

COME...

*Percorsi di accoglienza, integrazione,  
educazione interculturale*

Questo fascicolo è tradotto in 12 lingue

albanese, arabo, cinese, francese, hindi, inglese, russo  
serbo-croato, somalo, spagnolo, tagalog, urdu

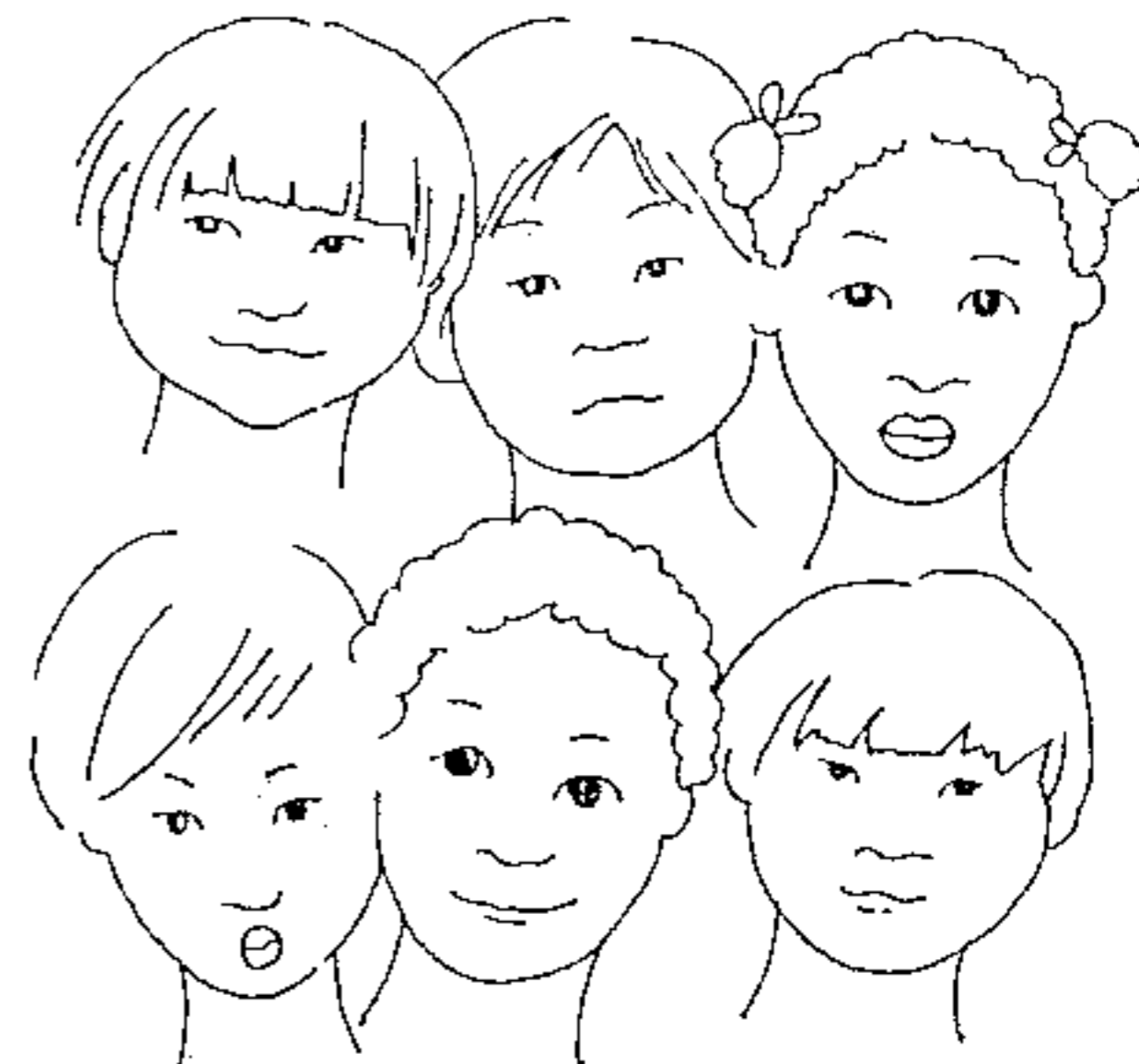
*testo in lingua inglese*

**Centro COME**  
*Cooperativa Sociale "Farsi Prossimo"*  
via Porpora, 26  
20131 Milano  
tel 02.29.53.74.62  
fax 02.20.40.11.20  
e-mail [info@centrocome.it](mailto:info@centrocome.it)

