



Dear children, parents, and friends of Stonozka,

Welcome to our first newsletter, where you can learn about what we've been up to for the past three months, what we are planning in the upcoming months, and about the ways in which you can help our organisation.

My name is Petra and in January of this year I was appointed to the Board of Directors of Stonozka as its Fundraiser. Last September my 3-year old son started attending the Czech preschool and ever since then Stonozka has become an inseparable part of our lives. From the very first moment I entered Summerhill Academy, I knew that I wanted to support Stonozka in all its activities. From the beginning, I had no doubts that Veronika, Iva, and all the other members were doing something amazing, not only for our kids, but also for all Czechs and Slovaks living in and around Bristol.

Since I don't have teaching in my blood I would like to help Stonozka with its funding. Stonozka belongs to all of us and needs our support in order to operate and further develop.

As the Fundraiser of Stonozka I have two favours to ask of you:

1. Would you help to fund the First Czechoslovak Day?

Any contribution, however big or small, will help us organise a great event, full of interesting activities and a lot of fun for you and your children. Czechs and Slovaks will also plant their own lime tree in beautiful St. George Park. The tree will be transported from the Czech village of Teleci. Isn't that great?

You can make a contribution at [JustGiving.com](https://www.justgiving.com), it only takes a few minutes and we would greatly appreciate your support!

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/czechandslovakday>

2. We need volunteers (Czech, Slovak, or English speakers) **who would like to help us on the day of the event.** You could volunteer for an hour or two, or for the whole afternoon. We will reward you with the smile, a good atmosphere, and tasty food. Let us know if you want to help out!

Thank you so much for your support.

Petra -Fundraiser of Stonozka

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In January, after two years of hard work, Katerina Banwell resigned from her post as our chairwoman as she chose to move away to a sunny climate. Katka, we all wish you a safe journey and good luck!

New Board of Directors:

Chairwoman- Iva Bohacova

Vice-chairwoman- Eva Dankova

Treasurer- Agata Baginska

Secretary- Jana Chmelkova

Fundraiser – Petra Littlefair



At the beginning of February, interns from Czech universities joined our team to help us organise several events. On Fridays, interns Paja and Terka regularly ran Mala Stonozka, a group for parents with little children. After the finished reconstruction, Mala Stonozka is moving back to the Meadow Vale Community Centre.

In February and March we dedicated a lot of time to exploring bedtime stories. We spent a few Saturdays with Kmotra líška (Godmother Fox) as well as with the inseparable twosome Mach and Sebestova (Max and Sally). We even organised the children's carnival around the topic of bedtime stories in celebration of Stonozka's 4th birthday. Many children flocked together dressed as their favourite fairy-tale character. And even Vecernicek (Little Eveninger - a little boy from the opening of the Czech program called Večerníček) visited us riding his unicycle.



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On Pancake Day we organised a workshop where we decorated a few Bristol Rocks that are now most likely circulating among Bristolians. We also created handmade balls to try to juggle with and were able to eat a lot of pancakes.

We followed in the footsteps of the Bristol Giants and thus explored the beautiful surroundings of Blaise Castle, where we discovered a few robbers' caves. Through the Camera Obscura at the Clifton Observatory, we found treasure which the Giants had left for us. We even got a first-hand experience about the difficulties of building the Clifton Suspension Bridge.



We joined many children in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and other countries to celebrate A Night with Andersen, an event which took place in more than 1,600 locations this year! We spent the evening in the Hillfields Library, where we learnt about A Doggy and a Pussycat by Josef Capek. We read about how they washed the floor, we made a cake with them, and last of all we made masks and performed the story about how the doggy tore his pants.



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On Good Friday we got together at Life Church in Fishponds in order to decorate Easter eggs, gingerbread cookies, and to plait Easter whips. Many people joined us, including parents and grandparents from the Czech Republic who came to England to visit their grandchildren. It was an amazing Czechoslovak Easter here in Bristol.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **21st of April** – Reading to children not only in Slovak (*St. George Library*)
- **22nd of April** – Trip to the Bristol Giants no.3 (*Ashton Court Estate*)
- **18th of May** – Meeting of the Czech and Slovak schools + the performance of children from the Czech and Slovak School Bristol at the festival of Majales at the Czech and Slovak embassy in London.
- **18th to 20th of May** – Weekend at a Cottage (*Absolute Adventure in Brecon Beacons National Park*)
- **16th of June** – Czechoslovak Day (*St. George Community Centre, St. George Park, St. George Library*) → <https://www.facebook.com/events/160476414672175/>
- **23rd of June** – Meadow Vale Community Centre Grand Opening
- **7th of July** – End of the school year celebration (*St. George*)
- **29th of September** or **6th of October** – Kite festival (*St. George*)
- **8th of December** – St. Nicholas Day

