



Czech School Without Borders, London

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

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Dear Members, Friends,

Our school is celebrating its 10th ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR!

WHAT A FANTASTIC ACHIEVEMENT!

We could not have done it without the dedication of the whole team consisting of our senior staff, teachers, assistant teachers, volunteers, and because of the support you gave to us and to your wonderful children. WELL DONE TO ALL OF YOU!

We celebrated our first ten years with you at our Summer Party this June. We also noted at the same time another huge achievement – our second cohort of graduates. We are immensely proud of them and I would like to congratulate them for finishing Czech primary education and wish them all the best for their future. I hope you stay in touch with us.

This year I would like to again thank to all 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.

Special thanks go to:

- RENATA CLARK, who has been Vice-Chair since the establishment of our school in 2009. Renata had a significant role at the beginning, when she helped accommodate our school in Czech Centre and since then both organisations have enjoyed a very special relationship we cherish. She has been a cornerstone of our community dedicating ten years of work to our school as a Trustee, volunteer and played a big role as an educational advisor, developing and refining the curriculum we have today. Renata is leaving our team this July and I would like to thank her for all her hard work and wish her all the best. I also look forward to our future cooperation.

- JANA ERNOULT, our fellow Trustee who printed all text-books our children are using throughout the school. This generous offer meant a very significant saving in our financial year. Unbelievably Jana is doing the same for our next academic year and beyond! She has arranged to print of most of our leaflets, business cards and our banner...

- DASA KRAFT, another of our fellow Trustees, librarian, volunteer in the singing club has yet again obtained a donation to our school through her employee IBM.

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, Mikulas, International Mother Tongue Day, Summer Party and many others. For more details please see the enclosed reports.

We have secured a useful 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. It will also provide our school with a necessary cushion for unforeseen expenditures. We have additionally secured all the grants available from the Government of the Czech Republic and managed to increase some of them.

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.

We will be signing a new contract with the Ministry of Education that enables us to issue a certificate, "Osvedceni" to our children twice a year. This contract will be signed for five years and we as a school will need to comply with many obligations arising from it. One of the changes we are thinking of in connection with this new contract is to prolong our teaching hours by half an hour on Saturdays. We would like to discuss this change with you at our AGM on 6th July and hear your opinion. This change is strongly supported by our teachers who feel that they do not have enough time with the children outside of a compulsory curriculum every Saturday. That half-hour would be used to develop this relationship, reading, singing, discussing and interesting topics etc. We think it will be beneficial for our children and our community.

At the end of my letter I would like to wish you all a wonderful summer and look forward to seeing you and your children in September 2019! To those who are leaving us I wish on behalf of our school the best of luck in their future endeavours!

Petra O'Connell
Chair
Czech School Without Borders, London



Baby group

Teacher: Zuzana Jungmanová

Our youngest group is always very creative. We have no strict boundaries as we enjoy singing, rhyming, art experiments and each other's company. We are always looking forward to seeing each other.



Kids' Art Club

Teachers: Veronika Prokopová, Aneta Linc-Kelsall and Petra Příbylová

Teaching Assistant: Pavla Shaw

Volunteer: Martina Victorio

The Kids' Art Club, our preschool department, had another great and successful year.

Children from Group A, our younger group, met many fairy tale characters throughout the year, not only from traditional stories, but also Krteček, and we even got a visit from Kremilek and Vochomurka! Lessons were accompanied by rhymes, dancing, music and games.

Group B was joined by a second mascot, Venda the squirrel, who together with Jenda the hedgehog, get to spend each week visiting one of the children's homes, before the kids can tell the class what they got up to together over the week. Jenda and Venda also appear in our worksheets which are created by Petra especially for our lessons. We use these in our classes as well as part of our weekly homework to help with new vocabulary. Children also practiced the alphabet, new rhymes, songs and dance.

