



Provincia
di Milano

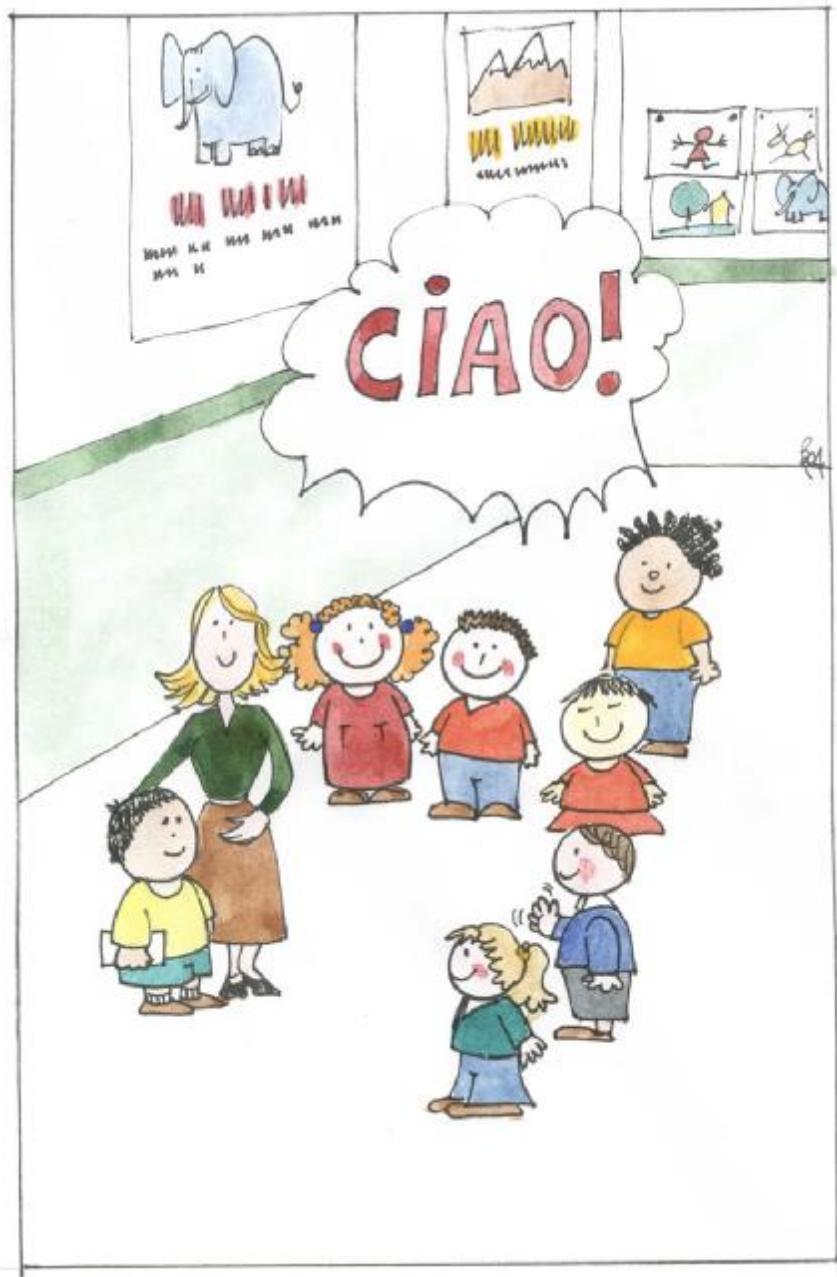
farsi  prossimo

TO FOREIGN PARENTS

How primary school works in Italy



12 pieces of initial information regarding your children's reception



WELCOME
to our country and our schools

We want to start by welcoming you and your children to Italy and Italian school.

We will then tell you all you need to know about primary school in Italy.

Register your children as soon as possible, even if the school year has already started, and remember that all children have the right to go to school, even if they do not have a legal permit to stay in the country (UN, International Convention on the Rights of the Child, Art. 28 and Italian Presidential Decree 394/99).



1

HOW MANY YEARS DO CHILDREN ATTEND SCHOOL IN ITALY?

