



# KINDERGARTEN NEWSLETTER

## SEPTEMBER 2017

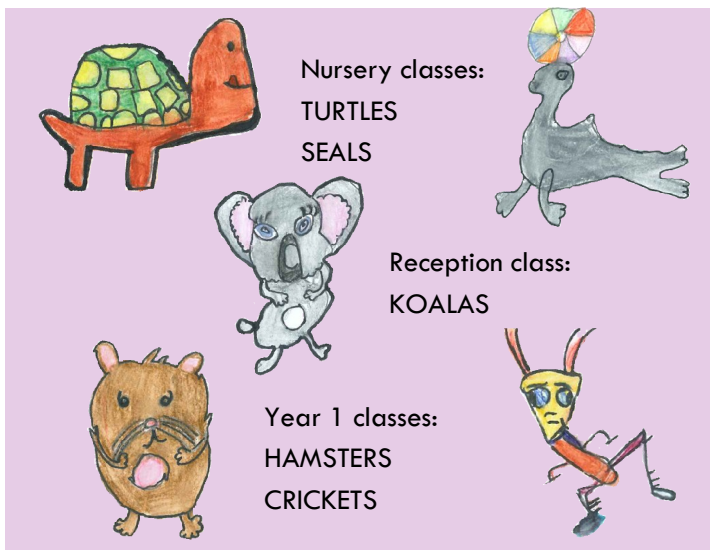
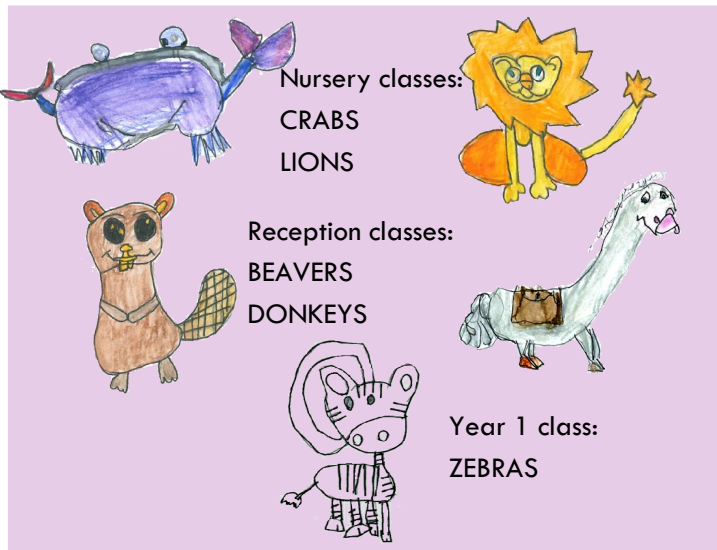


Here we are again, exactly a month into the new school year and both our locations are hives of activity! We have successfully started new adventures, welcomed new teachers and friends, met our old classmates and got ready for new knowledge and experience. September surprised us with its weather – none of the intense sunshine and heat of summer but a real autumnal feel in the air. Luckily, it did not take our good mood away and together we made this first month a pleasant experience for all of us. Maybe our good mood was connected to our weekly topics, which took us through the most important “places” where we all belong. We all know and do not doubt the importance of having a home and great family, but throughout this month we showed our new and “old” children, how kindergarten with its teachers and friends can become a second home, as well. Please, take a look into our first newsletter of the school year 2017/2018 and feel the love and care we tried to share among us all to make the new beginning unforgettable.

### HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH...

### SETTLING DOWN

Every year, the most of our time in September takes moving, settling down, and getting to know our teachers and classmates. This year it was not different. Just to make it a bit easier on you, our parents, we bring you a list of our classes at both locations... So you have at least a tiny idea who we are talking about in our articles. ☺



### GAJOVA

#### KINDERGARTEN EXCURSION

There are many secret and interesting places in our kindergarten. Some of them we see, visit, and spend time in every day but in some rooms we've actually been for the very first time! Exploring is fun and so was the kindergarten excursion during which we did not only see the classrooms, the dining room, and swimming pool... we could knock on the office door, walk inside and see all the office equipment which Ms Ľubka, Ms Hela, Ms Ali, and Ms Nika use. What is a washing machine for in our kindergarten? Ahaaa, we now know why our pyjamas and bed sheets smell so nice every Monday! And we have also discovered where the toilet paper, soap and washing powder is stored. We thought we are familiar with all the places in our kindergarten but the truth is, there are hidden and exciting nooks which we very much enjoyed finding out about!



### ÚPRKOVA

#### WE SPY... WHAT IS THE BEST PLACE IN THE KG?

**Markus (Zebras):** I don't know. What place do you like the most in here? The secret door. Where is the secret door? There down where is the submarine room and bathroom and there is a door where is electronics.



