Hind*!

**SONG 6**: ***Cerynian Hind* St. John's Cathedral Catholic Primary School**

**Narration 7: Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School**

Hercules made light work of the fourth task which was to kill yet another ferocious animal – this time the Erymanthian Boar. When he returned from the task, he found King Eurytheus once more hiding in the bottom of his pot. Hercules was clearly fed up about this and made one simple threat – “Come out of there, or I will drop the boar into the pithos with you!”.

Our next song is Eurytheus’ desperate cry for mercy: “Don’t Dangle Your Piggies at Me.”

**SONG 7: *Don’t Dangle Your Piggies at Me* Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School**

**Narration 8: Westover Primary School**

The Aegean stables are the setting for Hercules’ fifth task. Inside were a thousand cattle who had lived there for thirty years. The problem was that nobody had mucked out the stables – ever. All Hercules had to do was to clean up all the mess! By the way, this was the second task disallowed by Eurytheus as Hercules managed to get the King of Aegea to pay him. The rules were clear – these tasks were to be done on an amateur basis: this was not TaskMaster! So, here is the story of those Thirty Years of Poo!

**SONG 8: *Thirty Years of Poo!* Westover Primary School**

**Narration 9: Northern Parade Junior School**

Having had a break from murder and killing on his last task, Hercules was sent back on the path of destruction for his next job: to slay the Stymphalian birds. Now this sounds simple enough until you bear in mind that these birds had poisonous dung, sharpened metal feathers, and bronze beaks to say nothing of a taste for eating human flesh. You had better watch your fingers if you try and feed those Stymphalian Birds.

**SONG 9: *Tweet, Tweet!* ALL**

**Narration 10: Weyford Primary School**

The Cretan Bull was causing chaos by uprooting crops and smashing down orchard walls so for his next task, Hercules was sent to bring it back. This turned out to be a relatively simple task but you can imagine that by now, Hercules might have been having a few doubts about his punishment – this was, after all, the seventh task. In this song, he expresses a bit of self-doubt. Despite everything that he has done so far, Hercules wonders to himself if he really up to the job of retrieving The Cretan Bull.

**SONG 10: *The Cretan Bull* Weyford Primary School**

**Narration 11: Manor Infant School**

The mares of Diomedes were an out-of-control group of horses who were causing huge problems in Thrace. According to some reports, they even breathed out fire! In a similar fashion to the previous task, Hercules was sent to fetch them. Presumably he had heard of the reason why the horses were so mad: they feasted on human flesh. As the horses themselves might have put it, they certainly “Don’t Need No Sugar Lumps”.

**SONG 11: *Don’t Need No Sugar Lumps.* Manor Infant School**

**Narration 12: Medina Primary School**

For his ninth task, Hercules travelled to the land of the Amazons, where Queen Hippolyta had a belt full of weapons and Hercules was sent to collect it. A simple enough task and one that should have been easy, apart from the unwelcome reappearance of Hera who we first met in the Twelve Tasks Song at the start of the show. Hera was the “mean mother” who drove Hercules mad resulting in his murderous spree and in this song, she spreads rumours that Hercules has come as an enemy. In the end, he has to conquer the Amazons and steal the golden belt, causing the death of Queen Hippolyta herself. Such an evil act makes one ask the simple question: How Can You Sleep at Night?

**SONG 12: *How Can You Sleep At Night?* Medina Primary School**

**Narration 13: St. Paul's Catholic Primary School**

The tenth task sees Hercules having a few problems with some cattle! Geryon’s cattle were magnificent beasts, with coats made from the red light of the sunset. Geryon was a giant with 3 heads, 6 arms and 6 feet and he did not particularly like his cattle and they did not particularly like him. This is why the cows were very happy when Hercules killed Geryon with an arrow dipped in the poisonous blood of the Lernaean Hydra in his attempt to take the herd back to Tyrns. Very soon Hercules found himself struggling to deal with the happy herd and it did not help matters much when Hera interfered again. How could he control the cows? Maybe remind them that they could easily be turned into beef which is a very versatile ingredient as we will explain in The Lasagne Song.

**SONG 13: *The Lasagne Song* St. Paul's Catholic Primary School**

**Narration 14: Cottage Grove Primary School**

Hercules’ eleventh task was to fetch the Golden Apples that were a wedding present to Zeus, but nobody knew how to find the orchard where the apples were growing. Even worse, Atlas was on guard, but it turns out he was easily bribed with the promise of having some of the crop for himself. Fun fact: the Greek historian Theophrastus referred to the crop as “peaches” in 330 BC but we’re sticking with Golden Apples!

**SONG 14: *Golden Apples* Cottage Grove Primary School**

**Narration 15: Penhale Infant School**

Finally, Hercules got to the twelfth and final task – to bring back Cerberus, the three-headed dog that guarded the underworld. Hercules went straight to Hades and asked permission to take his beloved hell hound. Hades allowed Hercules to take his dog, but the twist was that Hercules had to do this with his bare hands – no weapons allowed. We all know that all you have to do to interest a dog is to throw a stick and it will fetch it. But how would a three-headed dog cope if one head saw one stick but the other two heads saw different sticks? Poor Little Doggy Woggy!

**SONG 15: *Poor Little Doggy Woggy!* Penhale Infant School**

**Narration 16: St. Edmund's Catholic Secondary School**

At last, it was all over. After twelve years roaming far and wide across the Ancient Greek world, Hercules completed his punishment bringing forgiveness and a new adjective – “herculean”, which means something that “requires great strength or effort.” And with the final task, our show comes to an end.

**SONG 16: *12 Tasks Reprise* ALL**