

NEWSLETTER NO.2

30th September 2024

Dear parents,

I would like to greet you at the end of the first school month and offer a brief reflection on it, as well as some current information for the upcoming period.

Thanks to the first school week filled with ice-breaking and adaptation activities, as well as collaborative work on class rules and year-long class plans, the school year started smoothly. In the following weeks, our pupils have refreshed their school routines, strengthened old friendships, and made new ones. I'm pleased to see that our first graders are gradually becoming part of the big groups *Together Team* and *Busy Bees*, who will continue to learn together, embrace school rules, support each other and face challenges as a team. One such challenge is coming with the start of the second school month when even our first graders will be walking to their classrooms on their own in the morning and leaving independently in the afternoon. Thank you for adhering to this rule.

Our new pupils are not only the first graders; several new classmates have joined classes across the school, especially in the 6th-grade bilingual classes. The adaptation course, which the sixth graders are departing for today, is the best way to foster cooperation and relationships within these newly formed groups, as well as with their new teachers. I wish them an enjoyable stay.

Just like in previous years, we will once again have a joint activity for the 1st stage bilingual classes, known as Houses. The children in each class are divided into four coloured houses and together they participate in various activities within their class, grade or across the 1st bilingual stage. The main goal is to learn to collaborate, discover one's own strengths as well as those of one's classmates, find out who excels in what, and how one can be helpful to others. Everyone must contribute. Additionally, the pupils will explore British culture and history through these activities. This year, we have slightly adjusted the format of this activity. There will be five joint meetings, called ASSEMBLY (no longer at the end of each month as before). The first and the last ones will be ceremonial; in September, we will welcome the first graders into their new HOUSES, and in June, we will hold a farewell ceremony for the fifth graders. During the first assembly in September, the children were introduced to the activities during the year. Together, we have embarked on a journey – a journey to an imaginary mysterious castle somewhere in the north of England, where the mysterious *Ring of Nobility* is hidden. Only those who set an example, help their friends and are active, empathetic, attentive and polite will be able to complete this task. Each HOUSE (team) can earn points for inspiring activities and behaviour. At the end of the month, these points will turn into progress along the journey. In the 4th-floor lobby, the path is marked with colours and each class will record their progress. In this way, all the children can constantly see how their HOUSE is doing and what level of the journey it has already reached. In the autumn, we will have our first HOUSES DAY – GREAT BRITAIN DAY. The pupils, who will be mixed across classes on that day, will have several tasks that will help them learn more about British culture.

Upcoming Events:

September 30 – October 4 - 6th graders – adaptation course, Karlov pod Pradědem

October 2 – 7.E - theatre visit (Puppet Theatre Ostrava)

October 8 – 9.E1,9.E2 - theatre visit (Puppet Theatre Ostrava)

October 9 – 7.E Archaeopark, field trip

October 10 – 7.E, 8.E, 9.E1,9.E2 - Cambridge Exams Pretests

October 11 – 4.E1, 4.E2 - Zoo Ostrava, field trip

October 15 – 6.E1,6.E2 - Cambridge Exams Pretests

October 18 – 5.E TechnIQ , Youth Centre Zábřeh, polytechnical workshop

October 24 – 6.E1, 6.E2 - Planetarium, field trip

October 31 – Halloween

In September, bilingual education, classes led by our eight native speakers and compulsory clubs, started in full swing. In line with bilingual education, we deepen our knowledge of English-speaking countries by commemorating their holidays and significant days. Right at the end of October, we will celebrate Halloween, which is very popular with children. Your child's class teacher and care centre assistant will keep you informed about the activities each class has planned.

Part of the bilingual education is also the preparation for the Cambridge Exams (CE), which will again take place at our school in May in cooperation with the language school Cloverleaf. However, the first Pretests for these exams will be held as early as October. After the Pretests are corrected and the results are received from Cambridge, the pupils will get feedback on their strengths and recommendations for areas to improve before registering for the official exams. The Pretest dates for the second-stage pupils can be found in the "Upcoming Events" column. In the first stage, pupils are prepared for the Cambridge exams at various levels in the compulsory Extra English clubs (Starters, Movers, Flyers), mostly led by native speakers. During the second term, they will also have a chance to try unofficial pretests within these lessons, which will give them insight into their progress and the language level they are achieving.

The second-stage pupils prepare for the Cambridge Exams in their English language classes, the compulsory Extra English club (6th grade), English conversation classes with a native speaker (7th grade) and individual FCE preparation sessions with a native speaker during art classes (9th grade and, newly, 8th grade this year). As more of our pupils successfully pass the B2 level of the CE by the end of 8th grade, we have moved the FCE preparation one grade earlier.

Another new feature in this school year is the use of iPads in the 6th-grade bilingual classes. This pilot program is gradually starting up, with the teachers of 6.E1 and 6.E2 meeting regularly to share experiences and ideas on how to teach pupils to effectively use ICT skills and tools. I look forward to returning to the topic of iPad teaching in one of the upcoming Newsletters, including reflections from my colleagues and pupils.

In the "Upcoming Events" column, you will once again find a calendar of current events. While writing it, I realized how clearly it illustrates that out-of-school activities, field trips and visits to cultural events are an integral part of the educational process, having their rightful place and, above all, importance. Among other things, they demonstrate the connection between theoretical learning and its practical application. I would like to thank my colleagues for organizing these activities.

Dear parents, your support and cooperation are very important to us, which is why we are always happy to meet with you in person. Not only at official events, such as parent-teacher meetings, but also at other activities organized by your child's class teacher. I would like to sincerely thank my colleagues for arranging these informal gatherings.

In the autumn, we are happy to welcome you, the parents of our first-stage bilingual pupils, to our regular *Coffee mornings*. For parents of younger pupils who haven't yet experienced regularly held *Coffee mornings*, let me explain. On these days, you are invited to spend the first two lessons at school with your child and their teachers. During the first lesson, you will observe a regular class, and during the second, you will join your child in creative activities and enjoy spontaneous conversations with other parents, teachers or the teaching/care centre assistant over a cup of coffee—hence *Coffee mornings*. ☺ We look forward to seeing you there! The class teachers will inform you in advance about the exact dates for your child's class.

To conclude, I encourage you not to hesitate to get in touch with us with any questions or suggestions you may have. I wish you a beautiful autumn.

With thanks for your cooperation, trust and support on behalf of the entire bilingual team
Táňa Bahnerová
Deputy Headmistress for Bilingual Classes

**October 28 –
National Holiday**

**October 29-30 –
Autumn Holidays**