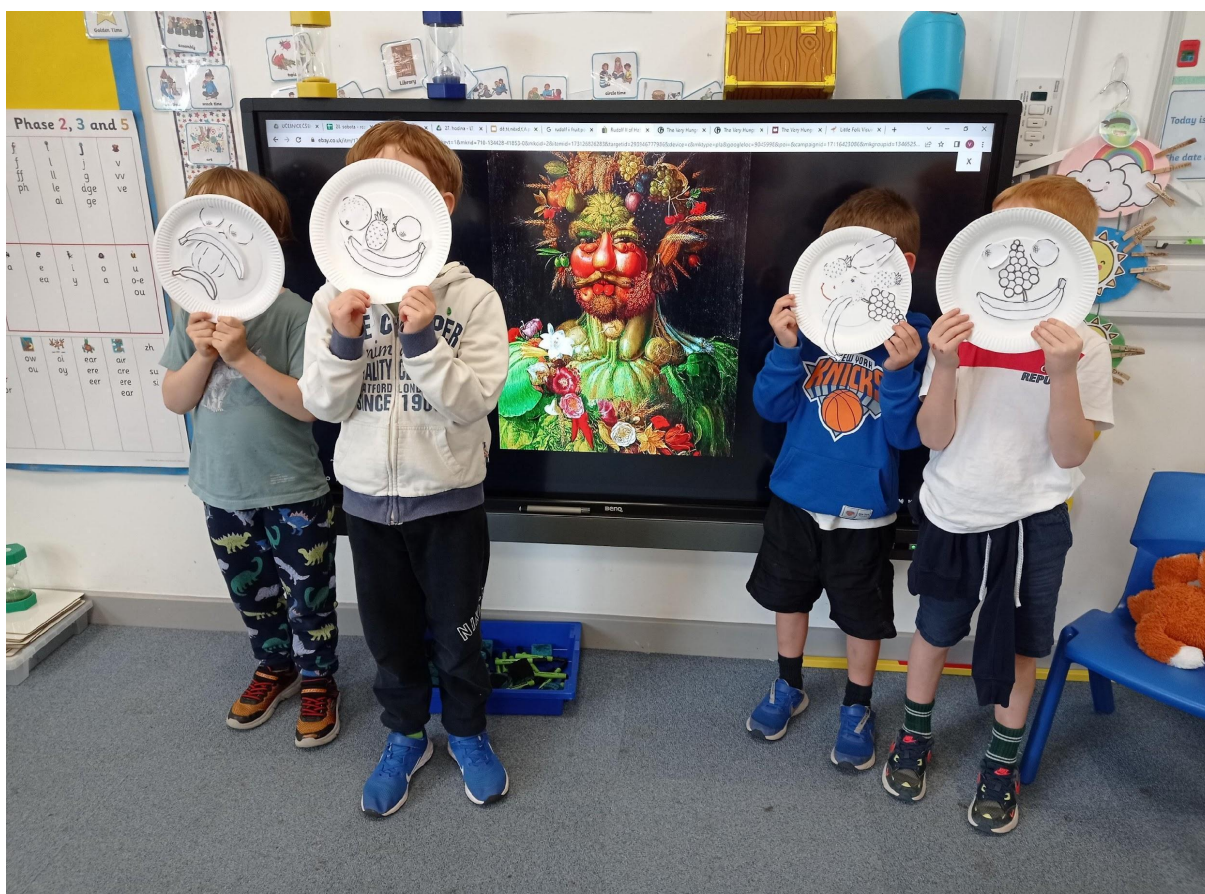




Annual Report 2021/2022



Registered charity number: 1151158
Company registration number: 7323697

Czech School Without Borders, London/ Česká škola bez hranic, Londýn

Board of Trustees

Jana Ernoult, Chair

Lucie Wenigerová, Treasurer

Dasha Kraft, Secretary

Kazi Císařová, Member

Marek Friedel, Member (from November 2021)

Names of senior staff members

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Ivona Klemensová, Co-Director

Adela Herbsová, Assistant

Veronika Prokopová, Co-Ordinator

Guarantors

Marie Vichrová

Renata Clark

Consultant Schoolgem

Jakub Pachansky

Speech Therapist

Jana Martykánová

Librarians

Helena Rýparová

Dagmar Kraft

Veronika Friedel

Ivana Tuhá

Dear Members, Friends,

The Charity has an open and constructive relationship with its teachers, assisting teachers, volunteers, and parents, who are encouraged to actively contribute to school life. The trustees communicate with members mainly through senior staff and have at least two meetings with members a year, including an AGM. The relationship with funders is strong and long-lasting.

The main school activities take place on Saturday for more than 200 students. The school provides an education from pre-school to Year 9 (the equivalent of Year 10 in the English education system). Traditionally, classes are conducted in-person at Tufnell Park Primary School in the London Borough of Islington for years 6, 7, 8, and 9, there are lessons in person every other Saturday and online lessons in between. Due to the pandemic, the school moved to a fully online model in 2020, which was maintained until July 2021.

There are additional online-only groups for years 2, 3, and 4, which enable access to education for the more distant students. Some of the students who join us, for instance, are from Sweden.

Our school also provides Wednesday language workshop classes on-line for those that miss out on a lesson. These lessons focus on the expansion of vocabulary and communication skills.

Some students attend regular individual online classes, either following the same curriculum or focusing on vocabulary and communication skills.

The school library is open every Saturday. Each class takes turns visiting the library and borrowing Czech books. Our fantastic librarians provide advice and encourage students to borrow new books. They also organise a free book exchange three times a year for students and parents.

We are proud to provide a wide range of additional events during our academic year. In spring 2021, as usual, we organised 'A Night with Andersen', this time solving a murder mystery. The same week, we joined a special interactive online performance by the National Theatre in Prague called "Free as birds".

Due to the ease of the pandemic restrictions later in the academic year, we were able to organise in-person holiday clubs for our pupils, which took place during school holidays in museums, parks, and other open spaces. We have held a few workshops online also.

We motivate our students in many ways by taking part in local and international competitions. Our students took part in an international competition of translation, translating fiction from English to

Czech. Our teachers also arranged long-distance friendships with students from the Czech Republic, writing and receiving letters in both Czech and English, and exchanging experiences from both countries.

In October, we held our traditional four-day Autumn Camp at Cudham Environmental Activity Centre on the outskirts of London. The students took part in Olympics and Heroes activities.

In December, we arranged for St. Nicholas to join us personally and virtually in all classes. We also took part in "Krajané zpívají koledy" (Countrymen sing carols).

In April-May, some of our pupils took part in the fourth annual Czech Language Olympics, organised by the international branches of Czech Schools without Borders.

This school year 2021/22, Czech School Without Borders, London, provided an after-school drama/art club at Tufnell Park Primary School.

We provide a robust and dynamic syllabus for our students. This is thanks to our excellent teachers and teaching assistants, brilliant parent/carers helpers, and our dedicated management team. All the events detailed here, held over 2021/22, have helped us strengthen and maintain our parent-student relationships and continue to deliver on our core objective: the teaching of the Czech language, culture, and heritage to our local and internationally based families.

Plans for the future

The trustees of the school intend to continue the current strategy, with a focus on maintaining the quality of education while looking to improve the efficiency of the Charity. The trustees will also look to strengthen our relationships with our current grant providers to help ensure the financial position of the Charity.