Thanks to our craft activities, both groups also got to practice fine motor skills using different techniques and materials. Our main aim for the next year is to create positive attitudes towards

Czech language and culture, and to familiarise the children with Czech fairy tales, bedtime stories, books and games and to help build friendships through fun group activities.

Finally, all of us in the preschool team would like to say a big thank you to all the parents for your help and ongoing support. We are looking forward to another great year with fun activities and new friends.



Year 0

Teacher: Andrea Seidlerová

Teaching Assistant: Alice Kovaříková



We have had lots of fun every Saturday since September. Children have met Panda Vanda and her child, Pandička Vandička for the first time. Panda Vanda goes home with a different child each Saturday, they enjoy their week, take lots of pictures and write about their adventure in our Panda Vanda's Diary. Pandička Vandička is a little panda who is eager to read in Czech therefore helps our children to read at home too.

We have been learning Czech alphabet, songs, typical Czech games and dancing too! Our favourite song/dance of the year is „Moje hlava“ which allows us to practise different parts of our body. Children loved the art activities and role plays, where they have become doctors, designers, animals and bankers.

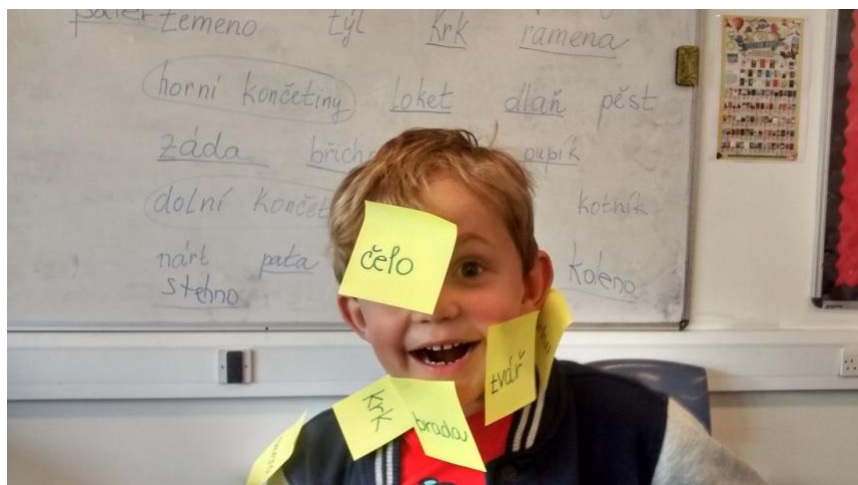
The aim of the Year 0 is to make children fall in love with Czech as a culture, language and country. We try and do our best to encourage them to be in touch with the Czech language as much as we can. We hope they have enjoyed their time with us because Alice and I are really proud of every single one of them!

Year 1

Teachers: Štěpánka Bulířová and Lucie Bařáková

Teaching Assistant: Ilona Shaw

Volunteer: Diana Eminiová



In Year 1 we meet every Saturday with a numerous group of lively children ready to learn Czech language, play, and interact with their classmates. Each lesson introduces children to one letter of the Czech alphabet and its grapheme, and is linked to a topic vocabulary, fundamentals of civics and natural science. Children practice reading,

writing and communicating in Czech language, they are getting to know Czech songs, games and fairy tales, in addition they also usually watch a short animated Czech fairy-tale during their lunch break which they look forward to. The kids absolutely love competitive games and games involving physical activities, while also enjoying their art activities. We pay regular visits to the Czech School's library and during most of our school Saturdays children can enjoy individual reading lessons lead by volunteering parents. There is a special and very popular character present at our lessons, soft piggy toy called Snílek (the Dreamer). Every week Snílek goes to spend a week with one of the children who then makes a record of it into Snílek's Diary and then tells the whole class about it.

There was a big change in Year 1 at the beginning of 2019. Due to a high number of children, the class was split into two separate groups called Kaštany (Chestnuts) and Lípy (Lime trees). It took some time for all of us to adjust the new arrangements but we have got used to it and learning in smaller groups seems to bring about its own benefits.

