

Annual General Meeting

Czech School Without Borders, London



SCHOOL

WITHOUT BORDERS

LONDON

26-30 Kensington Palace Gardens, Kensington, London W8 4QY

Registered Charity Number 1151158

Czech School Without Borders, London

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Registered Charity Number: 1151158

Company Number: 7323697

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Dear Members, Friends,

Another school year is coming to the end and it is my pleasure to write this letter to you to summarize what we have achieved together and what are goals are for the coming year.

First and foremost, our school now has a full set of year groups and we have our first graduates this year. We are immensely proud of them and have already celebrated their achievement together with their families and the wider Czech community at Majales organized by the Czech Embassy in May. I am delighted to say that a majority of them want to continue in our school as volunteers and I would like to express to them our warmest welcome to our volunteer family. This is a testament both to their generous nature and to the devotion that our school inspires.

Our school can only flourish and develop with the dedication of the whole team consisting of our senior staff - Co-directors Zuzana and Ivona and assistant Adela, teachers, assistant teachers, volunteers, and because of the support you give to us and to your wonderful children. WELL DONE TO ALL OF YOU!

This year I would like to thank by name our volunteers who are often “invisible”, but so crucial to our school. All of them dedicate their own time for the good of our school and I would like to stress that they are all doing outstanding work.

Let me start with the Board of Trustees, chaired by me that runs our charity: Renata Clark, Lucie Wenigerova, Dasa Kraft, Alena Wilken, and Jakub Pachansky.

The volunteers helping in our classes: Ilona Shaw, Jitka Green, Jana Thomson, Leona Gabrysova, Stepan Kment, Vendula Holubova, Marketa Salfiti, Ivo Stastny, Jana Ketley and Zuzana Metelkova in Harpenden.

Our amazing librarians who make sure our children are reading good books: Dasa Kraft, Helena Ryparova and Monika Aysan.

The volunteers who help our children with reading: Pavla Shaw, Dagmar Orszulikova, Filip Charvat, Jana Rydlinkova, Gabriela Skorunkova, Jana Ketley and Marcela Gregory.

And, of course, those volunteers who helped us with dropping in and off our children: Jana Ernoult, Jana Shafagh, Gabriela Senkyrova, Ivana Trhlikova and Sarka Popelkova.

Special thanks go to:

- Jana Ernoult, who offered to print "Vlastivedne listy" for all our pupils from year 4 upwards for the next academic year, supported by her employer Xerox. This generous offer means a very significant saving in our next financial year.
- Amelia and Linda North for preparing presents for our graduates.

This year we have successfully completed the academic curriculum for all our current classes from pre-school to Year 9. The school has, however, provided more than just academic activities during the past year. We had an action-packed year of activities ranging from the traditional Night with Anderson to holiday workshops in the British Museum, autumn camp, Taking Flight workshops, Mikulas, International Mother Tongue Day, Majales and others. For more details please see the enclosed reports.

We have always seen our school as a part of the wider community especially in the Borough of Islington where our Saturday school is based. Our ongoing projects in the Borough provided after-school clubs and holiday clubs to Islington-based schools. Those projects were fully funded by a London Borough of Islington Mother Tongue and Supplementary School Grant that allowed us to provide these activities to children free of charge. Last year in the autumn we have organized workshops for Islington pupils entitled Taking Flight in which children wrote poems on the subject of immigration. These beautiful and moving poems were presented by Czech School children at International Mother Tongue Day where they were acknowledged for their efforts in learning a mother tongue language by the Mayor of Islington.

We are a fast-growing organization and together with that comes a need for funding. We have secured all the grants available from the Czech Republic and managed to increase some of them. At the beginning of the school year we have also increased the school fees which secured a useful and necessary surplus at the end of this financial year. This surplus will enable us to maintain and expand our activities as well as to provide training for our teachers, assistant teachers and volunteers.

We have in front of us another exciting year full of new challenges but also a year of continuity in our work. Our aim is to provide the high quality of Czech education for our children that you have all come to appreciate and to further develop our school.

As I mentioned last year together we have created a fantastic community of which we are so proud of. As a parent, each one of you automatically becomes a member of the Czech school without borders, London and you can therefore influence life of our organization. Whether it is by attending an AGM and voting on important matters or being more active and joining our volunteer family. There are many opportunities open to each one of you. Being a volunteer is a very fulfilling experience and there are many different roles with differing time requirements to suit all. So please do not hesitate and join us!

