

## **IDEAS FOR PREPARATION AND CURRICULUM LINKS**

Here are some ideas for activities you might like to explore with your class before the performance. They can be adapted according to the age and interests of the children, and are intended as starting points for discussion and creativity.

### **1. Charles Dickens: Who was he?**

#### **What can you find out about Charles Dickens and his life?**

Where and when did he live? What was life like in Victorian England, and what can you find out about Dickens' childhood and his life as a writer?

Explore some of Dickens' best-known works. Can you name any of them? Why do you think his stories have remained popular for so many years?

### **2. A Christmas Carol: The Story**

#### **English • Art • Drama**

Read *A Christmas Carol* together with the children.

Who are the main characters? What do we learn about Ebenezer Scrooge at the beginning of the story? What happens when Scrooge is visited by the three spirits?

What do you think the story teaches us about kindness, friendship and helping others?

Now why not create your own version of the story?

You could:

- Write your own Christmas story about a character who learns an important lesson.
- Draw or paint a scene from the story. What might Victorian London have looked like at Christmas?
- Act out a scene from *A Christmas Carol*. Who could you play — Scrooge, Bob Cratchit, Tiny Tim, Jacob Marley or one of the spirits?
- Design your own Christmas ghost! What would it look like, and what message would it bring?

### **3. Christmas in Victorian London**

#### **History • Music**

*A Christmas Carol* is set in Victorian London.

What can you find out about London at the time Dickens was writing?

- What was London like in Victorian times? How was it different from the London we know today?
- What can you discover about how people celebrated Christmas in Victorian England?
- How could music help to create the different moods in the story — mysterious, frightening, joyful, magical or peaceful?

#### **4. Themes for class discussion**

What do you think makes someone truly rich — money, possessions, friendship, kindness or something else?