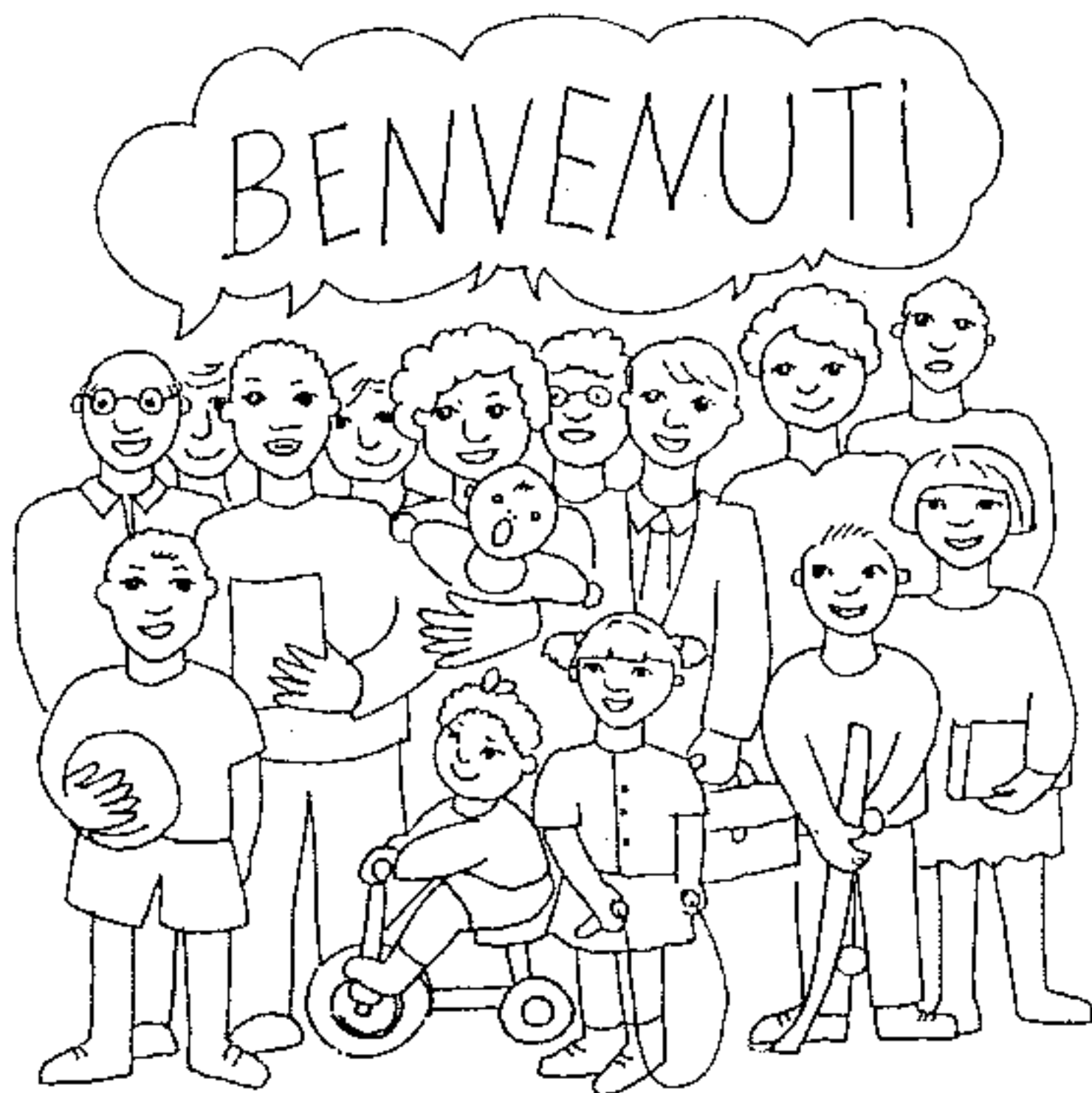
**\* FOTOCOPIES ARE FREE!**

## TO FOREIGN PARENTS

### How primary school works in Italy



12 essential pieces of information to welcome your children



*traduzioni:* Elisabeth Robinson, Gigi D'Amico e Stefano Manfredi

*testo:* Arcangela Mastromarco

*disegni:* Santina Dallo

*a cura di:* Centro "COME"

nell'ambito della convenzione tra  
Provincia di Milano  
Settore Politiche Sociali  
e  
Caritas Ambrosiana  
Cooperativa Farsi Prossimo



## WHAT IF YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE?

*Don't worry!*

As a matter of fact there are centres that can give you advice:

Ufficio Stranieri  
Comune di Milano  
via Tadino, 12 Milano  
tel.: 02.29.40.02.29

Centro COME  
Cooperativa Farsi Prossimo  
viale Porpora, 26 Milano  
tel.: 02.29.53.74.62

