

# The OG News

May 2021 Volume 1 Edition 1



## Open Gate Primary School Celebrates 10 Years!!!

### Bright Horizons by Jerry Dvorak

A horizon is the line where the sky looks like it meets the earth. Your eyes cannot see what is past that point. I remember very clearly the first time I drove into Babice and seeing Open Gate appear on the horizon and wondering what the future holds.

As a first-year teacher at Open Gate Primary School, I can only look back to the start of this school year to remember all the wonderful new experiences, friendly people, inspiring projects, and the fun times we have all shared.

The school newspaper project came about as an idea for the ten-year anniversary of Open Gate Primary School. I hope that with the OG News newspaper students, school staff, and parents will be able to collectively share experiences, achievements, and chronicle Open Gate life. Writing a school newspaper teaches valuable skills such as writing, editing, teamwork, responsibility, research, good journalism, or even photography. Most importantly, a school newspaper gives the students a voice and an opportunity to be leaders.

The school year is slowly coming to a close, and I can't help but turn my thoughts to the future that lies beyond the horizon. What projects will we do next year? Will we have a Covid-free year? Will we have school in nature? Will Jerry ever win a football match versus Class 4 boys? All I see is bright horizons!!!

### Read All About It by Luke Ryan

I have worked in Open Gate for more than seven years and it has become a big part of my life in the Czech Republic. It is fantastic to a part of the ten-year anniversary celebrations of the primary school. When Jerry Dvorak introduced the idea of the school newsletter, I was delighted. It represents a wonderful opportunity to explore the Open Gate primary school from past to present and into the future. Many thanks to all who contributed to make the newsletter happen. Sit back, relax, enjoy and read all about it!

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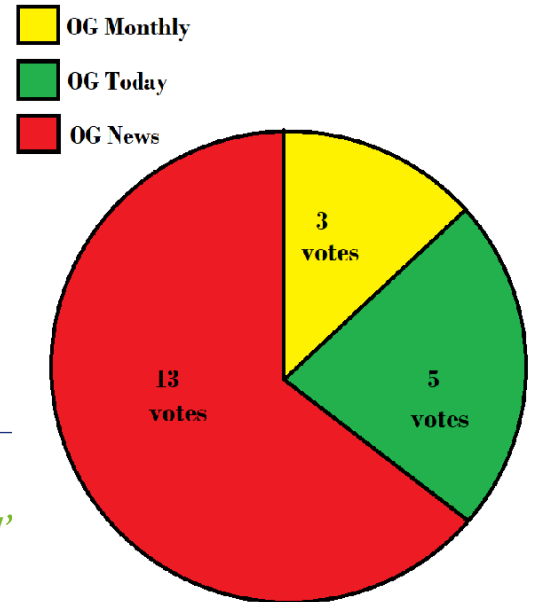


## How It Started by Class 4

Every newspaper needs a name and so did ours. Class 4 started naming the school newspaper during distance learning in March. Read more to find out how we chose the name...

In early March, class 4 started learning about popular American and British newspaper names. To name their newspaper every student had to think of three interesting names. Some interesting choices were Sunny OG, OG Glory news, and Babice News. Then, we voted for our top three choices. It

wasn't easy to choose, but the winner was OG News. You can see the results of the voting in our pie chart below.



*“Guys, we have to come up with a serious name!”*

### Activity Corner

- Circle all the things you need everyday for school.
- Find all the pictures mentioned in the ‘Eyeing the Future’ article.
- Cartoon Caption:

What is the robot teacher saying?

Write a short and funny sentence in the speech bubble.

Send your cartoon caption to:

dvorak@opengate.cz

## Eyeing the Future with Class 4

### Looking forward to the next ten year

#### Uniforms

We believe the uniforms will change during the next ten years.

Maybe the t-shirts will have the Open Gate logo on them and the cardigans will be a different shade of blue. There will be more pieces of clothing that have the class colours, not just the ties. Even a couple of us think we will have Open Gate facemasks in the next ten years. Some of us think, or hope the uniforms will be more comfortable, but most of us agree they are comfortable now. Some of the boys were interested in having a bowtie as well as a tie. Some other options such as hats, scarves or gloves for the winter could be introduced, or clothing for PE. Or even OG shoes!

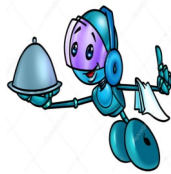
#### Teachers

Class 4 believes the teachers will change over the next ten years. Not all of them, some of them will still be here. Some of the female teachers might leave to have a baby. Maybe even some famous people will start working in Open Gate as teachers! Over the next ten years, the teachers will introduce new areas and ideas in what they teach. We hope there will be more science taught in the primary school. We may even learn other languages in the primary school, not just English. Maybe with the development of technology in the next ten years, we might have robot teachers!





*Class 4 interviewing Petr*

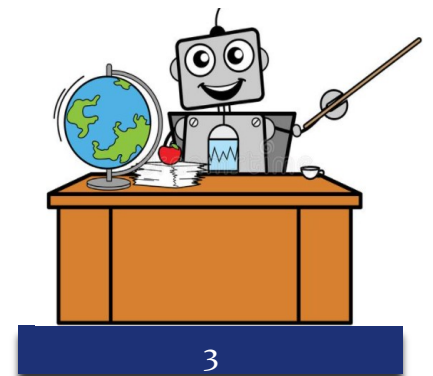


### School Campus

Firstly, we think the school campus will expand in the next ten years. New school buildings will also be built to support different classes for more students or different subjects. We hope that new features will be added to the playground, such as trampolines or even a zip line! We think that a feature such as a lake would be very nice as part of the extended campus. The school farm could grow in the next ten years. Maybe we will have more types of animals there. More games and activities for outside, especially as part of Druzina would also be great. And maybe we could build a little shelter for the staff doing Druzina so they can sit comfortably while we play outside!