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Day nursery | up to 3 years old |
| Infant school | from 3 to 6 years old |
| Primary school | from 6 to 11 years old |
| 1 st level secondary school | from 11 to 14 years old |
| 2 nd level secondary school | over 14 years old |

The first education cycle lasts 8 years:

- 5 years of primary school
- 3 years of first level secondary school

Primary school is free of charge. Text books are provided by the school. Families are responsible for purchasing exercise books, pens, paints, etc.

Ask the teachers for a list of the material your child will require.

Notes:

Infant school

- boys and girls aged 3 by the 30th April of the school year in question may be registered
(for school year 2004/2005: by the 28th February).

Primary school

- boys and girls aged 6 by the 31st August of the school year in question may be registered in the first year
(for school year 2004/2005: by the 28th February).



2

WHICH DOCUMENTS ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER CHILDREN AT PRIMARY SCHOOL?

In order to register children at school, parents must fill in the form provided by the secretary's office.

In this form, the parent must state the pupil's date of birth and provide all the other information requested.

If the child has the following documents

- birth certificate
- vaccination certificate
- declaration of school attended in native country

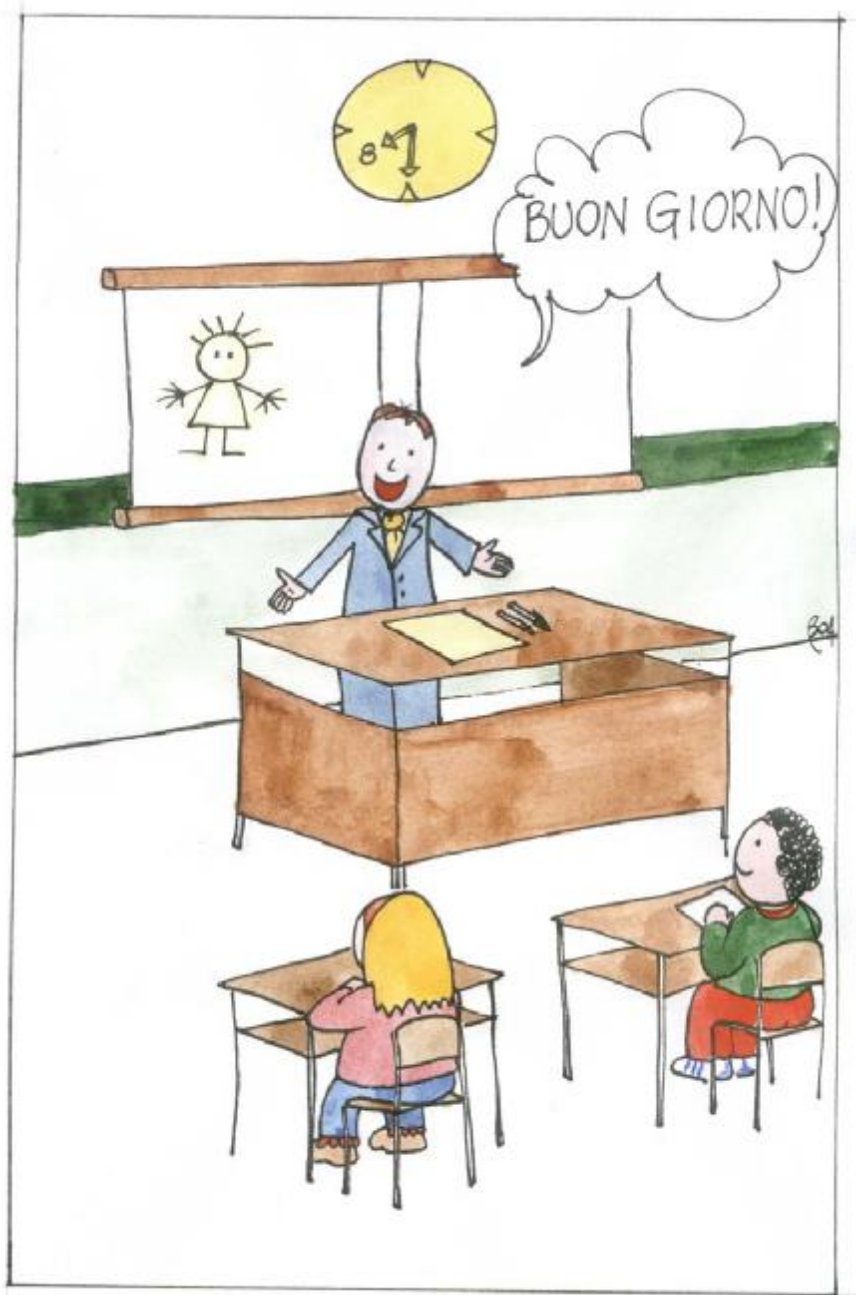
a copy should be given to the secretary.