Year 2

Teachers: Jana Skulová

Volunteers: Isabella Kraft and Andrea Ballone

It has been already two years, since the three popular Czech fairy-tale characters Káťa, Škubánek and Amálka have been enjoying the pupils' attention while helping them with the development of their Czech language skills. With Káťa, the children spend the week reading a Czech book. With Amálka, they write a short text on the predetermined words, and with Škubánek, they experienced many extraordinary adventures, which they present to us in the following lesson. Throughout the whole school year, the children were learning Czech grammar and facts about the Czech Republic as part of their independent and group activities. During the lessons, we used various materials, videos, grammar posters and exercises - drawing a story based on the assignment, storytelling, themed games, memory games, and so on. At the same time, we tried to make the activities playful and fun. Besides that, the development of the Czech language was supported, by regular visits to the library, individual reading and watching Czech fairy tales during lunch breaks.

I would like to thank Izzy and Andrea, who have been a great help, for their great work, patience, energy and enthusiasm they have brought to every lesson. Thank you very much!!!



Year 3

Teachers: Alena Skálová

*Volunteers: Ivo Šťastný, Leona Gabryšová
and Jana Nejdlá Lukášová*

There were many truly beautiful moments we shared with the children in my class this academic year. The one which stands out for me is a final discussion after our project "New Possibilities for Renewable Energy." The children worked in small groups and were supposed to present their ideas to others later. The wonderful focused discussion that took place spontaneously at

the end of the project completely exceeded my expectations. We were debating the topic with enthusiasm, but without interrupting each other or switching into English for almost 20 minutes.

Year 4

Teacher: Soňa Šebestová

Teaching Assistant: Vendula Holubová

Volunteer: Karolína Kališová

At the beginning of the term, we focused on the declension of nouns. We practiced grammar through fun activities and games such as Bingo, a very popular game in our class. We also explored Czech history while enjoying performance and art activities, for example building Romanesque rotundas and castles, creating royal crowns or Venus of Dolní Věstonice. We played various games such as "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire", "AZ-quiz" or "Who is it?". We trained reading while still studying about Czech historical figures. Our pupils enjoyed the activities, they are very bright, skillful and energetic.



Year 5

Teacher: Adéla Herbsová

Volunteer: Matyáš Polenský

This year seem to be rather busy, filled with exciting moments and great experiences. One of the former ninth-graders Matyas became a part of a team of teachers after his graduation and he took to his role perfectly. Children can see a great role model in him and other teachers appreciate his young energy and applying his personal experiences as a student into teaching. Children in Year

5 are very keen to learn new things, enthusiastic and extremely creative. During the year we exchanged letters with primary school in the Czech Republic.

We rehearsed our performance for the St Nicolas celebration. We made a video of 'News From History' in our History lesson. We also became part of a project supporting reading skills as we focused on reading books this year. We visited the school library and dedicated a couple of minutes to quiet reading on most Saturdays. This year was hard for pupils in Year 5 because they had to pass SATS Exams in their English schools, however, their performance matched high standards. Some of the students attended the music club Hudebni pulhodinka, participated at international Olympics at a Czech language and Literary competition. What I find most valuable is that students remain good friends, supporting and helping each other. It was a great pleasure to be part of this amazing collective.



Year 6

Teachers: Katarina Lebar and Štěpán Weinzettl

Children from Year 6 went throughout this school year widening their knowledge of sometimes quite difficult and tricky Czech grammar. At the same time, they were also discovering how much effort was needed in 19th century from Czech patriots and linguists to preserve our language from possible disappearance. Children were also introduced with the political efforts of that period as well as art and architecture, music and literature made by Czech artists who boosted the confidence of Czech people. Children enjoyed most their creative interpretation of that time by making time maps, presentations about Czech economy and their own designs of inventions of the century. We finished this school year with the period just after the First World War, and finally achieved goal of Czech people of that time – an independent Czechoslovak Republic.



