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## Let Us Read

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- 13 Read the text and say when English children begin school.

### PRIMARY<sup>1</sup> SCHOOLS IN ENGLAND

#### I

In Great Britain school begins at the age of four or five. Many boys and girls usually leave school at the age of sixteen.

In England the school year begins in September, but not always on the first day of the month, as school rarely<sup>2</sup> begins on Monday. The English think that Monday is not a good day to start [stɑ:t] school. So pupils usually begin their school year on the first Tuesday of September (not always on the 1st of September as we do). The weather is usually fine. It is warm. The sky is often blue and the sun is bright. Little children going to school with their parents on their first school day look so clean and nice. They don't have any bags or books with them, as there is no need for these things on their first day at school. Pupils will get them later. They will get exercise books, pencils, pens, rulers and rubbers too.

Classes usually begin at nine. Pupils have a break at 10.30 and may have a drink of milk or of orange juice. At half past twelve or at one o'clock they usually have lunch — meat, pudding, juice, an apple or a cake. Their classes are not always formal ['fɔ:məl]. They often sit at their desks but they also often sit on the carpet on the floor and listen to their teacher. They draw or play games. They often look at the animals they have at school — hamsters, rabbits or hares. Sometimes there are birds or fish in their classrooms.

After lessons teachers usually read fairy tales and stories to them or sometimes they tell them something of interest.

English pupils often play outdoors.

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<sup>1</sup> primary ['praɪməɪ] — начальный

<sup>2</sup> rarely ['reəli] — редко