

NEWSLETTER NO.2

27th September 2023

Dear parents,

I warmly greet you after the first month of school.

Let me express my belief that the school year has started successfully and that we are already in full swing... As if the holidays didn't even exist. 😊

I would like to sincerely thank you for your support and cooperation, which together create an enjoyable and stimulating environment for our pupils to learn and develop new skills.

The first month at school is always a time of adaptation, adjusting to a new environment and making new friendships or strengthening the existing ones. I am especially thinking of our first graders, for whom starting school was a big challenge, but one that, according to Ms Alice, Ms Jana and Ms Iva, they have managed. The children, who were originally strangers to each other, are slowly becoming two big groups, Ocean Kids and Friends, who will hopefully always stand together and support each other. And they are certainly ready for new challenges, steps and progress. One of them is that from the second month of school, as big school children, every morning, they will go up to the fourth floor and go to their classrooms on their own and after the classes, they will leave on their own too. The Bell Hop system for picking up children from the Care Centre has long been proven and I believe that you are already fully familiar with it.

Having mentioned the arrival of the first graders in the morning, I want to ask all of you - including parents of our older pupils - to make sure that your children arrive at school on time so that they have enough time to get ready for the start of classes. The school opens at 7.40 a.m., which is the ideal time for pupils to get to their classrooms, change and prepare for the first lesson, which starts at 8.00 a.m. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this regard.

During the first month, we focused on building a good foundation for all pupils to work together throughout the year, on creating good conditions for learning and peer support, and we constantly focus on a safe, stimulating, healthy and relaxed atmosphere in every class. The whole first week of school was devoted to adaptation activities, which the classes used, for example, to set common rules or create and encourage the best possible peer relationships. For this reason, some classes have already completed their first prevention programmes focused on communication and peer relationships, while others will take part in them in the future. Also, the school prevention methodologist and the school psychologist will support the work of the class teacher if necessary. Your support and suggestions are also essential. A safe environment is very important for the quality of learning and cooperation.

In September, bilingual education, classes with native speakers, of which we have seven this year, got into full swing as well as compulsory clubs. Again, we started the school

Future Events:

October 2-6 - 6.E
adaptation course

October 9-13 -
2.E1 - camp in the
mountains

October 9 - 5.E1 -
Ostrava City Library
(ICT programme)

October 12 - 7.E1,
7.E2, 8.E1, 8.E2 -
Cambridge Exams
Pretests

October 12 - 5.E2
- Puppet Theatre
Ostrava (The
Komensky Lesson)

October 19 - 6.E,
9.E - Cambridge
Exams Pretests

October 20 -
MENSA testing
(registered pupils)

October 30 - 6.E -
planetarium
(educational
programme)

year with a year-long project – this time aimed at supporting, finding and discovering the giftedness and talents of our pupils (...and maybe even us, the teachers 😊) – ‘Ostrčilka has got talent’. You can read more about it in the first issue of *Ostrčilka News*. After the first month of school, which was mainly about brushing up and activating previous knowledge and skills, we are ready to fully dive into new learning to promote the acquisition of new knowledge and skills, including the involvement of self-discovery, experiential, exploratory and peer learning and the use of modern technology. Regarding bilingual education, we are going to enrich lessons by commemorating holidays and important days in Anglo-Saxon countries. Right at the end of October, it will be Halloween, which is very popular with the children. The class teachers and care centre assistants will inform you about the activities that each class will prepare. I can already reveal that we are planning a Halloween Assembly in masks on 31st October, so children will not dress in the colours of their ‘House’ this time.

Teaching English in bilingual classes is of course still a key part of the preparation for the Cambridge Exams, which this school year will take place at our school again in May, in cooperation with the Cloverleaf language school. Nevertheless, the first Pretests for these exams will take place in October and thanks to them (after they have been corrected and the results sent in) our pupils will have feedback on what areas they are doing well and what they need to improve before they register for the regular exam. The dates of Pretests for the second-stage pupils can be found in the 'Future Events' column. The first-stage pupils prepare for the Cambridge Exams at each level in compulsory Extra English clubs (Starters, Movers, Flyers), usually given by native speakers. In the second term, they can also take unofficial pretests in these clubs to have an idea of how they are doing and what level of language they are achieving.

Dear parents, as I mentioned at the beginning, your support and cooperation are very important to us, so we are happy to meet you in person. Not only officially, for example at parent-teacher meetings, but also at other events to which you are invited by your children's class teachers. I would like to thank my colleagues for organising such informal meetings.

During the autumn, we will be happy to welcome you, parents of the first-stage bilingual pupils, to our regular *Coffee Mornings*. For parents of our younger pupils who have not yet had the opportunity to experience regular *Coffee Mornings*, I am happy to explain. On this day, you can spend the first two lessons with your children and our teachers at school. In the first lesson, you will observe the teaching and in the second lesson you can create something together with your child or you can spontaneously share your observations with other parents, teachers, or our school and care centre assistants over coffee, hence *Coffee Mornings*. 😊 The class teachers will inform you about their dates in due course. We look forward to seeing you there.

At the end, I would like to invite you to contact us with your questions and suggestions. I wish you a wonderful autumn.

On behalf of the whole bilingual team, thank you for your cooperation, trust and support.

Táňa Bahnerová

Deputy Headmaster for Bilingual Classes

**October 31 -
Halloween Assembly
(first-stage bilingual
classes)**

October 26-27

autumn holidays

November 17

public holiday