Year 7

Teachers: Tereza Pešičková, Kateřina Neuwirthová and Štěpán Weinzettl

During the school year 2018/2019, pupils in Year 7 learned how to extend their vocabularies, the rules of writing capital letters, and more about the prepositions, conjunctions, adjectives, and interjection in terms of their function in sentences. In history, pupils gained new knowledge about World War II, Czechoslovakia before and after the war and the heroic deeds of some of the Czechs during the WWII and the occupation of Czechoslovakia. Pupils also tried to write many types of texts, such as news, reports, and the diary entries or the text of discussion or comparison. Even though the teachers changed in the middle of the school year, pupils were very excited each Saturday, they enjoyed all activities and passed successfully all test.



Year 8

Teacher: Alena Pilná



This year it was the first time Year 8 was taught separately from Year 9. Every Saturday there were three lessons. The first was dedicated to the Czech language and its grammar. The students were taught the declension of nouns, pronouns, etc. Then they learned how to use commas in Czech sentences. During the second lesson, the history of the Czech Republic was the main theme - especially the period after World War II to the present. The third lesson was focused on current topics. The students had time and space to express themselves and their opinion on a variety of themes, e.g. environment, ecology, body health, fashion, social media, religions and many more. Throughout the year, they were also

preparing for their Czech Language Certificate Exams (CCE). Together they worked on different projects and created posters regarding the theme of the lessons.

Year 9

Teacher: Ivona Klemensová

This year was a very special one for Year 9 Students. After years sharing a classroom with older classmates, this was their first year by themselves.

After having passed the Certificate Examination in Czech, level B1 at the end of the previous academic year, this year they have been preparing for the level B2 which took place on Saturday 29th June. Throughout the year they widened their vocabulary across various topics (such as health, charities, crime, education, lifestyle, ecology...), practiced their reading and listening skills, learned to express their opinion in discussions and in writing. Students learnt to write formal letters (requests, complaints, bookings...), as well as newspaper articles.

Throughout the year they delivered several highly professional and fascinating presentations on topics as wide ranging as the centenary of Czechoslovakia, exploitation of workers in fabric and fashion industry in developing countries to overpopulation.

At the Summer Party on June 9th 2019, they were presented with a certificate confirming their completion of studies.

We wish them all the best in the future and hope their Czech friends, as well as Czech language and culture will stay close to their hearts.



Hudební půlhodinka

The musical lesson „*Hudební půlhodinka*“ was founded by the trainees of CSWB, London in September 2018 and it continues to run today. Every Saturday morning, children sing Czech songs together with dance. Since its founding, children have had the opportunity to show their abilities on several occasions, such as the celebration of a century of Czechoslovakia, with Christmas songs they performed at the St Nicholas sessions and on the International Mother Tongue Day in London. Now, children are preparing for a short dramatic performance with Czech songs from films for the Summer Party. Moreover, „*Hudební půlhodinka*“ is supported by the parents themselves, who accompany children by playing the musical instruments.



Czech through Play

Teacher: Kateřina Filipová

Teaching Assistant: Soňa Šebestová

Volunteers: Zuzana Metelková and Lenka Christoforou

The Czech through Play group in Harpenden is attended by children of mixed ages and ability. The aim of the sessions is to acquaint the pupils with Czech culture, history, games and songs amongst other things. To make the learning more fun, we spend a significant amount of time in the garden, exploring, playing and letting the kids not only connect with nature, but also with the language.

During this school year we had many interesting themes such as Czech fairy-tale books or the prehistoric era. The children, together with teachers Katerina, Soňa, Zuzka and Lenka made flints,

Venus figurines, wall paintings and jewellery. We also organized special events to mark Christmas and Shrovetide. Parents played a big part at these special gatherings, preparing traditional Czech food and participating in traditional Czech games.