If the child does not possess these documents, the parent is responsible for stating the child's level of schooling in his/her native country.

When registering, the parents must fill in forms regarding:

- the type of school chosen (see number 3)
- Catholic education (see number 6)
- registration for school meals (see number 4)
- registration for pre-school activities and evening games

If you do not have a vaccination certificate, please contact the school nurse who will tell you what to do.



3

“FULL TIME” OR “NORMAL TIME” SCHOOL?

At many schools, parents can choose between two different school timetables and formats:

- **“full time” school:**

40 hours per week, from Monday to Friday from 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

(27 compulsory hours + 3 optional hours + 10 mealtime hours)

- **“normal time” school:**

27 or 30 hours per week: 27 compulsory hours, 3 optional hours.

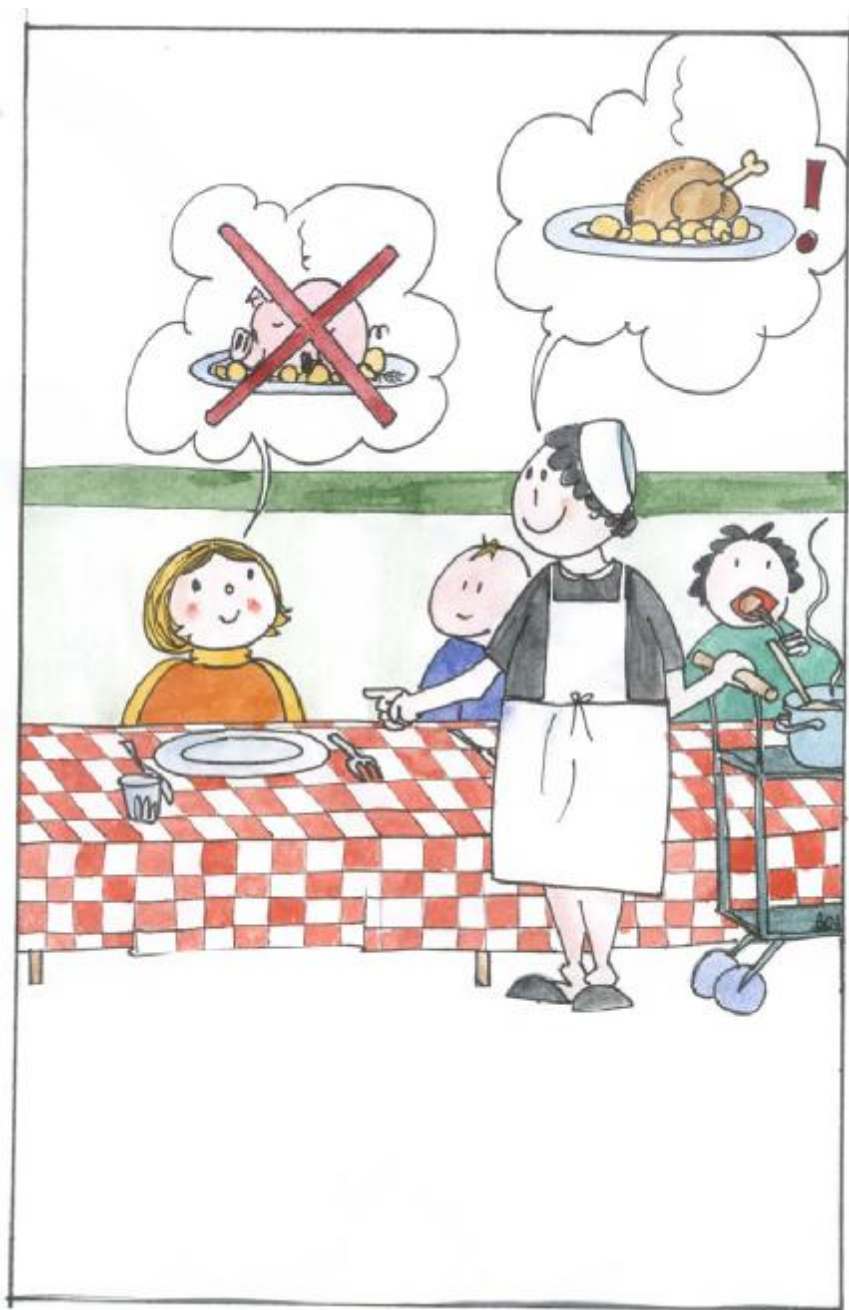
The weekly timetable (1, 2, 3 or 4 afternoons) is set by the school.