The trustees will continue to develop strong relationships with other schools and organisations in the Borough of Islington, where the main school is based, and other Czech organisations in the UK.

Written by Jana Ernoult, Chair

Czech School Without Borders, London

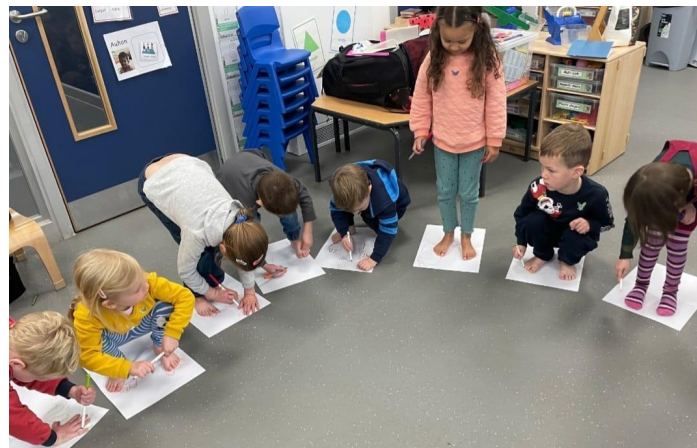
www.czechschool.org.uk

- ***Pre-school Department (Zuzana Jungmanová, Hana Musilová, Kateřina Benešová a Adéla Čížková)***

With the youngest students from group A, our goal was to have the children become a part of a Czech-speaking community, to find friends, and to start using Czech more actively. In this group, children were accompanied by their parents. This way, they were always with someone they were close to and were more comfortable being around other people, especially other children. Therefore, they had the opportunity to prepare for the transition to group B, which is a bit more advanced. The children are separated from their parents, working on their own. Moving to group B is relatively easy as they are with a familiar group of friends.

The programme is designed to be suitable for both groups, allowing the children to have fun with each other while also learning a lot. The theme of our programme is built around Czech traditions, seasons, and current holidays.

In group B, the topics are similar to those in group A, but they are delivered in a more advanced and extensive form. 2 hours allow us to focus not just on spoken word but also read and write. Students learned how to pronounce the Czech alphabet, and how to read and write simple and short words.



▪ ***Reception – Year 0 (Veronika Prokopová, Aneta Kelsall Linc)***

The children from Year 0 were excited to return to in-person lessons in the academic year 2021/2022. We were very pleased to welcome back both old and new faces. In-person lessons were much more motivating for the children, and it was wonderful to see them develop new friendships. All students worked well with the teaching materials produced by CSWBL.

The children deepened their knowledge of the Czech alphabet. Explaining the basics of the Czech language was particularly important and tricky. For example, the difference between the Czech and English 'CH', the fact that Czech has only one 'K', and that Y and I have the same pronunciation. In our activities, we focused on listening and understanding. Children had to not only listen to instructions but also evaluate the meaning of the received information. The same was expected in the literary elements of the lesson.

All our lessons were accompanied by craft activities, which broadened the knowledge of the civic segments of our lessons and helped to promote fine motor skills. The children have grown in all respects during the year, and we wish them all the best in the years to come.



▪ ***Year 1 (Vendula Holubová, Štěpánka Bulířová, Lucie Bařáková a Jana Martykánová)***

In Year One, we greeted a group of 20 cheerful, friendly kids full of energy and ready to learn Czech on every school Saturday.

On top of that, two popular characters, Snílek and Fík (two plush toys), joined us in class, and we would listen to their adventures during the week, which they always spent with one of the children from our class. During the year, we practised writing, reading and speaking the Czech language. We also learned some rhymes accompanied by movement, which were very popular among kids.

We used to pay a regular visit to the school's library, and in our class, there were several very keen readers. A big thanks to the volunteers who used to come to offer regular one-to-one reading sessions to children in Year One.

What kids used to love most were outdoor activities and art sessions when they had the opportunity to be creative and work on their own project or co-operate in a small group. Our quizzes or competitions to refresh what we learned had great success too.



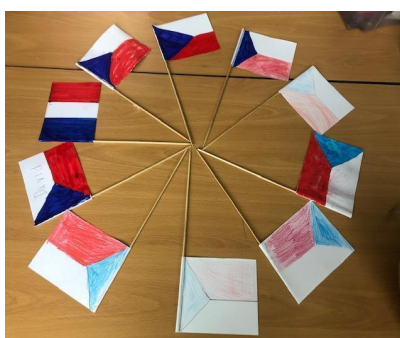
▪ ***Year 2 (Jana Skulová, Kateřina Vlčková)***

Learning in person finally resumed after nearly one and a half years. This year, we moved to new school premises, which gave children the opportunity to learn and play outside, meet their classmates, and make new friends. At the beginning of the school year, the children were welcomed by three fairy-tale characters Káťa, Škubánek and the fairy Amálka, who accompanied them throughout the year to help with their learning.

The curriculum consisted of Year 2 grammar and geography with general facts about the Czech Republic. A large variety of resources were used to keep children motivated, ensuring content was informative and interactive.

Activities ranged from presentations, interactive games, quizzes, reading and art classes, listening, singing, playing musical chairs, watching Czech fairy tales during lunch breaks and lots of sports activities. In the classroom, children worked independently as well as in teams. We also visited the library every couple of weeks.

Big thanks go to Kačka, Lara and Maruška for all the hard work and positive energy they have put into teaching.

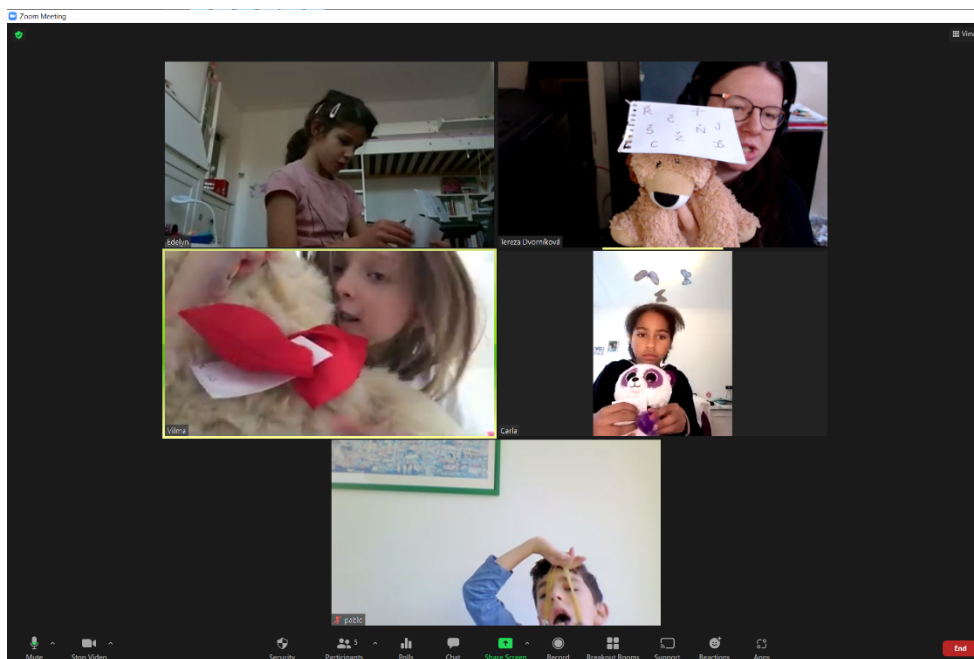


▪ ***Year 2 online group (Tereza Dvorník)***

Four children from different parts of Europe met every Saturday in the online Year 2 class. They started learning all the difficult rules of Czech grammar, such as hard and soft syllables or consonant assimilation, and they all did a great job.

