
Annual Report

Czech School without Borders, London 2010/11



13 Harley Street, W1G 9QG, London

www.czechschool.org.uk

1 Czech School without Borders, London - overview

Czech School without Borders, London

A Company Limited by Guarantee, no 7323697

Director: Zuzana Jungmanová

Management Committee:

Lucie Wenigerová, Chair

Renata Clark, Vice Chair

Jakub Pachanský, Treasurer

Renata Rust, Secretary

Staff:

Iva Hopkins, Cashier

Blanka Jaurisova, Head Teacher

Pavla Yeats, Teacher

Ivona Klemensová, Teacher Assistant

Adam Hrabal, Teacher Assistant

Veronika Prokopová, Teacher Assistant

Šárka Matějková, Teacher Assistant

Šárka Švábová, Teacher Assistant

Jana Martykánová, Speech Therapist



October 5, 2011

A letter from the Chair

Dear friends / Milí přátelé,

A great deal of work has been done since our first meeting on December 12, 2009 which saw the establishment of our voluntary organisation 'Czech School Without Borders, London' (CSWBL) as an unincorporated association. First of all, our Constitution was adopted by the members of our very first management committee, comprising myself, Vice Chair Renata Clark, Treasurer Iva Hopkins, and joint Secretaries Sarah and Michal Hlásek. As is customary for voluntary organisations, the members of the CSWBL management committee work as volunteers.

With the superb assistance of Yvette Ellis of Voluntary Action Islington, we embarked on an exciting learning curve which has resulted in improvements in the running and management of an organisation that adheres to the UK laws and regulations set for mother-tongue schools.

Here is what we have achieved:

- All our staff and volunteers are CRB-checked, which is a necessity for an organisation dealing with children.
- We adopted the following policies:

Child Protection Policy
Health and Safety Policy
Volunteer Policy
Financial Policy
Equal Opportunities Policy
Confidentiality Policy

- We have Public Liability Insurance, run risk assessments for each of our premises and have off-site procedures in place.
- We opened a bank account and with it the possibility to pay school fees via bank transfers and cheques. There are financial and petty cash rules in place. Furthermore, we developed a proper accounting system and filed our first accounts to Companies House in September 2011.
- A registration form is ready for each new child enrolling in our school.
- A yearly contract is signed with each member of our staff.
- We created a fee structure based on payments per term that are lower than per-lesson fees. In addition one lesson per term is free and there is a further twenty percent discount for siblings. It is very important to us that these fees have not been increased since December 2009.

It is my great pleasure to let you know that earlier this year our school was awarded the Quality Framework Bronze Award by ContinYou, the national resource centre for supplementary education, for the educational and organisational quality standards we provide.

On July 22, 2010 we incorporated CSWBL, changed its status to a company limited by guarantee and adopted our Memorandum and Articles of Association. Sadly we parted company with Sarah and Michal Hlásek who moved to Germany in summer 2010, but were very pleased to welcome Renata Rust to the management committee who took on the role of the Secretary.

As CSWBL was growing and more children were enrolled, it became obvious that the role of the Treasurer was becoming too demanding for a single person. The Treasurer's obligations included the weekly collection of fees, keeping accountancy books and overseeing the organisation's overall financial affairs. That is why in May 2011 we created the role of Cashier, which Iva Hopkins, until then our Treasurer, took on, while Jakub Pachanský joined us as the new Treasurer.

So, what awaits us in the near future?

Most imminently, we are preparing to register CSWBL as a charity. As such, we will have much greater opportunities to raise finance for our activities and to fulfil our long-term plan of lowering our school fees.

And finally, the 2012 Olympics will present a great opportunity for CSWBL to open its activities to new communities. The Czech Olympic Committee has chosen the Islington Design Centre as its base, calling it the Czech House. We have started conversations with the Czech Centre London, Islington Council and St Mary Magdalene Church to organise a host of workshops, thematically linked to the Olympics, for children of Islington as well as our own pupils, which will result in a film celebrating the Olympics.

So there is a truly challenging and exciting year ahead of us!