School meals are not compulsory

Lessons start at 8.30 a.m.

It is important to arrive at school on time.

Ask for your child’s lesson timetable as soon as possible.



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HOW TO REGISTER CHILDREN FOR SCHOOL MEALS?

Some schools (all in Milan) offer a school meal service. Parents pay a different fee for their child's lunch according to the family income.

You may request a special diet for your child for health or religious reasons.

In order to register for school meals, fill in the pre-printed form available from the Municipal Secretariat.

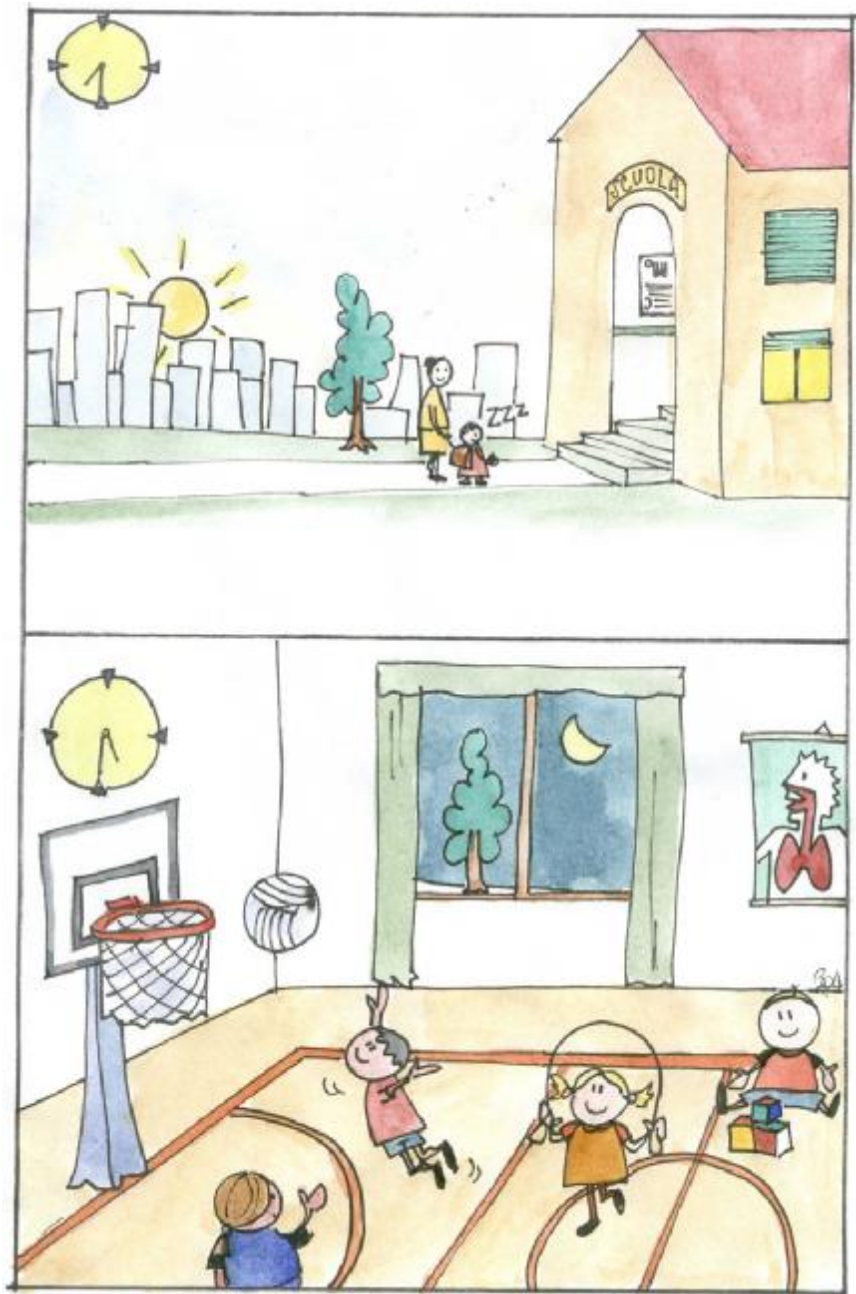
Should the parent apply for a reduction in the school meal fee, he/she must fill in a form certifying the whole family's total income.