- **Winter Session in Harpenden**

On the 5th December 2018, a Czech School Without Borders, London acting in Harpenden organised an annual Winter session for Christmas. Children made their own Christmas tree decorations, sang Christmas songs and played a few games such as pantomiming together with their parents - we even celebrated the birthday of one of our pupils. Moreover, a special host from Czech School Without Borders in Madrid, Veronica, took part and helped us. The session was very pleasant as children enjoyed the afternoon full of songs, games and Christmas atmosphere.

- **Shrovetide in Harpenden**

On Wednesday, March 6, 2019, we had a Shrovetide celebration together with our teachers Katka, Soňa and Zuzka. Both the children and the teachers wore masks and enjoyed sausage-meats, a traditional feast and a concert. They also played some games together with their parents. We look forward to seeing you all again!

Certified Exams in Czech

For the second time, the Czech School in cooperation with Czech Centre London have organised Certified Exams in Czech as a foreign language. This exam is prepared and delivered by ÚJOP UK (Institute for Language and Preparatory Studies, Charles University). Our students chose levels B1 (Year 8 students) and B2 or C1 (Year 9). As with every language exam, this tests writing, reading, listening and speaking skills. Levels B2 and C1 includes also grammatical and syntax sections. It is a demanding and complex exam and all of the students deserve our admiration for all the hard work they have put in over the year.

Czech for adults

Teacher: František Klepáč

Czech language courses for adults are offered to parents whose children attend the Czech School. They take place at the same time in the same building so it's very convenient. The course is designed as a step by step guide for complete beginners focusing on the practical use of the language. Join us and have fun talking to the Czech part of your family!

School Library

Librarians: Dagmar Kraft and Helena Rýparová

One of the most reliable ways to expand vocabulary in any language is through reading. That is why we established the CSWB library in 2013. In the beginning, there were only 4 shelves of books in a tiny room in the St David's Church. In 2016, when moving to St Mary Magdalene's Academy there were already more than 500 books and no room for them, so, our library became a library on wheels; every week we transport books in travel suitcases so we can offer them to our children at the academy at the time of their lessons or breaks, and free of charge. And it's worth it! The pre-school kids, first-graders and year two pupils come to borrow books every week, the older pupils also come to us regularly and modern and classical literature for the young is also being discovered by the highest grades. The library keeps growing thanks to continuous donations and purchases. Of the current 900+ books, there are always more than 300 borrowed. So we likely have the biggest collection of Czech children's books in the world, outside of the Czech Republic.

Reading parents/volunteers: Filip Charvát, Jana Rýdlinková, Dagmar Orszulíková, Andrea Ballone and Jan Vacarda

Interns



Individual lessons



Not everyone is lucky enough to come to lessons at the Czech School every Saturday. There are children attending other supplementary schools, living too far away from Islington or children who just need a little bit of extra help as Czech may not be their first, or even second language, but they are still keen to learn Czech. During the last three years we have had the opportunity to teach a few of these children, meeting them in libraries, cafés, and their homes - or via computer screen.

The best thing about these lessons is the possibility to fit and adjust the lesson to every particular child and make sure they will enjoy it at the same time. As teachers, it is always a pleasure to see how their Czech is improving week after week.

Our Special Holiday Workshops!

During this academic year, the Czech School organised very popular and successful workshops across London museums. Children visited the Maritime Museum in Greenwich as corsairs of the queen and they celebrated 100 years of the Czech Republic in the Imperial War Museum. They learnt Czech traditions during the Spring solstice workshop in the British Museum, travelled through a screen to a wonderful digital world in the Czech Centre, became secret agents in the Science Museum and found the thief of Peter Pan's flute in Hyde Park. The children had a fantastic time, spending their days playing a wide range of games and engaging with exciting craft activities. Our workshops are always a brilliant occasion where the children can enjoy spending time together away from Czech School, not only do the children love this, but it is an excellent help with their spoken Czech and broadening their vocabulary through these carefully planned games and activities, and allows them to meet new children and make new friends from Czech School they otherwise wouldn't spend a lot of time with. We are looking forward to organise more workshops next year.