*Of course there are other foreign parents who can help you!*

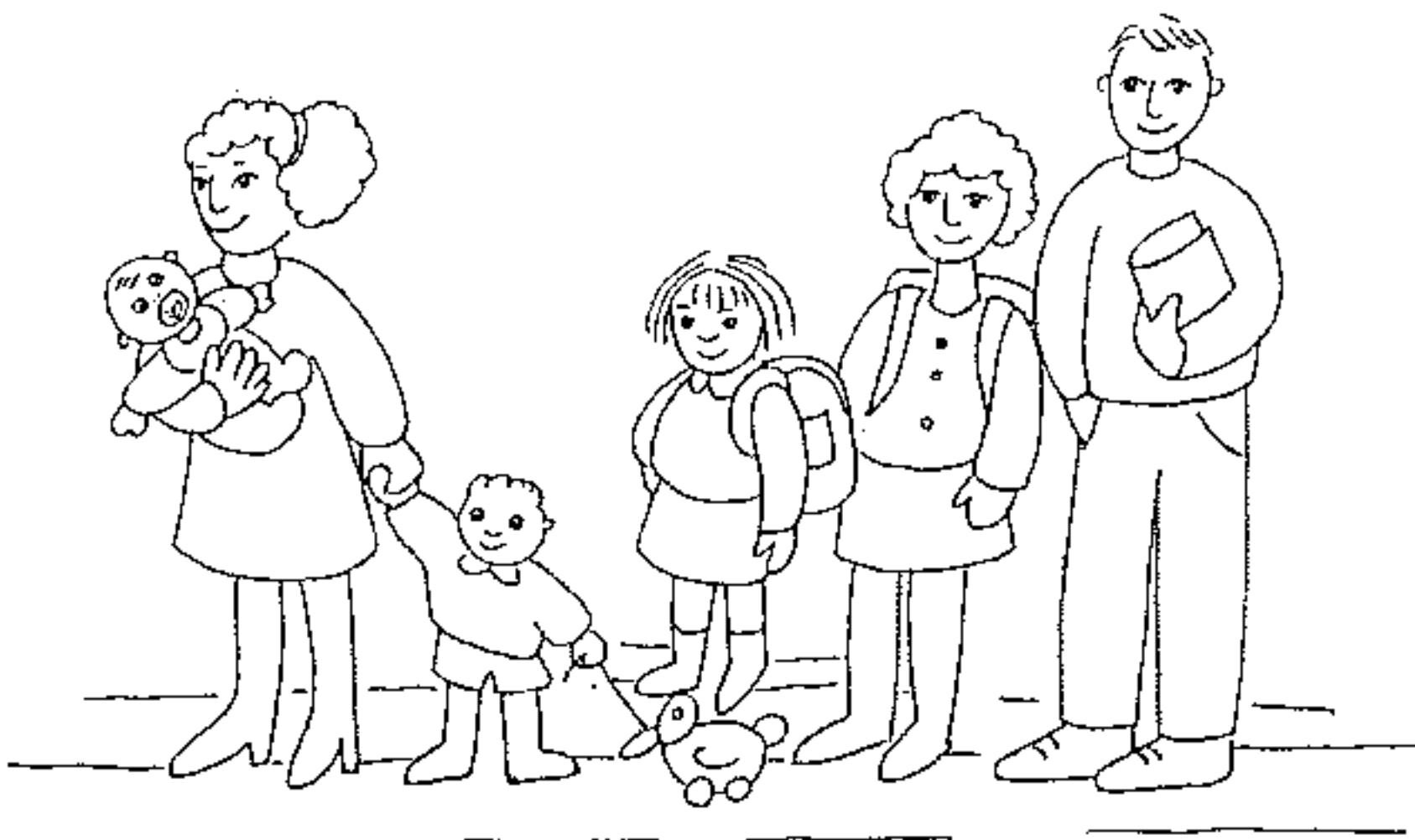
## ENJOY YOUR SCHOOL!

## *WELCOME* to our country and our schools

First of all Italy and Italian schools welcome you and your children.

We would like to give you some information about compulsory education and primary school in particular.

*Enter your children immediately even if the school year has already begun and remember that all children, not legal residents included, have the right to go to school even if they are not legal residents (U.N. The International Convention on Childhood Rights, art. 28).*



# 11

## WHAT IF THE CHILD DOES NOT SPEAK ITALIAN?

To help your child's full participation to the class activities and to teach him the new language, teachers will organize personalized meetings and lessons of written and oral Italian.

*In some schools there are teachers who have the specific duty to teach Italian to foreign children.*



# 1

## HOW LONG DOES SCHOOLING LAST IN ITALY?

Compulsory school lasts 8 years

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

|                  |                         |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| Nursery          | up to 3 years old       |
| Kindergarten     | from 3 to 6 years old   |
| Primary school   | from 6 to 11 years old  |
| Secondary school | from 11 to 14 years old |
| High school      | over 14 years old       |

Enrolment is free of charge. The school provides the text books and the family has to buy school materials such as exercise-books, pencils, pens, coloured pencils.