The parent must produce his/her ID card (or passport).

The school secretary will require

- the 101 or 740 form
- application for a special diet for health or religious reasons.

Should you have any questions or problems, please contact the school secretary.

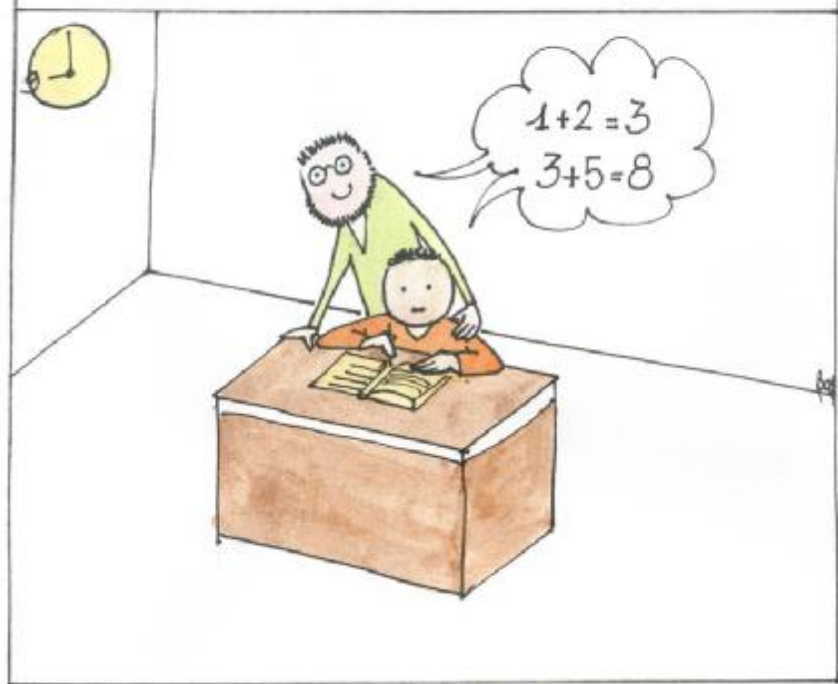


5

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN PARENTS START WORK EARLY AND FINISH LATE?

In order to cope with these problems, some schools also offer pre-school activities (from 7.30 a.m. to the start of lessons) and evening games (from 4.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.).

Ask the school secretary for information about application forms



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CATHOLIC EDUCATION OR ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS?

Italian schools teach the Catholic religion for two hours per week. Upon registration, parents must declare whether they choose to:

accept

decline

Catholic education. If parents decide not to allow their children to receive Catholic education, they can choose between 3 possible alternatives:

- educational activities
- individual study and/or research activities with the help of teaching staff
- absence from school.



HOW LONG IS THE SCHOOL YEAR?

School lasts around 9 months per year.
It starts in mid September and finishes in mid June.

There are two holiday periods:

- two weeks at Christmas (usually from 23rd December to 6th January)
- around one week at Easter (in March or April).

Other holidays are distributed throughout the year and may vary from school to school.