During our lessons, they were learning with the help of grammar videos and practising what they had learnt while playing a lot of games. Scavenger hunts at their homes were favourites, as well

as games on the Wordwall platform and completing various tasks using PowerPoint slideshows. Children could then revise at home with the wise owl Buba and her little owl friend Atík, who are the main characters of a new workbook for year 2 we were trialling. Our owl friends were not only teaching us Czech grammar, but they also talked a lot about the world around us and helped children practise new vocabulary. At the end of the school year, we discovered maps, and the students learnt a few basic facts about the Czech Republic.



▪ ***Year 3 (Matyáš Polenský, Eliška Šperková a Ivona Klemensová)***

We began Year 3 by studying various parts of speech, going through each type and explaining how they are used, and practising these through a variety of presentations, competitions, worksheets, and activities. To develop reading skills, throughout the course of the year, the children expanded their vocabulary by reading "*Kiko and the Secret of the Paper Butterfly*". With the aim of keeping our minds fresh, we frequently visited the playground to play a variety of educational games. In the last term of the year, we focused on teaching "*vyjmenovaná slova*", an especially difficult but essential topic.

In our geography lessons, we explored the various Czech regions, their history, landmarks, and culture. The pupils were always keen to share their own experiences whenever a place they recognised was mentioned, whether it be a city, river or mountain. With each week of practice, the students became more adept at reading maps and using the 4 cardinal directions to describe

positions. In our last few lessons, we also looked beyond the borders of the Czech Republic and deepened our knowledge of its neighbouring states.



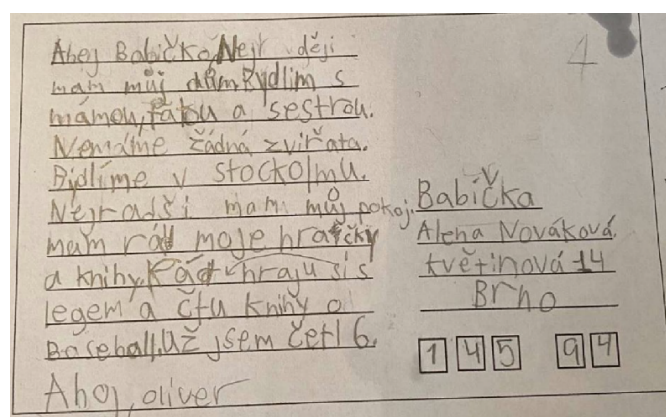
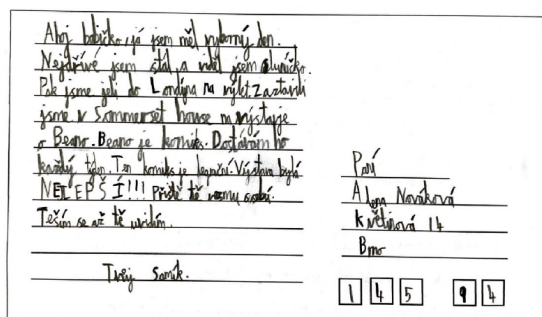
- ***Year 3 online group (Alena Pilná a Lucie Jordová)***

The pupils of year 3 focused mainly on three large blocks of the Czech language. In the first one, they were taught parts of speech. They practised how to find them in the text and how to recognise them. The second block was dedicated to nouns and their declension and what questions they could use to determine them. The outcome was that pupils were able to recognise the declension and were able to use it.

The last block focused on the groups of specified words, a very important part of the Czech grammar. The pupils got familiar with the lists of those words in which we write "y" after certain consonants. Throughout the year, the children discovered different varieties of literature, shared their own reading progress, and recommended their favourite books to their classmates.

In our geography lessons, we mainly focused on the geography of the Czech Republic. After some more general topics, such as transportation, weather, or industry and agriculture in the

Czech Republic, we mainly spoke about the regions of the Czech Republic. We ended up studying neighbouring countries or famous Czech discoveries and personalities.

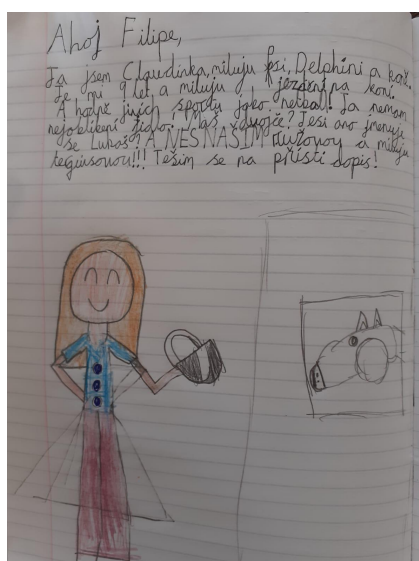


▪ Year 4 (Barbora Miklasová, Linda North)

Students from the 4th grade have read several fantastic books. They learnt about the declension of nouns and the conjugation of verbs. In history, they found out about the early beginnings of Czech history, from prehistoric times to the Hussites. In the first half-term, each student took us on a trip to the place in the Czech Republic where they are from.

Like travel agents, in the second half-term they prepared a trip to the past. The most favoured destination was Greece and the arrival of Slavs on Mount Rip. In the third term, each student wrote down their favourite recipe, and some of them even made them in the school kitchen.

The whole year, they discussed, performed theatre, and even went on a trip to a park. They developed their vocabulary and played a lot of games. It was a successful year for all the children.



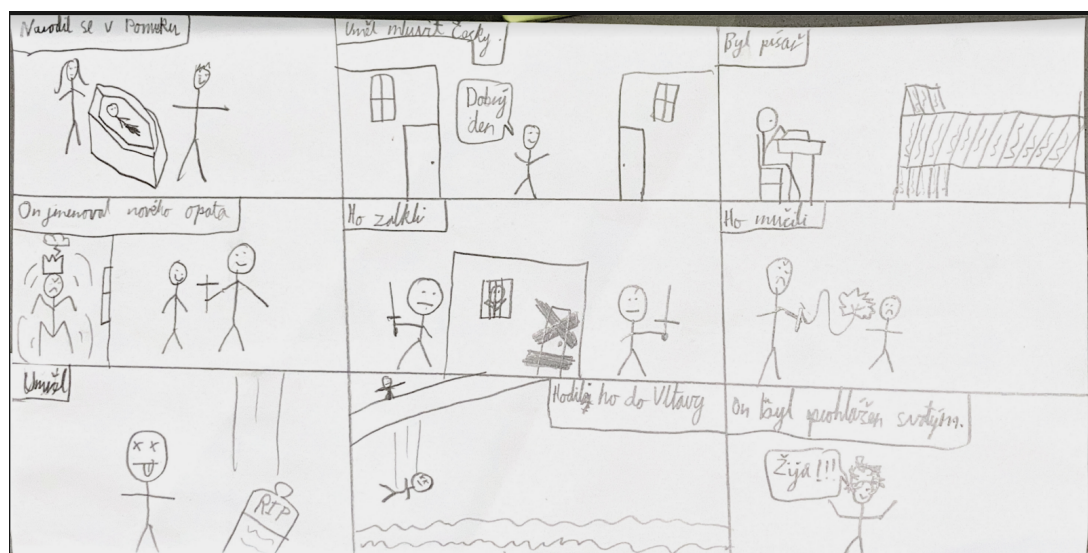


▪ Year 4 online group (Klára Škeříková)

Our Year 4 online students were a small group of children, and therefore, pupils got a chance to talk in Czech a lot.