### Lunch

Who doesn't like to talk food? Class 4 certainly does. What about a personal canteen only for the primary school? Class 4 feels like that could be a real possibility looking forward with food and dishes from all around the world. A great and yummy way to learn about the different world kitchens. The new canteen could also be a great place for students to take some cooking lessons and learn about nutrition. Some students would like to see food delivery robots that would bring the food of their choice straight to the classroom during break. Most students would welcome more drink options and more comfortable seats to maximize their lunch experience.





## Eyeing the Future with Class 4



### Extracurricular activities

Afterschool activities and clubs are a large part of Open Gate School. There are many great options, but class 4 thinks there could be more possibilities coming in the future. One idea is school sports teams. Some suggestions include football, golf, basketball, or even sword fighting club! Maybe the school will offer another foreign language, Español anyone? Most of class 4 would like to see more educational afterschool clubs to help satisfy future students' intellectual curiosity. Students in the next ten years might be able to join clubs like math club, science club, after school PET

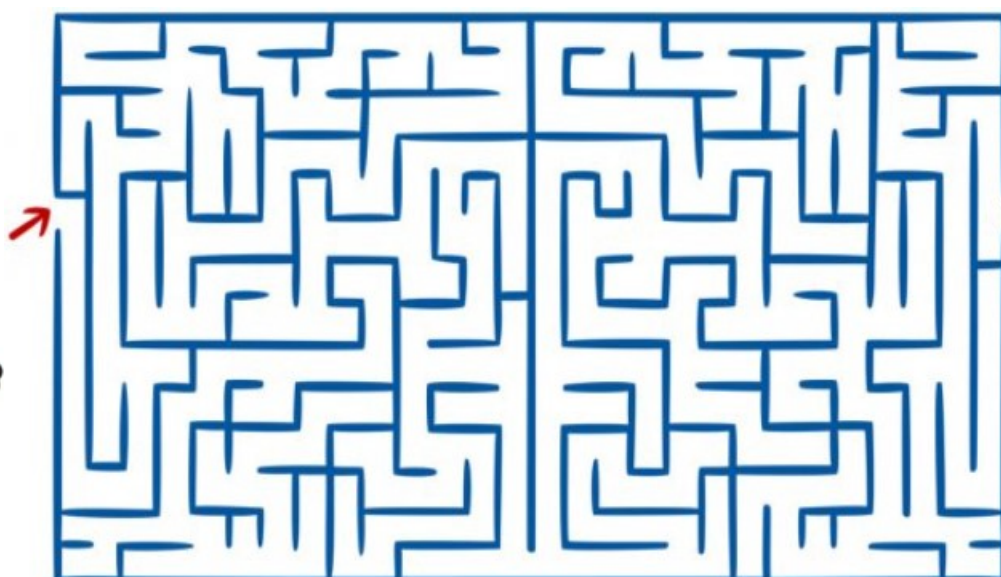
club, or even become a mathlete and represent the school at different competitions. Lastly, of course, enrichment, more enrichment classes.