*Ask the teachers for a list of the necessary materials.*

# 10

## WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS MEETINGS?

Teachers periodically meet parents to talk with them about the class programme and their children's progress and problems.

These moments are very important in order to let the school and the family cooperate for the education and the full participation of the pupil.

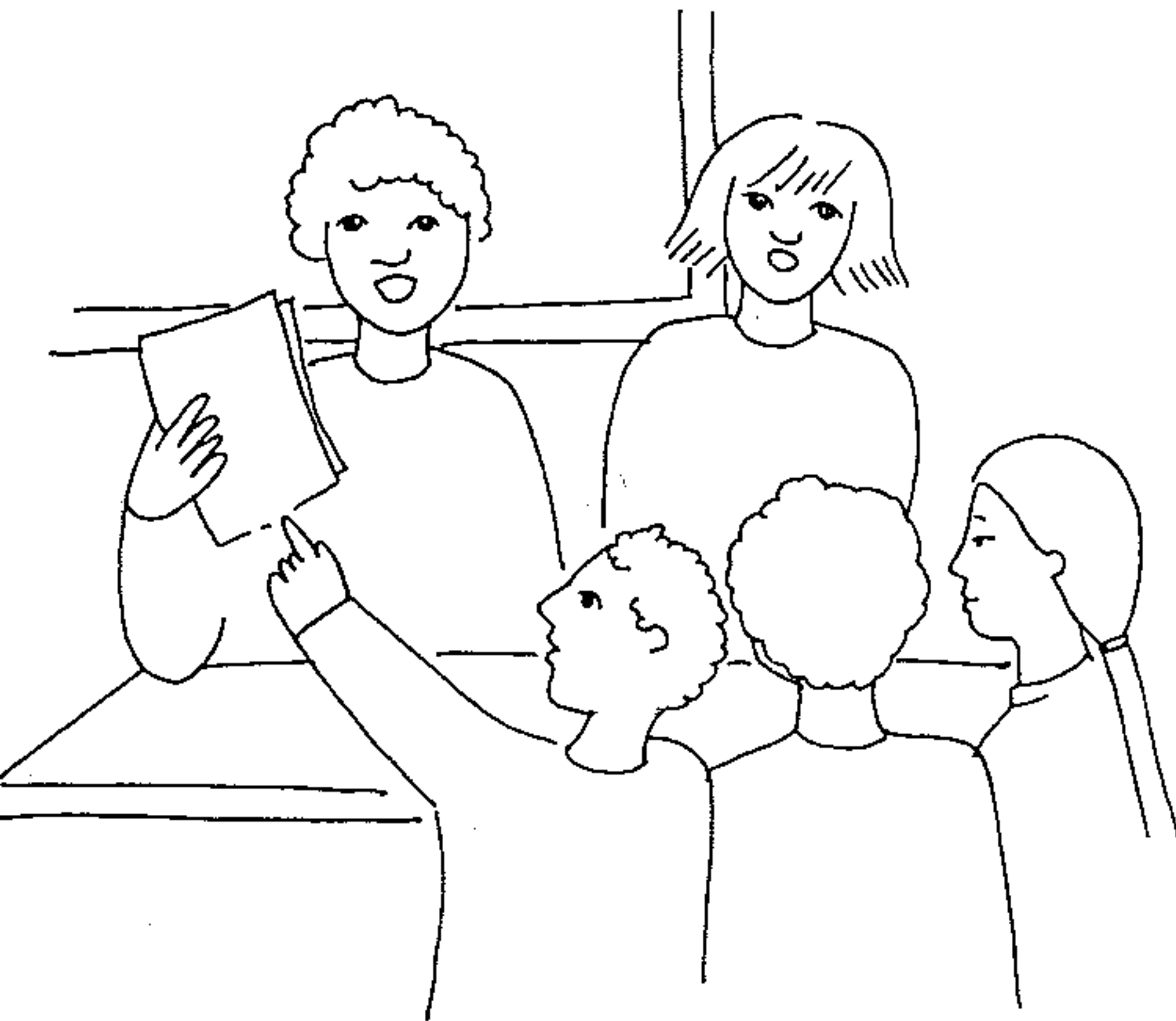


### INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS

Each teacher will inform the parents of the day he/she can meet them to talk about the child's situation.

The parents too can ask for a meeting with the teachers.