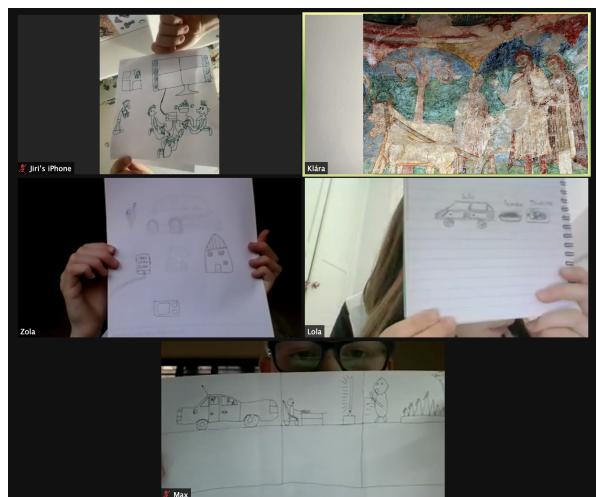
Our Saturdays were filled with different activities and games which helped us practise Czech grammar and we learnt about Czech history as well. We had many interesting tasks, such as creating comics about Jan Nepomucky, selling famous Czech castles to our schoolmates, and writing interesting texts about famous Czech historical figures.

Pupils enjoyed learning through Kahoot!, Wordwall, and Learning Apps, and our favourite game was Riskuj. I would like to thank all the children for doing a great job throughout the school year 2021/2022!



Milý Karel IV,
 Doufám, že se vám daří dobře.
 Zajímalo by mě kolik peněz to stálo postavit
 Karlův most, a kolika let jsi se dožil? Taký
 by mě zajímalo jakými jazyky jsi uměl
 mluvit. Měl jsi raději Francii nebo Čechy?
 Děkuji za vaši odpověď.
 Přeji vám krásný den.
 Zola

Státní hrad
 Karlštejn,
 Karlštein 172
 267 18
 Česká Republika



▪ Year 5 (Soňa Šebestová)

Returning to in-person teaching has given us the advantage of personal meetings and building stronger social relationships, and the school itself has also provided us with outdoor spaces. That means that now we have more options for how to study new topics, even via outdoor activities.

However, previous online learning has inspired us to use many online activities such as Kahoot, Learning Apps, Wordwall, and others, which we have managed to keep even today. In Czech, we did morphology from nouns to verbs, syntax, and spelling. In history, we were particularly interested in the period from prehistory to the end of the 18th century in history..

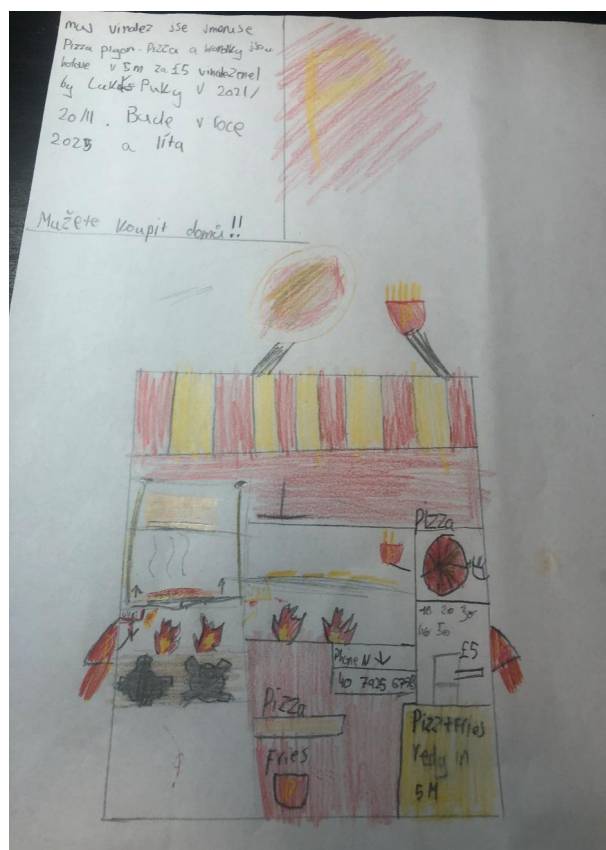
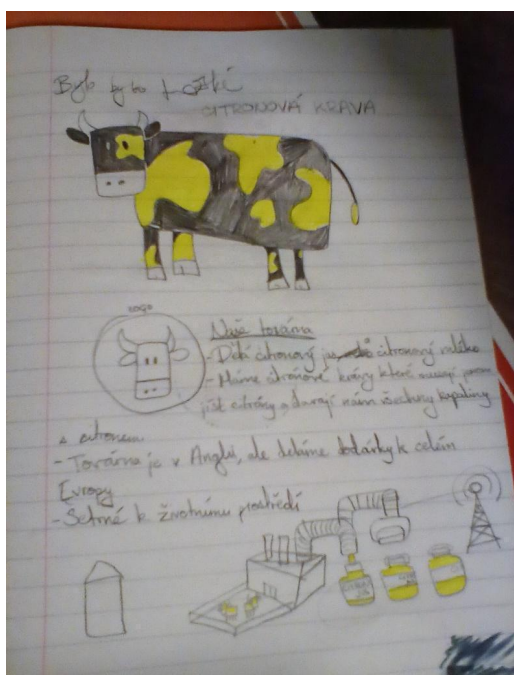


- **Year 6 (face-to-face - Adéla Herbsová, David Oršulík, online - Kateřina Osuchová a Monika Mittermeier)**

In the year 2021/2020 we have successfully reached all our goals as well as created projects. In the Czech language lessons, our learning objectives included understanding aspects of parts of speech, especially their different types of declinations. Students can now distinguish and use 2 types of adjectives, decline personal, possessive, and determine pronouns. We have also introduced the basis of Czech syntax, e.g. subject and predicate.

In Czech History, we covered the events of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century in the Czech countries in the context of European history. Mainly, we were concentrating on the Czech National Revival, especially important personalities from literature, culture, industry, and science. In the second half-year we focused on the First World War and its consequences, for instance, the foundation of Czechoslovakia.

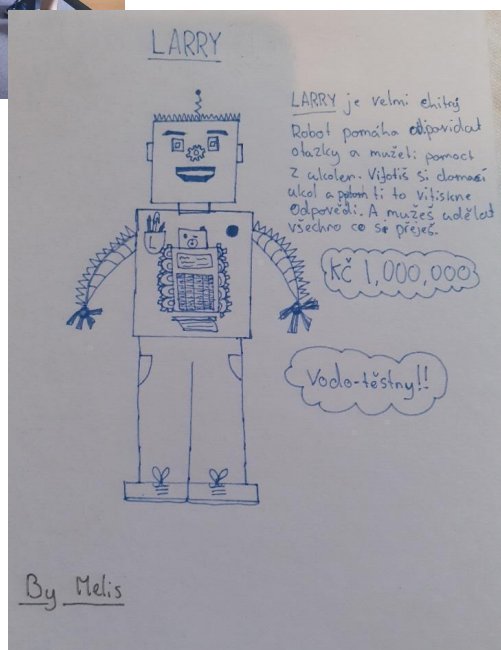
We have also included Czech historical anniversaries in our lessons. On March 27th, we celebrated 430 years since the birth of Jan Amos Komenský and based our lesson on their points of view on how they would see school reform. Another project was connected to the industrial revolution in the Czech countries, and students came up with their own invention of working rules in the factory.