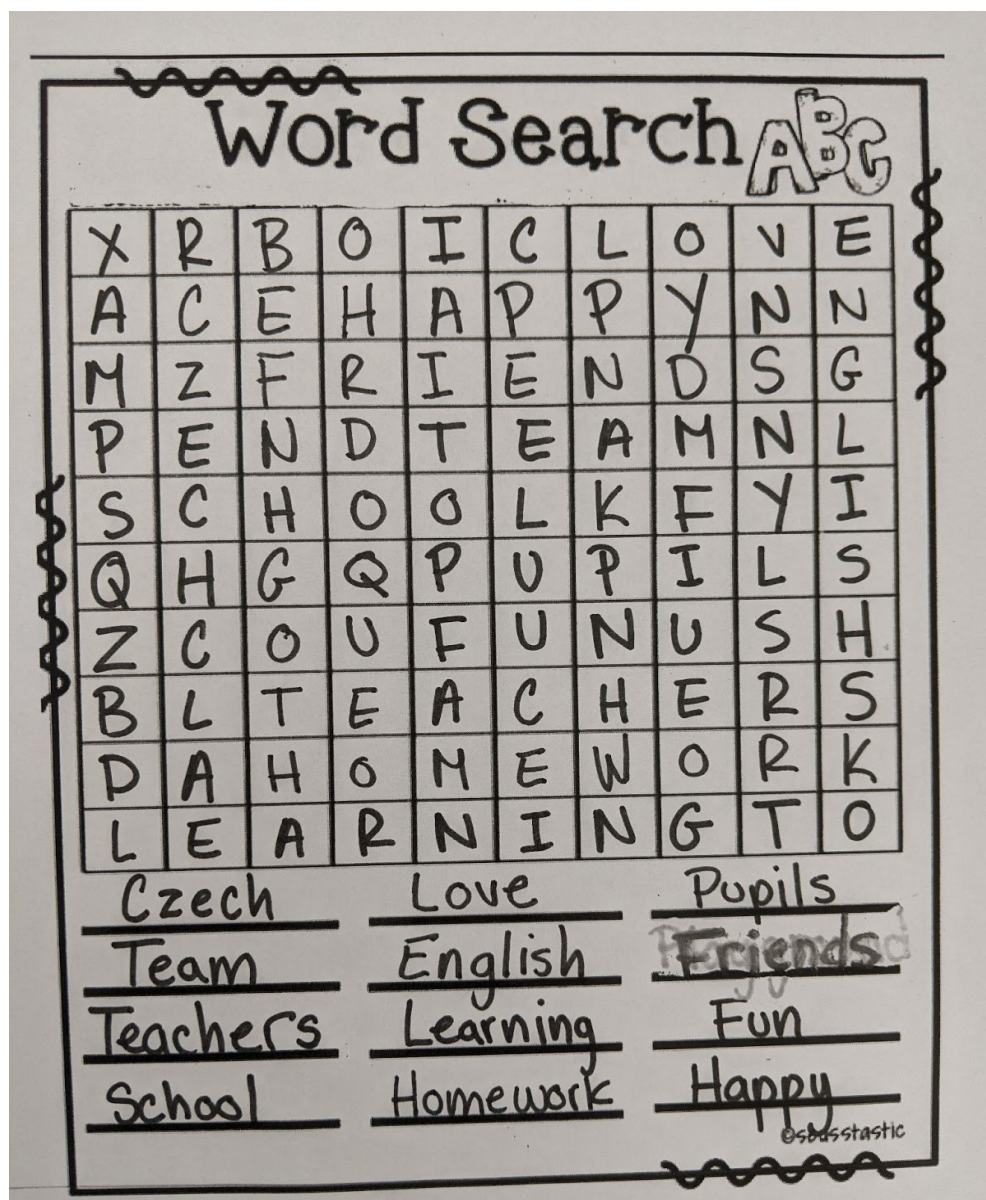
### Logo

The Open Gate logo can be seen all around us at school. It a symbol that represents the school and its students. Class 4 students are very proud of their class and think that in the future every class might have their own class flag or crest which they would design. A symbol that would represent each class. Another option could be that the background color of the school crest would change depending on the class the students would be in. For example, class 4 would have a blue aquamarine background color and class 5 would have a purple amethyst background color. Some students feel that the school might paint the school logo on the roof of the primary school or maybe on the school buses.

**Oh no! Marvin is lost! Help Marvin find his way back to Open Gate**







## Word Search with Class 2

Class 2 has been working hard to prepare some word games for you! We challenge you to finish our word search and find the top twelve words Class 2 think about when someone says the words Open Gate. How many of them can you find? Want an extra challenge? Try writing a complete sentence with as many of these twelve words as you can. The best sentences might even make it into our next issue!





# The Big Interview— Principal Šlemenda

By Class 4 students  
photography: Lukaš Texl and Tobias Hanzalius



Class 4 had the pleasure of inviting and interviewing our new principal Petr Šlemenda during our English lesson at school. We chose ten questions to symbolize the ten-year anniversary of Open Gate School. The result was a very friendly, interesting, and sometimes even funny interview.

**What was the first thing you saw on your first day at Open Gate School?**

Well actually it was funny because the first thing I saw was a “closed gate”. I mean the upper one, you know. When I first drove to Open Gate, I tried to enter the school through the upper gate which was closed. So, I had to make some phone calls to get to the real Open Gate. So, it was quite funny.

**Can you tell us about your family?**

My wife Aneta is 36 years old, and we have a son. His name is Daniel. He’s four years old... well actually he will be five in August. We like to spend a lot of time together doing different activities.

**What was your favorite subject growing up?**

You mean like school subject, right? It was definitely P.E., physical education because we did a lot of team sports. Football, basketball, handball, and stuff like that.

**Why did you want to become a principal?**

Well, it is a difficult one...There



was no certain point where I decided to be a principal, but I started as a teacher. Then, after five years of teaching, our deputy left for a new job, so I became a deputy. And, after two years the principal decided to retire, and I was asked by my colleagues to go through the processes and become a principal. So it was a consequence, and then I was offered an opportunity to be a principal here. It was a great opportunity, and I am very happy here.

**What is your favorite part of being a principal?**

My favorite part is meeting people, my colleagues, and you... I mean our pupils/students and have an opportunity to talk to you and do all the activities we do together.



**What is your hardest thing about your job?**

The hardest thing is to find the best solution because there are always pros and cons you have to weigh, yeah, the hardest thing is to always find the right decision.

**Can you tell us what makes a good principal?**

A good principal? Well... a good principal should be able to listen to anyone. To listen with comprehension and to be able to communicate with anyone like parents, teachers, and students. So, I think this is the most important thing.

**What is your favorite food in the morning?**

My favorite food in the morning? Well... I think it is something traditional like bread and butter and tea, Yeah, so this is what I usually have before I start working.

**What is your favorite lunch at Open Gate?**

It's a difficult question, because I think our canteen does a great job! But, if I should choose only one, then I must say it is "svíčková", I really hope we have svíčková this week on Thursday. I'm not sure, but I hope so.

**What do you find annoying?**

Well...Covid, actually.... And if people behave badly for no reason. When they are aggressive, then I find it annoying. When people don't respect each other.

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***"I really hope we have svíčková this week on Thursday."***

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## Looking Back by Class 5

As they prepare for high school entrances exams and life beyond the primary school, Class 5, the elder states-children of the primary school took a trip down memory lane and revisited some of their thoughts, memories and feelings about their time in the primary school.

## The last day of elementary school by Kira and Nela

The Open Gate elementary school, most of us have spent 5 years of our lives there, made friends, learnt many things, experienced many new things. I wouldn't think any of us would be looking forward to the day we leave all this behind and move on, start somewhere new all over again, just older. We all knew this day was going to come, it just seemed to come quicker than expected.

Most of us have probably experienced the same feeling before. Transferring from a different school or from kindergarten to school. But no matter how many times we have experienced it, it's odd to imagine you might never see these people again, unless you stay in contact with them. Some of us might come see the school in a couple of years and see how it changed, to say hello to our favourite teachers.

