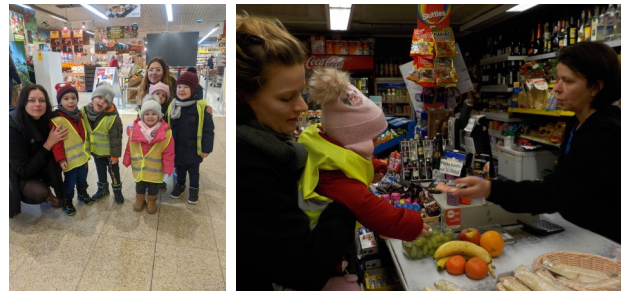




The world itself might have stopped for a while but our Newsletter is still here to remind you of the many adventures the little ones have experienced while all was still well. Our activities began in February with a trip to the local supermarket, where the kids bought their own groceries and prepared some delicious snacks for their classrooms. We celebrated love with our Valentine Carnival and then the beauty and complexity of the human body and its systems during our Human Body Workshops. The month was finished off heroically, as the Spartans (your kids) roamed the streets of Bratislava while exercising. Our yearly tradition of parents coming in and reading to us began successfully but was unfortunately cut short due to the disease which shall not be named. We hope this Newsletter brings you a certain consolation in these days of unrest.

SHOPPING & COOKING TRIP

February brings one of our favourite events "Shopping & Cooking". It means that we get ourselves ready to go to buy all the healthy stuff like vegetable or fruit and bio vegan kind of Nutella and we try to show other classes who is the Chef here! The point here is to be effective, to think wisely, not to buy unhealthy and unimportant goods, to consider what tools we have at hand, and at last to spend money well because our budget means twenty euros per class - not much but accurate. Did we mention the main goal of this cooking day? Of course, the kids are going to learn how to behave in a grocery shop and how to prepare tasty snacks, but we are doing it also because we want to have a lot of fun! Children prepared different kinds of sweet snacks like a cake, fruity fresh bomb or homemade pancakes filled with anything the kids chose (pineapple, blueberries, bananas and many more. They could also decorate it with a cream or chocolate topping). The savory options were veggie salads, yummy toasts, or hummus spread. There was nothing the same. And we are not going to describe an amazing taste of it all. If you can imagine - it was all Yummy because "What is prepared with love, is well prepared."



One of the milestones in the big section is the time to start using proper cutlery. The **Owls** are professionals when it comes to spoon and fork, but it is much different to use both hands and a fork together with knife in the dining room. That's why they had a lot of practice in the classroom with playdough first. After a few days of practice, the imaginary potatoes and pieces of meat were cut neatly and patiently and Owls are now practicing directly in the dining room. We are very proud of your big Owls for trying hard!



The **Turtles** went to a restaurant! Well, only pretend one in their classroom but it still counts, doesn't it? They discussed the basic table manners starting with table setting, proper usage of cutlery and napkin, and of course, leading a polite conversation during the meal. With kids behaving like that, we would have no problem whatsoever going to the real restaurant with them! Maybe one day...



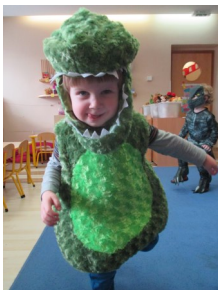
The **Bees** do understand that eating and respectful dining goes hand in hand. And they hate waste... so, they decided to re-make one old wooden table to a special "rainbow table." Kids were doing activity like this for the first time and they were feeling like some young restorers - such a great idea Bees!



This week, the **Foxes** focused on their behaviour during eating and practiced eating and sitting nicely. Every day while eating in the dining room the kids were acting out being at restaurant and behave.



For more pictures and information check our new website:
<https://www.funiversity.sk/en/gallery/>



VALENTINE CARNIVAL

When Love is in the air and we all love to share... it's the best time to share the dance and party together! In this case it wasn't just an ordinary party, it was the Valentines Carnival. Everyone was invited and everyone came: royals, animals, superheroes, police officers, athletes, builders, and many others met together to have fun. The kids were dancing the world's most famous choreographies such as Macarena, YMCA..., playing various games and of course we wouldn't miss the Statue Game (everybody's favourite!), cheering (sure Y1 classes were the loudest again), and posing for photos. At the very end, kids enjoyed the disco party, where they danced to their favorite songs with their lovely friends. The day couldn't have been better.



During the Valentines week the **Flamingos** talked about friendship and how happy we are to have friends in Kindergarten. We made heart craft for each other and we played with toys from the toy box. We shared all our toys we brought from home! Our friendship is growing every day!



