



M11-Comenius

Holidays in Europe

We are the world.
We are the children.



II. únorové vydání



We are the
We are the **world** *children*



Holidays in our partner countries

In February we made posters about holidays in our partner countries. We know quite a lot about history and geography of Great Britain, Bulgaria and Poland,



but we knew almost nothing about their significant days. We worked in groups. Our group worked on Great Britain, it was great, because our group was the only one, who had it. We drew the flag of each country, then we stuck a calendar and wrote some information about holidays and significant days of Great Britain

into it.

In the pictures you can see the groups that worked on the Czech Republic and Bulgaria. We showed our products to our classmates and gave them all the information that we had found.



What do we celebrate in the Czech Republic?



National holidays and significant days

One Thursday in February pupils aged from 8 to 10 years participated in the project about national holidays and significant days in the Czech Republic. They wanted to inform their classmates about history and origin of these days. Each group made national holidays of one month. They found the information at home in advance, they used the help of Internet, visited libraries and read many books. Then they made a list of calendar of their month. There we could read about the days but we could also find there many nice pictures. At the end of the project day they acted the stories in our theatre hall in the school.





We are working in the groups. Everybody had to bring some information to school and in this picture we are reading and talking about them.





DG Edukacja i Kultura
Program „Uczenie się przez całe życie”
Comenius

COMENIUS 2011-2013 ‘WE ARE THE WORLD WE ARE THE CHILDREN’

Czech Republic



Poland



Bulgaria



Great Britain



COMENIUS NEWSPAPER from Poland

1/2012

Welcome friends!

This is the second issue of our newspaper. Here we are going to tell you what is going on in Comenius project.

In December we sent **Christmas cards to the partner schools. Students made power point presentation about Christmas traditions in Poland.**

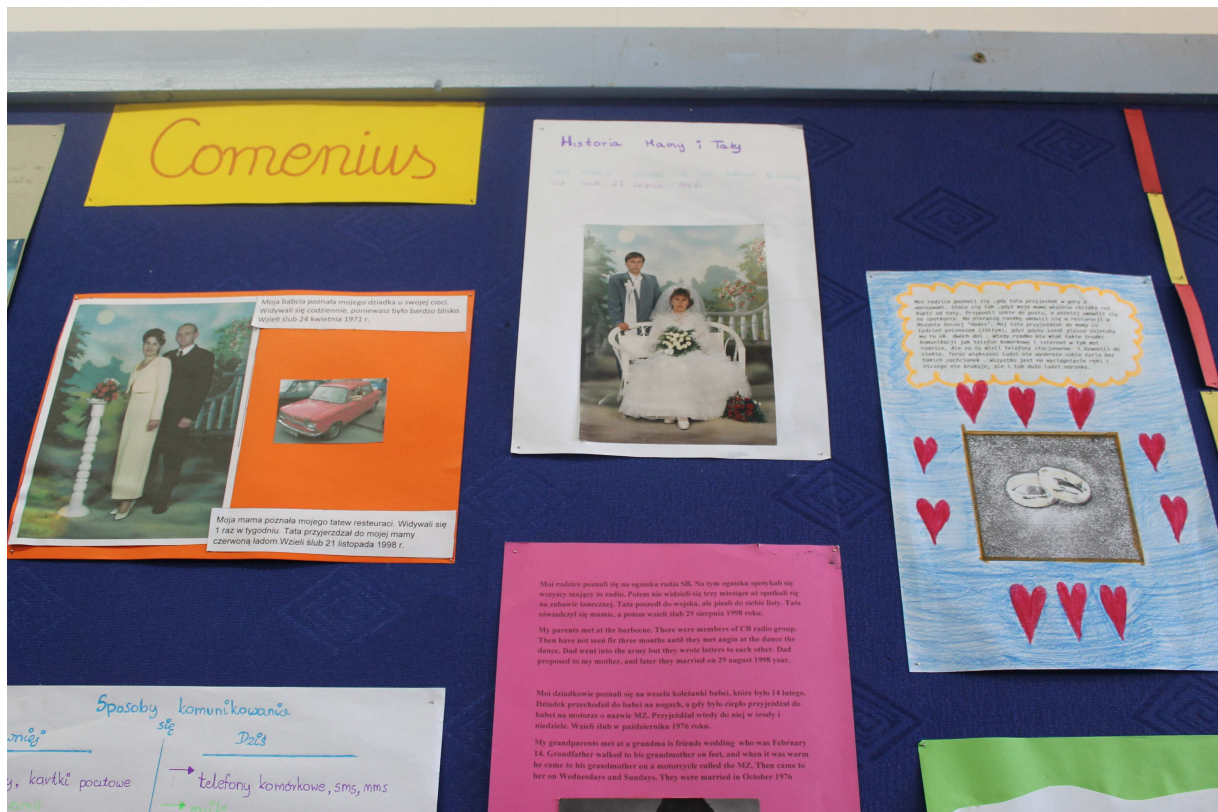
Then we talked about **Communication and **Holidays**. We compared ways of communicating in the past and now. It was funny to hear stories from the times when our grandparents were young. There weren't emails or Skype, can you imagine that? Have a look at some illustrations made by our youngest kids – you will see what children in Poland do in their free time.**