*Our class was changing all the time but still there was a great team of children!*

## New Students, Students Leaving by Juli, Klárka & Roza

In class one, one student came. It was Maty and lots of boys were happy to see their new friend. In class two, one student came. That was Kira. Now lots of girls were happy, but Kira is also very good friend with some boys, so now everybody was happy.

Sadly, at end of class two Eda left. Everybody was sad because he was a big part of our class. However, at the start of class 3 two students came – Klárka and Kryštof. Both of them are now very good friends with lots of us. Klárka is now the biggest part of our girl team and Kryštof is now one of the boys from our class. Unfortunately at the end of class 3, three students left – Sophi, Mareček and Ád'a. Sophi - our good girl friend, Mareček – our kind class clown and Ád'a – our class boss.

At the beginning of class 4 two new students also came – Kirril and Sam. Kirril is now our class devil and Sam is quiet but he is also a very good friend. But sadly at the end of class four Alex K. left our class. We don't know why but he was still a big part of our class already from class one. And finally to start of our last year in primary school Adam Š came. He may not be such a big part of our class yet, but he already has a lot of good friends.

Our class was changing all the time but still there was a great team of children!

## Sports at Open Gate by David, Kirill & Maty

There are lots of sports on Open Gate normally but now it's limited and stopped because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Before Corona virus pandemic, you could do or play indoor and outdoor sports. For example, floorball, volleyball, rugby or many others. Also, there were some sports cancelled on Open Gate for example like football.

Hopefully there will be no Covid-19 pandemic soon and we could get all sports unstopped because it's fun and important for everyone.

Thanks for reading.



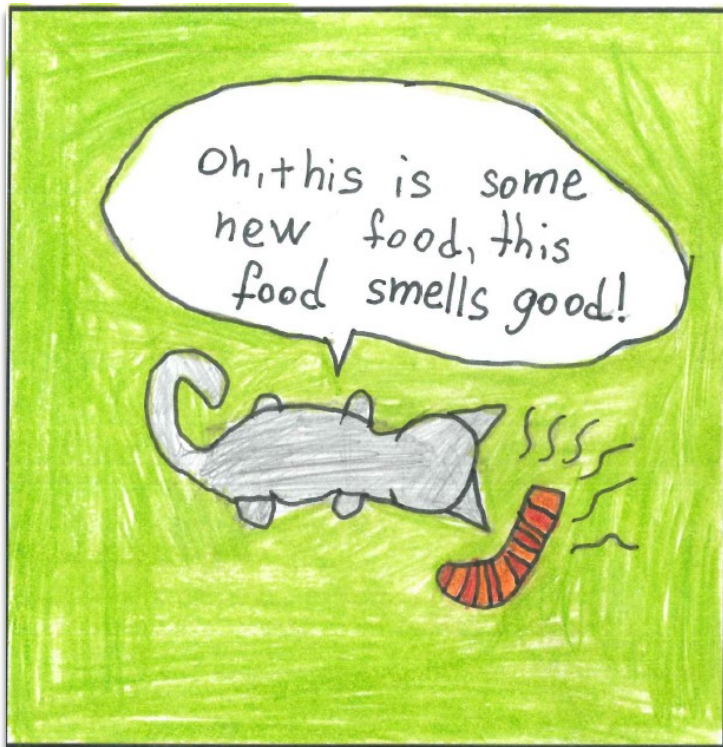
*Class 5 on the steps, and ready for another big step!*

## Change of uniforms by Adélka, Claudi & Terka

When we started studying at Open Gate, the uniforms were totally different. There were not any dresses, colorful buttons blue shirts or shorts for boys.

The previous uniforms were much simpler than these ones, they were made from a tie, trousers, skirts, shirts and sweaters, however the new ones have all the previous thing plus dresses, socks and t-shirts. The thing that changed the most in our opinion is the material of the uniforms that we think is much better. Another thing that we believe is better are the colors of the uniforms. The last ones were kind of sad, but these ones are more bright and prettier.

## Marvin's Mistake by Arinka Semeneeva (Class 3)







## Looking Back by Class 5

### School in Nature by David, Maty & Kirill

School in Nature is one of the best trips we do at school. We discover many new locations and new things. Our groups think that School in Nature is about getting out from busy city centres and learning new things about nature such as wild forests and how the world worked five hundred years ago, and to know more than just how to play games and be on mobile phones, computers and other electronics. Our group agreed that the best thing at School in Nature is the one night when we light a fire and make sausages and after that, we sing some old songs.

### Food Festival by Ondra, Kryštof & Hynek

The Food festival is a festival where every class prepares some food with their class and teachers, and also parents (or someone from family, it doesn't have to be a parent) of some kids and then they sell it at the school bazar in the hall or outside. People that join the festival are kids, teachers and parents of kids that were doing the food (kids from the primary school), also kids from the high school and sometimes family brothers, sisters and parents but that happens very little. People mostly join the Food festival because it's fun and you can actually eat delicious things that classes prepare in the day as we said.

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*'Most of us probably missed school a lot.'*

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### Covid - Quarantine & Online Learning by Kira & Nela

After the spring break in March 2020 the first quarantine started. The second lockdown happened in early October. This lockdown lasted until the end of November. We went to school for around three weeks after it, before Christmas. After Christmas the next lockdown started. This one lasted from January to April 12 for classes 2-5, first graders stayed home for a week longer.

We think it is harder for us to learn than if we were studying in school normally. It surely feels better waking up later than usual and having less classes but we didn't learn as much. Of course, we did learn a lot but perhaps, we could've learnt even more if we weren't stuck at home.

Most of us probably missed school a lot. We missed socializing with people and playing with our friends, we missed our after school activities and we missed running around in the playground.