International Mother Tongue Language Day

On 23rd February 2019, The Czech School Without Borders, London participated in an event which was called *International Mother Tongue Language Day*, and took place at the Islington Town Hall. This festivity was visited not only by the Czech School, but also by other schools, teaching their own mother tongues (including Greek, Turkish and many others). It

was, however, very easy to find us between all the different nationalities, as we were all wearing clothes in the colours of our national tricolour (red, blue and white). Additionally, we also wore our new button badges with the logo of the Czech School Without Borders in London. We used our new banner as well.

The event began with a ceremony where selected individuals from all participating schools were awarded diplomas for outstanding results in studying their native language. After the ceremony, each school was introduced. The children from our "Hudební kroužek" presented a musical performance accompanied by a short dance. They performed the song "O ježkovi" (song about a hedgehog) and a well-known Czech song "Já jsem muzikant" (song about Czech musicians). Eventually, they performed a folk dance which imitated a traditional dance with clogs. Everything was perfectly rehearsed, the children glowed with pure joy and their effort was awarded by a long, appreciative applause.

A centenary of the Czech Republic

Czech School Without Borders, London commemorated a centenary of the Czech Republic on Saturday 3rd November 2018 during a school-wide happening in the atrium of St Mary Magdalene Academy. Before the end of lessons at 13:45 everyone in the colours of the Czech flag - all children and teachers – watched a short performance. Firstly, a student of year 9, David Orsulik, in the costume of partisan from World War I reminded us all of historical events significant for the founding of independent Czechoslovakia in 1918. Then, the first Czechoslovakian president Tomas Garrigue Masaryk was invited to read an original speech from 1928 when the first 10 years of Czechoslovakia were celebrated. Tomas Garrigue Masaryk was acted by the graduate of CSWB Matyas Polensky – today a volunteer in Year 5. After that, children from the musical class called Hudební pŕlhodinka sang Masaryk's favorite song 'Ach synku' accompanied by the violin and the flute. The whole event was concluded by the Czech anthem sung by everyone.



CZECHIMAGE

In the year of the 100th celebration of the establishment of Czechoslovakia, Czech School participated in a project called Czech Image. Each class ran different activities. Some compared Czech and English schools, other made paintings inspired by the Czech Anthem or rehearsed and performed a theatre play based on 100 years of Czech history. Thanks to the project we could see the Czech culture through bilingual children's eyes.



“*Letem sokolím*” performance

On Saturday, November 17, 2018, an event called “*Letem sokolím*” took place at the Czech School Without Borders, London. The event was held for pupils from kindergarten to grade 4. The school was visited by two clowns from The Bolek Polívka Theatre Ensemble from the Czech Republic. The Clowns played a theatrical performance about two gymnasts from the Czech association called The SOKOL (The FALCON). During the show, they pretended to fight and were teasing each other. This initiated a series of comic moments which was fun for both the children and the teachers. On the backdrop of all jokes the children witnessed a wonderful friendship between Čeněk and Břet'a, saw several acrobatic elements, heard The SOKOL (The FALCON) anthem and found that The FALCON is not just the name of a bird but it is also a name of a physical educational community which has a strong connection to Czech history. The whole performance was very enjoyable for children as they were singing, stamping and dancing with the clowns as the performance came to the end. Everyone who attended the show left with a big smile on their face.

PLAY Through the Borders

The theatre performance called PLAY Through the Borders was held in Czech School Without Borders, London on Sunday 15th September 2018. The performance was prepared by Michaela Váňová (screenplay and directed by herself), a Czech actress and a theatrical lecturer of the Czech Theatre ‘Minor’. The solo performance was inspired by the real stories of children from so-called Kindertransport, and was accompanied by the music of David Hlaváč. The performance took place in the library twice, firstly for children year 5 and 6, and then for the pupils of the seventh, eighth and ninth years.