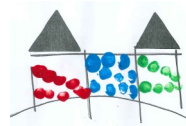
**Grétká (Crickets):** My best is here because I can be here with my friends.

**Teo (Seals):** Vonku, lebo je tu ihrisko. Do you like our playground? Yes, playground good.



**Milko (Koalas):** Playground, it has there the thing we can go up. Do you mean our climbing wall? Yes, and also the house and slide.

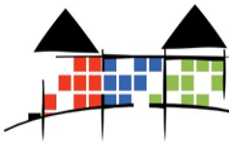
**Paťka (Donkeys):** Garden, because we can play there.



**Loli (Beavers):** Outside because we play there so much.

**Alžbetka (Hamsters):** Kitchen because there are always good stuff to eat.





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### WE'VE BEEN BUSY WITH... MAKING FRIENDS



Taking children for a trip during the first few weeks is sometimes challenging (mostly with the number of new children in adaptation period ☺). But going for a first trip to the café and having yummy chocolate beat the fear of leaving the comfort of our KG. The day of this trip

was the day, when most morning cries disappeared and were replaced with excitement: "Are we going to have a real chocolate?", "Neplačem, ideme na čokoládu?", „Can I have also džúzik?“...uhmmm yes, sweet and delicious chocolate with fruit or cookies or cakes was the best idea to make us all feel comfortable and happy ☺. Since most of our classes chose coffee shops in Bratislava city centre, a walk around the streets of Old Town was just a special bonus. The weather was great, chocolate even better and we all had a wonderful team-building experience.



### OUR CLASS PROJECTS...



The **Zebras** tested their friendship in a bit more advanced way... they let their classmates "touch" their pictures and finish it. Thus kids learnt to cooperate, take turns and appreciate friendship.

Since the **Turtles** are very new in the kindergarten life we started easily – by learning our names, signs, routine and rituals. The kids have already learnt which Turtle belongs to whom and proved it while painting their own sign. They also know that after having lunch we brush our teeth and that mum and dad will always come to take us back home.



The **Seal** class started in a big way with a big number of new Seals so the first month we were all happy to be able to follow at least some routine ☺. Songs and games helped us to learn our names, lots of cuddles and hugs sent our tears away. We are still a bit confused and lost sometimes (mostly walking in pairs), but we have done an amazing progress already!

Elephant Elo needs small help to be introduced to the new classroom. Every day, the **Lions** showed him the new places in their new classroom (bookcase, pencils, papers...). He also watched the kids while eating and gave out tight hugs to the ones showing him an empty plate. He learns fast and enjoys staying with Lions this year.



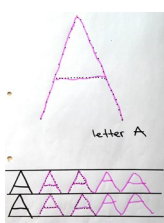
The **Crabs** made their morning routines. Every day after breakfast they came to the classroom and played "Crabs Game" – they were looking for their crab signs on the carpet and stage. That helped them to recognize colours of their crabs and to learn their friends' names.

In **Hamsters**, they really enjoyed getting to know each other, as a lot of them were new to each other. They played prosocial games and sang songs to help them learn each other's names. They made badges from card and decorated paper, wrote their name, and attached a peg. Hamsters are super nice and we are thrilled to teach them.



The **Crickets** focused on getting to know each other, so they played games with names like "Change place everybody who...". They made groups, each group had something in common and they played investigators. They tried to find out and write down what they learnt about each other. They also played "buddies" and each one of them took a special care of one friend for the whole day. They are building a nice team, lots of work ahead, but they are on a good track. Crickets are great!

The **Donkeys** and **Beavers** created a picture puzzle and learned that they, as one class, all fit together. Without a single one piece they are not complete.



The **Koalas** focused on learning rules in the new building and classroom, getting to know new friends, identifying with surrounding and themselves – tracing & writing the names, learning lots of new stuff as they are not the youngest ones anymore!





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### WE'VE BEEN BUSY WITH...

### LEARNING ABOUT OURSELVES



The part of our September topics are also This Is Me and Me and My Family. It is only natural that we talked about ourselves... A lot! What our bodies look like, what is our personality, what we like and don't like, what we are good at, and also what we fear. We got a great opportunity to discover how our body works and what it all consists of. We didn't omit our emotions either, because they are all a very important part of who we are.