As I end this letter I would like to again express my appreciation to our senior staff Zuzana, Ivona and Adela who worked so hard through the year and I am very pleased that

they will continue with us into the new school year. I would also like thank to all our teachers and assistant teachers who have done an absolutely amazing job teaching our children and we look forward to welcoming them back in September. To those who are leaving us I wish on behalf of our school the best of luck in their future endeavours!

Unfortunately I will not see you at our Summer Party, where I will only be present in spirit, so enjoy it and have a wonderful summer. I look forward to seeing you and your children in September 2018!

Petra O'Connell

Chair

Czech School Without Borders, London

Kids Art Club – Preschool groups A, B

Teachers: Veronika Prokopová, Aneta Linc-Kelsall

Teaching Assistant: Petra Příbylová

Volunteers: Markéta Salfiti, Jana Ketley, Jana Thomson, Jana Hasegawa

Erasmus Intern: Jana Kottasová

Our preschool unit, the Kids Art Club had an amazing and very challenging year filled with fun activities, fairy tales, songs and new friends. We welcomed children who sat in prams not so long ago amongst the youngest in Group A - now they are students and we are very proud of them.

Group B has a new mascot - Jenda the hedgehog. Jenda tells stories and most importantly, he goes home with one of the children each week. Kids later tell the class where they went with him that week and fill out a diary entry. Jenda the hedgehog is also the helper in worksheets which are created especially for the Czech School and we have Aneta and Petra to thank for these. The group has grown once again, therefore we've split the class into two groups - Bears and Foxes.

The Bears have been preparing very hard for the big transition into reception class this academic year. Children learned the alphabet, rhymes and Czech songs. They also did various graphomotor activities such as writing practice. The Foxes will stay with us for the next year and we are very happy that we will sing songs, play games and share happiness. Thanks to specially designed materials the whole group exercised fine motor skills and were taught to work with different materials.



Our goal for the next year is to create a positive approach to the Czech language and to the country itself. We show children Czech fairy tales and bed-time stories, books and songs. Through group activities children build friendships and this helps them look forward to attending on Saturdays to meet them.

The whole pre-school section thanks parents for their support and help. We look forward to the next year and we promise that children will have fun and meet new friends.

Year 0

Teacher: Andrea Seidlerová

Teaching Assistant: Alice Kovaříková

Volunteer: Vendula Holubová



The aim of the year 0 is to prepare the children for the gradual changes that will happen from year 1 onwards. They have become real pupils who learn how to read and write in Czech and to use the language as much as they can. The teachers prepare interactive lessons with a lot of fun activities and crafts. The lessons are taught in the spirit of Comenius' approach, learning through play. Every Saturday they jump, dance, sing, create crafts, talk, draw, play, write, play roles and discover the Czech language step by step. Their two fluffy friends Panda Vanda and Pandicka Vandicka always tell them what they did or read during the week as each student has them through the school year at home at least once.



Year 1

Teacher: Štěpánka Bulířová

Teaching Assistant: Lucie Bařáková

Volunteer: Ilona Shaw



In year one my assistant, volunteer and I regularly meet with 22 amazing kids, we are full of energy and happy to learn, read and write letters of the Czech alphabet, as well as have conversations about various facts and information on the world around us, getting familiar with Czech songs and short animated fairy tales which are very popular.

Children in year one are very creative and enjoy any art activity. They also like competitive games and absolutely love any games that involve a physical activity, their favourite is Zlatá brána.

Our amazing volunteers regularly come to support children in individual reading tasks and this activity has become very popular. Visits to the school's library are also an established part of our Saturday lessons.

Children get points for their activity during the class, for their homework and for reading every Saturday and at the end of each school term the best three pupils are rewarded for their work. During this school year we nominated one of our pupils for a Mother Tongue award for his amazing work at school and active use of Czech language.

In general, I think we have a great team of children who are happy to work, speak Czech and help each other which I very much appreciate.



Year 2

Teacher: Jana Skulová

Teaching Assistant: Alena Pilná

Volunteer: Jitka Green

Erasmus Intern: Tereza Karlíková



Children have been meeting with three toys in year 2. Their names were Káťa, Škubánek and the fairy Amálka. These toys have been helping with development of Czech language. Káťa has been helping with reading, Amálka has been writing short stories with children and Škubánek and the children have been enjoying an unmissable adventure. Czech language and humanities lessons have been full of presentations, short videos and demonstrations. Children have been working independently, in pairs and in groups to complete tasks which have improved their knowledge and understanding of the language. We have also been using various kinds of resources, for example, leaflets with Czech grammar, colour cards, drawing short stories, games, quizzes, pexeso and children have also followed the footprints of their friend Škubánek and his friends. Pupils enjoyed using the mini whiteboards and coloured parachute activities. Development of Czech language was supported by regular visits to the school library, individual reading sessions as well as screenings of Czech fairy tales during lunch time.