*If you want to discuss about your child ask immediately for a meeting with teachers.*



## 2

### WHICH DOCUMENTS ARE REQUIRED TO ENTER CHILDREN AT PRIMARY SCHOOL?

**The following documents are required:**

- birth certificate (in Italian)
- vaccination certificate (in Italian)
- the documents from the school attended in the country of origin (in Italian)

In case such documents are not available, the parent may declare on his own responsibility which class the child attended in the country of origin.

**Fill these forms when apply:**

- choice of the type of school (see #3)
- catholic religion education ( see #6)
- enrolment to the school meal (see #4)
- enrolment to pre-school and evening games

*If you do not have the vaccination certificate ask the school nurse who will indicate you what to do .*

# 9

## HOW ARE SCHOOL PERFORMANCES APPRAISED?



The school year is divided in two four-months terms: from September to January and from January to June. In January and June teachers examine the child's results and draw up a "school report" which is then given to the family.

*At the end of the fifth year there is a final examination.*



### 3

## “FULL TIME” OR “PARTIAL TIME” SCHOOL?



In many schools parents can choose between two different time-tables and scholastic organization.

- **full time school:**

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

School meal is compulsory.

- **partial time school**

27 or 30 hours per week. Week time-table (1,2,3 or 4 afternoons) is set by the school itself.

School meal is not compulsory.

Classes start at 8.30 a.m.

