

# Red to the Rescue!



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## Chapter 1

Josh picked up his school bag and put it on the table in front of him. He gathered together all his pictures and books and dropped them into the bag with a huge sigh. It was the last day of school before the summer holidays, and Josh couldn't wait to be able to play with his friends all day, every day. But he liked going to school, too, and he was going to miss all the games he played in the playground and on the school field. Josh just knew that this had been his favourite year at school; he had done so many fun things and had been on some exciting school trips. He was going to miss this year and his teacher...

"Last chance to check you have everything before the bell goes," said Mr Jones in his usual cheery voice. "Make sure that you all have a letter to take home. Remember, it's a reminder about the important things happening in school next year. You must give it to someone at home. There's lots of information on the school website, too."

But before he had finished, the bell rang, and all the children rushed out into the playground shouting a loud "**goodbye!**" to Mr Jones as they left. Josh charged towards the school gates with his friends Paulo, Nawal and Ned. There wasn't even time to ask what the important things were, as Josh charged towards the school gates with his friends Paulo, Nawal and Ned.

Ned's dad stood at the school gates waiting for the three children. "Slow down!" he called after them as they dived into the back of his car. It was Ned's birthday, and as a special treat, Ned was taking some of his school friends to Pizza Palace for tea.

Pizza Palace was just around the corner from the school, and it wasn't long before they arrived. The three children scrambled excitedly out of the back of the car to meet their other friends.

One of the things the children loved about Pizza Palace, apart from the pizzas of course, was its indoor climbing frames and ball pool. As they got nearer to the entrance, Ned could already see some of his friends taking off their shoes and jumping into the pool of brightly coloured balls. The others followed quickly, and soon enough, all the children were diving around in the ball pool and climbing high on the rope ladders, leaving a trail of school sweatshirts and shoes all around the edge of the room.



It wasn't long before the rest of the parents arrived to enjoy pizza with the children and chat about the last day at school. Ned's dad went to gather up all the sweatshirts and shoes left around the ball pool and dropped them in a pile near to the table.

"It's a good job this is the last day of term," he said with a smile. "These old blue sweatshirts have seen better days. You'll have to look after your new red ones much better."

"**Red!**" the children repeated altogether.

"Why will we have new **red** ones?" said Ned, very surprised.

"The headteacher has decided that there are too many schools nearby with a blue uniform, so they are going to change yours to red. That way, they'll be able to see you easily."

"So that's what the letter is all about," said Ned, pulling a crumpled piece of paper from his school bag. The adults didn't seem too surprised; they had seen the news on the school website.

"**Oh no,**" came a groan from Josh at the end of the table. Everyone turned and looked. They all knew that blue was Josh's favourite colour. Even when he wasn't at school, Josh wouldn't wear any other colour (apart from his white T-shirt). He had blue jeans, blue shorts, blue shirts, blue trainers... **EVERYTHING** he wore was blue!

How was Josh going to wear a **RED** sweatshirt for school every day?