I would also like to say a big thank you to the excellent staff including my teaching assistant Alena, internship student Tereza, and very kind volunteer Jitka for their help and the energy with which they have prepared all these lessons. Thank you so much!



Year 3

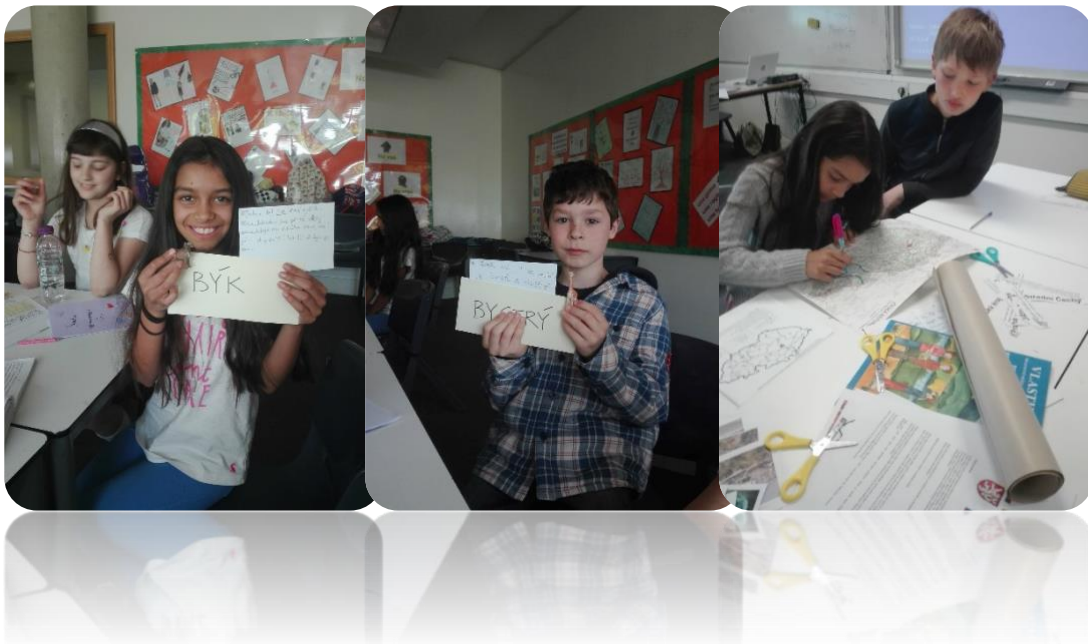
Teacher: Kamila Sekaninová

Volunteer: Štěpán Kment, Ivo Šťastný

Erasmus Interns: Dominika Vaňková, Hana Krajíčková

Year 3 is a group of very distinctive children full of energy and eager to learn Czech. If someone loses motivation - which can happen - we remind them of the amount of people they can speak Czech with and the benefits associated with learning a language.

We have children of different language levels in our class, but we are determined to help each other and make learning Czech fun. During this school year children have learnt many important things – declension exceptions in Czech language, creative writing, and our geographical neighbours in national geography lessons. Children are enjoying the range of motivational games, group activities and competitions so the Czech school brings them education through play.

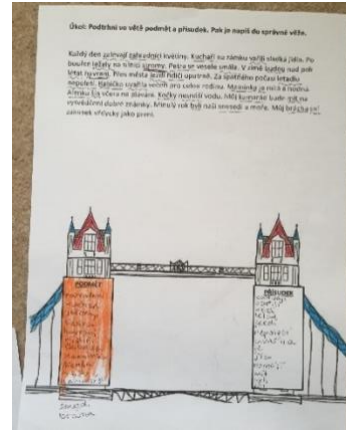


Year 4

Teacher: Hana Pospíšilová

Erasmus Interns: Tomáš Honajzer, Dominika Dvořáková

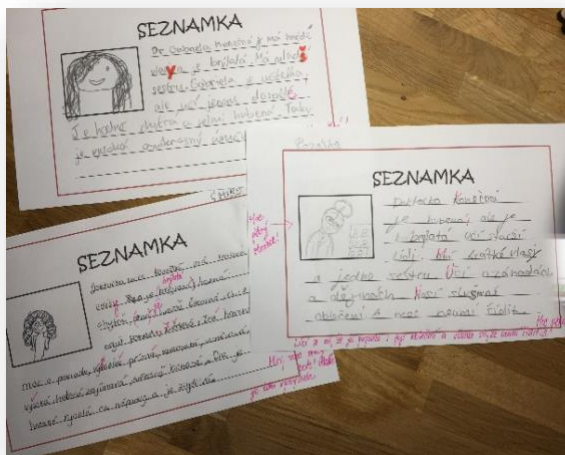
Volunteer: Leona Gabryšová



The 4th year welcomed 19 children this year. The first three terms were focused on Nouns, their gender and cases. We practised grammar through various games (*AZ kvíz*, *Do you want to be a millionaire?*, memo games) but also songs which helped children remember some important grammatical rules by heart. The rest of the school year was dedicated to Verbs, their conjugation in different tenses and sentence members analysis.