▪ **Year 7 (face-to-face – Katarina Lebar, David Oršulík,
online - Kateřina Osuchová a Monika Mittermeier)**

Seventh grade was a team of eight talented students that worked hard throughout the school year to widen their knowledge of the Czech language and history. Through the school year, students continued to improve their knowledge of Czech grammar and syntax. In Czech history, our focus was on the era from the beginning of the first Czecho-Slovak Republic in 1918 till the end of the Second World War.

While participating in classes, seventh graders were also actively involved in some very interesting projects, like preparing and recording podcasts with guests from different occupational fields, participating in international translation competitions, and being very active in correspondence with their peers from school in the Czech Republic. They added a lot of hours of homework to their schoolwork, and they finished this school year according to plan and with great results.

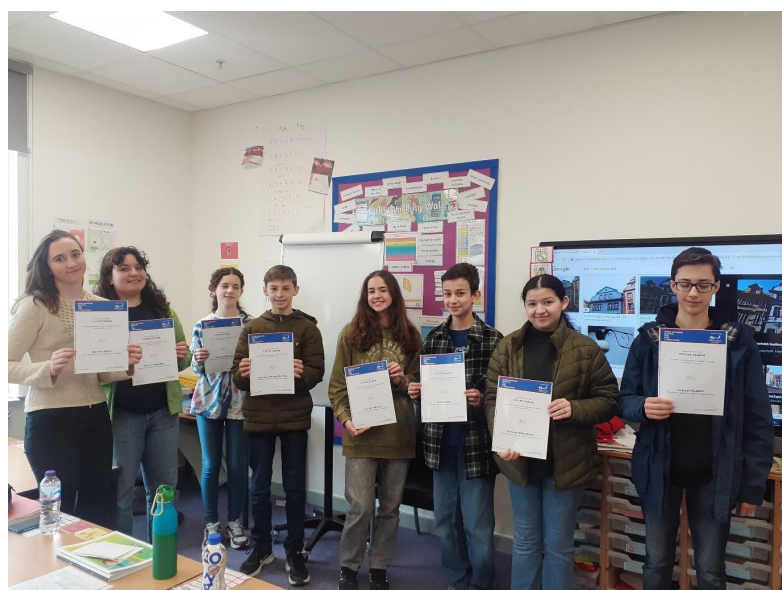


▪ ***Year 8 (face-to-face – Katarina Lebar, online – Hana Červeňáková)***

Eighth grade was a team of nine very talented students that worked hard throughout the school year to widen their knowledge of the Czech language and history. Through the school year, students continued to improve their knowledge of Czech grammar and writing skills.

They expanded their Czech vocabulary through reading, writing, and listening activities and improved their communication skills in Czech. In Czech history our focus was on the time frame from the end of the second World War, communist regime and independence till nowadays. While participating in classes, eighth graders were also actively involved in some very interesting projects, like recording podcasts with guests from different occupational fields, participating in international translation competition and writing letters with their peers from school in the Czech Republic.

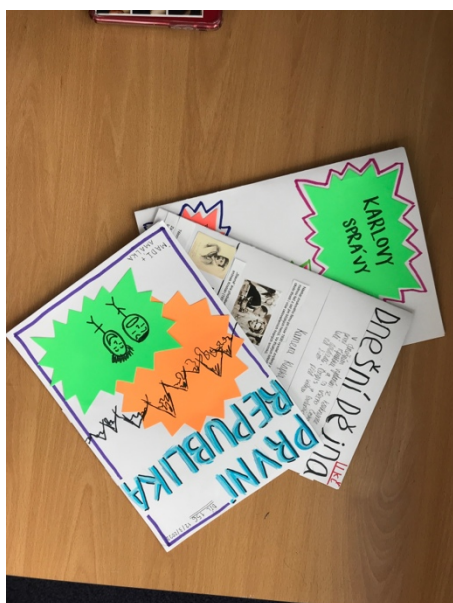
Most of the students applied for an international certificate in the Czech language, level B1, for which they added a lot of hours of hard work and extra schoolwork to their school schedule, and they finished this school year with great results.



▪ **Year 9 (face-to-face – Adéla Herbsová, online – Hana Červeňáková)**

Because online lessons were proven to be quite effective during Covid-19, the 9th grade started to incorporate the so-called hybrid lessons (one Saturday online via Zoom, and one in person at Tufnell Park Primary School). Students have prepared for B2 and B1 language exams with a new student workbook that combines dialogues from real life with revising grammar and preparing for all 4 or 5 parts of the exam (reading comprehension, listening comprehension, speaking, writing, and grammar/lexical test).

During history lessons, students went through the whole of Czech history with Filip (volunteer). They used comparisons between the most significant events and personalities in Czech and English history. In the last half-term, we spoke about the atmosphere in communistic Czechoslovakia through the lives of two Karels—Karel Kryl and Karel Gott.



Certified Exam in Czech, levels B1 and B2

After a long break, we managed to prepare an online version of the certified Czech language exam in cooperation with the Institute for Language and Vocational Training of Charles University.

The test took place on the premises of Tufnell Park Primary, and the entire course of the test was transferred via ZOOM to Prague, where the test was supervised by two examiners. One of them then did the oral part of the exams with individual candidates. It was a demanding and long day for our students, but they showed their long-term efforts and their intensive preparation before the exam. The exam took place at levels B1 and B2 and were attended by a total of 16 students. Passing this exam is a great motivation for our students because it is a challenging exam at a high level in a foreign language, and we hope that it will open the door to further study and job opportunities.

Library and individual reading with children

This year we have conducted an extensive book audit, and due to this, lots of books which were borrowed for long periods of time have returned to our library so our children could borrow them again. We have held several book swap days where books were donated to CSWBL by parents, and they also had the opportunity to take new ones home.

We have also started a new initiative where our librarians would select several books for older children and take them to their classroom to choose from, and this has had great success in promoting older children to take up reading again. There is an intensive collaboration between teachers and librarians when choosing suitable books for their students. We also have an amazing team of parents volunteering and reading with our students every Saturday. The parents would stop at the library to choose the books they would read with the students on the day.

Our books used to be stored in old suitcases and proved to be difficult to move and keep the books in good condition, so we have purchased a metal cage on wheels, which has greatly eased our work and made it much easier to move and keep the books on site.

A lot of our parents have also contributed by buying new books (or bringing old ones) when on holiday in the Czech Republic and donating them to our library.

