



Chalky the Church Mouse Goes to School

By Sheila Lloyd

Chalky the Church Mouse was a little bored. It was so quiet in the Church. He came out of his nest in the back of the organ and looked around the Church. The sunshine was making little pools of light on the church floor; small specks of dust sparkled as they floated in the quiet air. Chalky began thinking of them as fairies. Perhaps they would play with him because he was so lonely. He gave a big sigh. He knew it was only a 'think'. Mummy Church Mouse heard his big sigh.

'I know what is the matter with you,' she said. 'You're bored, aren't you?'

'Oh yes,' said Chalky. 'I do wish it was Sunday school time, so that I could see the children laughing, singing and playing together!'



Mummy smiled, 'I've got something to tell you,' she said. 'Now that you are old enough, it's time for you to go to the Church of the Ascension School, which is across the road from the Church. There you will make new friends and have fun working and playing with them every day.'

Chalky felt a tingle of excitement creep right down his back, even to the tip of his long, long tail.

'School,' he gasped, 'but I won't know what to do!'

'Silly mouse,' said his mum, 'your teachers and the teaching assistants will be there to help you. They will show you where everything is and tell you very nicely what they would like you to do. I know that they are getting very excited thinking about you and the new children coming to school for the first time.'

Chalky thought about this. 'Will I have to stay all day?'

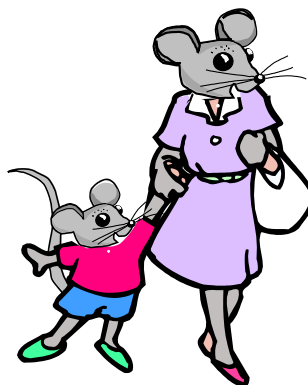
'Not at first,' said mum, 'You will have a visit to get used to it all, and then when you start properly, it won't seem strange at all. Just like meeting old friends again.'

On the day of Chalky's visit, he was so excited he could hardly eat his breakfast.

'When will it be time to go?' he thought.

After the washing-up was done, Mummy helped Chalky put on his coat and off they set.

'Why can't I wear my new school uniform!' asked Chalky.



'Well, we'll keep your uniform nice and smart and clean for when you start school properly,' said Mum. 'We must make sure that your name is on everything just in case anything gets lost.'

They set out, crossing the busy road, taking care to look and listen all the time, just in case any traffic was coming. The headteacher was waiting to meet them with a friendly smiling face.

Chalky and his mum went inside their new classroom. Chalky looked all around. It was all very bright and colourful with small tables and chairs, just the right size for little people who are nearly five-year olds.

There were the teachers and the teaching assistants, who knew just how to be kind and friendly with new children who are finding things a bit strange.

In a small room near the classroom were the toilets and some low wash basins for the boys and girls to use.

Outside in the corridor were some pegs on the wall. Each one had a name on it for the boys and girls. Mummy and Chalky looked at all the children's lovely work on display and books in the colour library. Then they went back into the classroom.

'Let's see what there is for me to do.' thought Chalky.

There was a Home Corner with a small cooker, cupboards and lots and lots of dressing up clothes. There was a water tray and sand tray to play in, bright colourful paints and crayons to use, plasticene and puzzles, bricks to build with, and lots and lots of beautiful books in the library corner to look at and read.

'Oh!' thought Chalky, 'How lucky I am. Now I shall have lots of new friends to play with and share with.'

He had a lovely morning, doing exciting things and painted a picture to take home with him.

I wonder what we shall do when we start school in September? Maybe cooking, maybe singing....' But that's another story!