#### EXHIBITION ABOUT EMOTIONS IN BIBIANA

Children naturally love arts – painting, drawing, music, theater... you name it. So, when we told them we were going for an art exhibition to Bibiana, they were thrilled. The whole idea of this exhibition was to help children understand art by allowing them to experience it. Of course, there was no need to encourage them. Before we knew it, girls were dressed up as ballerinas practicing their moves in front of the big mirror. Boys preferred to become sailors and all jumped into a boat. When the girls felt that they improved their dancing skills to perfection, it was time for a cup of tea. Boys were happy to join them, as it doesn't happen every-day that one can have such a fancy tea party. As we walked from room to room the whole new world enrolled in front of us and the best thing was that we were really allowed to try everything. Following the course of exhibition, we entered the rooms that were designed to evoke basic emotions such as sadness, anger, surprise, joy, and fear. It was fascinating as we could really feel the emotions associated with the room we were in. Surprisingly, we spent most of our time in the "fear" room. Wonder why...? Maybe it was a good opportunity to face our fears by remaining in a safe environment. Nevertheless, the exhibition was certainly the perfect way to experience art and get to know the emotions.



### WE SPY... WHAT IS THE BEST ABOUT BEING YOU?

This is Me

**Romanka**  
(Hamsters):

Uhhmm I don't know. Mrs Jude: Talking.

Romanka: Yes.

Drawing and talking a lot.



**Sofinka** (Donkeys):

What? Is it good to be you? Yes. Why? Because I am good.



**Adamko** (Crickets): The greatest is that I play football with my daddy and I'm good really.



**Matúško** (Zebras):

Because I can walk, run and play hockey, go on the motorbike and play with the car.

**Talia** (Seals): Motorbike.

**Vicente** (Beavers): I don't know. Do you like being you? Yep. Why? Because, I am 4 years old.

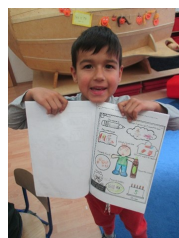


**Arran** (Koalas): Running. I run faster than anybody else but only children not my daddy.



**Sofia B.** (Crickets): Fighting because when I fight with Samuel I'm super winner.

The **Beavers** worked on their very first proper family project this September. The topic was 'This is Me' and the task was to bring a poster expressing their personalities, interests, likes etc. We want to praise the kids as well as their mums and dads for creativity and effort they showed because the projects and the presentations were amazing!



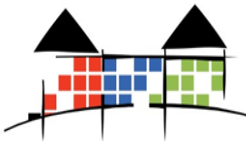
The **Zebras** also brought presentation about themselves for the topic 'All about myself'. We talked about our hobbies, favourite colours, family, pets, favourite books etc. We learned new things about our friends. It was very interesting.

The **Donkeys** got creative with one of their mummies. They got all beautiful autumn leaves together and created a huge (and impressive) lion head. It goes without saying that our Lion class enjoyed this piece of art the best. ☺ They can admire it every morning and afternoon as it hangs on the classroom door.

The **Turtles** might be the littlest ones, but surely they not only play all days... They are very eager to learn as well. And so, while talking about a human body, they created a new friend - with all significant body parts, and they learnt to name them. As much fun was to put the body together, even funnier was to put it into colours. We have some very creative artists in our school, that's for sure!







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### WE'VE BEEN BUSY WITH...

Playing in the 'babies' corner is one of our favourite games! Changing nappies, singing lullabies, stroking the bellies when they hurt... we really like playing mummies and daddies for our baby dolls. And guess what! Real babies and their mums came to visit, show, and tell us how the real care of little children looks like. Some of the babies knew how to walk and run, some of them only knew how to sit. Some of them drink only milk from the mummy, some of them can eat veggies and fruits already. Despite all the differences between the tiny babies and bigger babies, we learned the most important thing: that all the babies and all the children need much love and lots of hugs and smiles!



**Beavers** welcomed baby Eva, Francesco's and Julia's little sister, and they all had a great time playing together. It wasn't Eva's first time for the Family Life Live though! She came exactly one year ago for the same event and the Beavers could clearly see how much she has grown and learned in only one year! Wow, babies grow and learn really fast!

**Zebras** had a very special task this year... they were invited to the Castle Room to play with the little **Crabs** from nursery. Each of them was also assigned to one little Crab and they took care of them while playing outside in the garden. They all enjoyed this special responsibility very much!



**Donkeys** and **Lions** got together to host Ms Ivka and her 8-month old daughter Olivka. They came to show how their daily program looks like, what Olivka eats, plays with and if she is still using nappies. It was so great to see her after such long time.



**Hamsters** were excited to have even two mummies and babies for visit! Leo's mummy came with his little brother Max and Alžbetka's mummy with baby Valeria. Thus they could clearly see the difference between „real“ baby and a baby that's a bit grown.



The **Cricket** class had the pleasure to spend some quality time with Hugo's mummy and his younger sister Lara. They explained the friends what is their day like, what Lara likes to do and play with.

In some classes they either don't have any baby siblings, or mums had to cancel the event due to different reasons... But kids didn't miss on anything. The **Turtles**, **Seals**, and **Koalas** made a wonderful family photo presentation! They all brought the family pictures and proudly showed their classmates who is the part of their family. This was the great opportunity to focus on relations we all know and cherish.