The Kindertransport was the main topic of the play. The kindertransports were trains with Jewish children going from Czechoslovakia to Great Britain, thanks to Sir Nicholas Winton so who rescued over 600 children from concentration camps. The actress, Michaela Váňová was inspired by the real stories of rescued “Nicholas Winton’s children.” In the play, Michaela is a nine-year-old Jewish girl Hana that is waiting on the small train station in Great Britain in 1939. She is waiting for her new adoptive parents and she realizes that no one understands her. Through paintings, music, dancing movements and words, she explains her Jewish origin, the situation in Czechoslovakia and the reason why she had to leave her country.

After the performance, there was space for questions and a discussion so children could ask about the time of the play, about the story or the performance itself. Children were interested in the play very much, they discussed together how they would behave in the similar situation, they also added their own stories and facts they have read, heard at English schools or they were told by their older relatives.

The performance in the Czech language with the educational idea supported the breaking of language and cultural barriers; it also supported the intercultural thinking and the feeling of national identity of Czech people living abroad.

Workshop Anděl Páně 2



Czech School Without Borders, London prepared a craft workshop for children for the occasion of screening a Czech fairytale film called *Anděl Páně 2*. The screening was organized by Czech Centre London in Regent Street Cinema on 4th November 2018, as a part of festival CZECH 100 remembering a centenary of the Czech Republic.

From 13:30 children attended in fancy costumes of small devils and angels in order to take a picture with two figures from the film itself. The two characters were volunteers that wore the original costumes from the film

that were borrowed from the filmmakers in the Czech Republic.

After the screening children could make three different toys that were inspired by the film's plot. Children enjoyed the screening and they went home with the devil's pipes, paper angels and apple trees made from cones.

Workshop with Dr Argyri

On 10th November 2018, Dr Froso Argyri, who works in a research team BiLingo at UCL that studies bi-, tri- and multilingualism, held a presentation at CSWBL about multilingualism and parenting. This was not the first time and again, her contribution was very inspiring and the following discussion with parents (and a few kids) encouraged their parents' and teachers' effort in keeping up the children's ability to speak Czech on more than a decent level.

Dr Froso is a mother of two trilingual daughters herself and very often she uses her own experience and specific examples from her Icelandic-Greek-English family. This time she not only discussed the question of multilingualism but also the downfalls and benefits of multilingualism and bi- or even a trilingual identity. From the discussion it emerged how difficult a process cultural identification is and what problems it brings to multilingual children living in international families in London.



A conversation about first aid

On 10th November a duo of paramedics from an organisation Life Rescue from Prague, Michal and Tomáš, visited our school and introduced children to the topic of first aid. Through games they passed basic knowledge about paramedical rescue onto the children and they talked about which international symbol symbolises a hospital, what equipment belongs to a first aid kit and how to use bandages.

Every pupil got a badge of a young paramedic and a notebook with activities and games. When Michal in the end asked the kids, who wants to become a paramedic the whole class enthusiastically raised their hand.

St Nicholas Celebration



Czech School Without Borders, London organized a workshop for its pedagogical employees on 26th January 2019 in the Czech Centre.

The theme of the workshop was “How to prepare lessons creatively” and was led by *Tereza Pešíčková*. Teachers, volunteers, assistants, and trainees could try and see many inspiring activities that Tereza uses every week during her lessons in order to make her students practise Czech grammar and history in a playful way. The participants tried on their own activities such as “work of the detective”, a special quiz and so on. Tereza presented also many useful tools, applications, and programs that help teachers prepare a stimulating atmosphere for more difficult topics. All activities are well-tested by Tereza herself who has used them with children from pre-school to older children. The workshop was very successful, and we are excited for the next one.

Literary Workshop at Year 5

On the last Saturday before the half-term holiday, on 9th February 2019, Radka, a volunteer of the Czech School Without Borders, London prepared the first part of a series of literary workshops. Children from Year 5 read with Radka a story called *Lucká válka* (Luck War) from a book *Staré pověsti české a moravské* (The Old Tales of Bohemia and Moravia) by Alena Ježková and which is illustrated by Renáta Fučínová.

