



Skoolmaths

FREE BACK-TO-SCHOOL RESOURCE

The First Two Weeks

A calm-start starter pack for teachers

Everything you need to walk into a new class relaxed and ready — icebreakers, a low-prep diagnostic, a first-lesson planner and printable displays. Print what's useful, skip what isn't.

- ✓ 4 no-prep icebreakers
- ✓ What-I-know diagnostic
- ✓ Class agreement page
- ✓ "Find Someone Who" grid
- ✓ First-lesson planner
- ✓ Welcome poster + exit tickets

Your first two weeks, sorted

You don't need to prep everything — you need a small folder of go-to activities you can reach for on any day. This pack is that folder. Here's how to get the most from it.

1 Build your "grab-and-go" folder

Print the pages you like and keep them together — physically or in one drive folder. When a lesson finishes early or a plan falls through, you'll have an icebreaker, a diagnostic or an exit ticket ready in seconds. **No scrambling in that first hectic week.**

2 Learn names fast

The icebreakers and the "Find Someone Who" grid are designed to surface names and interests quickly. Knowing names by the end of week one does more for behaviour than any seating plan.

3 Find out what they know

The diagnostic page works for *any* subject or age. Use it before you plan your first real unit — it tells you where to pitch, and what to skip.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- ☐ **Icebreakers & name games** — four low-prep activities, no materials needed (p.3)
- ☐ **"Find Someone Who" grid** — a printable mingle activity for the first day (p.4)
- ☐ **What I Already Know** — a KWL-style diagnostic that fits any subject (p.5)
- ☐ **First-lesson planner** — a timed template so your opening lesson runs itself (p.6)
- ☐ **Our Class Agreement** — co-create expectations with your students (p.7)
- ☐ **Welcome poster & exit tickets** — printable display + quick end-of-lesson checks (p.8)

A note from me: keep it light. The first two weeks are about relationships, not racing through content. Everything here is built to help you connect first and teach second — the learning comes easier once they trust you're in their corner.



Four no-prep icebreakers

No printing, no materials — just you and the class. Each takes 5–10 minutes and works from upper-primary to sixth form / high school.

1 Two Truths & a Wish

A kinder twist on the classic. Each student shares two true things about themselves and one thing they **wish** were true (a place they'd visit, a skill they'd love). The class guesses the wish. It reveals personalities and hopes — great conversation fuel for the weeks ahead.

2 The Name Chain

Student one says their name + one word they like that starts with the same letter ("Sam — skateboarding"). Student two repeats it, then adds their own. Go round the room. Silly, memorable, and you'll have **learned every name** by the end.

3 This or That, Stand Up

Call out either/or choices — "tea or coffee?", "summer or winter?", "cats or dogs?". Students move to one side of the room for each answer. Fast, physical, and shows the class instantly how much they have in common. **Zero prep, all energy.**

4 One Word Check-In

Go round the circle: each person gives *one word* for how they're feeling about the new year. No explaining required. It normalises nerves, gives you a read on the room, and works brilliantly as a recurring Monday-morning ritual all year.

Make it stick: jot one detail about each student as they share (a hobby, a hope). Drop it into conversation next week — "How was the football match?" — and watch how quickly the room warms to you.



Find someone who...

Move around the room and find a different classmate for each square. Write their name in the box. First to fill a full line — or the whole grid — wins!

...has travelled to another country

.....
Name:

...can play a musical instrument

.....
Name:

...has the same favourite colour as you

.....
Name:

...loves a sport or team

.....
Name:

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...read a good book over the break

.....
Name:

...has a pet at home

.....
Name:

...was born in a different month than you

.....
Name:

...can say hello in another language

.....
Name:

...likes the same food as you

.....
Name:

...is excited about something this year

.....
Name:

...has a hidden talent

.....
Name:

Teacher tip: after the mingle, ask a few students to share the *most surprising* thing they learned about a classmate. It turns a warm-up into a genuine class-bonding moment — and gives quieter students an easy way in.



What I already know

Fill this in before we start our first topic. There are no wrong answers — it just helps me teach you better. Topic / subject: _____

What I KNOW

Things I'm already sure about

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What I WONDER

Questions I'd love answered

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How I LEARN

What helps me most

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One thing I'm proud of from last year

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Teacher tip: the middle column is gold. Students' questions show you their real starting point and hand you ready-made hooks for future lessons — "Remember when you asked about...? Today's the day."

My first-lesson plan

A simple, timed shape for day one. Fill the blanks and you've got a lesson that runs itself — welcome, connect, a taste of the subject, and a calm close.

WELCOME

5 min

Greet & settle — door greeting, seating, a "do now" on the board

CONNECT

10 min

Icebreaker — which one from p.3? Note any names to remember

HOOK

10 min

A taste of the subject — a curious question, demo or story that shows why it matters

EXPLORE

15 min

Low-stakes activity — the diagnostic (p.5) or a paired task

SET UP

5 min

How we'll work together — routines, expectations, where things live (see p.7)

CLOSE

5 min

Exit ticket & goodbye — quick check (p.8) + a warm send-off

The one thing I want them to leave believing

Remember: if you only nail one part, make it the send-off. Students remember how a lesson *ended* — a genuine "great to meet you, see you tomorrow" is worth more than any worksheet.

Our class agreement

Rules land better when students help write them. Talk through each prompt as a class and agree your answers together — then display it proudly.



We treat each other by...

.....

.....

.....



When someone is speaking, we...

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When we're stuck, we...

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This year, together we'll...

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We agree to make this a great year. Signed by our class:

.....

.....

.....

Why it works: when a wobble happens later, you're not imposing *your* rule — you're reminding them of *their* promise. That shift from "my classroom" to "our classroom" is where real buy-in begins.

Welcome poster & exit tickets

Cut out the poster for your door or wall. Snip the four exit tickets along the dashed lines for quick end-of-lesson checks in week one.



Exit Ticket

One thing I learned or did well today...

.....
Name _____ Date _____



Exit Ticket

One question still on my mind...

.....
Name _____ Date _____



Exit Ticket

How I feel about today (circle): 😊 😐 😞 😡

.....
Name _____ Date _____



Exit Ticket

One thing I'd like to try or improve next...

.....
Name _____ Date _____