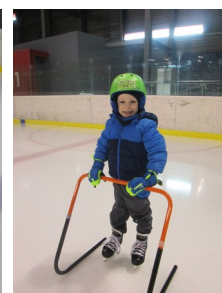
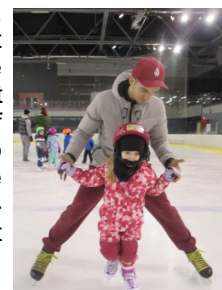
The **Lions** played various teambuilding games where they were expressing what they like about each other, which helped them to look for positive features of their friends. They were also writing nice words or drawing something for each other in Valentines post to spread happiness and love throughout the whole week.

In February the **Seals** celebrated St Valentine's day. However, to be honest every day is Valentine's day in Seals, as we have so much love for each other! Every day we greet each other with either a hug or a fist bump. The Seals are given a choice and they usually go for the hug! We always treat each other with kindness and try our best to use peaceful communication together. It creates such a lovely atmosphere in Seals Class. During Valentines week, we made Valentine Cards for the people that we love. We enjoyed extending our creativity and fine motor skills, and helped us feel positive when thinking about our loved ones. We continue to love and support each other through the rest of 2020.



SKATING COURSE

Luckily, at least some of us managed to go through Ice-skating course this year. The whole week was full of amazing emotions, mastered skills and enormous FUN! In the first day of the course many kids were excited, although a bit quite nervous too 😊. When the teachers got all the kids ready for ice rink, instructors came in and greeted the kids with showing off their skills! Children watched them with opened mouths. The teachers were really amazed by the braveness and endurance of the kids. Once they got on ice They really wanted to learn all skills necessary for skating. It was obvious especially when somebody fell down - they always stood up and finished a task. Occasionally we noticed some tears, but they were not about giving up but more about overcoming the fear. Instructors didn't just train the kids, they also played a lot of funny games with them. And do you want to know what the kids answered when the teacher asked them if they had some bruises? They said: Yes, a lot! But we don't regret because it was really worth it!



HUMAN BODY WORKSHOP

The time has come for the little ones to learn a little more about themselves and their physiology. They spent their day learning the fascinating intricacies of the digestive, circulatory, respiratory and nervous systems in a way that proved itself to be fun, interactive and educational. An unwavering awe was ever-present in the children's eyes. The human body is a complex and mysterious thing but with the help of our amazing teachers, we hope to have made it a little less mysterious in the end.



SPARTAN RACE

As you have already noticed, February weather was very unpredictable and windy. In this case, also lots of our activities had to be adjusted according to circumstances. In Stare Mesto, we had to stay indoors but we are confident to say that we worked even harder and stretched every muscle in our body to beat the Giant Spartan Obstacle Race. In Mlynska Dolina, the kids had the chance to enjoy the outdoors Spartan race organized within the KG's yard. Everyone tried their best and had a chance to show their strength, speed, and energy. In Horsky Park, the kids couldn't go to the park itself due the windy weather, but they still enjoyed the walk in surrounding area and showed positive attitude towards the Spartan walk. Well done to ALL kids who participated this year. Using Spartan race was great opportunity to teach kids that not only healthy food and hygiene are important but also to do exercise and sports.



The **Narwhals** learnt about the healthy habits throughout various activities connected to the story about a princess who refused to eat healthy and to exercise. Her dad, a great king, visited us and asked us for help to somehow motivate his daughter. We showed the princess which food we should eat more and which less. We showed her that preparing and eating healthy can be fun and we made a hedgehog from a pear and grapes using toothpicks. And we did a lot of exercises - running, jumping, crawling. And the most important, by doing all this we had fun!



The **Butterflies'** favourite class project was creating a human body factory. This body had Charlottka's shape. She laid down on a large paper and the Butterflies traced her. That was the biggest tracing activity the kids have ever done. Super fun! Then they've cut Charlottka's shape and created some of the human body parts. They've used things that already were in KG and it reminded them of internal organs. They made the brain out of macaroni pasta; the oesophagus out of a straw; a stomach using a balloon; lungs from two sacks and intestines from lot of yarn. Emmka also drew the eyes, nose and lips. It was an easy way how to learn all of the body parts, the expressions connected to it and to practice fine motor skills too.



The **Ladybug** Class from Mlynská dolina became constructors! Or surgeons? Judge for yourself. They made these original 3D body parts using cotton sticks glued like a lot of small bones, for example like in our hands or legs. It looks so realistic, applause, Ladybugs!