Now we have winter holidays so the pictures are mostly about winter time.

Enjoy ;-)



'For winter holidays I'm going to the Tatra mountains. I will learn to ski.' Liliana
'I'm going to visit my cousin. I always visit him in free time. We will play computer games and make a snowman.' Fabian.



‘ My grandmum told me that she met my grandpa at the disco in the village where they lived. They started meeting and a year later they got engaged. They lived in the same village so it was easy for them to meet even every day’ Dominika.

‘My dad could see my mum only once a week when they were a couple. How strange! They lived far away and there weren’t mobile phones then. ‘ Iza

‘My grandparents didn’t have cars and there weren’t phones either. They had to wait the whole week to meet again at the village disco. My grandpa used to visit my grandmum and he rode a motorbike twice a week. ‘ Karolina

‘ Now we have cars, phones, motorbikes and social networks. We can communicate easily all the time. But a lot of people, especially the young, don’t feel like going out, we tend to meet ‘virtually’. We are too lazy to go for a walk or go anywhere on foot. Our parents give us a lift everywhere. People become more and more unsociable although ways of communicating are now unlimited.’ Daria.

‘ My dad drove a red Lada car and he used to visit my mum and give her a ride.’

Mateusz

‘ My parents met at the disco in the village. One year later they got married’ Patrycja



And this is a logo of our project. Actually, they are two ideas, both are really good. Which one do you prefer? Give us your choice.

HOLIDAYS FROM BULGARIA

I WAS “SURI”

My name is David and in the 21st edition of Bulgaria’s largest and most impressive „**Survakari**“ event – the **Surva Festival** in my city Pernik I was Suri. Thousands of „**survakari**„, or **mummers**, a beloved Bulgarian folklore tradition with roots from Ancient Thrace, have gathered for the weekend event - in downtown **Pernik** on Saturday and Sunday. The **Surva Festival**, which first took place in 1966 as a cultural event based on Bulgaria’s folklore traditions, is the largest carnival event in Bulgaria and the Balkans. In 2010, **Pernik** was declared an European capital of **survakari** traditions by Henry Van Der Kroon, President of the Federation of European Carnival Cities.

The talismans of the festival – the dolls couple – Sura and Suri– it was me Suri. We were presented as living dolls at all rituals of the masquerade and we participated in the rituals. The **Survakari** ritual is performed between Christmas and Lent by costumed men with scary animal masks, who walk around and dance to scare away the evil spirits, as well as to provide a good harvest, health, fertility, and happiness. Each mask is handmade by the person wearing it and all are unique.

This year, for the first time, there was a youth masquerade procession for students between the ages of 10 and 19. Our school and my classmates participated in this procession – they were amazing and everybody liked them and they enjoyed a lot. I love the “SURVAKARI” tradition and I love being “SURI”. I enjoyed a lot and that was an amazing experience for me.