The children also started to learn about Czech history. We followed the chronological order from prehistory to the 15th century. We worked with historical worksheets, presentations and watched a popular TV series *Udatné dějiny českého národa*. The children created their own royal crowns, Romanesque rotundas, Gothic stained-glass windows and a number of demonstrative posters.

To practise children's writing skills, we watched the Czech movie *Maharal* and used it as a source of inspiration for various writing tasks. The children learnt to describe an environment, a person and to write an invitation. Finally, we started to exchange letters with Základní škola Chýšky in the Czech Republic, which caused a lot of excitement among our children. We believe that some of those pen friendships will last and motivate our children to use Czech more actively.

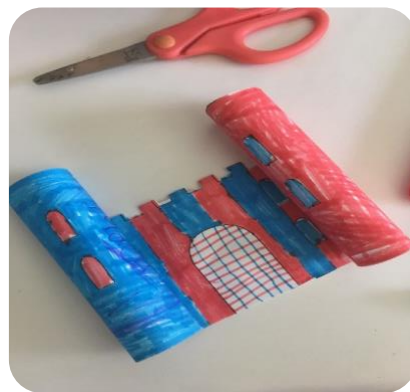


Year 5

Teacher: Tereza Pešičková

Erasmus Interns: Veronika Mičochová,

Veronika Hlubinková



The main subjects of our grammar lessons throughout the year were adjectives, verbs and pronouns. To practice them all, we played a number of games with children to aid their engagement. During the first half of the summer term we became detectives trying to investigate “The Big Verb Burglary”– in every lesson we used newly acquired knowledge of verbs to find new clues. Just before the half term holidays all the students found not only the burglar herself, but also the loot she’d stolen. Obviously, the students wouldn’t have been able to solve the crime without knowing everything about verbs!

During the History lessons we learnt about Czech history from Prehistory to the era of Joseph II. While trying to find out what happened with the Codex Gigas, our students had to turn into detectives too! They found a famous transcription of the Bible in Swedish and discovered it was stolen by Swedish soldiers from Prague during the Thirty Years’ War. As most Year 5 students are really skilful we made plenty of arts & crafts as well – like Medieval castles or a Baroque interior model.

All our students are eager for knowledge. They’ve managed to learn a lot and are definitely prepared for the next year at the Czech school.



Year 6

Teacher: Katarina Lebar

Teaching Assistant: Alena Pilná

Erasmus Intern: Štěpán Weinzettl



The sixth year is a class small in number, but full of strong and creative individuals. Together we are going to close a very interesting school year during which we worked together to improve our knowledge of the Czech language. We have been learning about events, struggles and circumstances that Czech nation experienced while fighting for independence, and for revitalisation of Czech language during the 19th century until the establishment of the First Republic. Pupils enriched these lessons with their own creative work, sharing the stories from their own family members and ancestors and by bringing various artefacts and mementoes of this period. We have diversified our work by means of artistic activities, competitions and a class Olympiad. Some pupils proudly presented their work to other classes too. During the year we didn't forget to remember the important anniversaries and celebrations traditionally kept in the Czech Republic and everybody's birthdays throughout the year. In this team there's never a dull moment!



Year 7

Teacher: Adéla Herbsová

Erasmus Intern: Štěpán Weinzettl

In the year 7 there are energetic, enthusiastic and creative students so every Saturday was a very special and inspiring experience.

We focused on reading in the first part of the school year. Everyone had a few minutes of dedicated silent reading of a book of the readers' choice, which they discussed afterwards every Saturday.

In the second term we aimed at speaking. Each student prepared a project about a personality from Czech modern history and introduced him or her to the rest of the class. This exercise helped us to learn how to speak in front of the audience in Czech, structure their speech and answer the questions of peers. All the students did very well.

In the third term seven-graders with a little help from students of year 9 were rehearsing a theatre play based in Czechoslovakia during the era of the First Republic. They analysed characters, learned lines, found costumes and props and acted for parents and pupils from other classes. The whole process helped students to get to know one period of Czech history and gain self-confidence while speaking in front of the audience.



