

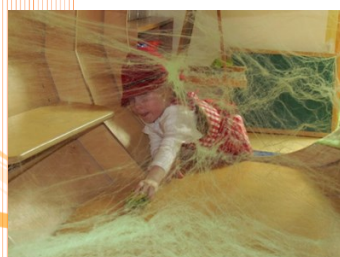
Dear parents,

So the first month of changes is over and off we go to enjoy October. We jumped to the whirl of action and self-exploration and so the monthly topics gave us the opportunity to find out more about ourselves. We investigated who we are as individuals from different perspectives and learned about our body, about what we like and dislike, about our potentials and limits, about the ways we explore the world, about the life-style we live, and even about our emotions and feelings we need to cope with. So.... take a comfortable seat and enjoy reading about our October adventures...

Halloween

We all could not wait for our first big party of this year which we truly consider as the highlight of this month. You ask which one? Of course, what else than HALLOWEEN ☺ . We dressed up and turned to various monsters, witches, pirates, animals, superheroes, fairies... we even had a costume of a telephone ☺ ... and started our spooky "trick and treat" adventure over the Halloween "world". We fought a dragon in the haunted castle, proved braveness in a dark cave full of spiders and bats, saved a princess under the spell, answered all the questions of a wicked witch, passed a dangerous giant spider path, found the key to a lost pirate treasure... and finally, after all, we were proud and had bags full of treats which we rightfully deserved. Besides that we learned a lot about Halloween and All Saints day traditions, symbols and customs. And as an additional bonus we learned about our fear which we need to face and can cope.

Highlight of the Month



Self-exploration

Topics „I am all I am“ and „I am all I can explore“ gave us a wide range of opportunities and approaches of self-exploration from excluding through interactive to observing methods ☺. Thus we for example visited a ZOO to see and find out what we actually are NOT ☺ and how we as humans differ from animals. We also explored ourselves via interactive workshops and learned about the secrets of human body and how a brave Vitamin can beat naughty Bacillus, which we, by the way, hope will have a positive side effect on our „veggie haters“ ☺. We even went to kids museum to check out that although we are different, we are still the same, in deed. We learned about our senses and tried to sharpen them in various activities in field trip as well as in the class. It was a big adventure full of challenges and you wouldn't probably think how scary the tasting food you don't see can be, and for sure, you wouldn't believe that your child can taste raw garlic and onion for scientific purpose ☺. It means that if you ask your children for any anatomic or psychological details, they'll be more than eager to explain ☺.



Kids Museum



ZOO



Workshop: Secrets of Human Body



Field Trip in Horský Park: Exploring Senses



Workshop: About a Brave Vitamin and Naughty Bacillus

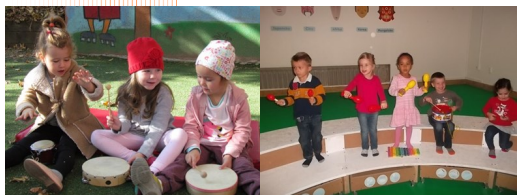


Class Activities

We love music...

If you ask when we have „music“, it is easier to say, when not ... mostly during the nap ☺... although even then our non-sleepers would intensively buzz, hmm, tap or sing to keep themselves entertained until they get stopped ☺... OK. Now seriously. Music is a part of our everyday Kindergarten life and is involved in almost everything we do. We sing at our circle times, music lessons, trips or clubs; we sing and dance when we need to get rid of the energy; we sing while waiting in the changing room; we also sing when tidying up, walking the stairs or sometimes even when brushing the teeth ☺. Simply, we sing, dance and make music anytime and anywhere ☺. Why? ... 'cause music helps us to feel better and learn faster. Our Kindergarten tries to support the development of musical skills constantly and regularly and this month was a great example, too.

Besides all the class activities we had also special musical events. In cooperation with the Musical centre we welcomed real opera singers who introduced us a genre which we usually do not listen to in our leisure time ☺, and honestly, it was a great experience for all of us. We also managed a special „drum workshop“ to enjoy and explore rhythm and we could see that there exists a wide range of drums with different sound and loudness.