I would assume some of us do enjoy being at home studying, being in the comfort of your own home but we're glad to be back at school.

### Entrance to classes 1 and 5 by David, Maty & Kirill

The entrance exams to the gymnasium were moved, because of COVID-19. They were scheduled for April 14 and 15, but they were moved to May 5 and 6. Last year the exams to the gymnasium were moved to another date. Entrance interviews to class 1 were not moved and they were from April 1 to 15. All exams and interviews had to be with facemasks because of COVID-19. It was harder to prepare for the exams because there was online learning so we could not go to school and the children that were doing the interviews for class 1 could not go to kindergarten.





*Class 5 when they were in Class 1!*

## School charity work and visiting children homes by Kira & Nela

Our school does projects that are aimed to help other people and bring smiles to their and our faces. I have experienced and been a part of a few of those projects myself.

Run and help is a project we do every year, we run and for every kilometre we finish, we pay. The money collected from this goes to a certain person, the school chose, in need of the money.

The Christmas time is a time we should all be happy and celebrating, appreciating each other. Multiple times our school has helped the children homes during this warm time of the year. Students and their parents could've chosen to buy some toys and es-

## Change in Headmaster by Juli, Klárka & Roza

Jirka Luka was a one of the first people that was teaching in Primary school. He composed the anthem of our Primary school. He arranged morning oasis, assemblies, Blue Van Festival and the Food Festival. But now because of COVID – 19 we can't do any of these activities. When Jirka Luka left, we were very disappointed and sad.

When Petr Šlemenda came, we saw in him hope because a year before we didn't have a headmaster. We thought our headmaster was Marek Adler, but it was not, it was Petra Kobrová.

But now we have no confusion, now we have Petr Šlemenda!





# Learning During Lockdown: Online Learning in Class 3

Teaching class 3 online was always a pleasure, their enthusiasm and motivation was great for me as a teacher so it was wonderful to hear their experiences of learning during lockdown, the sincere ones and the funny ones! - Luke Ryan

*“I am so excited about going back to school that I am not going to sleep.” – Ela*

## A Year of Closed Gates at Open Gate

Babice- After a year of online learning in Class 3 at Open Gate, the students have mixed feelings about their experiences behind the computer screen. However, they are look forward to the near future when they may find themselves sitting in their old classrooms again.

*“I am happy to be able to see my friends face-to-face.” –Tonda*

Firstly, the not so good feelings. We missed our friends. It made us feel sad just to see them online and not in person. We could not play together during break time. When you leave the zoom meetings, you didn’t have anyone to talk to or play with and we really missed that.

During online learning, teachers could only explain how to do things, they could not properly show us these things. Teachers had to ask and explain things more times because of bad connections, and that meant less time learning in class. We also think it is better for the teachers to see the whole class in person, not just on camera, or when some students had their cameras off and couldn’t be seen, the teacher didn’t know what they were doing.

*“I am very excited because looking*

*at a computer screen all day is not good for my eyes.” –Eli*

Online learning was not good from a health point of view. Spending so much time on the computer was not good for our eyes, necks and backs too. And sometimes it could make your brain feel ouchy!

During online learning, it was more difficult to do some subjects. We missed P.E., swimming and art and culture is not as fun at home as in school. We also missed going to the school library to borrow books. Night with Anderson was also during online learning and it was not as fun to have the sleepover online instead of in the school.

One good thing from online learning meant we had more time to learn. We didn’t have after school activities so we had more time to focus on our schoolwork. We also had more time because we didn’t have to travel to and from school each day, so we could play with our toys! Also, we didn’t need to worry about being late for school and we got more time to sleep in the morning!

*“We may forget about the new schedule and turn on MS Teams out of habit.” –Anežka*

Another good thing was being able to spend more time with our families. Having the afternoons free meant having some time to go out walking or cycling in the afternoon. It also gave us more time to spend with our pets and play with them!

Fortunately, since April 12, we have been back in school and it feels great, super, fantastic, brilliant, the best! It is a big change being back in school for the first time in 2021 but it is a very good change! We still miss P.E. and swimming, but it is great to learn and play more with friends and be with our friends in class again!

Hopefully, we will not have to go back to online learning again, never ever again! It does make us appreciate it better being in school. Even though we don’t like having to wear face-masks in school, it is still much better to be back in school than online!







*“Online school is like learning with the devil!” – Ben*



## Scary, Funny, Hell!

It was a relief to go back to school! We were so happy to go back to school: to see friends, to see teachers, to get away from computers and finally get some proper lunches! It was great to have fun in school again, without brothers and sisters annoying us at home all the time! Online learning was scary! It was like a ride on a rollercoaster. It had many ups and downs and it made us feel dizzy. Looking at the screen all the time was not healthy because of the blue light. At night, we could not sleep well and had nightmares about our computers dancing on the table, our phones talking to the soap in the bathroom and our classmates' heads looking through our window and singing, 'it's raining tacos!'

### **'We felt like criminals in jail!'**

It reminded us of the movie, Paddington, when he went to jail. We felt like criminals in jail. We could not go anywhere, not to school, not to other regions, not to restaurant, even to casinos! Even the food was bad, chicken, chicken, more

chicken, rice, more rice, more chicken and rice. All we wanted was to go outside and eat chocolate ice cream in cones, baked beans, buns with custard, hamburgers, schnitzels, sushi, French fries, milkshakes, lasagne and banana pizza, all at the same time! Some of us really missed the school bus. We missed talking with our friends. We missed the bus bouncing up and down as it was driving. Our chairs during online learning never bounced up and down! We missed all the screaming on the school bus just to annoy our sleepy teachers!