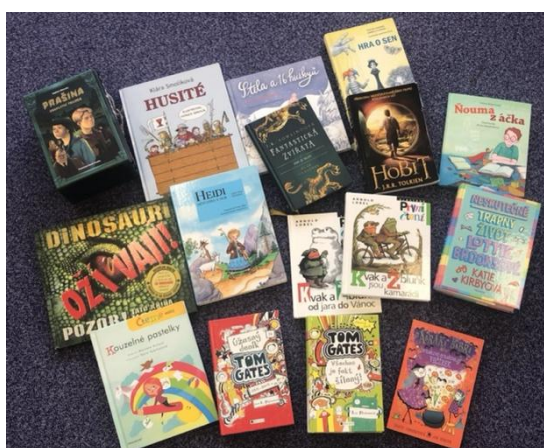
Book exchange project - 3 times per academic year 2021/2022

At the instigation of the parents, the first book exchange took place this year. Parents could bring Czech books for children and adults and, conversely, take away those which they found interesting. It was an opportunity not only to find new books, but also to meet and talk with other parents. The exchange was successful, and we organised two more events. We want to keep this project going for the following years and run the book exchange events three times, which means one per term during the academic year.

Summer term 2022 - Corresponding with Tučapy Primary School

Since March 2022, the 6th, 7th and 8th grades have been writing letters to their Czech peers who attend the primary school in Tučapy, near Tábor. This is a great opportunity for both schools to actively use the Czech language but also to gain an understanding of what Czech children are interested in and vice versa. Each month, a letter is written on a different topic. This school year we got to know each other, wrote about pets, and also wrote about the differences between Czech and English education.

This activity is very much appreciated by the students and parents. Next school year, more classes will join the letter writing activity.



Wednesdays online club - Czech Through Play

This year, Wednesday Czech Through Play continued to run online. It worked very well for the many children living a great distance from our Harpenden base. We enjoyed an amazing year with a number of interesting themes.

We started the year with superheroes and learnt about human powers like kindness and friendship. We had fun trying magic, learning tricks, and sharing jokes. The journey from one fairy tale to another helped us discover interesting new and old books and stories. While travelling around the world, we learned about the wonders of the oceans and continents, full of amazing people, animals, and languages. The children also became architects of their own ZOO and designed the best places for animals to live. They also came up with different options on how to support and help them. Our year ended with untangling the secrets of an old house and solving the mystery of a lost sock! The online environment hasn't prevented us from doing physical and artistic activities and has also given us the opportunity to use various technologies like whiteboard, Kahoot, Learning Apps and Wordwal.

Children's Choir "Citrónky"

There is no better way of starting a school day other than with music and a smile. That's how it was every Saturday morning for our young singers in Czech school. Students from year zero to year six came to the music club, and as of this year, they go by the name Citrónky (Lemons).

Before the students sat behind their desks, they sang some classic Czech songs, for example *Tři citrónky* (Three lemons), *Kuba* (Jacob), *Vyletěla holubička* (A dove flew out), *Masožravá kytka* (Carnivorous plant) and more. Even though students only spent half an hour singing every Saturday, they managed to learn so much and more importantly, they managed to have fun.

They also performed at numerous school events, like Christmas. Easter or at Summer party. This way, parents were able to hear their children perform, remind themselves of some songs from their childhood, or even join in on the singing.



Podcast Project 22

Every Saturday, parents from London and even from outside of London bring their children to the Czech School Without Borders. They meet there, chat and socialise, and every single one has an interesting life story to tell. So, we came up with a project of a series of debates with those parents who were willing to come and have an interview with students. During the spring and summer terms, we welcomed a violin maker *Ladislav Prokop*, an ecologist *Pavel Kratina*, a financial analyst from Lego company *Marek Tatara*, and a biologist from the Natural History Museum *Lenka Neal*.

Students prepared a list of questions beforehand so that guests were ready when they came. Interviews were recorded, and children had the opportunity to be like radio speakers and make a podcast. Those podcasts will be posted on the school's YouTube Channel. The debates were successful, and we are looking forward to continuing this project next year.



Creative club 2021-2022

CSWBL was part of the enrichment programme at Tufnell Park Primary School in the school year 2021/2022. We have provided a drama club for the school for the past 5 years as an after-school club, but this year we were working within the school hours and had an opportunity to teach all children from KS2.

The enrichment programme focused on fun, building confidence and social skills after lockdown. Through games, arts and crafts, and exercises designed to support children in storytelling, cooperation, team building, world building, performance and communication, we created a hub of great energy, laughter and creativity. It also had a great impact on the behaviour of the children.



Cooking at School

This year, we started a new project: teaching the Czech language, nutrition, and sustainability through the love of food. Year 4 students took part in three courses where they talked about nutrition and its importance. They were asked to identify textures and tastes without looking; they talked about special diets and allergies; they learned how to create recipes; and they had the chance to make meals in which everyone took part. They also learnt the importance of community and eating together. The final project involved making their favourite desserts, decorating them, and selling them at our summer party.

The project was very well-received, and, because of this, we would like to continue in September and give every child the opportunity. To make this possible, we have secured funding through a charity, Made in Hackney, for six classes. As well as funding, they will provide us with their knowledge, volunteers, marketing materials, and social media coverage. These six cooking classes will be shared among years 4–9 (one class for each year), and the end goal will be to create a Czech cookbook.

We would also like our graduates to be involved as assistants and ideally train them so that they can gain cooking knowledge themselves and become class leaders in the future. This project was presented to our partner, Tufnell Park Primary School, and they were happy for us to use their kitchen facilities. They would also like us to run a similar programme for their children during the week as a part of their enrichment program. This initiative would require further funding, which is currently being reviewed by Lucie W.

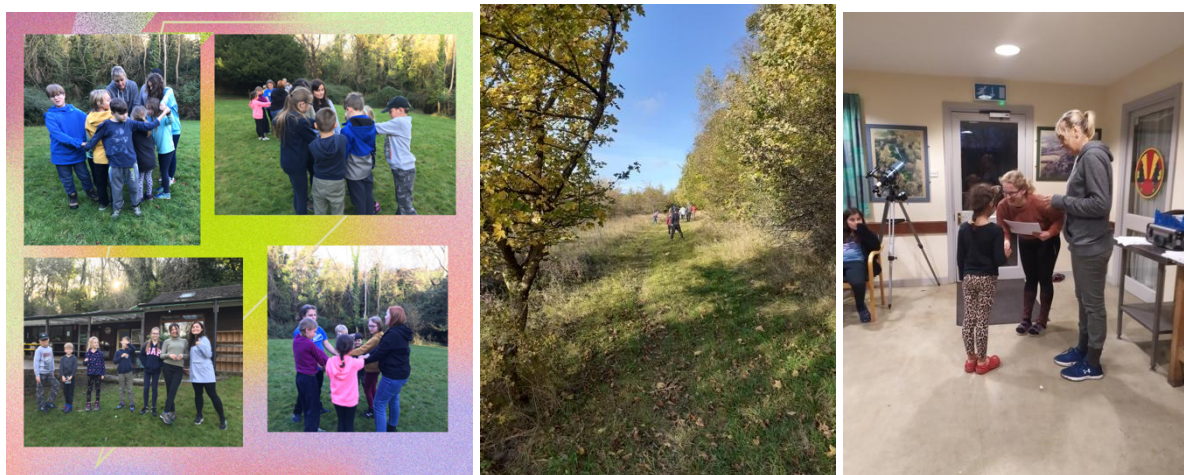
Olders read with younger ones “Starší čtou mladším”

At the start of the year, one of our nine graders, Max, expressed his interest in continuing with last year's project "Starší čtou mladším". This is a voluntary activity in which older students meet younger students (mostly first and second graders) and read a book together while doing fun activities related to the story of the book. Max was a fantastic reader who managed online lessons via Zoom all by himself, with just a little help from our trainees Hanka and Sára. During the year, our group also participated in the contest "Zlatá stuha" (Gold Ribbon), where children created some art activities about pre-selected books.