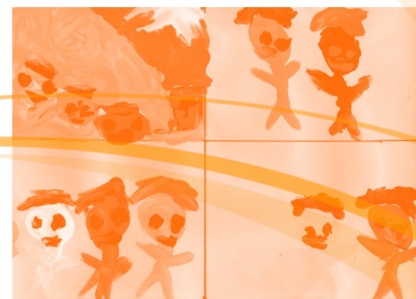
Various class activities



Opera - Love Potion



Drum Session Workshop



We've been busy with...

I am all I eat

Oh, yeah.... We love food ☺. And whole this week everything turned just around food – “yummies” and even “yuckies” – simply everything what our body can digest. We learned about “healthy” and “unhealthy” stuff and it was kind of “heart-breaking” to see the sadness in some children’s eyes when facing the fact that French fries and sweets are not in the healthy group ☺. After all the discussions, food “role plays”, drawings and knowledge boosting, we went to use all the information in the shopping trip and afterwards in cooking our own handmade goodies. Even more, we took excursions to the places where we could see how the food is being processed and prepared, so some of us investigated our school kitchen and some of us visited even a real restaurant to learn proper dining manners. However, the most important and amazing thing we have learnt is that children can eat almost everything when they make it themselves ☺.



Shopping Trip



Cooking

Parents teaching

It is always interesting to apply all the learnt things to the real life and vice versa - to learn from real life and experience. Yes, “parents teaching” is a great way how to do it, and in addition, it is also the way how parents become a part of the Kindergarten community. It is the long term project not limited to time, place or activity and thus we and especially your children would be really thankful for any workshop, excursion or presentation as it is always a remarkable experience that we will not forget.



Kitchen Excursion



This month, in the class of Whales, we talked about food, nutrition, and table manners. Through the Parent’s Teaching Project, we were gladly invited by Mrs. Benčíková to the restaurant in the centre. It was so exciting! We observed the chef, when he cut the pork for steaks, and when he cooked the tomato soup. We could even try to make our own ravioli and fill them with pumpkin filling. We had so much fun by preparing them! Then we sat nicely at the table, we learnt how to place cloth napkins in our laps, how to use the spoons properly, and how to say thank you after the yummiest cupcakes and strawberry cream you could even imagine. It is always exciting to visit our parents at their work. Parent’s Teaching Projects are simply great!



Restaurant Excursion



Most Frequently Asked Questions! (PART I)

As you have probably noticed, in October we ran our first round of parents meetings to inform you about recent changes and actual progress of your children. Most of the meetings followed a very similar scenario so as the particular questions we were asked repeatedly. Some of them were specific for a certain age or location; some of them were however general and "concerned" you no matter your child was two or six.... Thus we found out it might be quite useful to take a closer look at the most frequently asked questions over our parents sessions ☺ As there were really quite a lot of them, this time we bring you the first part.

We spy...

General questions

What is homework about? Is it obligatory? Is not it too soon?

System of HW starts usually in reception class and works on a weekly basis. Children get their HW folder to the locker and should bring it back in a week. Specific term is set by the class teachers. The aim of HW is to develop and support a sense of responsibility, internal motivation and it is the way how children are preparing themselves for the future school duties gradually. Although HW is not obligatory, it is good and useful especially in Y1 class, at least to find out and realize what does it mean when "I don't bring it" ☹. In the same time, it is a long term process; so of course, at the beginning it may cause problems and child's "disagreement" at home or you might find them too difficult. Any of these problems should be, however, discussed with the teacher.

What are the "family projects" about and how does it work?

"Family projects" work on a monthly or occasional basis and they are fully voluntary. They usually focus on a specific topic or field which is always specified by your class teacher, including form and dead-line. The aim of "family projects" is on one hand to support cooperation and child-parent bond within the family, as you brain-storm and create together ☺, and on the other hand develop child's presentation skills when presenting the project in front of classmates.

Do I need to work with my child extra at home?

Well, it depends on why you ask and what you mean ☺. If we exclude HW and family projects, in general, there is usually no need to work extra at home, especially when we talk about nursery or reception classes. In this case, it is even more effective to forget about KG and let your child "live". However, there might be some exceptions, for example in Y1 when you plan to go to Slovak or specialised school which require knowledge or skills which your child doesn't train in Kindergarten (e.g. months or week days in Slovak language).