Don't be late

*Ask immediately about your son's school time-table*

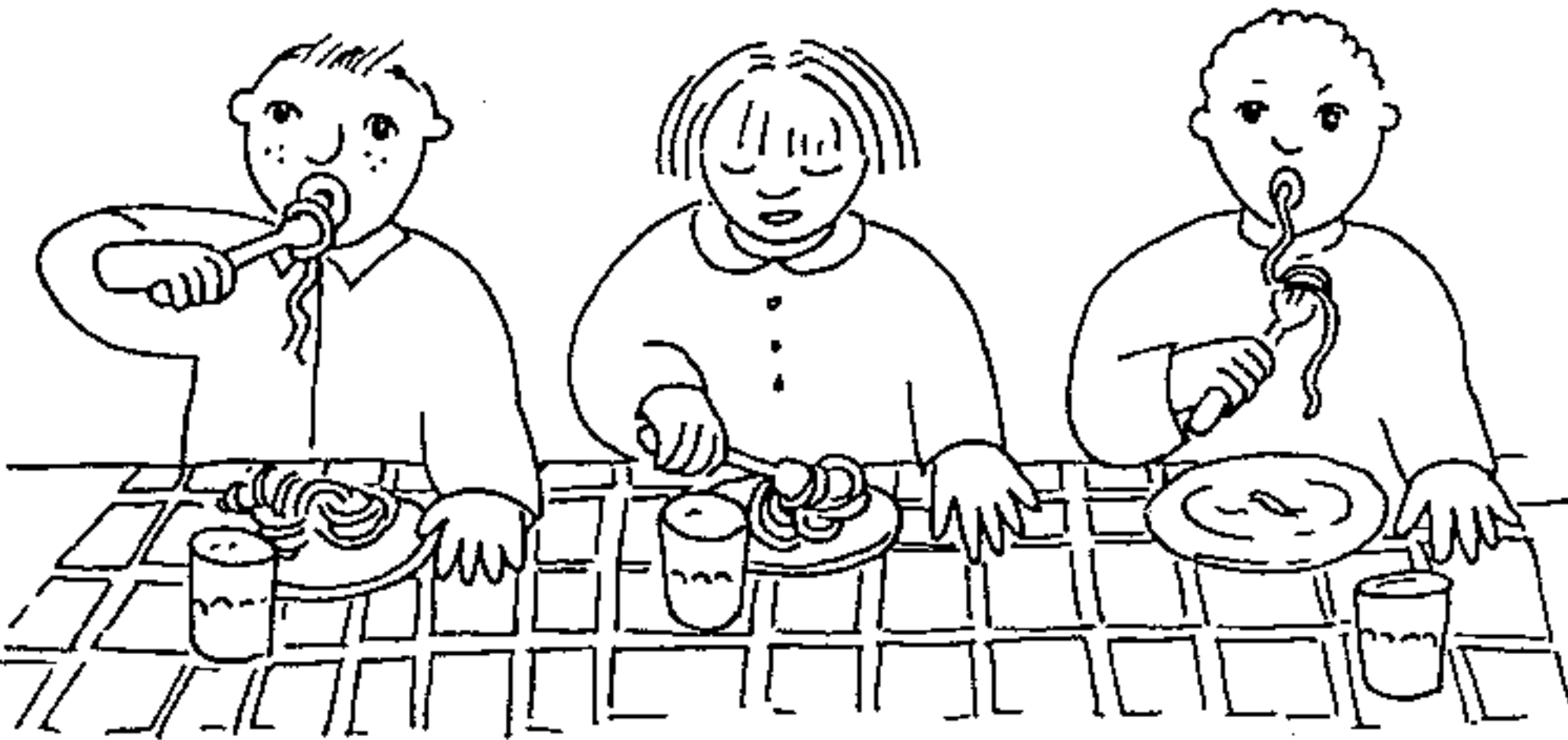
# 8

## WHAT DO PUPILS LEARN AT SCHOOL?

**In the primary school pupils study:**

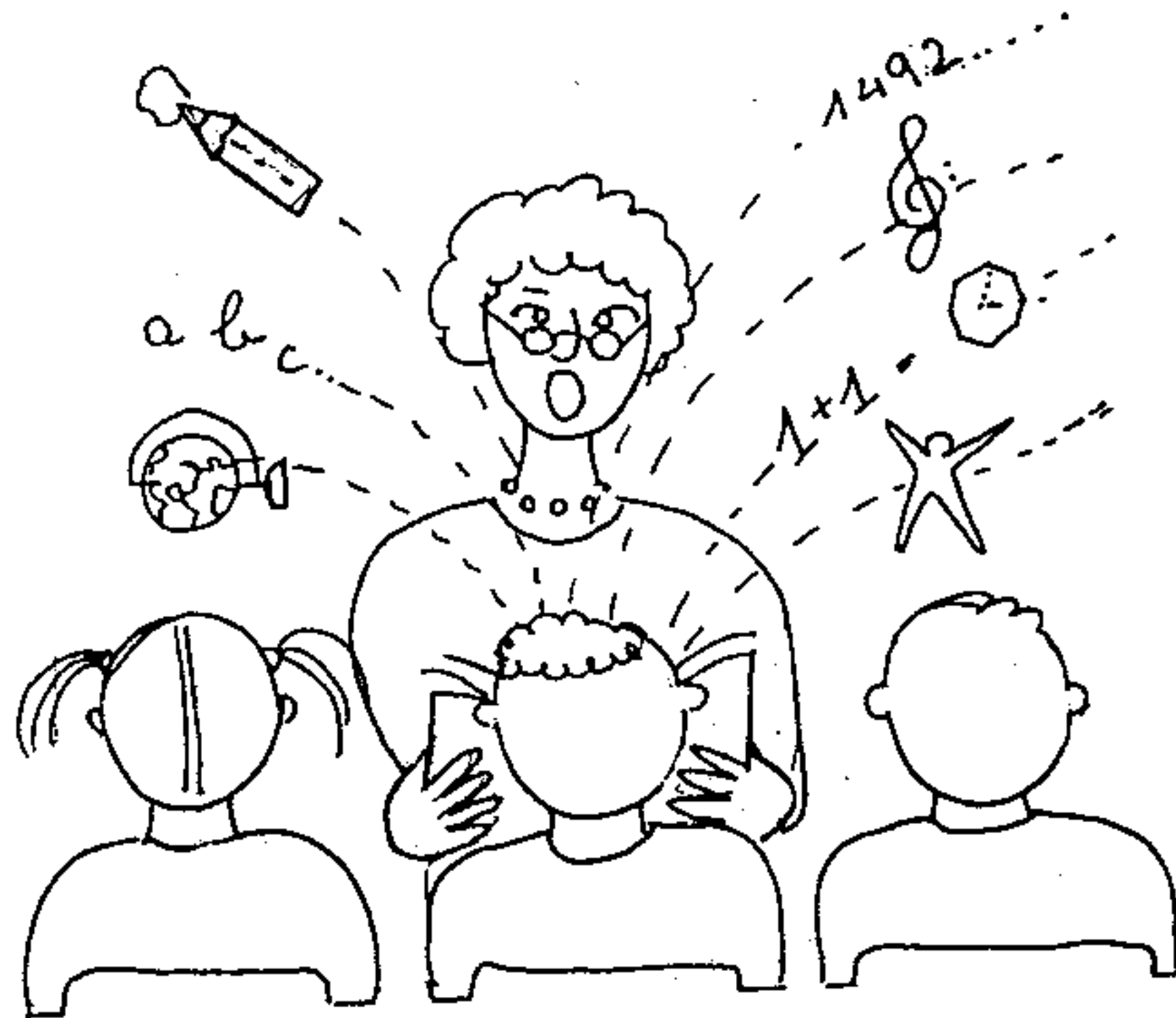
- Italian language
- mathematics
- le scienze
- history
- geography
- social studies
- drawing (educazione all'immagine)
- physical training (educazione motoria)
- music (educazione musicale)

