

Children all over the UK attend schools of many different sizes and in many different types of places. This text will look at three different schools, in three very different locations, around the country and will compare what school life is like for these children. These schools are the same, but different.

Meet the Children!

Meet Antoni

I'm Antoni and I'm a student at Jenson's Primary School. It is right in the centre of Birmingham, which is one of the largest and most populated cities in the UK. At Jenson's Primary School there are over 1,200 pupils and 150 staff here. There are children from a wide variety of backgrounds with over 60 languages spoken at our school. I speak Polish at home and am learning English at school. I love learning about the different types of people who go to my school and their different cultures and beliefs.

Meet Clarissa

My name is Clarissa and I am a pupil at Whitsham Primary School. Our tiny school can be found in Whitsham, which is a small rural village located near King's Lynn in Norfolk. There are around 75 children on our school roll with very small class sizes. There are just seven teachers at our school, many of whom live in the village and have worked here for many years. My class has only 19 pupils from both Year 3 and 4. We all live close to each other in the village and we often play together after school.

Meet Jason

Hi! I'm Jason and I go to St. Martin's Primary School. My school is in Wilmslow, near Manchester. It is an average sized school with 500 pupils located in a busy town. It has two classes in each year group with around 30 children in each class. My best friend Simon is in the other Year 4 class, but we only have Maths together, as our teachers put us in different groups for different lessons. We like to play games at break time and lunch, especially when we get to use the school field for games.

Location, Location!

Jenson's Primary School

Birmingham is the largest city outside of London with a population of over 1.1 million people. I am one of the many people that live there. The city is host to lots of different types of entertainment venues, such as music spots, theatres, restaurants, and shops. The children at my school love to go to a local entertainment centre called 'Star Town' where we can play crazy golf, play laser tag, watch movies, and play arcade games.

St. Martin's Primary School

I live with my family on the outskirts of Wilmslow, which is a town in Cheshire, 11 miles south of Manchester. The town has a variety of trendy shops, cafes, and restaurants. The population in my town is around 25,000 people. There are always lots of things to do in Wilmslow, but the children at my school always like to go to the cinema or bowling in our free time.

Whitsham Primary School

I live in Whitsham, which is a small west Norfolk village situated 7 miles north east of King's Lynn. There are around 270 people living in Whitsham, with only 121 households in the entire village. There is a church and a village hall where we have parties and celebrations; there is also a post office and a few small shops on the High Street. In the summer, we like to play outside on the green, especially games like cricket and rounders.

Favourite Playground Games!

Jason's Favourite Playground Game

I love to play dodge ball. You have to try to hit the other players below the knee with the ball. If you are hit, then you are out of the game. The last one out is the winner.

At Whitsham Primary, they play dodge ball too, but they play it standing in a circle. One person stands in the middle whilst the other players pass the ball to each other. They then try to hit the person in the middle. They must make sure it is below the knee so no one gets hurt.

Clarissa's Favourite Playground Game

I like to play lots of traditional playground games. Rhymes are used in lots of playground games all over the world. Our teachers told us that some of the playground rhymes we play are over 100 years old.

Antoni's Favourite Playground Game

At Jenson's Primary, we play a game called 'Caught in the Chain'. When the person who is 'it' catches someone, they join hands in the line which gets longer and longer. It is so much fun when the line becomes really long.

They play a similar game at St Martin's School, but they call it 'Build It Up'. In their version, they play with two opposing teams. If you get tagged, you join that person's team. The team with the most players at the end is the winner.

Challenge 2

The Same But Different – Challenge Activity

Section A

Match each piece of information to a child or school from the text.

Heading

Quote from text

1. Antoni

a) is in a class of 19 pupils from years 3 and 4

2. Jenson's Primary School

b) is in a small village in west Norfolk

3. Clarissa

c) has Maths with his best friend, Simon

4. Whitsham Primary School

d) found 11 miles south of Manchester

5. St. Martin's Primary School

e) speaks Polish at home and is learning English at school

6. Jason

f) is in the largest city outside of London

Section B

Tick the correct answer.

Jason's favourite playground game is:

dodgeball

football

baseball

netball

The population of Wilmslow, Cheshire is:

250,000

2,500

25,000

2,500,000

How old are some of the playground rhymes played at Clarissa's school?

50 years

75 years

1000 years

100 years

Whitsham is located 7 miles in which direction of King's Lynn?

north

north east

north west

south east

What is the entertainment centre called where Antoni and his school friends play?

Star City

Star Village

Star Town

Star Zone

Decide whether the following statements are true or false. Correct the false statements in the space below.

Statement	True	False
Clarissa lives in Birmingham, one of the largest cities in the UK.		
Antoni speaks Polish at home and loves learning about different cultures and beliefs.		
The playground game Caught in the Chain is similar to dodgeball.		
Nearly one million people live in Birmingham.		
The children in Wilmslow go to the cinema or bowling in their free time.		
There are only 7 teachers in Clarissa's school.		

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Write the question number and then answer the questions:

Answers: