

CHRISTMAS EDITION

CGYM

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INTRODUCTION

It is our great pleasure to present to you
the school magazine for 2022.

In this issue, we've covered the topic of Christmas.
We included recipes for Christmas cookies,
a comparison of British and Czech Christmases,
a decorating of a Christmas tree,
an interview with Nigel Foster and even more!

Big thanks to everyone from the class Septima who
contributed to the articles and reports, as well as to
the editors.

SEPTIMA

CHRISTMAS

WITH THE MAJOR ARCANA

EMMA PETROVA

No one knows what exactly lies ahead of us, not even the cards. The Arcana won't tell you your future, it points you in a direction so you can achieve the stuff you want or can warn you about struggle coming up. In this reading I asked for each zodiac sign what lays ahead of them during Christmas holidays.

ARIES

Wise Fox is supporting change, but change under Fox is not easy although it will lead you to new roads and to new knowledge. The Fox can mean an unexpected end of something that can disrupt your order of life but it also foreshadows an appearance of someone or something that will help you get through it.

Temperance says it's a good time to start healing inner wounds and resolving conflicts but it's important to listen to both sides of the story and think everything thoroughly.

TAURUS

Highest Priest's role is to help discover new knowledge, he inspires creativity. Highest priest will also help you connect with your inner self.

Uroboros is here to remind you that if you are having a bad time, there are good times waiting ahead. If you are having a great time, Uroboros is here to remind you to cherish every moment because nothing lasts forever, the good and the bad. It doesn't warn against bad things happening, it just reminds you to not overlook your own happiness.

GEMINI

Temperance says it's a good time to start healing inner wounds and resolving conflicts but it's important to listen to both sides of the story and think about everything thoroughly.

Reversed Moon indicates secrets, intrigues and instability and crazy unrealistic plans. Maybe it's not a good time starting a new project or plan you wish to realise.

CANCER

Reversed God Tower can indicate that during an expected change you won't get the support you want. You can feel indifferent face to face to necessary changes.

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LEO

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Judgment this card represents maturity, balance and stability. Judgment indicates clear vision - you will see a situation or a relationship as they really are.

VIRGO

Reversed Sofia warns you from an appearance of a person with exaggerated ego and tendencies to abuse their power.

Reversed Innocent warns you from unstable fantasising, wandering without a real direction. You should really think in which direction you are pointing your excitement because you will have tendencies to slip into unrealistic fantasies and plans that can easily disappoint you.

LIBRA

Reversed Angel of Dreams indicates that you are dwelling in your regrets and despair, you are not looking at the bigger picture.

The Hangman can mean a period of waiting, maturing and a change of views - maybe you'll have to turn something upside down to really understand. Hangman is ready to overcome any obstacles for love, truth and his beliefs. For hard work there is a reward waiting for you

SCORPIO

Reversed Priestess of Dreams you may think you know everything that you need for your success but there are a lot of things slipping through your mind, if you don't open your eyes you could be missing some good opportunities.

Reversed Teacher of wisdom can indicate self isolation that can cause disconnection from people around you.

SAGITTARIUS

Reversed Moon Carriage can indicate blockades in both physical and mental growth. If you don't respect that you need to move with the always changing life cycle, it can lead to hatred towards change and anger.

Reversed Priestess of Dreams you may think you know everything that you need for your success but there are a lot of things slipping through your mind, if you don't open your eyes you could be missing some good opportunities.

CAPRICORN

Wise Fox is supporting change, but change under Fox is not easy although it will lead you to new roads and to new knowledge. The Fox can mean an unexpected end of something that can disrupt your order of life but it also foreshadows an appearance of someone or something that will help you get through it.

Maat asks you to face your challenges, to act fair. Maat resists that you differentiate good and evil, yes and no. Maat could appear to push a decision indicated by Fox.

AQUARIUS

Temperance says it's a good time to start healing inner wounds and resolving conflicts but it's important to listen to both sides of the story and think about everything thoroughly.

Reversed Sun warns you from someone untrustworthy, someone who can be overconfident but there is nothing real behind their ego. Also beware of bad advice.