Year 8 and 9

Teacher: Ivona Klemensová

Teaching Assistant: Monika Řezáčová



This year was quite special and intense; Year 9 students are the first absolvents of Czech School and in May 2018 they were invited to an event called “Majáles” at the Czech Embassy where they were presented with a certificate confirming their completion of studies.

All students, apart from fulfilling their school curriculum, prepared themselves throughout the year for the Certificate Examination in Czech, which takes place on Saturday 30th June. Students widened their vocabulary across various topics, (such as the communist era, culture, education, life style, religion, drugs), and learnt to express their opinion in discussion and in writing.

Throughout the year each student prepared two presentations for the rest of the class. One topic had to be related to the Czech Republic, the other one was of their own choice. All of them delivered highly professional presentations on topics as wide ranging from the connection between fake trademarks and terrorism to comparisons of homelessness in the UK and the Czech Republic, from the art of Czech glass production to the history of North and South Korea.

Furthermore, students were involved in reading to younger classes, evaluating texts for literary competition and helping with performance prepared by year 7.



Czech through Play – Wednesday

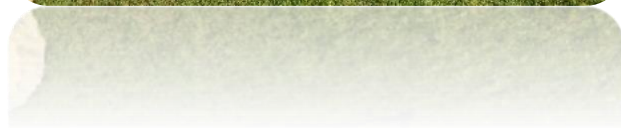
Quakers Hall, 12 Southdown Road,
Harpenden, Herts, AL5 1PD

Teacher: Kateřina Filipová

Erasmus Intern: Jana Kottasová, Tereza Karlíková
Volunteer: Zuzana Metelková



The 2017/2018 academic year was absolutely amazing for the Harpenden group. Children of different ages, differing language skills have explored several areas and have acquired a distinctive vocabulary. Our goal was a positive approach to the Czech language. The first topic was "Me and my world" and for a few weeks we have been reading and acting out the story of the giant turnip. Children have learned how to express their feelings in a second language and not to be afraid of criticism, both positive and negative. The second theme was "Animals" and the story of the Gingerbread house. The third theme of "Games and Sports" was very popular, and children became proficient in bingo with sporting themes, playing various games and competitions in spacious gardens, and teaching us new games. For the fourth year and for this school year, the last topic is "Travelling", especially travelling to the Czech Republic: who the children visit, how to travel to the Czech Republic and what needs to be packed for the journey. In Harpenden's group, the children like singing and using Orff's instruments. The books we have available every week are very popular. Children help each other and when somebody needs help with to translate words or sentences someone will help and explain.



School Library

Dagmar Kraft, Helena Rýparová, Monika Aysan

The Czech school library is able to grow alongside the school mainly thanks to donations. It also probably holds the largest number of Czech books for children in London, which is no small feat considering it remains a travelling library. It is open on Saturdays during the Czech school's lessons, offering a range of books to suit both beginner and advanced readers. This year, a selection of new books for older readers was added thanks to the funds raised at the annual St Nicholas party.



Younger classes visit the library regularly with their teachers, while older pupils come independently at break times. We also provide books for the parent volunteers, who support the children in individual reading sessions, and the year 8 and 9 pupils visited us recently to borrow books for their reading activities in the younger classes.

We are very grateful to Mr Vojta Karas for facilitating the transfer to electronic record keeping, which makes it much easier to keep track of the books, while saving considerable time. The software's data shows that over 130 children borrowed at least one book this year. The library loaned 450 books since September, with many titles being borrowed as soon as they are returned. Board books for the youngest children are now kept and loaned by the pre-school teachers, and a substantial number of reference books are also kindly stored away by Monika Aysan. While our library may be limited by the capacity of a few large suitcases it is a very much a thriving part of the Czech school in London.

Speech Therapist - Jana Martykánová

During this school year the speech and language therapist completed assessments of speech sound production and general language skills of all the children in the reception class, and new starters in year 1. Following the assessments, verbal feedback sessions were offered to all parents of the children who were assessed. The SLT provided feedback on the assessment findings and recommendations for further management of the children's speech and communication needs. The SLT continued offering private individually tailored sessions to all children attending the Czech School.