During these regular workshops with Radka, children read aloud, talk about the books and share their reading experiences. The aim of the project is to support the readership in children who can struggle with the reading of the texts for their age category because of the language. Radka always focuses on one book that is presented by her, children read an extract from it, and also discuss the unknown words and talk about the story and its context in our lives.

The Literary Competition

For the second time, CSWB, London organized the Czech Literary Competition for its pupils. This year, the competition had a theme "What life would be, if..." The aim for children during the Easter holiday was to make a story, poem, fairy tale, report or any other kind of text motivated by this topic. Pupils were divided into three categories that had their own criteria. The youngest category was for the preschool children, Year 0 and Year 1 and these children could make a picture with a minimum of 5 words in the Czech language. The middle category for Year 2, 3 and 4 offered children to make a picture and a text of 50 – 100 words. In the oldest category including Year 5, 6 and 7, the criteria were to write any text of 150 – 200 words. The rest of the pupils – Year 8 and 9 – became the judges and they choose from each category the two best pieces. The results will be announced on the occasion of Summer Party on 9th June 2019 where the winners will be presented awards and all pupils, their parents and the friends of the school will have the opportunity to appreciate all the pieces in the exhibition.

A Night with Andersen (6. 4. – 7. 4. 2019)

Even this year, the Czech School Without Borders in London participated in a project called *A Night with Andersen*, which aims primarily to support children's reading.

This time, the central theme of the project was the book "*Kuky se vrací*" (Kuky returns) by the Czech writer Jan Svěrák. Therefore, during the night from Friday to Saturday, the areas of the St Mary Magdalene Church were transformed into places from the book, which included for example "Smradov" (Stinkplace), a landfill, a hollow trunk, beech forests, meadows, a cemetery, or a pub. The interns, together with the supervisors Hanka and Soňa, prepared a lot of interesting indoor and outdoor activities for the children. The most important ones were at the four main sites, where the children could make their landfill characters, or tried to trace animal tracks in the forest. They also had to go through a blindfolded obstacle course and decode the encrypted instructions for making a corded bird cage. For every finished activity, the children earned a star on their playing cards, which then served as tickets for the popular forest disco.

In the morning, during breakfast, brushing their teeth and packing, the children could see a movie version of Kuky's story. The last important thing was giving away the diplomas and magnets as memorabilia for this event. The whole event was very successful and all the children were leaving with a smile on their faces, which was the biggest reward for the organizers for a job well done.



Olympics

The Czech School Without Borders, London joined the international Czech language Olympics, which was organized by the Czech Schools Without Borders Association. The first round of the Olympics was held on May 4, 2019 at the premises of the school. Six children from years two to six completed a test that verified their ability of reading understanding, writing of continuous narration, and knowledge of Czech proverbs and sayings.

The Olympics was divided into two categories and the Czech School Without Borders, London selected the two best results from each category. The results were sent to the international contest of all Czech Schools Without Borders. The results of the International Olympics will be known at the end of May, but the school round is already evaluated and the Czech School Without Borders, London is very pleased, not only with great participation, but also with the results that will be announced at the Summer Party on June 9, 2019. The participants will be awarded for their results in the company of their parents and other pupils.

Summer Party

On June 9, 2019, the Czech School Without Borders, London organized its Summer Party at the Czech Embassy in London. At the same time, its 10th year anniversary was celebrated and a very varied program was held, including a farewell to the graduates, performance of the school's music group, bouncy castle, an ice-cream parlour and a contest for the best Czech sweetness, to which all guests could participate both with their own sweet creations and in the following vote. Moreover, four talented Czech artists living and working in the UK, including Tereza Bušková, Hannah Nepil, Petr Štefek and Bernard Štorch, participated at the event with their art/music workshops.

All the participants were leaving very enthusiastic and happy, but above all, they were excited about what else is waiting for them at the Czech School Without Borders, London in the future.