The Festival

Surva, the International Festival of the Masquerade Games held in the town of Pernik is the biggest event of this type not only in Bulgaria but on the Balkan Peninsula as well. It promotes variations of ancient Bulgarian customs that are still alive today. These are an important part of the Bulgarian folklore tradition and are meant to be performed by single men and women. With its competitive nature, the festival is not only a venue but also a contest for the living vessels of this tradition, namely the Kukeri and Survakari.

The Municipality of Pernik has been holding the festival ever since 1966. In 1985 the festival gained international-event status. In 1995 the International Federation of Carnival Cities accepted the town of Pernik as its full member. In June, 2009 Pernik was proclaimed as the European capital of Surva`s and Mumers.

The International Festival of the Masked games takes place the last weekend of January. Its

most attractive feature is its two-day parade for masquerade companies from Bulgaria and abroad.

On average, around 6, 000 people or about 100 groups from every folklore region of Bulgaria, as well as companies from Europe, Asia, and Africa take part in the contest.

The contestants come here to win, to experience the atmosphere, to have fun and, of course, to get the recognition that they have been a part of it all.

The citizens of Pernik and visitors from other parts of Bulgaria and abroad come to watch the show so they can be part of the magic. They want to see the masks in person, they want to touch them for good luck and good health and feel rejuvenated and energized when they leave.

The festival Surva

You will be touched by the magic of the masquerade tradition that still survives in the region of Pernik. Everything here is for real!

You will surrender to the appeal of Bulgarian folklore reinforced with healthy helpings of food and drinks. You will feel the creative presence of generations of exponents of the tradition.

An incandescent fiery spectacle, bonfires and light shows will envelop you in the festival's mystery.

For two whole days groups from the country and abroad will show you their unique traditions, masks and costumes in the town square and the streets of Pernik.

Visiting groups from Europe and the rest of the world will present a colorful multitude of customs, songs and dances.

The participants and the audience can interact freely along the parade routes and on the improvised stages arranged throughout the town.

Interesting outdoor exhibitions will be arranged at various places in Pernik.

Well stocked gift shops will allow you not only to admire traditional Bulgarian arts and crafts but also to get yourselves one-of-a-kind souvenirs.

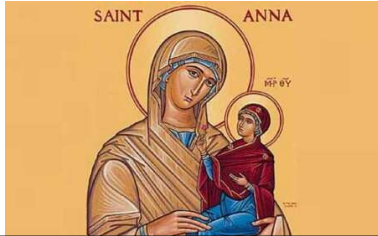
We'll have fun together!





6th December – 'Nikulden' – St. Nicholas

One of the biggest winter holidays in the build up to Christmas, not least because of the large number of people who celebrate their name day. Very much a family celebration, St. Nicholas day is the day when Bulgarians must eat fish. When preparing the fish, extra care must be taken that no scales fall on the ground, for it is believed that anyone stepping on them will fall ill and die. The fish's head, which has the shape of a cross, is preserved as a cure against childhood illnesses.



Anna – 3a klass

9th December – 'Sveta Anna'

Observed mainly in the southern and western regions of Bulgaria, this day – known as 'Yana's conception' - is connected with witchcraft and magic spells. It is during the preceding night that magicians, witches and fortune-tellers can most easily make contact with the dead, the devil and demons. They appear around a fire like fruit flies. For this reason villagers light fires with manure in front of every door, scattering ash and millet around the home and stables. Young women sow wheat in a pot and dip twigs from a cherry or apple tree in water and leave them near the fire. If by the New Year the wheat has germinated or the twigs have grown leaves, it means that the girl will get married to a good lad in the following year. In the Orthodox Church the day is dedicated to St. Anna, mother of the Virgin Mary, protector of marriage, family and motherhood, and is celebrated as the name day of 'Anna'.



20th December – 'Ignazhden' – St. Ignatius

This day marks the beginning of the Christmas festivities. According to legend this is the day when the Virgin Mary went into labour and devout Christians would observe a fast starting on this day till Christmas.



