

Comedian Matt Lucas will release a charity Christmas single in an bid to raise money for hungry children.

The *Little Britain* star has said he has been inspired by footballer Marcus Rashford's attempts to ensure kids do not go hungry over Christmas.

Funds raised from the song *Merry Christmas, Baked Potato* will be donated to FareShare, an organisation which redistributes surplus food to charities to give to people without much food.

Announcing the news on Monday morning, Lucas tweeted: "Hello! My special Christmas single Merry Christmas, Baked Potato is released THIS THURSDAY and all proceeds from downloads are going to support FareShare! Potato-Ho-Ho!"

The track comes after Lucas released Thank You Baked Potato last year to raise money to be donated to help feed frontline workers.

'Thank You Baked Potato was released in aid of FeedNHS at a time when the supermarket shelves were empty and restaurants and cafes were closed. Now that that situation has been largely remedied, I have the opportunity – with my follow-up single Merry Christmas, Baked Potato – to raise some money for another cause.'

He went on: 'Like so many people I've been incredibly inspired by Marcus Rashford's campaigning for FareShare, so all profits from downloads of the single and streaming revenue will go to the charity. 'I also hope the song will bring a bit of a bounce in what is sure to be a challenging Christmas. All that I ask for in return is that Marcus Rashford doesn't score against Arsenal ever again. Thank you.'

The image shows a screenshot of a tweet from Marcus Rashford MBE (@MarcusRashford) and a Macmillan Children's Books announcement. The tweet, dated 9:25 AM on Nov 17, 2020, says "A little bit more info Thank you for being on this journey with me @MacmillanKidsUK". It has 5.8K retweets, 2.3K quote tweets, and 59.6K likes. Below the tweet is a Macmillan Children's Books announcement. The announcement text reads: "I only started reading at 17, and it completely changed my outlook and mentality. I just wish I was offered the opportunity to really engage in reading more as a child, but books were never a thing we could budget for as a family when we needed to put food on the table. There were times as a child the escapism of reading could have really helped me. I want this escapism for all children. Not just those that can afford it. We know there are approximately 400,000 children across the UK today that have never owned a book, children that are in vulnerable environments. That has to change. **My books are, and will be, for every child**, even if I have to deliver them myself. We will reach them. Acceptance and acknowledgement is a really key focus of the project. **Let our children read that they are not alone and enable them to dream.** Equip them for obstacles and adversities they might face. Allow them to relate to the characters by making sure people of all race, religion and gender are depicted correctly and representative of modern society. No matter where you grow up, talent should be recognised and championed. Under **The Marcus Rashford Book Club**, young writers, illustrators, and creatives will be seen and they will be offered a platform to shine. The team at Pan Macmillan very much share my vision and ambition, and I am really excited to be on this journey with them. It was really important to me that I always had a seat at the table for input and collaboration and that is exactly what Pan Macmillan has offered me. There is a real family feel to this partnership and I'm really looking forward to seeing the difference we can make together." The announcement is signed by Macmillan Children's Books.

"I only started reading at 17, and it completely changed my outlook and mentality. I just wish I was offered the opportunity to really engage in reading more as a child, but books were never a thing we could budget for as a family when we needed to put food on the table. There were times as a child the escapism of reading could have really helped me. I want this escapism for all children. Not just those that can afford it. We know there are approximately 400,000 children across the UK today that have never owned a book, children that are in vulnerable environments. That has to change. **My books are, and will be, for every child**, even if I have to deliver them myself. We will reach them.

Acceptance and acknowledgement is a really key focus of the project. **Let our children read that they are not alone and enable them to dream.** Equip them for obstacles and adversities they might face. Allow them to relate to the characters by making sure people of all race, religion and gender are depicted correctly and representative of modern society.

No matter where you grow up, talent should be recognised and championed. Under **The Marcus Rashford Book Club**, young writers, illustrators, and creatives will be seen and they will be offered a platform to shine.

The team at Pan Macmillan very much share my vision and ambition, and I am really excited to be on this journey with them. It was really important to me that I always had a seat at the table for input and collaboration and that is exactly what Pan Macmillan has offered me. There is a real family feel to this partnership and I'm really looking forward to seeing the difference we can make together."

MACMILLAN
Children's Books

1. Why does Marcus think escapism is good for children?
2. How will the scheme enable children to relate to the characters?
3. Marcus says 'I always had a seat at the table for input' Why was this important to him?
4. How does Matt Lucas use humour in the text?
5. List 3 similarities and 3 differences between the texts.