PISCES

Wise Fox is supporting change, but change under Fox is not easy although it will lead you to new roads and to new knowledge. The Fox can mean an unexpected end of something that can disrupt your order of life but it also foreshadows an appearance of someone or something that will help you get through it.

Reversed Mother of Dreams is weak, holding onto illusions. She wants to show something not ready yet to be shown. Don't try to put out something that's not ready yet, not strong enough to survive.

DECORATING A CHRISTMAS TREE

MICHAL VOCL



One fine Christmas evening, Odie and Garfield decided to decorate the Christmas tree.

Their owner John brought them a tree so they could decorate it. Odie and Garfield took it in their paws and placed it in the stand. They poured water into the stand so that the tree would last a long time. Then they chose a place for it in the corner of their living room and began to decorate. They wanted the tree to have blue and pink ornaments on it. Garfield is smarter, so he went to get a ladder and put a gold star on top of the tree. Odie looked at Garfield and he liked what Garfield was doing. Garfield told him that he would give him the last ornament, but first they had to put the lights on the tree. Garfield got the ladder again and together they put the lights on the tree. In total, there were 25 ornaments hanging.

While Odie and Garfield were decorating the tree, their owner John was driving to get them some dinner. When he came back from shopping, he saw Garfield who told him that they had already finished with the tree so he was bored. When Garfield saw what John brought him for dinner, he got angry. John put dinner in their bowls and went to call Odie for dinner.

But when Garfield went to look for Odie, who wasn't coming, he found him tangled up in the tree decorations, which made him even angrier. In the end, they were all happy that no one was hurt and they could be together for Christmas.

TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

OLIVER ŠMAHEL

In the Czech Republic, Christmas holidays usually start on 23rd December. On this day, most families decorate Christmas trees in their homes. They buy the last items on Christmas Eve (like the Christmas cake or wine sausages), and they also buy fish for dinner. Fish with potato salad is eaten for dinner in the Czech Republic.

On Christmas Eve, families gather by the tree, and spend a lovely evening together, giving and receiving presents. Christmas Eve is followed by "Boží hod" (25th December). On this day, most families visit their grandparents, where presents are handed out and the festive lunch is eaten together. Very often, roasted duck or turkey with cabbage and dumplings is eaten for the "Boží hod" lunch. Most families either spend the rest of Christmas time (until New Year's Eve) in the mountains skiing or relaxing at home. Some families even spend the entire Christmas time in the mountains and are still there on New Year's Eve. Whether in the mountains or at home, we celebrate New Year's Eve on December 31. A lot of families use this significant day for long walks or skiing. In the evening, people gather with friends or family and great celebrations begin. People drink alcohol, eat lots of food and enjoy their time together. At midnight, people celebrate with Champagne and light fireworks. Celebrations often continue into the morning.

On New Year's Day (1st January) many people catch up on their sleep and nothing gets done on this day. People usually return to school and work around 3rd January - this varies every year. In the Czech Republic, Christmas is the biggest holiday, when families spend time together.

CZECH X BRITISH CHRISTMAS

TRADITIONS

KAROLÍNA HATÁKOVÁ

The festive season is right around the corner. Christmas, the holiday that symbolises peace, love, and most of all family time. Here are some differences between our and British traditions:

Christmas decorations: even though in the Czech Republic it is not a habit to decorate the house, garden, and surroundings, people in Britain are quite particular about it. Popular decoration symbols in the UK are ivy, holly, and mistletoe. Both countries traditionally display decorations from the first Sunday of Advent. For all I know, most Czech families set up the tree just before the 24th of December. However, some of them do it sooner, and it's always a family occasion, when everyone gets involved.

The equivalent for a Czech Advent wreath with four candles is the English hanging Christmas stocking. A Christmas stocking is an empty sock or sock-shaped bag that is hung on the mantelpiece on the Saint Nicholas Day (6th December) or Christmas Eve so that Saint Nicholas (or the related figures of Santa Claus and Father Christmas) can fill it up with small toys, sweets, fruits, coins, or other small gifts when he arrives. A tradition common to both countries is sending a letter to Father Christmas or Baby Jesus.