24th December – ‘Budni Večer’ - Christmas Eve Traditionally the whole family gathers on Christmas Eve. The oldest male in the household lights the fire with the Yule log, a piece of oak or pear tree. This is kept burning the whole night. The festive table is set on a layer of straw on the ground. The items put out should all be home made and there should be seven, nine or eleven vegetarian dishes. Before starting the meal, burning incense (thyme) is carried around all the rooms by the male head of the house to chase off any bad spirits. The special Christmas ceremonial bread is then broken and the first piece is placed next to an icon for the departed. The pieces are then handed out in descending order of age to the family members and some is even set aside for the animals. One lucky person will find the silver coin that has been hidden in the bread and there are other messages of good fortune baked in the bread. A spoon of wheat is thrown onto the fire for good health. No one should leave the table during the meal, all get up together. The table should not be cleared as it is believed that the dead return to feast and care for the fortune of the living. Girls can place a morsel from the first piece of bread under their pillow so that they will dream of the man they are to marry.

Christmas Day, commences at midnight with Koledouvani (Christmas Carol Singing). Koledari are the young male carol singers (bachelors or engaged men) that go from house to house in the villages, dressed in traditional festive clothes, singing special wishes for health and prosperity. In return they receive food and drink which they share at a small party afterwards.



Kristiana – 6a class

The period from the 25th December till 6th January is known as “Mrusni Dni” (dirty days), when according to folkloric belief, monsters and other evil forces are out to play tricks on people. It is forbidden to go out at night, as this is when the evil forces are at their strongest. Gatherings and weddings do not take place during this period.



Stefan – 3b class

27th December – ‘Stefanovden’- St.Stefan

The last holiday of the year, the third day of Christmas is said to close the cycle. It is a day of family gatherings, eating, drinking and singing.



Vesela – 5b class

1st January – New Year’s Day – (also ‘Vasilovden’)

In pagan times this day was linked to the winter solstice, and marked the turning point in Mother Nature. There are several rituals related to this day, the most popular and observed is the ‘Sourvakane’. Young children prepare and decorate a branch from a cornel tree, known as a ‘sourvachka’. With this they go from home to home tapping the older generation on the back, reciting wishes for health and wealth in the coming year. They are usually rewarded with some small coins or ‘gevrek’(like bagels) and dried fruit. ‘Ladouvane’ is a ritual performed by young maidens in Western and central regions of Bulgaria at this time of year. The maidens drop their rings or bracelets into a cauldron filled with fresh spring or well water, together with oats or barley. The cauldron is covered with a red or white cloth and left out overnight under a fruit tree. The next day one of the girls, dressed up as a bride takes the rings from the cauldron whilst the other girls sing fortune- telling songs. Each girl takes some of the oats from the pot and places them under her pillow. The man she dreams about will be her groom.



Iva and Ivana – 3b class

7th January – Ivanovden

This day marks the end of the Christmas holiday cycle, and in the Orthodox Church is dedicated to St. John the Baptist, who bathed Christ in the River Jordan, recognizing him as the son of God. The ritual bathing from the previous day continues and in many ways is more significant on this day. At the end of the day the 'Horo' is danced by all in the village.



Anton – 5b class

17th January- Antonovden

Celebrated as a protection against illness, women should not spin or knit on this day, nor should they cook beans or lentils so as not to provoke the plague, pox or measles. Soda bread rolls with jam are distributed among family and neighbours and one is kept in the loft of the house as protection against illness.



Atanas – 6a class

18th January – Atanasovden

A holiday linked to New Year customs, St. Atanas, the lord of snow and ice rides into the mountains in his silk shirt on his white horse ordering the winter to leave and the summer to come. For this reason the holiday is considered mid winter's day. A black chicken or hen is slaughtered and prepared with rice. It is shared among neighbours and friends as a protection against illness, the wings are saved as it is believed that they have healing powers. The twin brothers Anton and Atanas were ironsmiths and both the 17th and 18th January are celebrated by smiths and related professions. Many of the customs and superstitions of the days are interconnected.

Valley View News

February 2012

HOLIDAYS IN ENGLAND

Christmas Holidays

I spend my Christmas holidays mainly with my family although sometimes I spend time with my friends.

