

Dear Parents,

We are now a month into the school year and Uprkova 3 is a hive of activity, both inside and out.

Students have been busy working and having fun over the last month in what has been a fairly unseasonal September. None of the intense sunshine and heat of last year but with a real autumnal feel to the air. It almost seems as if Christmas is just around the corner – and indeed staff have already been meeting to plan our events and production for the end of term in December.

The start of September saw a number of new staff join us and I am pleased to say that they have all settled well and are each making a real contribution to the whole school as well as their individual areas of responsibility. Clubs and courses start this week and we will have such diverse activities as Gaelic Football to Kung Fu, Junk Band to Chess to Latino Dance and much more happening after school from Monday to Friday.

Outside, tremendous progress has been made over the last two weeks in the construction of our new gym and pool. The concrete structure should be complete by the end of this week with the interior fitting beginning very soon. Also the all-weather surface which will cover the whole of the gym and pool area will be installed during October so we hopefully look forward to weeks of outdoor play and sport before the snows come later in the year. And the easy visibility of the construction from classrooms has provided a learning opportunity for a number of classes as they watch the building rising every day.

Inside, work is progressing in the roof above our secondary classrooms and we will be opening another three rooms, to include a laboratory and an ICT Information Centre before long. Once that is complete, we will have all the facilities of a top quality international school and indeed more when the swimming pool opens.

It is very important to us that our students have a lot of fun at school so that they look forward to coming every day. However, it must also be remembered that we are a place of education where students should acquire knowledge and develop skills, inquisitiveness and a love of learning. Consequently it is important that they attend every day they are able and that attendance at school takes priority over family trips and other outside activities. The school calendar which is available on our website shows clearly when school is in session and when our holidays fall (one is coming up during the last week of October). Unless absolutely necessary, please do not keep students from school when we are open as it disrupts their education as well as deprives them of the pleasure of being here with friends and learning.

Wishing you a warm and productive October.

Peter Radoja



Upcoming events



23.10.2013 | Social evening for parents with Art and Music Opening

We will be hosting an art exhibition in the school's lobby displaying the artwork created by our students during their Art lessons. You are very welcome to come and enjoy the Louvre-like atmosphere with a pleasant music opening organised by our Music teacher in the afternoon. More information to follow.

10.10.2013 | Our first coffee morning (08:30 – 09:30)

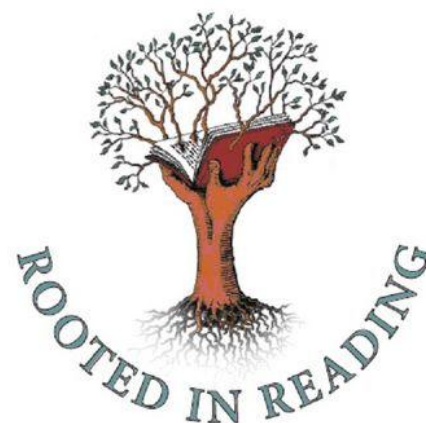
We are looking for mothers (or fathers ☺) willing to participate in preparing craft activities for the children, such as carving pumpkins into jack-o'-lanterns during our Art and Music opening. We plan to awaken your artistic spirits and are excited to meet and discuss many interesting ideas with you.

Rooted in reading

Reading has many beneficial effects for individuals and communities. Learners who read for pleasure achieve more highly in school: their vocabulary expands; they learn to use more complex grammatical constructions in their writing; their writing style becomes more sophisticated and their spelling improves.

We are keen to create a culture within our school which really celebrates reading and encourages young people to share their thoughts and ideas with one another – to feel that they are part of a community that values reading.

The 'Rooted in Reading' scheme is based on a series of reading passports. Working through each passport, the reader is able to choose which texts they want to read within a certain theme or subject – e.g. fiction, non-fiction, reading on screen (websites), books linked to TV and films, poems, magazines and newspapers. When students complete a full passport, they will receive a certificate and be ready to move on to the next, more challenging reading passport.



How you can support this initiative?

- Please contribute to our Community Passport, which is located in reception at the school. By making a brief entry, commenting on a book that you are currently reading, or on other people's entries you can show your child and the rest of the school community that you value reading.

(Claire Smith, Y9 Class Teacher)

Halloween

Halloween is coming close! We all are looking forward to its festive atmosphere, dressing up in costumes and telling scary stories to each other.

Our own Halloween party will be running in parallel for the primary as well as secondary school on the **25th October, 2013** during the school day.

There will be different interesting activities in every class including thematic games such as pumpkin bowling, apple bobbing or visiting a scary house with a witch in the morning, and a scary movie screening in the afternoon.



The Student Council

Student representatives have been elected for this academic year and Mr. Hayes will be in charge of monitoring and guiding the Council.