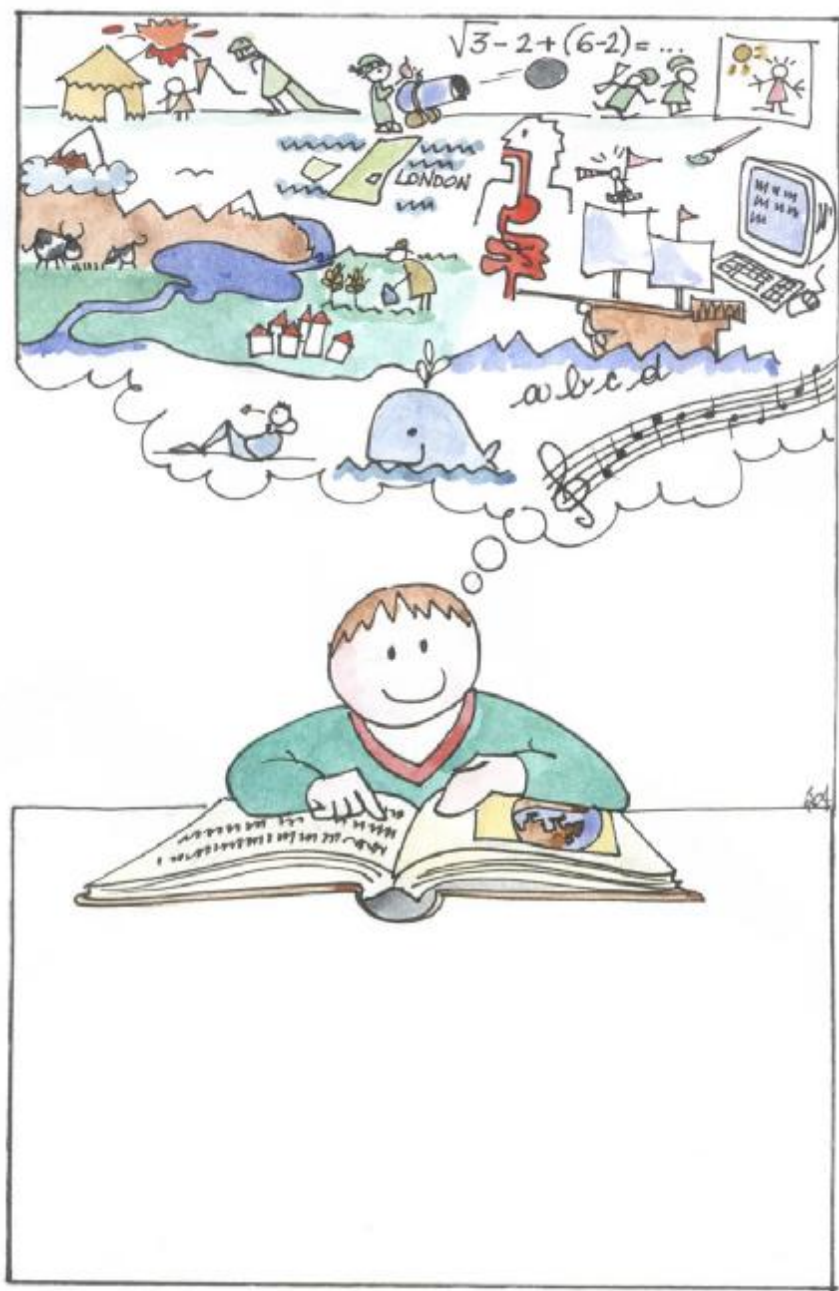
The school will inform you of these holidays through notes in your child's school diary.

Always check your child's diary!

ABSENCES

Absences must always be justified by parents.



