

1<sup>st</sup> December 2021

## NEWSLETTER NO. 4

Dear parents!

Let me wish you a pleasant start of the Advent season and inform you about the events that happened at our bilingual department in the last few days or are still waiting for us by the end of this calendar year.

### Cambridge Exams Pretests

In cooperation with Cloverleaf, Language School, on 9<sup>th</sup> November our bilingual 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> graders had an opportunity to take trial written papers of the Cambridge exams, for which they can register in the spring. The pretests results should be received by February at the latest; then they will be given over to the pupils so that you can make the best decision if to register your child for the CE exam or not, and for which level. Our first stage pupils will be continuously prepared for the lower levels of the exam (YLE) in their Extra English classes.

### Cooperation with Pavel Tigrid Language Grammar School

As our graduates' English is much higher than the starting level of English taught at most secondary schools, for a long time, we were looking into possibilities of a smooth transition from primary to secondary school, as far as language instruction is concerned. To solve the problem, we turned to the headmaster of Pavel Tigrid Language Grammar School <https://www.jazgym.cz/> and we are happy to have established cooperation with a secondary school providing education focused on languages, where our bilingual pupils can have English classes at an appropriate level from the very first year. On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November, we hosted a workshop for our 9.E pupils and students and teachers from the language grammar school. We hope this event will prove inspiring when a choice of a secondary school is made. Hopefully, our visit to Hladnov Grammar School last Wednesday (classes 8.E and 9.E) will have a similar effect.

### Thanksgiving Day

As learning about life and institutions as well as traditions of respective foreign countries is part of foreign language learning, we regularly commemorate holidays and festivals of English-speaking countries through experiential learning. Last Thursday we celebrated Thanksgiving Day. We learnt new things about its origin, traditions, and the way it is celebrated today. But more importantly, we used the words 'THANKS' and 'GIVING' to start our own tradition.

In letters written in classes of English we expressed our thanks to people at school, to classmates, friends, teachers, or native speakers. It remains our secret how it was achieved but we managed to arrange that all children got at least one thank-you letter. And we could read from their reactions how happy they were, whether young or not.

Gallery: <https://www.zsostrcilova.cz/cs/bilingual-school/akceskoly?id=art1845#prettyPhoto>

### Future Events:

**7<sup>th</sup> December – Saint Nicolas' Gifts (first stage pupils)**

**3<sup>rd</sup> December – Shoebox - the last day of the charity collection, shoeboxes transported to the collection site**

**10<sup>th</sup> December – Joy Packets – the last day of the charity collection, presents given over to the organizers. If you want to take part as a family, put your packet with a Christmas present under the tree at the school reception from 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>**

**December. More information about the packets:**  
<https://balicekradost.w ebnode.cz/>

**Presents for cats and dogs – collection for an animal shelter from 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> December at the school reception**

**Christmas class party the last day before Christmas holidays in a classroom**

**23<sup>rd</sup> December – 2<sup>nd</sup> January**

**Christmas holidays**

## Assembly

With respect to the current situation, we try to keep pupils in consistent groups to the most possible extent. For this reason, the planned Assembly could not be held but 'Houses', a school competition for the first stage pupils, were announced anyway. It was done in classrooms and we suppose that it will be the same at the end of the next month.

## Christmas preparations...

...are already in full swing, with teachers and pupils decorating classrooms, not just to win the competition for 'the most attractive and the most original decoration', announced by the school parliament. Children and teachers are also preparing a big surprise for parents to have at least a small substitute for soaking up the Christmas atmosphere at the Advent market, cancelled due to the current measures.

Just as in previous years, this Advent season our pupils can also support Christmas charity:

**Shoebox** – Presents for children; a present from us can be the only one found under the Christmas tree, more information [HERE](#).

**Joy packet** – Packets and Christmas cards making grandmothers and grandfathers in retirement homes happy, more information [HERE](#).

**Presents for cats and dogs** – Animal shelter in Třebovice and Pets in Need, organized by the school parliament. Presents (treats, pellets, sponge biscuits, toys, old blankets /bath towels, cat litters...) will be collected at the school reception from 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> December.

Thank you for supporting us in these charity events. Together, we can make children aware that showing interest in others is a part of life.

Dear parents, we want to thank you for your cooperation and support and for providing us with timely information about your children's quarantine and isolation and, in case of some classes, for your patience with distance learning. We hope that as many classes as possible will be taught at school until Christmas.



On behalf of the whole bilingual team, enjoy this time before Christmas with your families and stay safe.

Táňa Bahnerová  
Deputy Headmistress for Bilingual Education