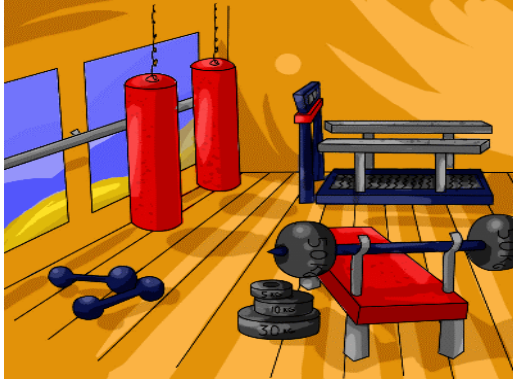
With my family I normally go shopping or have a cosy day in and watch TV.

With my friends I go shopping, swimming or doing something fun.

Occasionally we don't do anything and just stay in our PJs [pyjamas] all day!



When I spend time with my aunties we always go somewhere like the cinema, shopping, a restaurant or a play ... and maybe even to the gym!



Easter Holidays

I spend my Easter holidays with my family and we usually stay in most nights and watch a DVD with popcorn and treat ourselves to a McDonald's or KFC.

Sometimes we are really busy shopping around for Easter eggs or clothes for a party.

The Big Summer Holiday!

In the summer I go on holiday with my mum and dad, and sometimes my grandma.

We go to my grandma's caravan in Spain.

I love it. It is very warm in Spain especially when we go in August. When we get back from our holiday we always go food shopping because we never have any food in the freezer or fridge.



Also we go camping with my auntie, uncle and my cousin and we usually take our dog.

Reporter: Holly Murgatroyd
ALL ABOUT MY HOLIDAYS

Report by Lois Tunnicliff

Christmas Holidays

During the Christmas holidays I do exciting things and have lots of fun.

Some times I go ice skating with my friends. We play Tig [a chasing game] while skating around on the ice. We either go to Millennium Square in Leeds, or Bradford Ice Rink.



I also enjoy watching a movie with my family on the sofa and we just relax. We get a big bag of toffee popcorn and munch on it. It's delicious!!!

My mum, dad, Brother Sam, and I love to chill out together.

Easter Holidays

In the Easter holidays I like to do fantastic things and have a good time.

I go to the cinema with my mum so we can spend quality time together. We have a close bond and going to the cinema is fun, but it is lovely to be able to spend time together.

I also go swimming with my dad. It's also a good way to spend time together and maybe afterwards we will go to McDonald's and I will have a 'McChicken sandwich' or 'chicken nuggets'. Either way it's very tasty!

Summer Holidays

In the summer holidays my family chills out in our garden. We usually choose an ice lolly and enjoy a talk full of laughter.

I play on my swing while Sam plays with his football or plays out with his 'mates'. I sometimes play with my friends but I do like to chill out with my family.

We also go down to the canal on our bikes. It's really good fun and most of the time we bring a picnic. We find a nice spot with a fascinating view and enjoy our lunch while hearing the birds sing beside us.



THE HOLIDAYS!

By Chloe Fisher

Christmas

At Christmas I celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

I do lots of exciting things at Christmas such as: go shopping for Christmas presents, and go to my Nana's for my dinner with all my family. My brother Thomas and I decorate the Christmas tree!

At least one day a week Thomas and I watch a Christmas film together and eat some Christmas cookies and popcorn!

Easter

At Easter I also celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

This is a special time in England where we celebrate with lots of chocolate eggs.

We also go on an egg hunt around the garden and get lots of small Easter eggs that aren't chocolate, but they have little sweets inside them instead. It is traditional and a great activity.



Summer Holidays

In the summer holidays I sleep at my aunties, sleep over at my Nana's, go on holiday to Spain or even Butlin's and the Blue Dolphin Holiday Park near Scarborough on the East Coast. I also get to go camping sometimes!

My family and I also enjoy picnics in the park. We find a nice spot on the grass or on a table and we eat our lunch and have long, exciting interesting conversations about anything exciting!