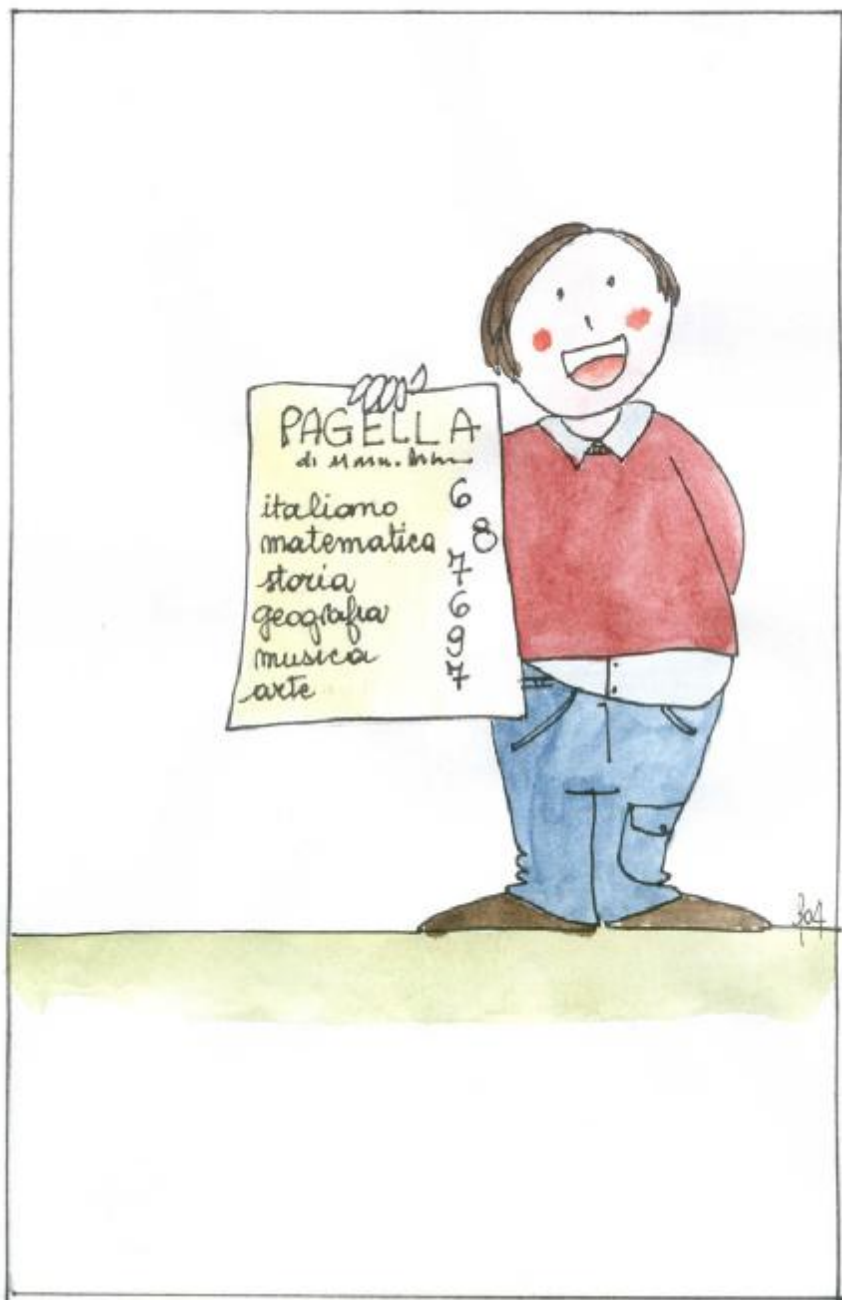


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WHAT DO CHILDREN LEARN AT SCHOOL?

At primary school, children study:

- Italian language
- mathematics
- sciences
- history
- geography
- technology and I.T.
- English
- drawing (art and images)
- gymnastics (motor sciences)
- music (singing and music)



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HOW ARE SCHOOL RESULTS ASSESSED?

Every school year is divided into two parts (2 four month periods): from September to January and from February to June.

In January and June, teachers assess your child's school results and prepare a "school report" for the family.

Every child has a skills portfolio, compiled by the teachers, parent and pupil.



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WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS?

Teachers periodically meet with parents in order to discuss the class syllabus, the children, their problems and progress.