IGCSE in Czech

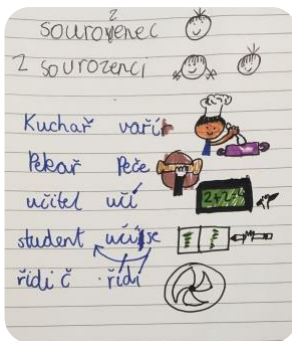
Since November 2017, two students from year 9 attended preparatory lessons every Saturday for their iGCSE examination in Czech. They read, compared and analysed various literary texts, including extracts from books by Karel Čapek, Ota Pavel and Jiří Hájíček and wrote many narrative texts and reviews. In May 2018 they sat their exam and now they are awaiting results, which should be known in August. We wish them all the luck.

School newsletters

Year 8-9 students prepared 2 newsletters, one in November 2017 and one in February of this year. They decided on the content, divided the various themes among themselves and each student wrote an article related to Czech School activities. Parents and friends could read about visits of cardiologist Prof. Jan Marek and violinist Julie Svěcená, regarding the role of the committee, the “Made in Prague” festival organised by the Czech Centre and many more. They learnt interview techniques and did amazing work while editing each other’s articles.

Private sessions

For children who can not attend Saturday or Wednesday classes because of busy time schedules, distance or as a support to the Saturday class, teachers from the CSWBL provide private sessions. There are two options - one to one sessions and Skype sessions. Private sessions are tailored to suit each pupil’s needs. Some of them are aimed at building positive relationship with Czech language through games and playing, some of them are focused on conversation and the others follow Saturday’s school curriculum. All the lessons are different, but they have one thing in common - they improve pupils’ language skills and build their self-confidence when expressing themselves in Czech. We have seen a remarkable improvement in their skills this year and we are proud of them.



Older read to younger

This year, for the first time, we encouraged communication and interaction between older and younger pupils by introducing regular reading sessions. Students from year 8 and 9 selected a suitable book, prepared and rehearsed reading, and then using a few props ventured to read out stories to younger children in years 0-3. Year 8 and 9 students benefited from improving their reading and presentation skills and the younger children appreciated new activity and interaction with older students. The elders are a huge inspiration for the younger children with regards to acquiring and mastering the Czech language.



Workshops in the British Museum

In this school year we had 3 very successful workshops in the British Museum.

The first workshop took place in the fall and, because older kids were at the camp residential, this workshop was aimed at the pre-school section. The workshop, called 'Indian Fall' was very popular with children and parents as well. The aim was to show parents that even in the museum kids can play, sing and create. Children made Native American headbands, tamed wild horses and chased bison in the nearby park.

The next workshops took place in spring – during Easter break and then on the International Children's Day, June 1st. These workshops were created mainly for school children but pre-schoolers from Group B joined us as well. The aim was to deepen vocabulary in the topics children already know from English school. Apart from crafting activities and motoric games, children completed special worksheets created by our interns. The Easter workshop was about Egyptian and Greek gods. The last workshop continued that topic, and was centred around the Greek myth of Perseus and Medusa. Children created masks, amulets and the head of Medusa.

We would like to realise 4 workshops in the next school year. We would like to link workshops together, so children learn new information rather than repeat material. The topic will be 'the History of Mankind' - stories and myths will show historic events on the time axis. Children will get to know culture and life in particular periods.

We will be talking about architecture, ceramics, writing, fashion and so much more. We will be using different visuals techniques, motoric activities and worksheets. We are looking for the upcoming workshops very much!



Project "taking flight"

In autumn 2017 we delivered a series of poetry and art workshops called „Taking Flight“ in two Islington schools – Highbury Quadrant Primary and Tufnell Park Primary. Funded by Islington Council (Mother Tongue Supplementary Schools grant), and in cooperation with poets Samuel Gayton and Elliot Ajai-Ajagbe Daley we explored themes of migration, various reasons for leaving home and finding a new one, settling down in a new environment, getting used to different cultures and making friends. Children also learnt basic poetry rules, wrote some wonderful poems and created various pieces of art related to the topic of migration. The results were presented at Mother Tongue International Day on 21st February.



Autumn Camp

This year's camp took place in the South of London, in Cudham Environmental Activities Centre. The local neighbourhood is perfect for children with its natural spaces. Children came by public transport, it took them about two hours to get there. The Centre consists of a number of buildings. The first building is equipped with beds, it is the place where children and teachers slept. In the second building there is dining room and big hall for social events. The last building is newly reconstructed shed which was used as a reading room.



The whole programme was inspired by a Czech movie Ať žijí duchové. Knight Brtník awaited children who prepared his famous drink “francovka”. Children met a gamekeeper as well, who promised to give them wood under the condition they make him happy by singing a song. Children made flower wreaths for Leontýnka and as a sweet reward they were given Czech Pribináček. This year 22 children had fun at the Cudham Camp.