Is it normal that my child is so tired when coming home?

Yes, being tired from KG is quite common in all the ages as demands and requirements rise proportionally to their age. It is good to realize that KG is a kind of "work" and sometimes we have busy times (e.g. big event periods), sometimes we have social stress (e.g. changes at the beginning of the school year) and sometimes we just have really a lot of work to do. Thus we always try to reflect this fact and keep the proper psycho-hygiene or quit the activity when we feel it's too much.

When will my child start to speak English?

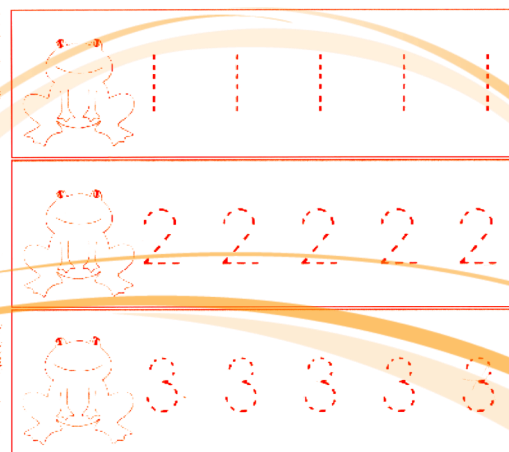
This is a hard question as it all depends on a wide range of factors – age, personality, overall adaptation, auditory memory and general verbal intelligence, time spent in the KG, mother tongue, expectations of the parents and their pressure put on their child... etc. Generally, at first the child needs to settle down and relax, afterwards he/she starts to catch up comprehension, then he/she starts to use common phrases and single words and just later on... much much later... he/she starts to speak fluently. Sometimes, it comes in 2-3 months and sometimes after 1 year. The best thing what you can do is to relax and talk about your concerns with a teacher (not a child) ☺.

Do I need to support English also at home?

No! Please ☺. It is much better to keep your routine, so if you spoke to your child e.g. Slovak, don't switch to English suddenly. Of course, it is (as almost everything) individual, so please, rather consult your plans with your teachers.

Do the newcomers with no English effect my child's progress in a group?

Well, of course they do ☺ but usually in a positive way, in fact. Newcomers change dynamics of the whole group; they bring new excitement and challenges for all the children. Thus as it might seem as a paradox, your child makes progress even better and faster, indeed. He/she comes to a new role of the "tutor", "interpreter" and "assistant" in the same time to help newcomers catch up with the rest of the group. In addition, from methodological point of view the system of didactic learning centres creates a space to work with children individually according to the actual level on most crucial skills.



Questions connected to our extracurricular activities

How is it going with swimming? Is not water in the pool cold? How deep is the pool? Does my child learn to swim or he/she just plays in water? How is it going with extra clubs?

As you were quite interested in extracurricular activities such as swimming, clubs and extra clubs, we have decided to focus on them in our next newsletter where we will bring all the details ☺.

We spy...

Specific questions regarding school from our Y1 parents ☺

Is my child ready for school? What are school readiness tests about and what is the difference between screening and official testing? When are the terms for school enrolment to Y2 (1st grade)?

It is quite understandable that all the parents having children in Y1 start to realize the fact of the forthcoming change – going to school ☺. They usually come with a lot of questions and thus we have scheduled a special parents meeting for them to go through all these questions and even more. Of course, all of you (Y1 parents only, of course) are welcome ☺.

Úprkova – Y1 Panda class: Wednesday, 12th November 2014 at 16:30 in Bumblebee classroom

Gajova – Y1 Dolphin class: Monday, 10th November 2014 at 16:30 in Submarine classroom

Features...

In October, we would like to introduce to you our amazing teachers again. Ms Pet'ka, Dolphin teacher at Gajova, and Ms. Stanka, Bumblebee assistant teacher at Úprkova. Let's see what they have to say about their life in our kindergarten.

Ms Stanka



Why did you decide to become a teacher?