One of the best known small gifts here in the Czech Republic is likely the advent calendar, which (not necessarily) is brought by the angels on 5th December. Another important thing is food. Czechs who visit the UK at Christmas would be surprised to see that they would not get carp, schnitzel, or wine sausage for their Christmas Eve dinner, but turkey.

The most significant days are undoubtedly Christmas Eve (24th December), Christmas Day (25th December), and Boxing Day (26th December), when poor British people used to walk around and ask for leftovers, money, etc.). On 24th December Czechs usually fast (there's a superstition involving a golden piglet),

then, Christmas dinner is eaten in the evening, and finally, the unwrapping of presents itself.

In Great Britain, the evening of December 24th consists of family gatherings and the midnight mass at church. It is followed by Christmas Day - the happiest day for kids because they can finally unwrap their presents and empty their stockings.

Even though our cultures differ, we should never forget the real meaning of Christmas. After all, It's not just about presents, but mainly about the religious side and enjoying our free time with our loved ones in peace.



CZECH VS BRITISH CHRISTMAS MEAL

TOMÁŠ PAŘEZ

Christmas holidays are very beautiful in the Czech Republic and Great Britain as well, but there are some differences. In this article, we will look into the differences between Czech Christmas Eve dinner and British Christmas lunch. The day for the Christmas meal is different in these countries, that is, the dinner takes place on December 24 in the Czech Republic and the day later, on December 25, Christmas lunch is eaten in Britain. So, the difference is in time as well - Czechs have the Christmas meal in the evening as dinner, unlike the British who have the Christmas meal as a late lunch. In the Czech Republic, most people have a Christmas Eve meal at home. However, in Britain, a lot of people have Christmas meal in restaurants.

As the main course the British have roast turkey with stuffing, gravy, baked potatoes and vegetables are served as a side dish. The pig in a blanket (pork sausage wrapped in bacon) as a snack cannot be missing. And for dessert, of course, British people eat the traditional Christmas pudding and mince pies (cupcakes filled with raisins, dried fruit, lemon peel and a large number of various spices).

The classical Christmas main course in the Czech Republic is a fried breaded fish (usually carp) with traditional potato salad. As a dessert, Czechs usually have apple strudel and of course Christmas cookies in numerous varieties. Christmas meal is therefore very beautiful and delicious both in Britain and the Czech Republic. What do you think, which country does it better?

TRADITIONAL CZECH CHRISTMAS FOOD AND DRINKS

FRANTIŠEK SIKSTA

Christmas is one of the most loved events for the Czech people. It is mainly due to the time spent together with their families but also because of Christmas atmosphere and, of course, the presents. However, the most important aspect is good food and drink. The traditional Christmas Eve dinner consists of fish soup and fried carp with potato salad. Some people prefer fried schnitzel, salmon or cod instead of fried carp. In the Czech Republic it is also very traditional to bake Christmas sweets. Every family bakes a lot of different kinds of them. The most common kinds are „*Linecké cukroví, vanilkové rohlíčky and perníčky*“. Most families prepare sweets a few weeks before Christmas. A few days before Christmas Eve, Christmas cake is also baked, we call it „*vánočka*“. It is really delicious and contains a lot of butter and raisins. The traditional Christmas drink is mulled wine, which we can drink outside at Christmas markets, but we can also prepare it at home. With Christmas Eve's dinner, we usually drink beer or wine. To toast, we may drink champagne. People who do not or cannot drink alcohol can drink various soft drinks.

CHRISTMAS INTERVIEW WITH NIGEL FOSTER

LUKÁŠ MACHEK

Hey students!

Everyone at our school knows this name, Nigel Foster. I was honoured to do a short interview with him about his Christmas. Who is he, by the way? An Englishman living in the Czech Republic and the most importantly, he is the English teacher at our school. Who does he like to spend Christmas with and can he sing a Czech carol?

You can find answers to these questions only in our magazine.

Here we go!

What does Christmas mean to you?

A time for family to spend time together and have loads of presents, it's great to be with my family.

Where do you like to spend the Christmas holidays the most?

I split my time between Prague and Dobrovitov, Czech Christmas in Prague and 25th December in Dobrovitov.