The **Pufferfish** enjoyed the week of healthy habits very much. To focus more on healthy habits, they prepared a graph and signed in which habit they had done each day. The kids kept checking what else they could do! They all learnt that to keep good habits is very important for our everyday lives.

Teachers' inquiry... How do you keep yourself fit?

Ms. Magda: By eating (mostly) healthy plant-based diet. I walk instead of taking the bus and I also grow a lot of sprouts and microgreens.



Ms. Sara: I go to the gym, run, take the stairs, and eat healthy food.

Ms. Simi: I think positively.



Ms. Katka B.: Except for the traditional ways - eating healthy and doing sports - I also try to apply the Monty Python rule: Always look on the bright side of life!

BOOKSHOP TRIP

In the beginning of March, when talking about books and stories, our kindergarteners went for a trip to the bookshop. What an adventure! They got on the bus full of ideas what books they would like to find there, discussing it all the way. When they finally arrived, it was almost overwhelming how many books there were at one place! Stories about all kinds of animals, princesses and dragons, letters and numbers, and so much more. They picked some books that they all liked. Some of them we read in the bookshops, some of them we bought to the classrooms. Doesn't matter how many books we already have, there is never enough of them!



PARENTS' READING PROJECT

The month of March is always a good opportunity to spend time with parents in the kindergarten reading together. Kids enjoy that a lot because it is a perfect way to share emotions and create good memories. This year, however, we didn't manage to go through the whole project due to the shut-down of our regular life. The least we can do is to bring you some pictures of the readings we managed to have! Enjoy...

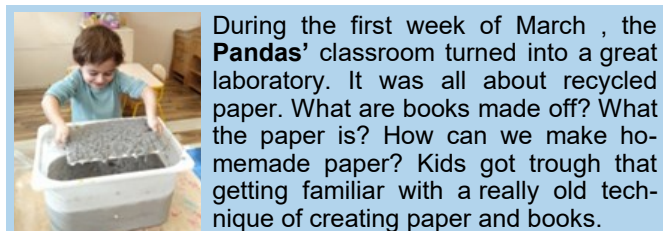


PUPPET THEATRE

Everybody knows the popular story of Hansel and Gretel, but our kids in Horský park experienced it in a much more exciting way. They welcomed two amazing actors in the kindergarten, who brought a beautiful big gingerbread house with them, and performed the well-known story with the puppets. The exciting and at times even breath-taking performance left many of kids speechless and full of emotions. They couldn't stop talking about it for the rest of the day.



The **Bees** from are so creative! And busy... well, they are not bees for nothing! Even with the skating course taking place, they found a time and made these amazing little cartoon books about their experiences from the course. Well done Bees!



During the first week of March, the **Pandas'** classroom turned into a great laboratory. It was all about recycled paper. What are books made off? What the paper is? How can we make homemade paper? Kids got trough that getting familiar with a really old technique of creating paper and books.

In March the **Seals** enjoyed learning about books and especially the Gruffalo! We enjoyed practising the rhyming words found in the book, loved describing the Gruffalo ourselves, and expressing joy and laughter about the clever mouse and his wise ideas. When we went on our trip to the Bookshop, we loved searching for the Gruffalo book and its companion, "The Gruffalo's Child". Did you know that there's a Scottish version of "The Gruffalo?"- "A moose took a dauner through the deep, mirk widd. A tod saw the moose and the moose looked guid." ☺



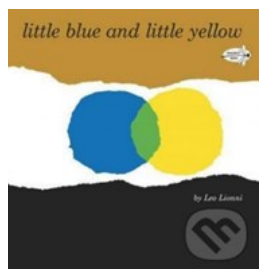
The **Ladybug** class surely didn't go to sleep over one's work! With all the talk about various stories, plots, and characters, they felt like doing something more. So they prepared many original handmade bookmarks where they used their cutting, painting, and mostly creative skills. And they are all prepared to read a bookie right now. Great job, ☺ Ladybugs!



Teachers' inquiry... Which book could you recommend?

Now, that the situation made us stop and close ourselves at home, it might be challenging to find something to keep us occupied and not bored for extended period of time. One of the things that usually takes human mind off reality are books. They are awesome to take us away from our houses, our couches, our problems... So we asked our teachers which books they would recommend to make our (and your) minds wander to all the amazing places. We hope you will be inspired.

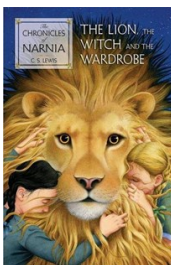
Ms. Vane: I would like to recommend parents the book *How to Raise an Amazing Child the Montessori Way*. It is very well written and they can find useful tricks in everyday life! For kids I really love the books of BABALIBRI an Italian publishing house. I suggest you some titles: *Little Blue and Little Yellow* and *A Colour of His Own*, both by author Leo Lionni.