25th - 28th October 2021 - Autumn camp "Training academy for superheroes"

For some teachers and interns, there was a very challenging task during the autumn holidays: to prepare 30 students, who (almost voluntarily) had decided to go to a camp for a superhero career. Superheroes from 6 to 13 years old met at the Cudham Environmental Activities Centre, where many challenges were prepared for them - for some of them it was to survive nights without

mammy, for the others it could be to survive only on vegetarian food. However, there were many tasks waiting for them all - to win the Olympics, to make their own masks, to go through the night "path of courage" or to crack some secret codes. All the superheroes (Spidermans, Hulks, Batmans and Supermans) had to participate in cooking and cleaning the kitchen (because good superheroes always help others!), in morning warm-ups, in singing and toasting marshmallows by the campfire, or in a pyjama party. As a reward, everyone got the badge and a diploma and hopefully a lot of good memories.



28th October 2021, Scientific expedition "Chocolate Bob"

On Thursday, October 28th, we went on a scientific expedition to the Science Museum to discover the secrets and history of cocoa and chocolate. The explorers followed the footsteps of cocoa bean farmers. Their guide, Chocolate Bob, took them all the way to the African plantations, where he revealed many interesting facts about cocoa and its processing. Did you know, for example, that the cocoa bean grows directly from the tree trunk, or that there are 500 different cocoa fragrances? The explorers also discovered new animal species, which they tried to copy in the form of hand puppets. The expedition continued with the exploration of the outdoors in Hyde Park, where, out of leaves and sticks, the children made portraits of our guide, Chocolate Bob. The whole expedition was documented by fitting animations created by every member of the expedition. The children were rewarded with an award from Prof. Bob and Dr. Chocolate, our great graduates who helped out. The whole expedition has been more than successful.



31st October 2021, Remembrance at Brookwood

On the 31st of October we took part in remembrance activities at the military graveyard in Brookwood. Since we were unable to attend last year because of covid, we were very pleased to accept this year's invitation from the Memorial Association for Free Czechoslovak Veterans, which organises this remembrance event every year and takes care of the memorials of Czechoslovak soldiers in Brookwood. Children from year 1 made a memorial reef in the shape of a poppy flower from pebbles. At the event there were representatives from the Czech and Slovak embassies, Air Cadets, Czech schools and associations as well as the relatives of the Czech pilot Karl Kuttelwascher. The children learned about the interesting life stories of Czechoslovak veterans and soldiers from the Second World War. Though the weather was chilly, the event was very welcoming and moving. The Czech, Slovak and British national anthems, sung by the students from the Czech schools, rung proudly across the quiet graveyard, honouring the memory of our fallen heroes.

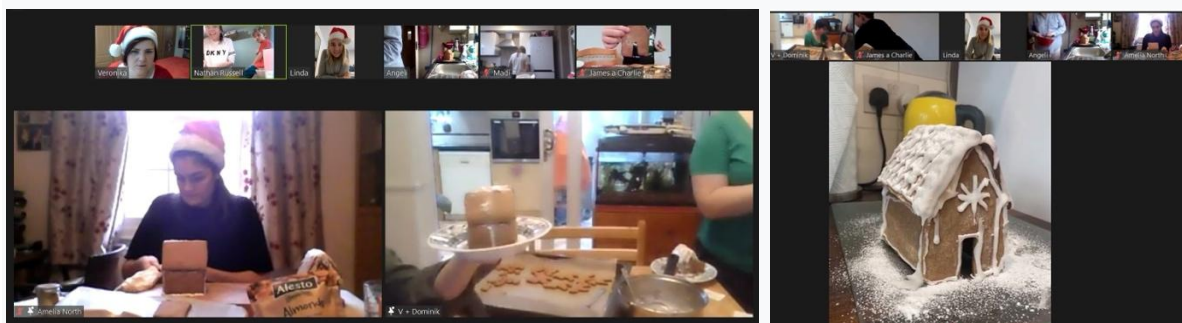
4th December 2021 – St Nicholas

Again this year, on Saturday, December 4, 2021, Mikuláš came to visit us at the Czech School without Borders, accompanied by angels and devils. During the lessons, Mikuláš and his entourage gradually visited all the classes and listened to the loud singing of children of all grades, including our youngest preschoolers. Not only the best behaved ones, but all the children took home a package full of treats. However, the package also included potatoes, which were supposed to remind children that they must be good next year, otherwise they will only get potatoes. Even the naughtiest children, the devils returned to the teachers, giving them another chance to improve. During the creative part of our programme, children decorated oranges and apples with fragrant cloves or made their own Christmas decorations. Some of them covered their decorations with Christmas wishes and decorated our Christmas tree with them. The whole St. Nicholas Day ended with students rehearsing a beautiful singing performance as part of the school choir "Citronky". They sang the most famous Czech carols to children, parents and teachers, and made the whole audience sing and create an unforgettable Christmas atmosphere.



18th December 2021 - Gingerbread house – online baking

The smell of gingerbread and fairytales are one of the main parts of Christmas. We combined these into one and baked together a gingerbread house at the online bakery on December 18th. In several kitchens, under the kind supervision and precisely targeted instructions from teachers Linda North and Veronika Prokopová, the children and their parents managed to make gingerbread dough, paint and cut out templates for the gingerbread house, and finally bake and put all the parts together successfully. At work, we talked about the gingerbread tradition and the Czech fairytales we love. At the end of the two-hour effort, we agreed that the hag had to be extremely handy, because baking and building a gingerbread house is not that easy, but it's so much fun. We managed to assemble the whole gingerbread village and brighten the day with beautiful orange candlesticks. We have unforgettable memories of the whole event.



December 2021 - Krajanská koleda

Pupils of "Hudební půlhodinka" of the Czech school without borders, London, took part in the international competition Krajanská koleda announced by the radio station Radio Prague International in cooperation with the magazine Krajánek, with the support of the representative for expatriate associations Mr. Jiří Krátký. Together, we chose for the competition the Czech traditional carol Pásli ovce Valaši and the bilingual Christmas song Rolničky / Jingle Bells, which is the most popular among the kids, together with the song Půjdem spolu do Betléma. The winner of the competition was decided by the spectator voting, which took place on the Facebook page "Krajané", where every single "like" in the video meant a vote for the Czech school. Thanks to the audience votes, we finished in a beautiful third place, so we thank all the voters, and we hope for support in the upcoming year.



16th February 2022 – workshop – Rozklad rostlin

On February 16, 2022, we met at the Czech Embassy in the morning to prepare for the planned workshop entitled "Decomposition of Plants" (Czech: "Rozklad rostlin"), which was inspired by the book of the same name by Hana Kovářiková. The workshop was led by Zuzka Jungmannová and with the help of our interns. We collected and brought various natural products and materials for the children and prepared a very varied program, in which the children could try out various art techniques using plants, leaves, branches and other natural materials. The whole art programme did not go by without being interspersed with various games inspired by the theme, in which the children not only ran in the fresh air but also involved their clever heads. We are very happy that the children enjoyed the programme as much as we did, and we hope that we will see each other again soon.