Ceremony in Brookwood

Sunday 29th October, we attended a ceremony honouring Czechoslovakian war heroes at the Military Cemetery in Brookwood. We split into two groups: group A

travelled by car, group B (Štěpán, our Director Zuzka and her little daughter Agnes) reached the goal after many setbacks via railways. Apart from us, the ceremony was attended by the Slovak Ambassador, the Czech Deputy Ambassador and representatives of Czech, Slovak, French and US armed forces. A speech was given even by the youngest member of our party – one-year old Agnes. As a homage to the dead heroes, Štěpán and our students sang a national song *Ach synku, synku*.

The children then joined the group of the bereaved and their relatives, and covered the tombstones of our ancestors with wreaths and candles.



Pat a Mat

On Sunday, November 12, we celebrated the 40th birthday of the animated comedy duo – Pat and Mat. The birthday boys welcomed all their guests in the Regent Street Cinema where their movies were screened. Later children had the opportunity to create small robots and toys.



Petr Nikl - Performance



St Nicholas Party



Julie Svěcená

Julie Svěcená, a renowned violinist, visited us on January 20th. She talked to children and shared a funny story about destroying the violin of the famous David Oistrakh. Later she played two songs from her repertoire for all the children.

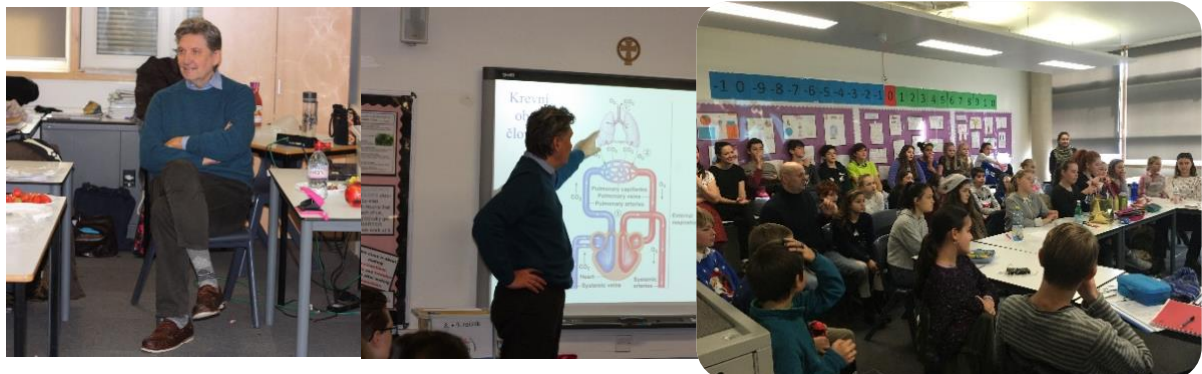


Workshop with Adam

On January 20th, teachers educated themselves after the Saturdays School. A great workshop was prepared for them in the nearby café by experienced teacher and former Czech School staff member – Adam Hrabal. He was talking about his experience from JAMU and experience with children diagnosed with autism. Teachers learnt about visual materials, motivation, rules in the classroom, children's (self)evaluation, and games in the classroom. Adam patiently answered all questions raised. We hope that Adam will organise another workshop very soon!

Jan Marek

Just before Christmas, professor Jan Marek visited the Czech School. He is a Czech doctor living in the UK. He is an expert in children's cardiology working in Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children where he saves children's lives on a regular basis. His talk was very interesting, and our children had lots questions which were kindly answered.



International Mother Language Day

February 21 is the International Mother Language Day which reminds us of the importance of language and its diversity. On this day, we gathered in Islington Town Hall to remember how significant our languages are. There was a rich programme, delicious snacks in the form of a banquet and much more waiting for the participants.

The main aim was to introduce children from different organizations who devoted themselves to developing their own mother tongue in a foreign language environment. Visitors had a chance to see Persian, Greek, and Iranian dances, Arabic and French songs and even bilingual fairy tales told by children. Students from the Czech School without Borders took part in the programme as well. They recited English poems which were written during Czech School's workshops on theme of migration at Islington Primary Schools. The all-day program was enriched by Dr. Froso Argyri's lecture on bilingualism and multilingualism.

Six pupils from CSWB were selected to attend the event thanks to their hard work. They received a certificate as commemoration of International Mother Language Day. The nominated children were: Tobias Green from year 1, Adéla Kemal from year 2, Miriam Wheatley from year 4, Maxmilian Tatara from year 5 and Amelia North from year 8. Lucie Velikova was also nominated but unfortunately, she was not present so she will be given the certificate later.



Andersen's Night

Once upon a time there was Hole living a funnel, later she will find a new world going through a tunnel.