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A FEW WORDS FROM OUR INTERN NATALIA

Hello everybody,

My name is Natalia and at the beginning of March I came to Bristol to do an internship at Stonozka. I studied Translation and Interpreting (English and Spanish) at Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica, Slovakia and my desire to gain new hands-on experience brought me to Stonozka. Since teaching is not my specialty, I am mainly involved in translating for Stonozka and apart from that I assist Eva in the Slovak school on Saturdays. In March, I participated in several interesting activities and trips. Together with Czech interns and kids from Stonozka, I visited the Clifton Observatory, during Easter we got together to decorate Easter eggs and make Easter whips, a few times we organised reading sessions in the library, and we even went to visit animals at Grimsbury Farm.

When I found out about Stonozka in November, I really wanted to get involved and make a useful contribution. I'm glad I did, because it is so precious to see first-hand how Slovaks and Czechs living far away from their homes still remember the traditions of their homeland and want their kids to learn our euphonic mother tongue. I admire all the people involved in Stonozka, who dedicate their free time to building and improving this Czechoslovak organisation. I see Stonozka as one big family who has accepted me without reservation and who has helped and assisted me during my stay.

I am very thankful for the opportunity to be a part of Stonozka and can't wait to see what the upcoming weeks bring.

Natalia, intern at Stonozka

TEACHER REQUIRED

- **We are looking for a teacher/teaching assistant** for the Slovak department of the school
 - ideally the person should have experience with preschool and early school aged children
 - the candidate must speak Slovak at a native level
 - ideally the person should have a degree in teaching
 - it is crucial that the candidate has motivation, persistence, punctuality, perfect communication skills, and a positive and active approach to children
- the Saturday school and preschool are run by volunteers, thus the position is unpaid, however, we do cover expenses related to meals and transportation
- what you gain:
 - the opportunity to attend methodical trainings, a DBS check, a Child Protection & Pediatric First Aid Certificate, a reference letter about working with UK children, and the chance to work in amazing team

In case you are interested, send your CV to school@stonozka.co.uk

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ABOUT OUR SCHOOL AND PRESCHOOL

In the **Czech and Slovak School Bristol** we accomplished a lot during the first quarter of 2018.

Besides practising Czech and Slovak grammar, we also learnt about our national history and geography, we sang together, and even commemorated The Three Kings through the theatre performance that our fourth graders put on for their younger friends. We talked about winter and together we welcomed spring with our spring performance. An excerpt can be found [HERE](#).

The Spring Party was also a fundraising event. We owe many thanks to the mums who did all the baking and also to all the parents who made a contribution of any kind.

Unfortunately, one of our Slovak teachers moved away and we will miss her a lot. On the other hand, our Czech interns helped us tremendously (e.g. Ondra knows how to play the piano) and thanks to our Slovak intern, the oldest Slovak pre-schoolers were able to advance to the next level and join the school.

There are a lot of interesting events waiting for us in the upcoming terms. If you would like to enrol your children over 3, do not hesitate to contact us at school@stonozka.co.uk.



DATES OF THE CZECH & SLOVAK SCHOOL

- **5th Term**
 - **14th of April**
 - **28th of April**
 - **12th of May**
- **6th Term**
 - **9th of June**
 - **23rd of June**
 - **7th of July** - End of the school year celebration (St. George)

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1. CZECHOSLOVAK DAY IN BRISTOL

As Petra mentioned in the beginning, in about two months we are organising the event by which we will commemorate the anniversary of the formation of Czechoslovakia. During the day, all Czechs and Slovaks will have a chance to meet up in St. George Park and show Bristolians that the Czechs and Slovaks also constitute a large part of the city's community.

Come to St. George Park on the 16th of June at 1 pm, where we will:

- plant the lime tree
- meet a representative from the Czech Embassy in the UK.
- see the performances and exhibition of pupils' work from the Czech & Slovak School Bristol
- listen to the musical performances entitled "Singing with Masaryk" by the pupils from the Louny School of Arts
- dance to live music from [Duo Band](#)
- see the Czech exhibition "Here, the New Republic" in the St. George Library
- have a lot of activities for children, a bouncy castle, and candyfloss
- experience a craft fair by Czech and Slovak artists – [Lucilak](#)
- have a chance to buy Czech food – [CzechLand](#)
- have a barbecue – Slavo Albin – [Pork specialities and other kinds of food](#)

In closing, we would like to mention one more time that we would welcome any volunteer who would like to lend us a hand or contribute financially via JustGiving.

MANY THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



Velvyslanectví České republiky
v Londýně



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