Ms. Jude: Roald Dahl is an amazing author and I would recommend his books, even if they are too hard for the children to read, the adult can read them aloud, and because they are so much fun and so well written, the adult will enjoy it as much as the child. My favourite include "Charlie and The Chocolate Factory" "James and the Giant peach" and "George's Marvellous Medicine." I also love his "Revolting Rhymes". I find them very funny and older children and adults would too.

Ms. Romanka: For me, it's the books of Narnia.

Ms. Veve: I would say the same as others – Little Prince, Harry Potter and Narnia.

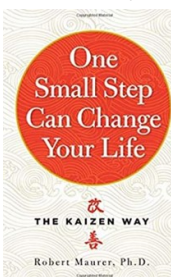


Ms. Bibi: My all-time favourite book is the Bible. It's uplifting, encouraging and for all generations. I would also recommend books from C.S. Lewis. They are both for adults and kids.



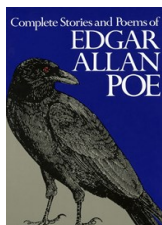
implement ways how we can help in our daily lives – using sustainable bottles or bags, recycling or upcycling items. Great book for a nice family time with useful environmental lesson learned!

For adults I would recommend a book by Robert Maurer – *One Small Step Can Change Your Life: The Kaizen Way*. It offers the perspective of implementing change in life through the Japanese technique – Kaizen - which is the art of making great and lasting change through small, steady increments. The Kaizen way is rooted in the two-thousand-year-old wisdom of the Tao Te Ching— "The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step". Inspiring book for everybody open for change and starting new habits!



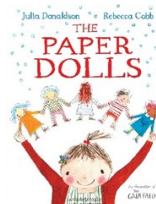
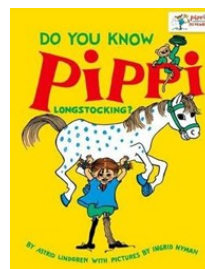
Ms. Zuzka: I love horrors for adults from Stephen King, for the kids the Disney stories and from Slovak literature it's the books from Pavol Dobšinský.

Ms. Magda: I would recommend all the Moomin books from Tove Jansson, they are for kids as well as for adults. There are some beautiful stories full of love, freedom and open-mindedness, which can often bring up current topics even though they are quite old.



Ms. Simi: I would recommend some classic fairytale books written by Dobšinský or Brothers Grimm. For adults: I would say I like Edgar A. Poe and Kafka, but it was a few years ago. Now I prefer some positive tuned articles/books about human existence, behaviour etc.

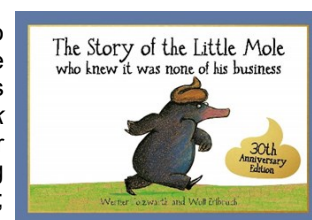
Ms. Miška M: My recommendation for the books would be definitely some classic stories from Grimm brothers for the reason that kids don't really know much about the old classic stories. I also like the idea of Magic School Bus (Joanna Cole, Bruce Degen) – modern, adventurous and educational. My very favourite from my childhood – Pipi longstocking (Astrid Lindgren)



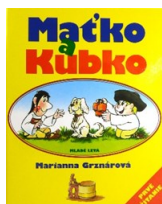
Ms. Julka: I love books for kids and my favourite is Paper Dolls by Julia Donaldson. For adults, I like psychological books and novel books.

Ms. Sarah: Three Little Pigs, Little Prince, How to Catch a Star, The Very Big Turnip

Ms. Ivetka: Ooh, I would have so many to recommend. One of the best books on talking to the kids (hence for the adults) is *How to Talk so Kids Will Listen*. For the easier reading, I prefer fantasy – anything by Terry Pratchett or Neil Gaiman; those are my most favourite authors at the moment. And for kids? Julia Donaldson is awesome! And Charlie and Lola series. And a funny book about poops - *The Story of the Little Mole Who Knew It Was None of His Business*. It is a must!



Ms. Katka V.: Books from Ronald Dahl – amazing stories for children and also his short stories with unbelievable endings for adults. I also love drawings of Quentin Blake in the books.



Ms. Miška J.: I would definitely recommend for kids our traditional Slovak book *Matko & Kubko* which is full of funny stories and you can also learn a lot about nature and life of shepherds. For adults, I would recommend *Tracy's Tiger* by William Saroyan. It might look like a children's book but a story is very touching also for adults who are always in a hurry. And the very last sentence makes you read the story one more time.