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Opening extract from

The Friendship Club

Written by

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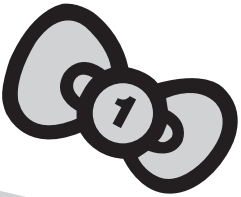
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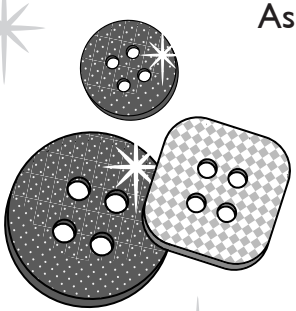
The First Day



Hello Kitty checked the mirror on her dressing table. The red bow in her hair still didn't look quite right. She pushed it up a little. Today was the first day of her new school and she wanted to look perfect.

Hello Kitty's tummy felt quivery with excitement. A new school meant a new teacher and making new friends. How exciting was that?

She inspected her reflection. She was wearing a checked pinafore dress, and a white blouse with puff sleeves and the most perfect little buttons that shone like *diamonds*. She liked her new uniform. At her old school, they all had to wear exactly the same uniform but at this new school it was completely different.



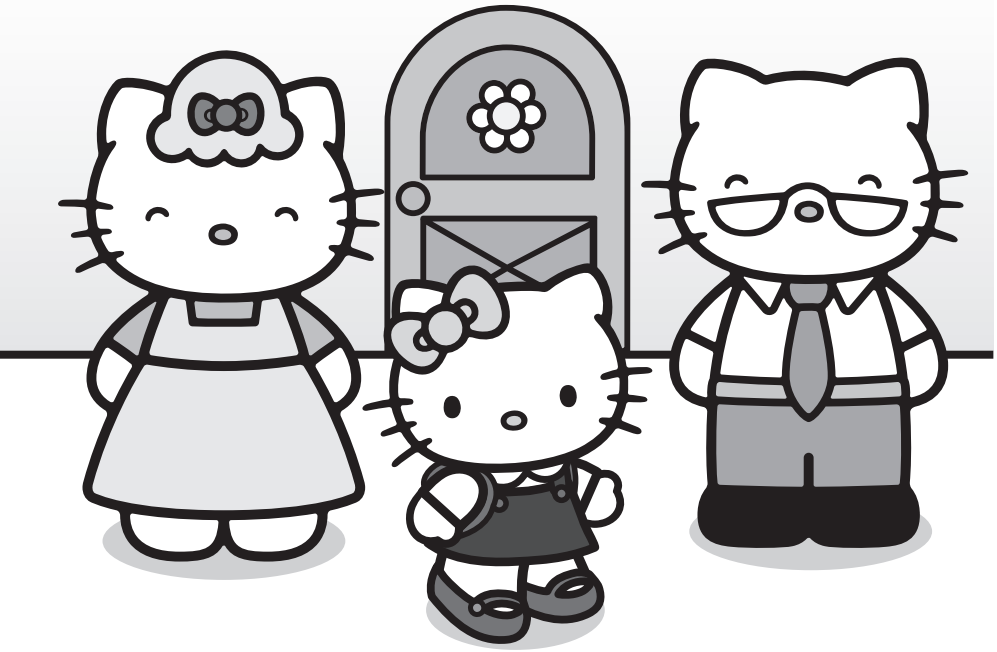
As long as you wore the school colours and looked neat and tidy, you could wear whatever dress, top, skirt

or trousers you liked. Hello Kitty had had great fun shopping with her twin sister, Mimmy, and their Mama.

Hello Kitty did a little twirl and her skirt spun out. There was still one thing missing though. Lip balm! She picked up a pot of Strawberry Surprise and rubbed a little on to her lips to make them soft and slightly shiny. That was it. She was now *officially* ***ready!***



Mama's voice called up the stairs – it was time to go.



Super! Picking up her bright red spotty rucksack, Hello Kitty ran out of her bedroom.

Mimmy was standing with Mama and Papa at the bottom of the staircase. Mimmy's school uniform was much simpler than Hello Kitty's – a red pinafore and a neat white polo shirt – and her yellow bow was on the right of her head,

not the left. They always wore their bows on different sides so people could tell them apart.

Papa had on his smart work suit for his job in the city, and was ready to take them both to school – he would drop them off that morning, and Mama would collect them later.

Papa tweaked their noses and kissed Mama on the cheek.

Mama smiled at him and both the girls, and they all hugged tightly. A new school would be so **exciting!** And as a special treat, they would have Mama's famous Apple Pie for tea that night. Yummy! It was the girls' favourite.