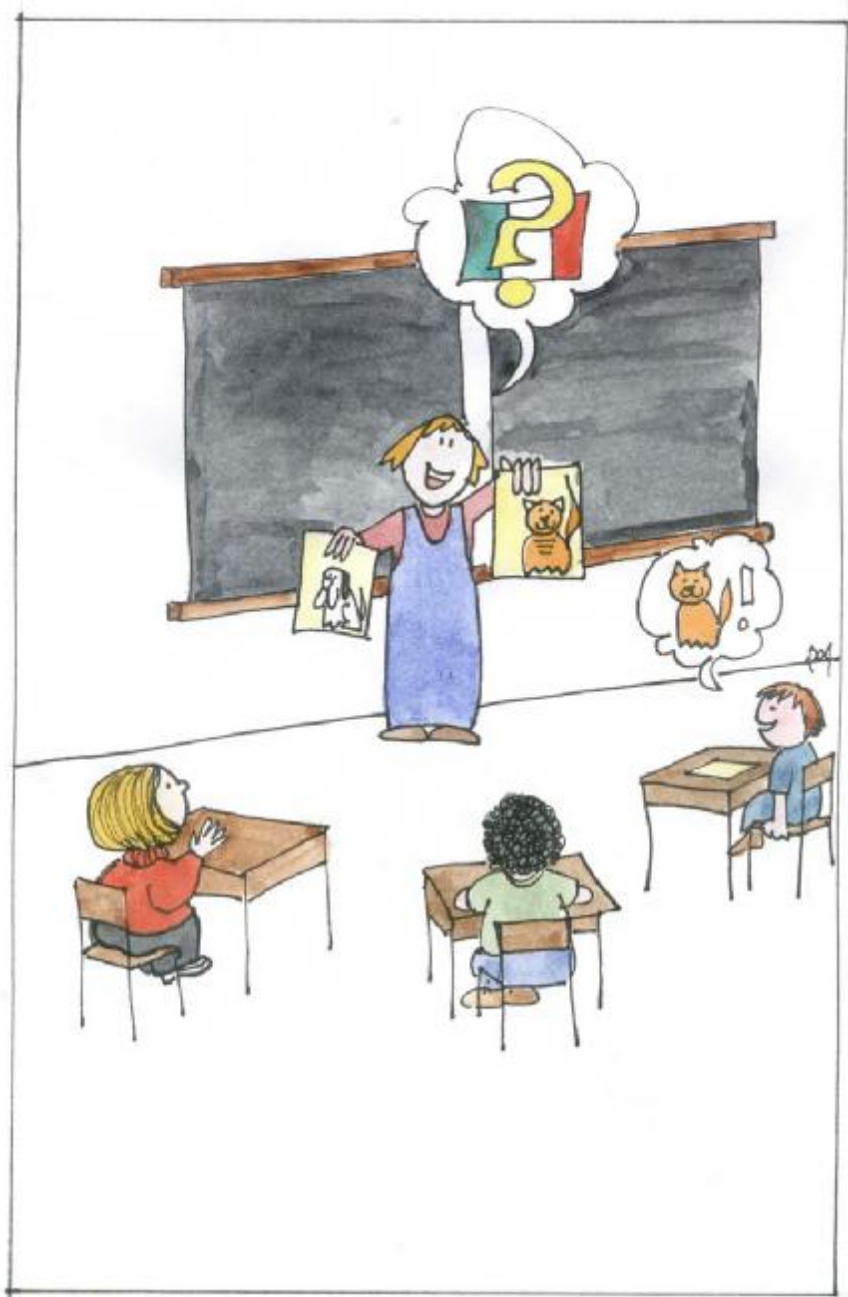
These meetings are important in order to enable the school and family to work together towards the child's education and integration in the school.

Individual Meetings

Teachers will inform the parents about when they have to meet in order to discuss the child.

Parents can also request a meeting with the teachers.

If you want to talk about your child, ask for a meeting with the teachers.



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IF YOUR CHILD DOES NOT SPEAK ITALIAN?

In order to help your child fit in and to teach him/her a new language, the teachers will organize some individual moments and oral and written Italian lessons for him/her.

Some schools have specialist teachers who are employed to teach Italian to foreign children, in small groups.

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IF YOU WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?

Don't worry!

There are some centres that can provide you with concrete information:

- Province of Milan
online service
Progetto “Civitas”
integrazione.sociale@provincia.milano.it

- Ufficio Stranieri (Foreigners' Office)
Comune di Milano
Via Tadino, 12
Tel. 0255190386

- CSA/Centro Servizi Amministrativi
Via Ripamonti, 24
Milano

Tel. 0258382

Centro Come
Via Galvani, 16
Milano
Tel. 0267100792
www.centrocome.it
come@farsiprossimo.it ; info@centrocome.it

Other foreign parents may also be able to help you!!!

GOOD LUCK AT SCHOOL!

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