



# Betsy's back-to-school surprise

**Top:** Betsy starts the year sporting a red beret (by John & Wendy), a white blouse (by Pepito) and a navy jumper. **Bottom:** Her patchwork dress (by Spaghetti & Confetti) makes any day more cheery.

Before cutting Betsy out, paste the page onto sturdy oaktag.



I couldn't *wait* to start school this year because I was so excited to see all of my friends.

But then, nothing turned out the way that I thought it would.

The whole week before the first day I was really busy. Mom took me shopping, and I got new shoes, a haircut, and I picked out notepads and pens in my favorite color—purple!

The night before school started, I could hardly sleep. I was nervous I'd miss the bus. Then, Mom and Dad forgot to set their alarm clock, so we all really *did* oversleep! Mom had to drive me to school, and I ate my toast in the car.

When I got there, I found out I was in a different class from my best friends. And my teacher seemed really mean. Her name is Mrs. Freeze, and when she's mad she blows a whistle. She even told me I can't use my purple pens. I couldn't believe I'd have to be in this class for a whole year!

The next day at lunch I made friends with a girl in my class named Emily. She likes to swim and collect stickers, just like me!

Then the day after that, Mrs. Freeze brought in a real bunny and said it would belong to our class. The bunny's name is Edith, and she has long floppy ears. We clean the cage and take turns feeding her cabbage.

I still see my old friends at recess. And I like Mrs. Freeze more than I did at first. When she gets cranky—watch out. But mostly she's nice, and she reads us good books. It's funny how a week ago I didn't like school at all and now I can't wait to go back.