With warm regards and thanks for your continued support,

Lucie Wenigerová
Chair

3 Introduction by Director Zuzana Jungmanová

The Czech School Without Borders in London was founded in 2007. We started with a group of fifteen children and by the school year 2010/11 we already had sixty children; thirty pre-school children divided into two groups and thirty school children attending years one and two. Last year we broadened our offer by introducing Sunday lessons. These were mainly intended to prepare children for Czech elementary school and were attended by twelve pre-school children. Fourteen school children successfully passed exams in Czech language, eight of whom took the exam in London. This exam was organised in cooperation with the Elementary school of Guth Jarkovsky in Prague.



The Czech School Without Borders has broadened its fields of action. We took part in many international competitions. Last year we took part in the Childrens' Art Olympic Games with very promising results and our animation called *Zbylo nás pět* (*Just five of us left*) received awards at the international festivals Zlínfest and Anifest. In January 2011 it was shown on Czech TV in the Sunday morning childrens' programme called „Studio Kamarád“.



We also organised a successful workshop *The Story of Violet* based on the novel of the same name by Tereza Stehlikova. This workshop was followed by our children writing and drawing their own beautiful books „The Story of Violet“. This project culminated with a theatre performance of the story at our traditional summer party.



In spring 2011 we took part in a project called *A Night with Andersen* organised by schools and libraries in the Czech Republic. We spent an unforgettable evening at the Czech Centre in London in the company of Andersen's fairy tales (*The Snow Queen*, *The Ugly Duckling*, *The Princess and the Pea*). Reading was followed by an art competition, various games and lots of chatting.



Together with other branches of Czech Schools Without Borders we participated in a project called *Flying Liza*. During one school year Liza managed to visit all Czech schools in the world. In February she left Paris and her first stop was London... She travelled with a diary in which school children from all schools wrote a short presentation about their school, including information about schoolmates, teachers, what they like and enjoy and also about the city where their school is located.

Another activity that takes place throughout the year are *Live Museums*, organized in some of the most amazing museums in London. Workshops are open to children of all ages. We paint, draw and create, but most importantly we talk about everything in Czech and in this very natural way we improve children's vocabulary. We explored the British Museum, where we learnt a lot about Egypt, Japan, Greece, Mexico, India. The last spring period was dedicated to visits to the Victoria & Albert Museum, followed by a few sessions in the Science Museum. The last museum that we visited was the Natural History Museum, where we met friendly dinosaurs.



By cooperating with other organisations and partners (such as the Polish Culture Institute, local government in Islington) and by taking part in bigger projects, we are proving that we are an open community that welcomes working with others and is of interest not only to Czech people, but also to a wider public.

Zuzka Jungmanová
Director

4 Calendar of activities

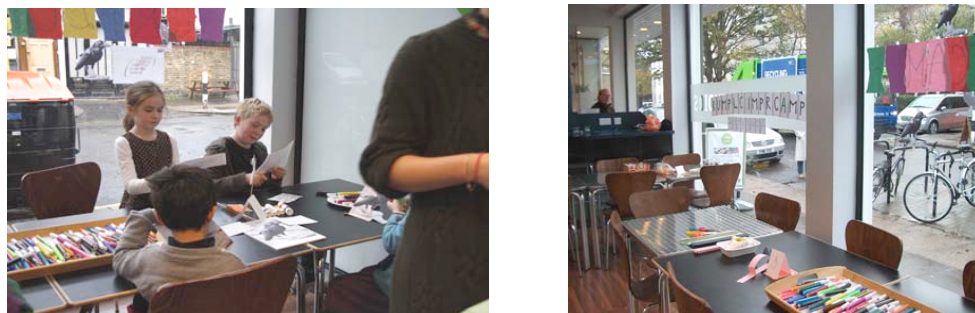
4.1 Autumn Term 2010

Pre-school autumn term was opened by *Pohádky z pařezové chaloupky* (*Tales from the tiny tree stump house*), stories of Křemílek and Vochomůrka, classic Czech bedtime story characters. They showed us how to enjoy the autumn period, how to prepare rose hip tea, how one can get lost in the mushroom forest, how to bake chestnuts....



Autumn was completed by a staging of the short story *Queen Elisabeth and Queen Victoria*, a poetic allegorical battle between two overseas ships. The show was performed by children of all ages during the Saint Nicolas party in the church of St. Mary Magdalene at the beginning of last December.