Czech School took part in the Andersen's Night project which was introduced in the Czech Republic in 2000. This year's Night was about the book called "About Hole from a Funnel" written by Petr Stančík. The Hole from a funnel came to life and guided us through a magical Friday night in the St Mary Magdalene Church.

25 children attended Andersen's Night, and took part in a rich program full of games, competitions, and craft activities. Children had the opportunity to get to know different kitchen utensils through a play. Utensils were used not only in the kitchen while baking but also as musical instruments. The children showed their musical talents while transforming poems from the book into songs which they later performed for their friends. Everybody has succeeded very well. After the more active part of the evening, craft activities took place. Children made their own bookmarks, kaleidoscopes and painted the head of the main character of the book About a Hole from a Funnel.

At midnight there was a surprise waiting for the kids. The Hole herself came to award children with a certificate to commemorate this wonderful evening.

Adéla and Adam along with interns Hana, Tereza, Dominika and Veronika had everything perfectly planned.



Workshop with Dr Argyri

On Saturday May 5 Dr Froso Argyri gave a lecture at the Czech Centre London. At the beginning she introduced her project, Bilingo, which she runs with her colleagues from UCL. During her speech she addressed some basic issues concerning bilingual children such as that only speaking is not enough - a very important part of Czech language acquisition is reading in Czech. According to Argyri writing is also very important, and she suggested finding pen-friends in the Czech Republic, e.g. getting in touch with a school in the Czech Republic. Argyri also told us that according to studies, bilingual children achieve better results in English school than their classmates. The point she stressed the most was motivation of the kids, saying that it is the key element while teaching children.



Spring Celebration: Majáles

On Friday, May 18 2018, a traditional Majáles took place at the Czech and Slovak Embassy in London, the event was organized by Libor Sečka, Ambassador of the Czech Republic, and Ambassador of Slovakia, Ľubomír Rehák. They began the whole ceremony with a speech in which they welcomed all guests and reminded the common past of both states and their current relationships.

After listening to the Czech and Slovakian anthems, ambassadors jointly presented certificates to the selected Czech and Slovak associations based in Great Britain, who have contributed to the development of Czech-British and Slovak-British relations. Among the winners was the director of the Czech School without Borders, Zuzana Jungmanová, who was handed the certificate by the Czech Ambassador Libor Sečka.

This year's Majáles became an important event for the Czech School because the first ever graduates of the Czech School without Borders in London were awarded with certificates - awards were presented to Babette Ellen Rust,

Isabella Kraft, Matyáš Polenský, Nathan George Isaac Keates and Nicole Elizabeth Harrison.

The Czech school also represented itself with information materials, homestay sheets and children's art work. There was a rich refreshment in the form of a banquet. Guests could enjoy Czech and Slovak dishes. The entire program was accompanied by the Brno Orchestra of Folk Instruments.



Literary Competition

In April, a literary competition was held at the Czech School without Borders for Years 4-7. Years 8 and 9 oversaw the organization.

The children were to write a fairy-tale story or a story on any topic in groups of 2-3 pupils up to a maximum of 500 words. All years took part in the competition and many interesting and creative stories were submitted for the evaluation. Year 8 and 9 did not have an easy job selecting the winners, they focused on creativity, grammar, structure, language quality and effort.

On May 19 all participants met in the Year 9 classroom where the best texts were awarded. The pupils were assessed in two categories: Category A (Year 6 and 7) and Category B (Year 4 and 5). The winning story of the first category was called One Windy Day by Adéla Trhlíková and Joshua Sivakumar. The winner of the second category was the story of Knightly Love written by Matilda Kraft, Hanička Mohamed, Tobias Vršanský and Miriam Wheatly.

The results of the competition were announced by Year 8 and 9 pupils, who also presented diplomas and rewards to the winners. Not only the winners, but all participants deserve great appreciation.

kategorie A - 6.-7.třída

1. místo - text A1 - Jeden větrný den... - Adéla Trhlíková a Joshua Sivakumar
2. místo - text A3 - Muži v historii - Adélka Delevante. a Adam Lambert
3. místo - text A6 - Ten tragický příběh - Jakub Pleskač a Týna Polenská

kategorie B - 4.-5.třída

1. místo - text B3 - Rytířská láska - Matylda Kraft, Hanička Mohamed, Tobias Vršanský + Miriam Wheatley
2. místo - text B8 - Invaze planety země - Oliver Hanzelka a Kája Segdwick
3. místo - text B9 - Mise svatováclavské koruny - Charlotte Stewart, Amálka Delevante, Dianka Qorri



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