

PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN ENGLAND

In Great Britain school begins at the age of five. Many boys and girls usually leave school at the age of sixteen.

In England the school year begins in September, but not always on the first day of the month, as school never begins on Monday. The English think that Monday is not a good day to start school. The weather is usually fine. It is warm. The sky is often blue and the sun is bright. Little children go to school with their parents. They look nice and clean. They don't have any bags or books with them, as there is no need for these things on their first day at school. Students will get them later. They will get exercise books, pencils, rulers and rubbers, too.

Classes usually begin at nine. At eleven students have a glass of milk or orange juice. At half past twelve or at one o'clock they usually have lunch –meat, pudding, juice, an apple or a cake.

English children have classes five days a week. They have classes on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Classes are usually over at 4 o'clock and then students go home. They never have classes on Saturday or Sunday. They are their days off.

Schools in England have names, not numbers. They often get names after the place where they are or after some famous or important people.

At the age of five children go to infant schools or infant classes where they spend two years till they are seven. Their classes are informal. Children often sit on the floor. They sing songs, dance and play a lot. They learn how to get on with other children. They learn how to read, count and write a little too.

When children are seven they go to junior schools, where they spend four years till they are eleven. So in England children spend six years in primary school. When children are eleven or a little older primary school is over.

Junior schools are real schools. The atmosphere is more formal in junior schools. Students sit in rows and follow a regular time table. Their subjects are English, Maths, History, Nature Studies, Geography, Art, Music. In junior schools swimming and PE are on the time table too.

Children spend a lot of time outdoors. They visit different museums and other famous and interesting places. Sometimes their teachers take them to London and other big cities. They walk and play a lot.

In some primary schools students wear uniforms, but in many schools they don't.