### **'Online wasn't all bad!'**

There were some good things about online learning. We got to wake up later and we did not have to wear masks for online learning. Wearing a mask in the classroom is like a cute, cuddly hunting dog wearing a muzzle! In addition, for online learning we finish at 12 o'clock so we have more time in the afternoon to do homework, jump on trampolines or

jumping into holes full of crocodiles! One thing we will miss from online learning is not wearing school uniforms. All the time in school, we don't wear normal clothes, we have to wear uniforms, teachers tell us to tuck in our shirts, wear our ties and stop getting mud and paint all over them. One thing we will not miss is being away from friends. Our friends are really special to us and it felt exciting, amazing and energising to see everyone again! It was so loud! We even missed our teachers a little bit!

A little bit of online school was fun, but after a couple of weeks, we were ready to explode like a grenade and call an ambulance to come and glue us back together! Getting back to school was as important as having your refrigerator working! We hope online learning never comes back and that we will be in school forever! Like really forever, never going to get a job or anything!



## 10 Years in Open Gate by Josefina Sarah Elisová, Kvinta A



When I look back at the little girl with pigtails, who held the ribbon as it was being cut, to officially open the Open Gate primary school, I feel like it was yesterday. Of course, it is shocking that it has almost been 10 years since I first step foot into the classroom, in which I would spend the next five years or so.

My experience at Open Gate is one I believe to be quite unique, since I went through the whole primary school as one of the first ever first-graders and have been around since the very beginning. I have seen the campus grow and expand, and it almost feels like I grew with it. Funnily enough, the good old cliché of Open Gate opening gates to new experiences applies to the ones I gained during those five years as well.

Now, when I think of the five years spent roaming the art covered halls or singing the school anthem during an assembly, it is safe to say, that any other way of growing up would not have been as enriching, fun or rare. My experience of primary school was definitely vastly different from other kids my age, and also most of my classmates now, but even if it was, I couldn't change it, because it helped make me who I am today. While I sat down on the carpet in the back of the classroom and started singing along with my classmates during the morning oasis, I knew that this was something special, and that the atmosphere in the room could never be replicated.

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*My experience at Open Gate is one I believe to be quite unique.'*

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As my tie changed colors and the years passed by, I was also changing colors, with new enriching experiences each and every year, learning new skills that I still use to this day. Mostly doing so in classes, but also with projects, or even as we organized a play at the end of each year. These plays or projects ended up being my fondest memories of the time I spent at Open Gate, since they not only taught me things, but I was given the space to express myself, whether it was through a presentation of my interest or when I played a princess in my 5th grade play. It still warms my heart, when I can share a smile in the cafeteria with someone, I knew back then or reminisce with my friends that I made along the way. Believe me, it is one of the best feelings, to have a place where you somehow fit in and can share laughs or memories with people you have known for essentially your entire life.

In conclusion, I am grateful I could share all of this with wonderful people and that other people get to live in what was once the normal day for me. On the other hand, I often get caught up in what is happening in the present and forget to think about where it all started. So when I sometimes have to walk to the sports hall or any other chance I get to wander the halls of the primary school, and I see the newest colorful ties filling the seats me and my classmates once sat in, I am happily able to recollect the experiences and all I can do is smile and bask in the memory of the days I spent at the primary school.



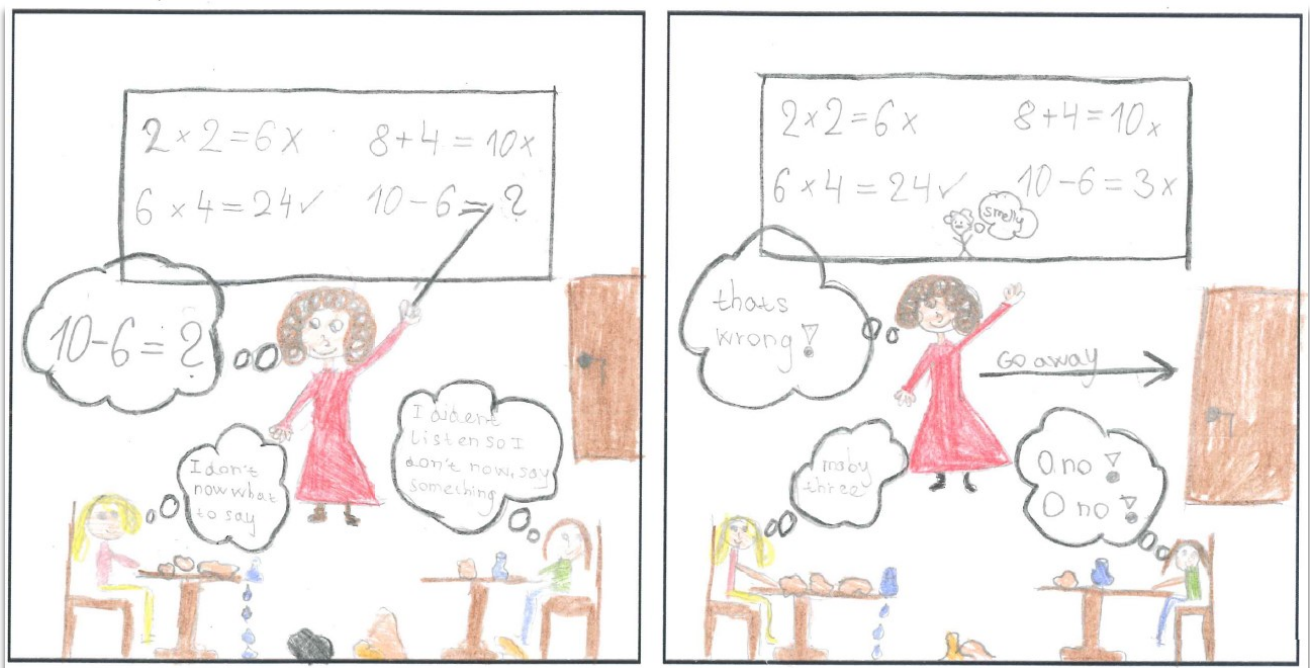
### ***PAY ATTENTION! by Julie Haynaliy (Class 3)***



