

# contents



## **Pages 2 to 25**

### **SO YOU'RE STARTING SECONDARY SCHOOL ...**

These pages contain loads of advice to help you as you take this important step. Some of the topics included are: leaving primary school well, facing fear, the first day at your new school, worshipping God anywhere, surviving Parents' Evening, relationships, and a whole lot more!

## **Pages 26 to 32**

### **BIBLE HELP**

Seven days of Bible reading notes to get you in the swing of spending time with God – the One who will never break His promises to you, will never leave you and will always help you.

## **Inside back cover**

### **OTHER RESOURCES**

It doesn't stop here! Keep digging deeper into God's Word and living life to the full with Him.

# BIG FISH,

LITTLE POND

CAN YOU REMEMBER WHEN YOU STARTED YOUR FIRST SCHOOL? HOW DID IT FEEL? HOW DID YOU FEEL ABOUT THE 'BIG CHILDREN' THERE?



Do you remember wishing you were eleven or twelve and leaving for 'big school'? Well, now you are – how does it feel?

One of the things about growing up is there are lots of people watching you and learning how to do it. Right now I bet there are lots of small children looking at you and wondering what it's like to leave 'small school' and go to 'big school'.

Before we look at the thrills, challenges and opportunities of a new school, it's important to think about how you are going to leave your old school. Obviously you will walk out of the gate, but how will people remember you? What impression will you leave them with?



You are now changing from being one of the 'big fish' in a 'little pond' to being a 'little fish' in a 'bigger pond' (unless of course you're six feet tall and look sixteen years old!).

So what does this change mean? Well, when you have been in a school a few years you know how it works. You know where everything is, who the teachers are, where you should be and when.

When you first start a school, however, there are a lot of questions still to be answered.

But 'little' isn't a problem. Remember Zacchæus? Take a look at [Luke 19:1-10](#) if you aren't familiar with his story. He was little. A small man in a big crowd. But he didn't let his size (or lack of it) get in the way of what he wanted. He wanted to see Jesus and he found a way to do it – by climbing a tree.

Even though you may feel small again, don't worry. Soon enough you'll know the school like the back of your hand – and in twelve months' time there will be a load of other people coming who will feel just like you do now. Wouldn't it be cool to be able to help them next year?

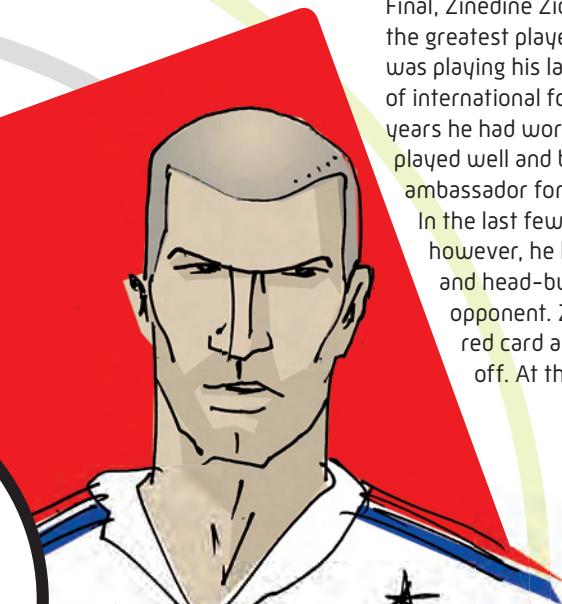
little fish,

# big pond



Before you start something new it is important to finish properly what you are already doing. In the excitement of going to a new school it would be easy to let your guard down, start skimping on your work and misbehaving at the school you are to leave. After all, you're never going to see those teachers or some of your classmates again, right? **WELL, THAT MAY BE TRUE, BUT IT'S NOT REALLY THE POINT.**

# leaving



In the 2006 Football World Cup Final, Zinedine Zidane, one of the greatest players in history, was playing his last ever game of international football. For years he had worked hard, played well and been a great ambassador for the sport.

In the last few minutes, however, he lost his cool and head-butted an opponent. Zidane got a red card and was sent off. At the very end

of the game, the competition and his career, it didn't really matter – the officials couldn't punish him by suspending him because he was never going to play again.

Sadly, not only will Zidane be remembered as the football genius who ended his career in shame, but he will always regret that he didn't finish and leave well. He left in a way that didn't reflect all his previous hard work, discipline and success.

# g well

## WHAT IF I'VE ALREADY MESSED UP?

You may be thinking that you have already messed things up and you aren't known for being good or a hard worker but the opposite. Even more reason to finish well. Think about some Bible characters like Jonah, Samson, Peter and others. They all made huge mistakes and became known as losers, but with God's help they finished well. (Jonah's story can be found in the Old Testament book of **Jonah**, Samson's story in **Judges 13–16** and you can read about Peter in the Gospels – **Matthew**, **Mark**, **Luke** and **John**.)