Well, I have never made this decision... I would rather say that this job came to me! ☺ A good friend of mine, who was a kindergarten teacher, needed some assistant for a special needs child urgently. She promised me her guidance and help, so I accepted. After a few days I fell in love with

working with children.

Why kindergarten?

Children never stop to amaze me. I am fascinated by how big personalities these small people are - how every single one of them is completely different. And I appreciate the fact, that I am one of few people who have the opportunity to shape these personalities. I enjoy teaching them basics, things they will be using all their lives.

What was your best day in the kindergarten?

There were many of them... When I was feeling proud after a great performance. When a shy child raised hand and spoke in front of the group for the very first time. When a child struggling in some area finally started to understand it. Or when a child who was avoiding social contact suddenly stood up and hugged me...

Do you also play at home?

Nooo... But I sleep with a stuffed hippo. And I have a dragon by my bed to protect me ☺

What other hobbies do you have?

I read a lot and I exercise yoga a little ☺ And I love my family - my three nieces and also my fiancé so I really enjoy when I get to spend some time with them.

Ms Pet'a



Why did you decide to become a teacher?

First of all I have to say, I didn't decide to become a teacher. When I was child, I imagined myself as a lawyer or a doctor or many other different occupations but the teacher. Later on, during my studies, I met so many great teachers – mentors that influenced me deeply. At that time I realized that this would be the path for me, to honour their legacy and pass it to new generation.

Why kindergarten?

I think the greatest influence a teacher can make is during early stages of studies. And that would be in kindergarten years. So... its natural I am here. ☺

What was your best day in the kindergarten?

I cannot say concretely. But the best days are the days when I see my kids realizing their own knowledge. It's just amazing to see how smart they are.

Do you also play at home?

Not really... I listen to classical music, go to opera and watch news on TV. ☺ Just kidding! Of course I play at home. Somewhere inside I never grew up.

What other hobbies do you have?

My dog is my hobby. In my free time we are usually lost somewhere in woods and just enjoying nature and staying outside.



Care and Share project: Operation Orphan 2014

"Care and share" is the long term project which is ran by our Kindergarten for several years already. So far, we have organised or contributed in various charity donations supporting a wide range of people or other children over the world in need. In addition, it is also a great way how to show our children different perspectives of being and that not all the people around are as happy as we are and might need our help. We believe that sharing can be a little thing that anybody can do to make the world a better place in accordance with the "butterfly effect" theory when even a small change can result in a great difference at the end ☺. This time we were happy to join the Orphan clothes donation for orphan children primarily organised by the Orphan charity organisation. We would like to say big "thank you" to all the parents who contributed.



Upcoming Events

Kindergarten Playground Opened at Úprková

Since November, children on Úprková have opportunity to play at the brand new kindergarten playground which was designed and built just for them.



November Trips and Events...

Although the weather finally shows and proves the autumn time is here with its typical features - wind, cold and rain, November will be full of outdoor trips, so we can explore autumn "online" where else than in nature. Please, be prepared for it and keep checking info news ☺.

Christmas Party

The preparations for our Christmas performance have already started and November will be besides all the other activities also the time of practice and rehearsals. This year we decided to organise Christmas performance events separately for both locations, so we'll meet at one place but in different days ☺. Please, feel all welcome....

Of course, we still owe you the official invitation from your children, so get surprised some day in November ☺

Gajova Christmas performance

Wednesday, 10th
December 2014 at
16:00 in Tower
stage theatre, Pribi-
nova 25

Úprkova Christmas performance

Tuesday, 9th Decem-
ber 2014 at 16:00
in Tower stage thea-
tre, Pribinova 25

Christmas Workshops

It is already a kind of tradition to meet at the end of December, just right before the Christmas holidays and after all craziness around the performance, to spend a great time together with your children.... eating "kapustnica", having yummy hot punch, making various crafts and designs, preparing presents for family or just sitting and chatting with friends.... Yes, also this year we are very happy to invite you to such an event called "Christmas workshops" ☺.

Gajova Christmas workshops for parents and children

Thursday, 18th December
2014 at 16:00-18:00 in
Kindergarten

Úprkova Christmas workshops for parents and children

Tuesday, 16th December
2014 at 16:00-18:00 in
Kindergarten