### ***Party Class by Nela Hendrychova & Ema Krupickova (Class 3)***



### ***Naughty Kids by Banana & Apple (Zuzka and Ela) (Class 3)***







## Fun Page!

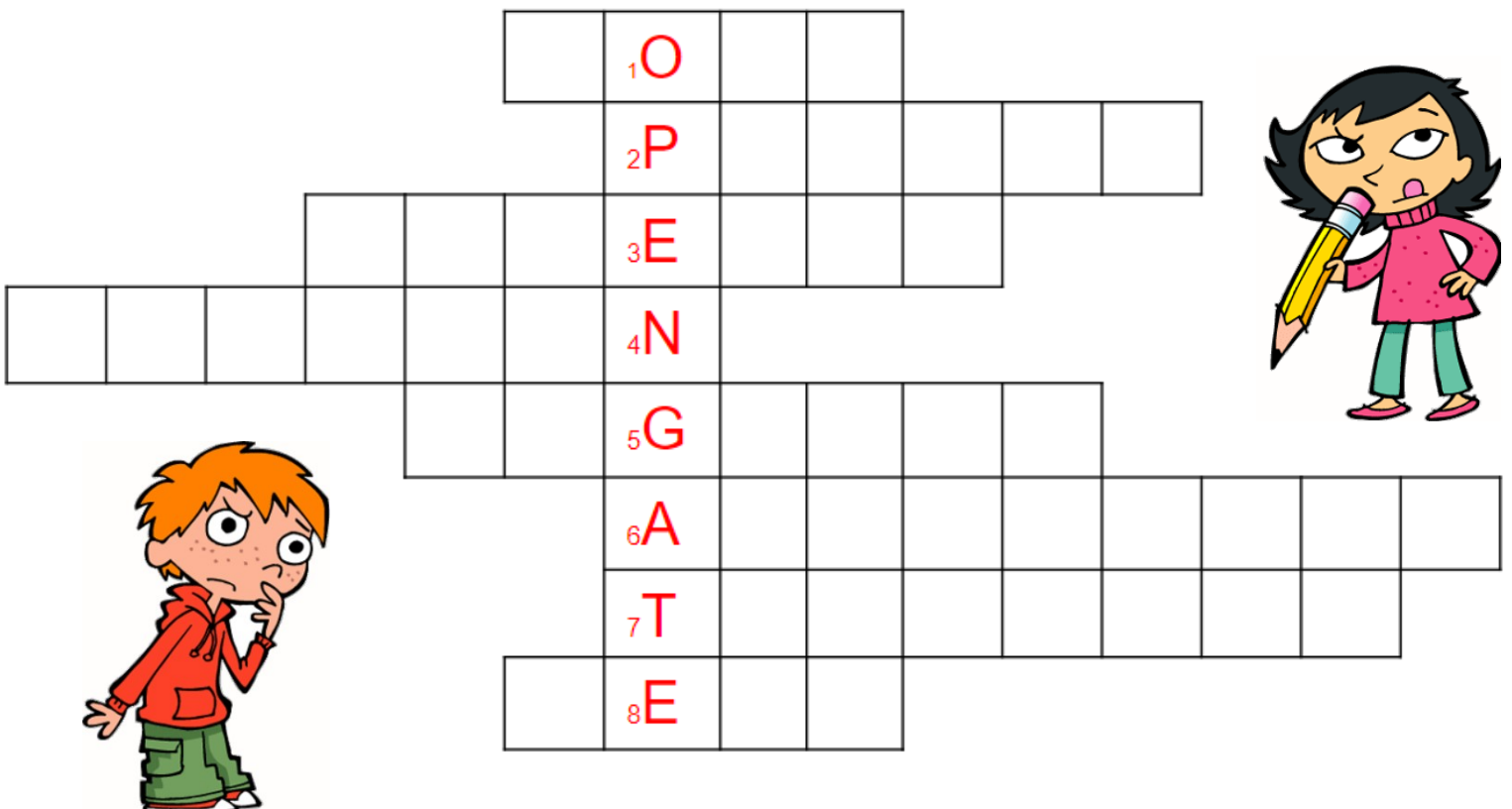
### Brain Busters

Circle the word that doesn't belong in each group.

1. classroom      bedroom      canteen
2. teacher      principal      student
3. microphone      camera      marker
4. Standa      Luke      Clara
5. naughty      rude      well-behaved
6. homework      test      exam

