

## A letter for you and me: Vivien Janitz

I know you won't understand this letter I am writing to you. You haven't got a grasp of the English language yet - except the word pumpkin! - but you will. I know you're scared because everything here is too different, too bright and new.

No other kid speaks German at your school, but maybe that's why you will pick up English so quickly. The German language will soon become a faded memory which I struggle to recall at the best of times. Maybe that's a little sad, but don't worry, I can always learn again and, I will.

People are much nicer than you think. You will make friends easily; Steffi would be proud. Some of those friendships may not turn out the way you had hoped, but that's also OK. Remember the good moments and learn from the not so good ones.

I know that's a lot of me to ask of a nine-year-old girl in a new country on the other side of the world. So just save that thought for later and leave the stresses of growing up to me.

I hope that my 10-year-old self, who can actually read this letter now, will find some comfort in my words.

If not, let the knowledge that you will get a cat in 11 years prevent any future crying tantrums at the pet shop!