Its role will be to provide a voice for the students and to help to resolve any issues that may arise. The first meeting discussed ways of improving canteen food and possible themed balls that school may host before Christmas. The student council hopes to be very active this year, improving school life for all students.
(Declan Hayes, Y8 Class Teacher)



BRATMUN

For two years Cambridge International School senior students have participated in the Model United Nations General Assembly in Bratislava.

Model United Nations (also **MUN** or **Model UN**) is an authentic simulation of the U.N. General Assembly and other multilateral bodies. Its aim is to educate participants about diplomacy, the U.N. agenda, current political situations and topics in international relations worldwide. The participants (student delegates) role-play as ambassadors representing a state or NGO in a simulated session of the Security Council, the General Assembly and the selected committees of the United Nations. Delegates research a state, investigate international issues and they debate, consult, deliberate and adopt solutions to world problems in the interest of international cooperation. They make speeches, negotiate with allies and opponents and prepare draft resolutions in the role of diplomats.

There are two delegations participating in BRATMUN (Bratislava Model United Nations) this year from CIS. Two students from year 11, Paula Martinkova, Dorota Gasparikova and one student from year 13, Nastaran A. Motlagh will be presenting different countries. The event will take place in October 2013.
(Firouzeh Adl, Librarian)

Your children in action

Take a look at how your children learn, participate in projects or group activities, and spend time in the school in general.

Will we be journalists?

Year 6 students have been learning about interviewing. They role-played as journalists and interviewed a teacher, Lucia Paukova:

Q: Why did you choose to become a teacher?

A: I wanted to be a teacher since I was a little girl, even though I didn't like going to school so much. But ever since the beginning of my first school year I used to teach my grandfather everything new that I learnt in the school that day ☺.

Q: Why did you choose to teach Slovak language?

A: My elementary and high school Slovak language teachers inspired me a lot and I became enthusiastic for this subject.

Q: What do you do in your free time?

A: I don't have much free time, but I always like to read a good book. I like to be active as well, so I go to a fitness centre and swim in the summer. I recently tried kickboxing for the first time, and I highly recommend it to everyone ☺.



“In PSHE, Year 3M are learning to discover ourselves. So starting from personal routine information such as name and birthday, we move to family level and people around us. We conclude that in many of these things we are similar to many others around us.

Then we get to know ourselves deeper inside, like what are our talents, and how we can do things differently. Thus we realize how we are different from others. After this, we are going to understand differences and respect them. Children have enjoyed it a lot and have made beautiful posters.”

(Masoud Motlagh, Y3 Class Teacher)



Caption: Once upon a time, a dragon lived in a small village.

Year 8 students have been reading and analysing myths and legends from around the World in their English lessons. In the photograph left, Simona and Adriana (hidden) have created a drama freeze frame to demonstrate their interpretation of the English legend of 'George and The Dragon.' Ladislav Svantner directed and took the photograph. The students then went on to write captions for their images in order to summarise the story.

(Claire Smith, Y9 Class Teacher)

Year 3W had a surprise visit from 'Alice In Wonderland' character 'The Mad Hatter'. The children enjoyed asking and answering various questions before writing a brief character description of him using adjectives and even similes! These descriptions are now on display in the classroom.

Here are some examples:

'He is older than a Celt.'

'He wears the same clothes as Mr Wells.'

'He's so silly. He cannot be a normal man.'

'The Hatter is kooky and cuckoo.'

(David Wells, Y3 Class Teacher)



Year 2S have been learning about animal habitats. We started by reading about the different kinds of habitats from our Science books and creating this chart together.

Later, each group of 4 students were given a large piece of white paper and each group assigned a habitat to draw on their papers which you can see in the photo, left.

(Katarina Schultzova, Y2 Class Teacher)





“This is the Y9 Geography class. They have been working really hard in September. They produced some great display on 'What is Geography?' Their work is displayed with other classes in Mr. Hayes’ room at present. Currently, the Year 9s are studying Population and Migration.”

(Declan Hayes, Teacher of Geography and History)

“Y8 students are identifying the constituents of a balanced diet and the functions of various nutrients during biology classes. They brought samples of different foods they eat at home - fruits, vegetables, pasta, sugar... and were testing and evaluating the presence of starch, reducing sugars and fats in the samples using different indicators. They determined the content of each sample by colour change.”

(Maria Sirkikova, Teacher of Science and Chemistry)



“Year 6 students have been very busy in science so far this term. They have been finding out what plants need to keep them healthy and what happens when they are deprived of what they need. We felt really bad about almost killing a plant by depriving it of water so now we have it in intensive care trying to revive it!!

Our most recent investigation has been an analysis of different soil types which involved filtration and accurate measurements to find out which soils absorb the most water and what actually happens to them when water is added and then they are left to dry out again. Not only was this a scientific investigation, it also involved new and extensive vocabulary to describe and explain the findings.

Science is definitely a popular subject in Year 6, not least because it involves practical work and much discussion – all in English of course!!”

(Judi Easton, Y6 Class Teacher)