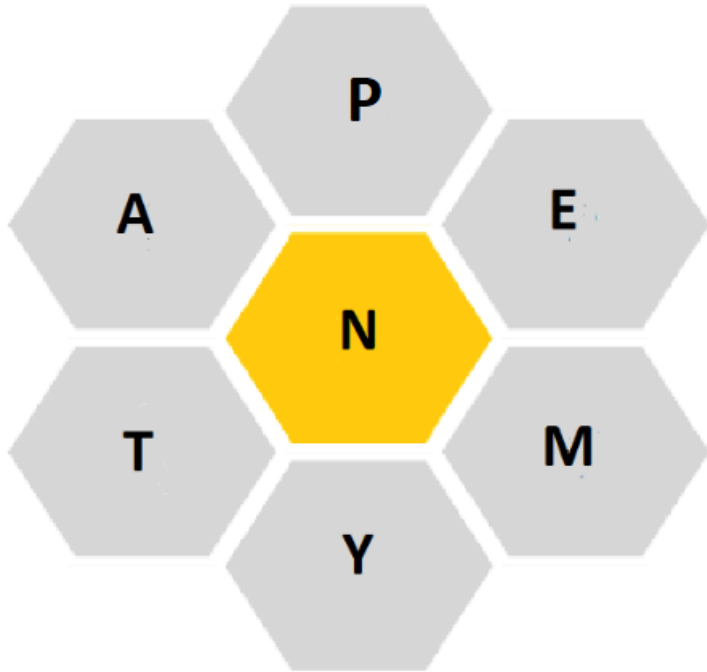


### Word Search with Class 2





# Spelling Bee



## How to Play Spelling Bee

Create words using letters from the hive.

- Words must contain at least 4 letters.
- Words must include the center letter.
- Our word list does not include words that are obscure, hyphenated, or proper nouns.
- No cussing either, sorry.
- Letters can be used more than once.

Send the words you find to: [dvorak@opengate.cz](mailto:dvorak@opengate.cz)

1. A place where you can swim
2. This picture shows a group of \_\_\_\_\_



3. Children we play with are our \_\_\_\_\_
4. The place we cook food is a \_\_\_\_\_
5. A language we learn at Open Gate is \_\_\_\_\_
6. Another word for sports is \_\_\_\_\_
7. The people that teach us are \_\_\_\_\_
8. When people work together they are a \_\_\_\_\_



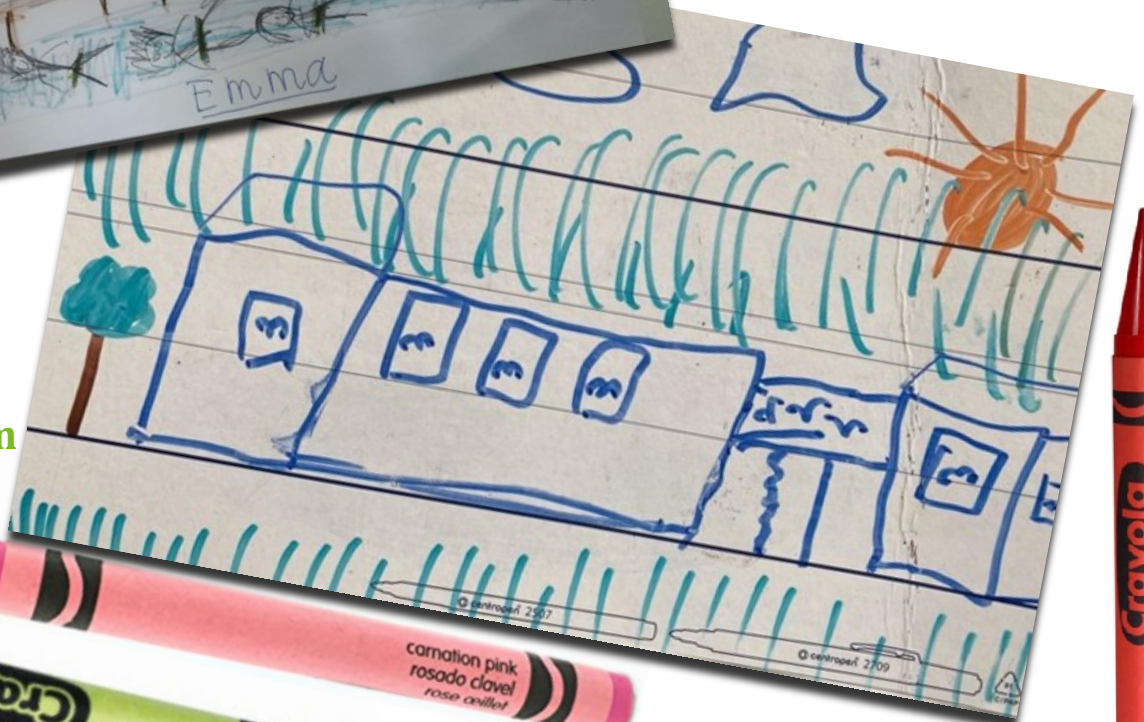
1. What is the largest of the big cats?
2. What is the biggest planet in our solar system?
3. From what direction does the sun rise each morning?
4. What kind of tree grows from acorns?
5. Where is the fastest muscle in the human body?

## Class 1: What did you miss most while learning from home?



Swimming by Emma

My Classroom  
by Dan B.







Football by Maty

Craft by Liduška



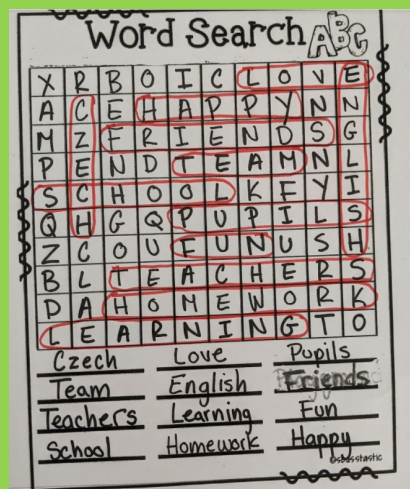
Quiz answers : tiger, Jupiter, east, oak, eye

## ANSWER KEY

Page 4: Marvin's Maze



Page 5: Word Search



Page 16: Brain Busters

**Brain Busters** Circle the word that doesn't belong in each group.

- classroom bedroom canteen
- teacher principal student ??
- microphone camera marker
- Standa Luke Clara
- naughty rude well-behaved
- homework test exam

Page 16: Word Search

