

off the fence.

Planet School

3 x 60'

EPISODIC BREAKDOWN

1. India & USA

Soumya attends the largest school in the world in India, while Keanen studies in a school where everything is fun and games in the USA.

Keanen goes to school with a smile every day. The most important rule at his school: Learning must be fun! Instead of sitting still, these pupils dance on their tables and sing, play video games in class and have teachers who rock with an electric guitar. Keanen's school is based on the "Harry Potter" books. Even the dining hall is made to look like the one in famous Hogwarts. The school system works just as it does in the epic fantasy series: Pupils are divided into four houses. Keanen's target is becoming the header of his house – just like Harry Potter. For this, he needs to pass a special test today and teach a rap recital to all of his classmates that they will present to an audience of several hundred in the end. Will Keanen keep his nerves?

Soumya attends the seventh grade of the world's largest school in Lucknow, India. She needs to be careful not to lose her way. The City Montessori School has a total of 55,000 pupils. Her grade alone has nine parallel classes with more than 50 pupils each. Soumya is ambitious and wants to become a software engineer one day. She takes us along to her favourite subjects: Maths and Computer Sciences. Standing out from the mass of her classmates is particularly important to Soumya. To achieve this, she has been practicing for the seventh grades' singing competition for months. She wants to sing a song about friendship in her native language Hindi. Will she manage to hit the right notes with the eyes of her 700 fellow pupils fixed on her – and can she take home the first prize in the end?

2. Bangladesh & Denmark

Kawser in Bangladesh doesn't go to school. School comes to him on a boat!

Stella's school in Denmark is floating as well – at least in the pupils' imagination... A roleplaying game turns the entire school into the Titanic.

Since Bangladesh is often flooded during the rainy season, Kawser's school has been built on a boat. The project was funded by donations from around the world and without putting any financial strain on the children's families. Kawser and his friends see the floating school as a window into the world. Most of the children have no electrical power at home. On the boat, they can watch teaching films and even use the internet. This week, Kawser will face a very special test: He is participating in the swimming competition for the first time. The winner gets a solar lamp to take home. It would give enough light to study by or play even after the sun has set. Of course, Kawser ABSOLUTELY wants to win that lamp...

Stella attends a roleplaying school in Denmark. The motto changes every week – and the teachers will align all parts of the lessons with it. This week, the motto is "Titanic". Stella chooses a historical costume for it, her classroom turns into the ship's cabin and the kids get to build life boats in Physics class. Just like the real Titanic, the ship in the Danish Osterskov Efterskole will go down in the end. Stella has a very special task: She gets to rescue all the children who do not manage to build their own life boats. It's just that the teachers won't tell her HOW until the last minute...

3. Argentina & New Zealand

Mía lives in Paraguay, but she goes to school in Argentina every day. Miro studies in a rainforest clearing in New Zealand...

Mía has a long way to go every day to attend school. She lives with her grandparents in Paraguay, close to the border to Argentina. Many women in Paraguay go to Argentina to give birth, which makes the children Argentinian nationals and allows them to go to school there. Mía's Argentinian school is for free. In Paraguay, she would have to pay tuition. As it is, Mía needs to row in a boat for an hour and then walk for another one. She is feeling a little weak-kneed today as well – she is expected to present her home country to the entire class, perform a dance and even sing a song in her native language Guaraní...

Miro lives in Auckland, New Zealand. Four days a week, she attends a normal public school. Every fifth day, however, her class sets out into the rainforest of New Zealand – to go to forest school! There, Miro learns how to start fires, climb trees and play in the mud. Laws of natural sciences, such as gravity or buoyancy, are taught in a very hands-on manner here. This time, Miro faces a very special task: Her group is to build a raft. It has to be buoyant enough to take all pupils safely across the sea. Miro is put in charge of her group. Conflict isn't far off. Will Miro be able to keep her team together, and will her group be able to launch a functional raft in the end?