*Starting from the third year children study also a foreign language.*



# 4

## HOW TO ENROL CHILDREN TO THE SCHOOL MEAL



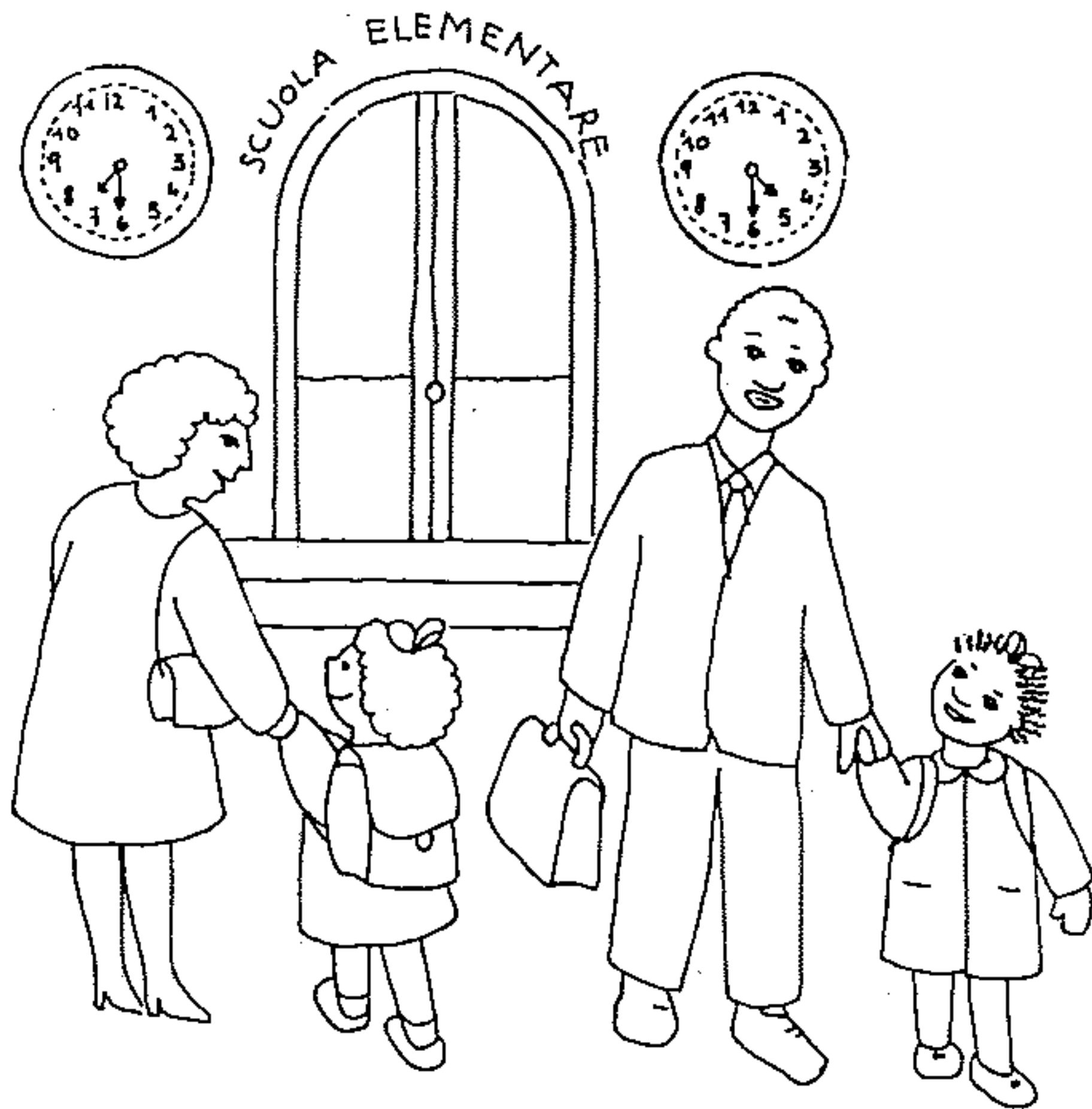
In some school, and every school in Milan there is the school meal service. Parents pay for lunch a charge according to the family's income.