The rich and enjoyable autumn term activities were complemented by two very successful events. The Czech School together with the Czech Cultural Centre in London organised an art workshop in Riverside Studios that followed a screening of the Czech fairytale film *Rumprcímprcámpr*. This film was screened as part of the annual Czech Film Festival hosted by Riverside Studios. Once the film finished, all kids immersed themselves in various activities, such as putting together a name of a fairy tale composed of incredible fifteen letters, catching a naughty black raven, drawing a beautiful princess that couldn't fall asleep because she was lying on a tiny pea.



The second big event was an art-linguistic-music workshop presenting a bilingual book *The story of Violet* written by Tereza Stehlíková. Violet is a little girl who is trying to understand the connection between her dreamland and the real world around her. A reading from the book by the writer herself was accompanied by poetic music played by Irena and Vojtěch Havel. Children created lovely blue birds from Violet's dreamland and the room was filled with falling autumn leaves. Apart from beautiful memories, children took home their own hand-decorated pillow covers and t-shirts inspired by this dreamy book. This workshop was organised in cooperation with Topolski Century and the Czech Centre in London and was attended by children from all over Europe.



At the beginning of December we celebrated the day of *Saint Nicolas*, one of the most important Czech festivities. The arrival of Saint Nicolas traditionally starts the Advent period and he brings children their first little gifts. The character of Saint Nicolas is always accompanied by two important figures: the Angel and the Devil, representations of good and evil. Children received from the Angel long-awaited packets containing gingerbread, art gifts, books and fruits. Some children and teachers joined the professional musicians with their instruments and we all sang carols. During the evening we could see the performance of *Queen Elisabeth and Queen Victoria*.

As usual we organised this event in the church of St Mary Magdalene. There was a Christmas tree decorated with paper decorations, apples, coloured chains and lights. The main nave was hung with paper snow flakes and you could smell gingerbread and cinnamon. Next to the entrance there was an advent wreath with four candles, dried orange slices and other straw and corn decorations. The wreath is a classical symbol of christian christmas festivities. During the evening many traditional Czech sweets and nibbles were served. The event was attended by more than 150 members and guests.



Our speech therapist – Jana Martykánová

Since graduating with a Masters Degree in Special Needs, Speech and Language Therapy and Hearing Impairment in 2006, Jana has worked with preschool and school aged children with a wide variety of communication difficulties. Her aim is to improve childrens' speech and language skills while keeping therapy fun, motivating and stimulating. She believes in working alongside parents to develop the skills that will enable them to further enhance their child's communication.

Jana has experience treating children with a range of communication problems, including speech and articulation difficulties, Verbal (Oro-motor) Dyspraxia, language development delay and disorder, Specific Language Difficulties, Social Communication Difficulties arising from ASD (Autistic Spectrum Disorder), Selective Mutism. She has also attended training in: Parent-Child Interaction (Michael Palin Centre for children who stammer) and Makaton.

Jana visits alternately our school and pre-school children on Saturday mornings. She aims to make children familiar with complicated Czech pronunciation and phonetics through games and fun activities. Her work is helpful not only for children themselves, but also for parents, since she equips them with methods and advises how to practice correct pronunciation at home.

Preschool

- **Education part - Mysterious box of animate and inanimate nature** – exploring and understanding the surrounding world
- **Reading** – *Tales from the tiny tree stump house (Pohádky z pařezové chaloupky)*: How they cooked rose hip tea, how they made sunny contrabass, how they got lost in the mushroom forest, how they met a little mouse, how they ignited a tiny fiery man, how they baked chestnuts, how they brushed the hair of a fairy, how they repaired trousers, how they played for a fairy to dance, how they carried an egg on a sledge, how they ate sweet porridge
- Additional art techniques inspired by: preparing tea, fireflies, pressed herbs and flowers, making a mushroom forest, tiny mouse, tiny fiery

man, hairbrush, repairing trousers, windy fun, bird feeder, playing with eggs, sweet porridge cooking, collecting chestnuts

- Drama education – *Queen Elisabeth and Queen Victoria*
- Linguistic education – working with language, rhymes, fairy-tales, poems, dance
- Music – playing simple musical instruments, singing, rhythmical exercises

School, year 1 and year 2

Topics:

1. School: classroom, rules, behaviour, where I can find what, who to ask if I need something, what we need to bring to school
2. Transport: basic road signs and their meaning, means of transport
3. Autumn: nature, colours, weather, seasonal changes, mammals, birds, insects, fruit trees, fruit and vegetables and their categories
4. At home: members of family, our house/flat, my bedroom
5. Winter: nature, animals, weather, seasonal changes, celebrating Saint Nicolas, Christmas preparations, winter fun activities and sports
6. My family: at home, helping each other, mummy and daddy, domestic animals/pets
7. Our home: Praha, Czech Republic, flag and map of CR
8. Music: playing music instruments, folk songs, dance

4.2 Spring Term 2011

Immediately after Christmas holidays we launched a new project called ***My house, my castle***. The aim of the project was to gain a closer understanding of life in bilingual families, showing the details and nuances of cultures through the eyes of children who were born into such environments and are therefore used to a life in between two cultures. Together with their parents they drew, painted and took photos of their homes, they wrote about their experiences as a family and what makes their home unique. The project gave a very interesting social insight into bilingual issues.



At the same time we launched another project for pre-school children about the architecturally stunning *city of Telc*. We walked together through this beautiful city and its quiet corners connected to different local legends, such as the story about the city hall and about a lime tree in Praskolesy or about the city walls. Children worked individually and in groups in large formats expressing their ideas and impressions based on Telc's legends.

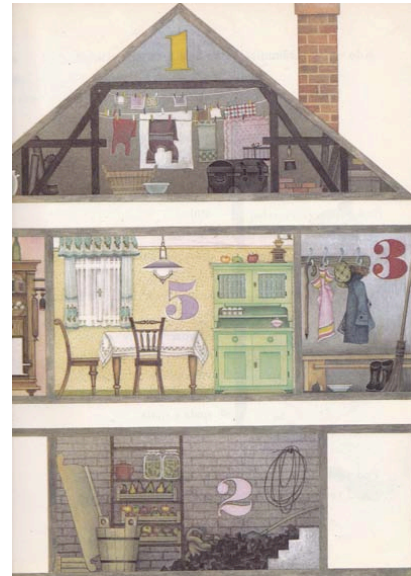


After the February vacation, we embarked on reading a beautiful Czech book called *Garden* by Jiri Trnka. The Garden is tale of a group of boys and classmates who discovered a wonderful garden. Since the whole book has been beautifully recorded by our leading actors, this was a great opportunity for the children not only to read, but also to listen to these adventures.

Every chapter was accompanied by a relevant art project. For example the chapter *How we almost missed our class* was supplemented by making our own wall clocks and talking about time. Together we had the opportunity to experience some amazing adventures with the boys from Trnka's Garden.



Our next spring project was a special flipbook workshop that introduced children to the art of traditional animation techniques. The main topic was already mentioned *My house, my castle*. Our flipbooks were shown as part of the exhibition during the Anifest 2011 in Zlín.



April culminated with a *first weekend camp in Windsor* with a magical programme. The usual Saturday lessons were followed by a mixture of art and sport activities. Children had the opportunity not only to draw and paint, learn about nature in the spring, create pressed herbs and flowers, but also to try out typical summer-camp adventures, such as finding a route following color signs, walking along a scary night pathway, different sports and games. Boys impressed with their energy by playing ping-pong or football and girls amazed everyone with their tiny forest houses, adorned with flowerbeds, balconies, airy duvets and gardens with swings. Thanks to the great location of this historical house we could spend most of the time in the adjacent playground and could walk to the surrounding countryside. We can't forget the art competition in which some truly amazing paintings received awards. To keep us all in a good mood, children prepared a potion of happiness that we drank in case of sudden gloom or tiredness.



