

VERTAALFICHE BIJ HET BOEK 'GEEN KAT OP SCHOOL ... OF TOCH?'

Engels

There is no cat at school ... (is there?)

In Belgium, if you say there's "geen kat" in Dutch, this means that nobody is there.
The title of this book "Geen kat op school" means that there is nobody at school.



That Friday, on her way to school, Mila was cold.
The sky on the horizon coloured orange, pink and a little gold.
And although it was going to be another beautiful day ...
something was very wrong at school!

Blablablie Blablabla

Chatter, jingling and loud steps at the gate.
The parents and children had heard it from afar.

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At the gate, the principal stood with a large set of keys ...
his lips were a little white and his cheeks showed a red blush.
He cleared his throat ... 'Uhm' and said bashfully:
'There is no cat in school today.
And that's never been the case here before!

Little Mila scratched her head...
What the principal said, she thought was a bit odd.
She didn't quite understand!
'No cat in school' ... 'that's quite normal, isn't it.'

Fortunately, the principal explained further:
'There are no teachers in school today,
hence I am closing the school gate again.'



'Miss Lotte, Mr Mo and Miss Bea are not going to get here today.
Yes, that's what you get when the trains are on strike.'

'Miss Nour overslept this morning.
On the phone I could still hear her quietly yawning.'

'And then you have Miss Anne ...
She is unlucky because her car has broken down.'

'Thieves took Mr Fred's bike out of the blue.
Who would such a thing? That's not okay right?!

'Miss Hay-Lin went to the emergency room with her young son.
A bit of a scare ... but in the meantime everything is fine again.'

'And yes ... actually ... where is Miss Dorien?
Because I haven't seen her today either!'

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The principal tapped his keys against the gate
'Listen for a moment ...', he continued
'I can understand the teachers.
I can understand their situations pretty well ...
'I'm sorry ... but I have to let you go back home anyway.'

'Worse,' stammered the principal ...
'We cannot organise the school fete on Sunday!
Where am I going to get help in the short term?

'Soooo much still has to be done.
The tents, the groceries, the bouncy castle ...
And there is no one to be seen here.
I can't do that alone!
So ... this year I'm saying 'no' to the school fete!



The parents and children looked at each other out of the corner of their eyes.
It has never been like that here at school!
Mila's dad cleared his throat ... 'Uhm' and said somewhat bashfully:
'There may not be a cat in school ...
but we can still help with the school fete!

The principal raised his eyebrows ...
and said: 'Maybe that's true.'
With his index finger, he nervously twirled curls in his hair.
He stared thoughtfully ahead ... thought deeply ...
and mumbled: 'Maybe that's a good idea.
But who has time and would like to participate?

'Surely we can ask the other parents ...
And the kids can help decorate and carry groceries.'
And that's what they did!
A lot of moms and dads were already arriving.

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That evening, the parents met up.
They discussed and talked but ...

Blablablie Blablabla

Until the early hours.
Even until the rooster said cock a doodle do.

And there it was on the table ..
the plan for the fete!
With hourly rosters and a division of tasks ...
and a shopping list that had never been longer!



The next morning at school, it was early.
The parents were all there ... no one complained!
One by one, the teachers came in as well,
After a cup of delicious coffee, they were able to get down to it together.
Because they had a lot of work ahead of them.

Gus' dad kept an eye on the plan.
He checked to make sure they didn't forget anything on the list.

Mila's dad swept up, together with Vic's mom
the playground was cleaned with a brush, dustpan and broom.

Miss Bea, along with a few parents, took care of the shopping.
As many as three cars full of goodies ... yes, you will see!

The director worked hard, with his sleeves rolled up,
to build the stage with beams and planks.

Tess' mom provided a lot of fun
when placing tables, chairs, booths and tents.

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Gitte's mom went to work with Mr Fred
and decorated the booths with lights, garlands and flag.

Mr Mo and Miss Dorien had just started
inflating as many as a hundred speckled balloons.

At the back they put the beautiful bouncy castle.
And next to it, the games ... how many there were!

And as icing on the cake, there was Fleur's mom ...
with a suitcase full of glitter and jars of colour!

Yes, yes ... you heard it right.
Everything went according to plan!
The principal suddenly thought, this will make everyone happy!



And Sunday was the day!
Finally! The day of the fete.
With cheerful music ...
and a playground that had never been more beautiful.

There was a pleasant bustle.
There was a long line at the bouncy castle.
There were people eating, playing, laughing and talking.
The parents got to know each other and everyone was happy.

The principal watched the festivities with eyes wide open,
at the side of the stage ... behind the curtain.
And he thought to himself for a moment ...
so this is how it should always be from now on.

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He went on stage a little uncomfortably ...
and turned on his microphone for his speech.
He cleared his throat ... 'Uhm' and said less bashfully:
'Thank you all, for this wonderful school fete!'

'I can draw a wise lesson,
Not only the fetes will be a success this way!
It has never gone so well.
From now on, we are going to get to work together!'

'Starting today, our gate is wide open to all parents!
Not only to help but also for a chat, I hope.'

He took out his large keychain from his pocket.
Carefully, he took out one of the keys.

'Parents deserve a place in school ... at its heart.
This here is the key to your new parents' room.'



Blablable Blablable

Talking, cheering, whistling and clapping ... as we never heard before!
This was the best decision ever.

And little Mila ... she was so proud...
Because without her father's idea, they probably wouldn't be here now!

The fete... it continued into the early hours.
Even, yes really, until the rooster said cock a doodle do.