

magic
breakfast
fuel for learning

Magic Makers

Handbook

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Magic Makers

24th November - Christmas

What is 'Magic Makers'?

Magic Makers is our wonderful winter programme which gives volunteers the unique opportunity to join our primary school pupils during breakfast time and share the joy of the winter festivities.

Companies big and small take part by purchasing some lovely presents, wrapping them up, and then going into school to share them with the pupils over the course of 20 to 60 minutes, depending on the length of breakfast provision at the school.



How does it work?

1. We will send you a wish list – please, purchase about 30 presents with an overall value of **between £350 and £450**. It is important to be in this bracket to ensure that students across the country get an equal opportunity. Make sure you buy **wrapping paper** as part of this purchase!
2. Get together with colleagues for a little **festive celebration** and **wrap the presents in advance**. If any presents require **batteries**, please make sure you buy those.
3. Make sure you **label each present** with a note which specifies:
 - That the present is for the school and students won't be taking it home
 - Whether the present is for a boy, a girl, or gender neutral
 - What age group the present is appropriate for
4. There will be several drop-in sessions in October and November if you'd like to pop in and ask any questions.





What the day will look like

This programme is running across England and Scotland, and each event will be tailored to the specific setting of your school. Some schools will have you at breakfast club, whereas others will invite you to a classroom. Either way, it's going to be a warm and exciting environment, and we have put together lots of suggestions on how to make the most of the visit.

1. Joining the students for breakfast

We highly recommend playing some simple **games** with the students while they are having breakfast. This will help you establish rapport with them and help create a welcoming and inclusive environment. There are games ideas (page 7) and conversation starters (page 8) at the end of this document.

2. Opening the presents

You will open the presents together and most schools will set aside some time for you to play with the children after they've opened the gifts. **Note that the presents are for the school and the children will not be taking them home.**

3. Guide to a successful visit

You can find our guide to a successful visit on page 4 – it gives you additional tips on how to make the most of this event.



What happens if you can no longer attend?

This is an incredibly meaningful and important event for the school and the students. Staff usually start preparing their children weeks in advance. Therefore, we want to avoid cancellations at all costs. Please, make sure that you are able to attend before committing to this project. If you have signed up for the visit, but then have to cancel it, we expect you to still purchase the presents and send them to the school. Colleagues from Magic Breakfast can then go in and share the gifts with the children on your behalf.

A guide to a successful breakfast visit

Don'ts

- Don't take any photographs or have your phone out
- Don't exchange contact details with the students. If a student wants to stay in touch, please speak to their teacher
- Don't ask about "the holidays." Maybe ask about a fun thing they've done recently instead.
- Use the terms Mum/Dad/Parents as this can open difficult conversations. In general, try to avoid talking about families/home life as you won't know the dynamic/situation at home.
- Point out if a child is sat on their own. Ask to join them and engage in conversation instead.
- Don't huddle together with other staff as this can be intimidating for the children.
- Offer advice to the school or point out improvements – that is the role of the engagement partner (please feed relevant information back to us).

DOS

- Say hello with a smile, introduce yourself and use positive body language.
- Move around the room and have short chats with groups or individual children.
- Say why you are visiting and mention you've heard how great their breakfast club is and that you wanted to come and see the lovely things they do.
- Speak to the staff and where possible the parents, as they will give you a true indication of the impact of breakfast in school.
- Thank the children for letting you be part of their breakfast, and to the staff for their efforts. If you have noticed something good then please let them and us know.
- Take part in any sport or wake-up shake-up activity.
- Familiarise yourself with any safeguarding information given to you by the

Safeguarding

Safeguarding of the children we work with is of utmost importance to us. Please, make sure you follow the guidance below as well as your school's safeguarding policies.

Photography

School visits can make for some really inspiring stories for you to share with your customers and social media followers. Please feel free to take photos of yourselves and your colleagues wrapping presents or on the way to visits to share internally. Please, **do not** take any photos of children or have your cameras or phones out during the visit.

We want you to immerse yourself in the Magic Maker experience, so we are taking the pressure off you when it comes to photography. Magic Breakfast will provide approved images from Magic Maker visits with you which can be used in external facing communications.

The images we provide will have been taken at visits from Magic Makers but may not have been taken during your own visit. We want to ensure that any images of children have been approved and managed under our safeguarding policy.

If a student discloses sensitive information

This is a very unlikely scenario, but it is possible that a student shares with you a story or information that you think might be concerning. If this is the case, please follow the following steps:

1. Listen to the child and validate their experience, but don't promise to keep what they've told you a secret – tell them that you will only tell people if they need to know in order to keep them safe.
2. At the earliest convenience, share with a member of staff what the student has said. If you feel that this is not appropriate, on your way out ask at reception to speak to their Safeguarding Lead.
3. If you only realize later in the day or later in the week that what the student said may have been concerning, call the school and ask to speak to their designated Safeguarding Lead. It's better to share later than never 😊

Games to play during breakfast

The alphabet game

Pick a topic (e.g., breakfast food) and gather together with others, ideally in a circle or another configuration where it's clear whose turn it is. One person starts by saying a word with the letter 'a' which belongs to this category, then the next person says a word with the letter 'b', and so on.

Whenever a player takes too long to come up with a word or they repeat a word that's already been said, they are out. They then get a very important role – to make sure others aren't cheating! (This is important to make sure children don't feel left out because they've lost).

Food adjectives

Form a similar configuration as for the alphabet game, ensuring it's clear whose turn it would be to speak. Pick a food (e.g., bread). One person starts by saying an adjective or a phrase which describes it (e.g., soft, sometimes has seeds). Then, the next person says another one, and so on.

Whenever a player takes too long to come up with a word or they repeat a word that's already been said, they are out. They then get a very important role – to make sure others aren't cheating! (This is important to make sure children don't feel left out because they've lost).

Two truths and a lie

Another classic. Tell the students two truths and a lie about yourself (ideally, think of stories or facts related to food, but you can expand the topic if you want to). Students need to ask you questions in order to determine which one is the lie. It might be good to set a limit (e.g., 5 minutes or 10 questions) to make it more challenging and fun.

Conversation starters

Note: You might want to check with ChatGPT to ensure you are talking about your job in a child-friendly way. You can ask it to give you 'a child-friendly description of what X does.'

- What do you do for work?
- What did you do before your current job?
- Do you have any hobbies outside of work that make you better at your job?
- What's your favourite skills and why?
- What was school like for you? Did you like it?
- Can you tell me about a time things didn't go as planned? What happened and how did you handle it?
- What's your favourite part of your job? What's your least favourite part of your job?
- What was it like for you when you moved to secondary school?



A list of questions you could ask the students

- What is your favourite place in the world?
- If you opened a store, what would you sell?
- If you could be any animal, what kind would you be?
- What is your favourite food?
- What two things are you good at?
- What one thing would you like to be even better at?
- If you were a chef and had your own restaurant, what food would you serve?
- What is the funniest thing you've ever eaten?