### TEACHERS INQUIRY... WHAT IS YOUR FIRST MEMORY FROM KINDERGARTEN?

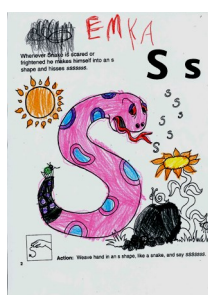
We spend there all our work days... we think about it a lot at home when we do plans, prepare worksheets and crafts, or write letters and leaflets... Kindergarten! But we got curious what our teacher remember from their early years and everyday visit of their "alma mater" at those times... So, dear teachers, what is your first memory?



**Ms. Monika:** I escaped the very first day. I lied to the teacher I had to go to the bathroom.

**Ms. Katka V.:** The smell of it ☺. I came there after 20 years and it was the same.

**Ms. Táňa:** I remember how I loved to play on big blocks made of some kind of foam and sliding on the carpet on my knees.



**Ms. Majka K:** The only memory I have is that we locked ourselves in the classroom and the key got broken. We had to call for help from the window.

**Ms. Hanka:** I was pushed to eat water melon and then I vomited in the garden (I was 1,5-2 years old).

**Ms. Ali:** I remember looking out of the window, waiting for somebody to pick me up.

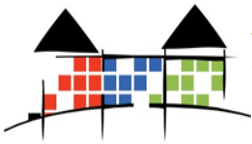


**Ms. Hela:** How I was reading a story with my favourite cleaning lady and she was rocking me in the lap ☺ (cca 1 year old)

**Ms. Veronika:** The very first time I came to kindergarten was when I came for the job interview. ☺ I never visited KG.







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### ADVISORY...

### HOW TO TALK TO KIDS ABOUT EMOTIONS



Early years can sometimes be sooo confusing... So much to learn, discover, understand. Some things have some logic hidden, others seem to be with no rules at all. Kids can find it hard to read what we want from them. Especially, when it comes to their behaviour and the way we talk to them about it. (Well, has it ever happened to you, that you yelled at your child at the top of your lungs: Stop yelling! Ironical, right?) Emotions and feelings seem to be one of these „no-obvious-rule“ topics. We bring you some tips on how to approach them and teach them to your child.

- Talk about emotions and feelings (both positive and negative ones) also at home.
- Name kid's emotions, e.g. „You are very happy that we go to the ZOO.“ „You are angry because your sister took your toys.“ „It is hard to tie the shoe laces. It makes you upset if you don't succeed.“
- Give them also some ideas on how to deal with them. „You are angry because you want to play with your brother. Maybe he needs some alone time right now, you can ask him to join in in a few minutes.“
- Tell them how you feel, e.g. „I am so frustrated now, because I can't find my keys.“ „I am really excited to go on that vacation.“
- Try to read other people's faces, e.g. in books, magazines, in streets or playground. Let the child name emotions they observe and give simple reasoning. „Look, that boy is crying. Do you have any idea why he might be so sad?“
- When the child is angry, there are two immediate NO!-rules – No physical harm! and No destroying things! If they break them, intervene immediately.



A very essential rule for us, adults, to remember - react to behaviour, not the emotion. All emotions, being positive or negative, are normal. It is our behaviour that should be controlled. It is very essential to teach the kids how to deal with strong emotions (anger but also excitement) – they can try taking deep breaths, counting, jumping, talking, hugs.

Another thing we find very important is to explain the kids difference between voice tones in different situations (polite voice, excited voice, angry voice, ...). You can explain them, that we use the polite voice when we want to tell something to others or when we want to ask them a favour. Don't forget to give her an example („You may say: Can I have the toy? like this ...“ while you use the polite voice yourself.)

We believe that following these simple steps and rules will help you to bring up empathetic, but at the same time also assertive, human being.

### TEACHERS WERE KIDS TOO...



Ms Katka B

As a little kid I loved having pockets on my trousers or shorts! I would always run around with having my hands in the pockets. This particular photo shows the "This is me" moment after my mom asked "Where is Katka?".



Ms Vava

Look at Ms Vava and her older sister playing in the "outdoor bath tub" at their grandma's garden. What a chill out, right? This is soooo her - enjoying the tiniest of pleasures the life throws her way.



This month we bring you only one person whose identity you might want to discover... We believe it will not be any tough task. Are you up to it?

### NEWS IN SEPTEMBER...



After some time, the wedding bells rang again in our KG. This time for Ms Bogi, well, now Mrs Bogi. We wish the newlyweds all the best and lots of love. ☺



Ms Domča decided she needed some piece and quiet after nearly eternity she has been with us. We will miss her humour and great mood she spread around. We surely wish her luck on her next journey.

### UPCOMING EVENTS...

