



# Back to School

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Get primary students back into the school mindset with this set of activities. They practise reading, writing, revise vocabulary and help students think about positive learning attitudes and behaviour.

**Segment:** primary

**Level:** elementary

**Materials:** worksheet, white paper tablecloth, pencils, markers, crayons

**Procedure:**

1. Elicit school vocabulary the children already know by bringing a white paper tablecloth to school. Spread it out on some desks so that the children can write and draw on it. Hand out pencils, markers and crayons and ask students to write and illustrate at least one word about school that they know. Allow them to repeat words so that each child has an opportunity to collaborate on making the class' school tablecloth. Decorate the teacher's desk with the tablecloth or put it up on a wall or in the entrance of the school.
2. Invite students to listen to a poem about school. Read it out and ask them how the poem made them feel. Get plenary feedback and elicit adjectives/sentences onto the board.
3. Hand out the worksheets to each child. Re-read the poem and get the children to do exercise 1. Then, get them to compare answers with a partner and correct on the board. For more advanced classes follow the activity up by getting the children to write another stanza to the poem. In weaker classes do this as a pair/group work activity.
4. Give each child a post it and go back to the words/sentences on the board before getting them to discuss how coming (back) to school makes them feel with the person on their right. Repeat with the person on their left, in front and behind them so that they exchange ideas with at least 4 people around them. Challenge them to write key words/ideas on their post-its. Get plenary feedback and add any pertinent sentences/ideas to the board.
5. Challenge the students to do exercise 2 individually and then to discuss it with a partner. Get plenary feedback. Discuss feelings and opinions and lead children to find out any common feelings/opinions that the class has.
6. Explain that at school we learn and work with others. Discuss positive learning attitudes that we should have. Then, get the children to draw and colour in themselves reflecting these attitudes on the second sheet of the hand out. Use this page to mark the beginning of the new term in the their notebooks/files. Alternatively, challenge more advanced classes to write a short paragraph in each square.

**Extra follow up activities** - Challenge the children to practice reciting the poem. First recite as a whole class, then recite as half a class. Next, divide the class into four groups and get each group to recite in turns. Finally, recite in pairs and have a reciting competition in class or for homework: The children make a video on their mobiles of themselves reciting the poem and upload it on to the school's webpage. Alternatively, get them to make a mannequin about coming back to school and upload it onto the school webpage.

# Back to School

1. Read the poem and label the pictures with the words in bold:



School is great  
School is cool  
Friends and fun  
School is number one!

Pens and pencils  
Scissors and glue  
And of course  
Some homework too!

Books and games  
Songs and rules  
Friendly teachers...  
Welcome back to school!

2. Read and write:

Coming back to school is...

- Fun because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Interesting because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Exciting because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Hard because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Worrisome because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