International Mother Tongue Day - 24. 2. 2022

The traditional celebration of International Mother Language Day organised by MTSSP took place on Thursday 24 February 2022 in a combined format - adult members of the organisations took part in the St. Anthony & St. John Church Hall and children and other representatives from Islington primary schools were present on Zoom online. Mayor Troy Gallagher opened the program with a short speech. Then we heard traditional greetings in the mother tongues of many communities in London.

This was followed by a language-focused quiz, which tested the participants' language knowledge and ability to guess meanings, ending with a presentation of the Jerusalem dance performed by primary and supplementary schools in Islington.

Our Czech graduated student Viola introduced the school choir "Citrónky", which sang two Czech carols, and Matilda from the year 8 read an excerpt from her translation of the Czech book with which she won the international translation competition "I understand, speak, read, write Czech and translate!" All participants hope that next year it will be possible for everyone to meet face to face again.



Spring 2022 – 4th year of The Olympics in Czech Language

This year, the Czech School Without Borders participated in the 4th year of the Olympics in the Czech Language. A total of 20 children took part in the school round, which took place on March 26, 2022, involving two categories in which the best two from each category advanced to the international round.

Challenging texts and language games awaited the contestants. In the first category (Year 2-4) the children worked with text about *Rozárka Čarodějná* and *Lichožrouti*. The second category (Year 5-7) had a sports theme, a text, and a comic about Emil Zátopek appeared in the assignment. A total of 39 children from Czech schools from around the world took part in the international round. We are very pleased that Audrey, from Year 4 of CSWBL, won in the 1st category in a beautiful 3rd place. Congratulations. We also thank Emily, Lucka and Dominik for the successful representation of the school in the international round.

The awards ceremony will take place on July 25, 2022, in Prague as part of the XIV. year of the CSWB conference.

1st - 2nd April 2022 - Night with Andersen – The Hunt for Lapuťák

On the night of the 1st of April, the children from the Czech School Without Borders, London, experienced an amazing book adventure at Tufnell Park Primary School. This year, it was inspired by the book "Lapuťák and Captain Adorabl" by Dominik Landsman. During the evening, we solved mysterious ciphers, met the strangest creatures of the Seven Seas, sang pirate songs and, most

importantly, had a lot of fun. We even had the opportunity to talk live with Radio Junior guest Kateřina Perglová, the author of the comic book "Kačka and a pug". Furthermore, we were greeted by the author himself with a video, which he recorded especially for our children. In the end, the children received a pirate vocational certificate, which entitles them to sail across all the seas of books. The Hunt for Lapuťák was very successful and we are looking forward to another adventure next year.



29th May – 1st June 2022 - Spring Camp - Dragon Adventure

On Sunday, May 29, we went on a four-day adventure trip to the magical forest in Cudham. Fearless dragon warriors successfully overcame the first obstacles: a trip by train, bus and on

foot to the camp, a song to the cooks and to design team flags. The children were divided into four groups: the Elf Warriors, the Dragon Warriors, the Fierce Foxes, and the Dragon Flames.

On Monday, we visited a farm and on the way, we saw deer, sheep and llamas. It started to rain on the farm, but we dried our shoes and children by the fireplace. In the afternoon, we made costumes and amulets for good luck, played a lot of games and recorded magic videos. We even managed to light up a proper campfire and toast marshmallows.

Tuesday was interwoven with all sorts of pitfalls, including several storms and hailstorms, but the brave warriors from the dragon's den survived and overcame everything without any problems. The tournament was waiting for them in the morning. After lunch, they had to show their skill and creativity by making weapons, stick figures and little sock gnomes. Dinner was followed by a special campaign where children needed to prove themselves and show their qualities and at night even a path of courage. The brave elves, hobbits, and dragonborns thus proved their resilience, agility, strength, intelligence, and charisma. They did incredibly well in all disciplines.

Throughout the camp, the children collected ribbons for their team, which they tied to their flags. In the end, all teams received certificates and the winning team, with the most ribbons, won something more. We said goodbye to everyone with a heavy heart, but we firmly believe that our paths will cross again in the future.



30th May 2022 - Once there was life - Natural History Museum

On Monday May 30th, 11 little researchers set out into the depths of the Natural History Museum in London. Their adventure started in the Investigation Center where they explored the biology of marine life: dolphin vertebrae, turtle shells and sperm whale teeth—which look exactly like bananas! Then, with the help of Smarties and Skittles, they learned about the concept of evolution and natural selection. This was followed by one of the highlights of the trip—the Tank Room, where not just any old mortal can get in. The little researchers had their hands full learning about the eating habits of the giant caterpillar, the life of monkfish and comparing the lizards to a real dragon - the Komodo dragon. After lunch, they discovered what it looks like on the seabed and learned how scientists study the creatures that live there. Finally, they became true scientists themselves, when they sifted through mud (from the Thames) like deep-sea biologists, observing and identifying river life under a microscope, and eventually taking their preserved specimens home. The little researchers (even the big ones who accompanied them on their adventure) had a great time. Many thanks to the NHM team, who let us into the Investigation Center and Tank Room, and especially to Lenka Neal, who introduced us to the secrets within her field.



11th June 2022 - Workshop Ambulance

On Saturday, June 11, 2022, we had an extraordinary visit at Tufnell Park Primary School. Lifeguard Martin Šeda arrived in an ambulance, which is used by Hats Group for transport of small patients in London. Martin provided us with a tour of the ambulance. It has the same equipment as any other ambulance, but its exterior is colourful and is decorated with pictures from the fairy tale "Peter Pan". All pupils of the Czech School, from the youngest from the pre-school section to the oldest from year 9, enjoyed the tour greatly. Martin was bravely answering all the pupils' questions for 4 hours. He explained to us the purpose of every tool and showed us the proper patient handling. It was a very nice experience and a great chat.



19th June 2022 – Sports Day

On June 19, 2022, a Sports Day took place at Tooting Bec Athletics Track & Gym. The event was organised by the Czech and Slovak school Okénko in cooperation with the Czech School Without Borders, London. It started with a ceremonial arrival of both schools' representatives, accompanied by school anthems. The event was attended by 55 little olympians, divided into 5 age categories, who competed in various disciplines. There were also some unconventional disciplines, like tug of war or sack race, in which parents took part as well. At the end, the winners of each category were rewarded with gingerbread medals.



9th July 2022 - Summer Party

The ending summer party in Czech school in London went really well. The sun was shining and everyone joined in with the preparations, so even in the very process, everyone greatly enjoyed it. Parents baked, cooked and brought a lot of fantastic traditional party food. Students from year 4 baked fabulous biscuits, year 5 made refreshing mocktails and year 8 did a great job helping with art activities and face painting. The teachers prepared beautiful games for all the children, dancing, jumping in sacks, a monkey track and shooting down cups with wet balloons.

Children's choir Citrónky and musicians from among parents performed. We had a great time singing with everyone. It was a festive day for Year 9 students as it was officially the last day of their studies. The graduates were cheered by Mrs. Růžena Holub, Chair of the British-Czechoslovak Association. It was a touching moment indeed. This goodbye moment is emotional for students, parents and teachers, but some of those students stay in the school as our assistants and colleagues, so we didn't part our ways.