Preschool

- Craft – Handy hands and clever heads: ZOO, Box, Knitting a scarf, Big city - metropolis, How a small and a big sock went for a trip, Fishy staff
- Architecture – Stories from the city of Telc: About city walls, about the lord's kitchen, about city hall, how castle Rostejn was built, about the lime tree in Praskolesy, the reconciliation memorial in Dyjice
- Project – My house, my castle: In my bedroom, in the kitchen, in the bathroom, in the changing room, in the wardrobe, in the cellar, in the bedroom
- Reading, listening – *Garden* by Jiri Trnka: How we almost missed our class, how it was very hot during the summer holidays, Tomcat is not at home, Crayfish, Whale
- Educational part: What's the time? Making of wristwatches, life stories, the old and the young, from the dawn till the twilight, touch of history, stopped time
- Linguistic part - work with language, games, poems, rhymes, fairy-tales
- Music – playing simple music instruments, songs, dance

School, year 1 and year 2

Topics:

1. Time orientation: year, seasons, months, weekdays
2. Time: reading clocks, past, present, future
3. Family celebrations – birthdays
4. Human being and health: my body, internal organs, skeleton, illness/injury, hygiene, nutrition
5. Spring: spring nature, in the garden and on the farm, trees and flowers, seasonal changes, outdoor games
6. Permanent and migratory birds, domestic birds
7. Livestock, baby animals, pets
8. Fields, meadows, meadow plants
9. Conservation
10. Free time: hobbies and interests, culture and sport activities, shopping
11. Profession and our home: names of professions, products and materials, helping parents at home, domestic appliances
12. Music: playing simple music instrument, learning folk song, dance, physical exercises
13. Drama education: *Story of Violet* by Tereza Stehliková

4.3 Summer Term 2011

In the summer term we started another book with pre-school children called *Zuzanka discovers the world* by Jiri Trnka and we also entered into the final stage of preparations for a performance at our summer party. Another hero of the summer term was Maxipes Fík (Maxidog Fík). His stories inspired us to take up some sport activities, visit a school, learn to write, travel around the world.

The entire summer programme 2011 was concluded with our traditional *summer party at the Embassy of the Czech Republic in London*. This year's theme was number seven like the number of days in a week. We had seven sport-art-fun activities, competitions, an auction of children drawings, a bouncy castle, great refreshments and, most importantly, two amazing theatre performances: *Seven tiny houses* by pre-school children and *The Story of Violet* by school children. Visitors could admire an exhibition of the fabulous results of the project "My house, my castle". The programme was complemented by a display of the successful project based on the legends of the city of Telc.



Preschool

- Reading – *Zuzanka discovers the world* by Jiri Trnka: Stories told by an old stork, the flies' wedding party, Kristinka goes to the theatre
- Educational part – Snails' routes, Shell, Butterfly's wings, Beetles' battle
- Linguistic part - work with language, games, poems, rhymes, fairy-tales, dance and exercise
- Music – playing simple music instruments, songs, dance, physical exercises
- Reading – Maxipes Fík: How was Fík born, How Fík became wise, Fík and sports, Fík at school, Maxipes Fík discovers the world
- **Educational part** – How we travelled on holidays, Magnified travel ticket, the lift is going fast and it's shaking, Night car journey, What we pack in our suitcase
- **Drama education** – performance of *Seven tiny houses*

School, year 1 and year 2

Topics:

1. In society: Czech Republic – what we know about the Czech Republic, travelling
2. Summer: summer nature and weather, summer in the garden, getting ready for summer holidays
3. Forest: animals and plants
4. Revisions
5. Music – playing simple instruments, folk songs, dance
6. Rehearsals of the performance *The Story of Violet* – preparation of costumes, improving speech, dance, staging

4.4 Autumn Term 2011, introduction

September 2011 brought a lot of news. We welcomed new school children and the school was enlarged by a preparation class (year 0) and year 3. In addition, we started to think about the Olympic season that is just round the corner.

We were approached by a group of Czech parents from *Harpenden*, who wanted a similar school and activities to be run in their city. In response, we started a pilot educational project in September 2011 in their local hall. The programme is identical to Saturday classes with minor amendments to reflect the needs of various age categories. For the time being education is divided into 2 groups for pre-school and school kids.

The main pre-school topic is the ‘alphabet backwards’ inspired by book called *Smalcova abeceda*. Wonders of the world are discovered in alphabetic order with quizzes on every page. We explore letters, their shapes and meanings. We talk about each letter, write, play games and we create various phrases associated to the letters. We jump like frogs, we fly like zeppelin, we sew dresses and we play tennis like penguin Timmy....Our friend for this term is teddy bear Flora from the book *My Teddy Bear Flora* by Daisy Mrazková.