It is possible to ask for a special diet for health or religious reasons

**Submit these forms to the school secretary office:**

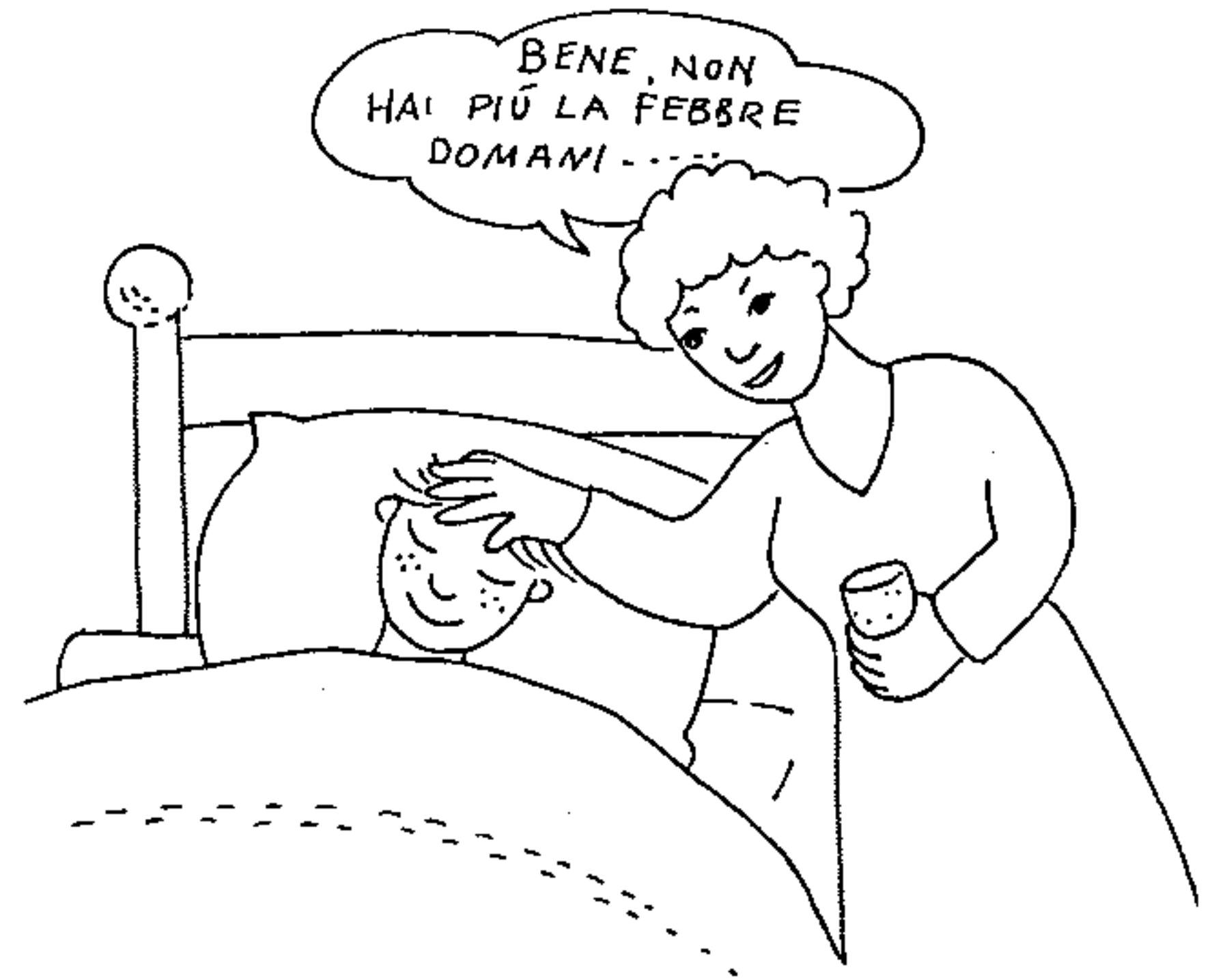
- application for admission to the school meal
- tax form 101 or 740
- request for a special diet

*For any question or problem, please ask the secretary office.*



## ABSENCES

Every absence must always be justified by parents. If the pupil is ill for more than 6 days, a medical certificate attesting that the child has recovered must be shown when he comes back to school.



# 7

## HOW IS THE SCHOOL CALENDAR?

The school year roughly lasts 9 months. It begins around middle September and ends up by mid June.

There are two major holidays:

- two weeks for Christmas (usually from December 23 to January 6)
- around a week for Easter (in March or April)

More shorter holidays are scattered around the year.

*The school will inform you of any other closing with a note in yourr child's notebook.  
Always check out the notebook!*

# 5

## WHAT IF PARENTS START WORKING EARLY AND FINISH LATE?

In order to solve this kind of problem some school have also pre-school activities (from 7.30 a.m. until the beginning of classes) and evening games ( from 4.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.).

*For information about the application form ask the sacretary office.*



## **6 THE TEACHING OF THE CATHOLIC RELIGION OR AN ALTERNATIVE CHOICE?**

The teaching of the Catholic religion is scheduled for two hours per week.

At the time of enrolment parents have to declare if they choose to:

~~avail~~ ~~not to avail~~

of this teaching. If parents decide not to let their children study the Catholic religion, they can choose among three alternative possibilities:

- educational activities
- study activities or individual research works with teachers' support
- leaving the school