Do you observe any Christmas traditions with your family?

The Christmas tree is put up at the beginning of December till 12th January.

What gift from your childhood made you the happiest, and why?

I'm into cricket so every year I had new cricket equipment

What gift will make you the most happy at this time, and why?

I want my daughter and granddaughter to come to the Czech Republic for Christmas, this will be my best present.

What carols would you be able to sing?

Jingle bells, but it'd sound terrible.

Is there a Czech carol that you like and could sing?

No and No I won't sing any because every one laughs at my Czech pronunciation.

What is your favorite Christmas cookie and why do you like this particular one?

I love mince pies, I had them every year during my childhood with either cream or ice cream.

What is your favorite Christmas fairytale, movie or series and why?

White Christmas with Bing Crosby, it's the famous song 'Im dreaming of a white Christmas just like the ones I used to know'.

What is the difference between Christmas in the Czech Republic and in the UK?

Christmas is the same wherever you spend it, the most important thing is that we have fun celebrating this festive period, eat loads of chocolate and drink orange juice to your little heart's content.

Which student or teacher would you most like to spend Christmas with?

I would like to spend Christmas with Mr Holecek, he's always smiling and in a way he reminds me of Santa Claus.

Carp or turkey?

Turkey, Carp is terrible.

Ježíšek (Baby Jesus) or Santa Claus?

The big fat Santa who comes down your chimney even if you don't have a chimney.

Finally, what would you like to wish the school, teachers and students for Christmas?

I would like to wish everyone at school a fantastic Christmas and a prosperous new year. Next year will be the best, I will be watching Scrooge and all the festive films over the holidays.

So, that's all. We hope you liked the interview. Enjoy the next articles of our Christmas magazine.

CHRISTMAS FOOD

AROUND THE WORLD

ADAM SVOBODA

When you say food and Christmas, everyone probably thinks of Christmas Eve dinner, which is basically the most important thing for food lovers like me. We often encounter rich and hearty meals that are not easy to eat. Of course, everyone celebrates Christmas differently, inheriting different customs from their ancestors, so across the population, the festivities may vary. It is also important to mention that Christmas dinner tends to be an important gathering of family members.

Now, on to the food itself. The food eaten usually varies according to the regional cuisine or as I mentioned earlier - according to tradition. We can probably all recall the smell of Christmas cake, which is often baked. Personally, I never despise unhealthy potato salad with a good schnitzel, which is again a **Czech** tradition. There are also bizarre cultural influenced customs, I'm talking about **Japan** where KFC is traditionally eaten as a Christmas Eve treat. Other interesting examples of Christmas flavours include the **Philippines**, where the Hispanic custom of Christmas dinner is called *Noche Buena* and a smoked pork leg is most commonly served. Filipinos spare no expense with pasta and end with fruit salad, which is made with local ingredients.

But let's also move closer to the Czech Republic in the heart of Europe. Our **German** neighbours like potato salad as much as we do, but unlike us, they indulge in roast goose or carp. Quite often you will also find piglets or ducks. German sweets and Christmas pastries include the renowned marzipan or gingerbread.

Another exotic dish is prepared by the **Portuguese**, who serve boiled dried cod at Christmas, which had been salted and is accompanied by a large amount of olive oil, which the Portuguese simply do not skimp on. Cabbage is most often served as a side dish, but chickpeas can also be used.

I hope I've whetted your appetite and also got you in mood for Christmas atmosphere, which is about to peak.

CHRISTMAS SWEETS AROUND THE WORLD

NIKOLA PONEROVÁ

As many of us know, Christmas is tightly connected with food. But not everyone knows how big the variety of traditional Christmas candies is! That's why I'm going to walk you through some of the most famous Christmas sweets around the world!

Starting with our beloved Czech classic "*linecké cukroví*". Quick and easy buttery dough is carved into all sorts of shapes and after it is baked many of us Czech people love to put jam or chocolate layer over the top.

Unlike us, Scandinavians love to be creative with basic dishes. "*Risgrynsgröt*" is a rice cooked in milk and then served with cinnamon and sugar. How sweet, right? Well, in Scandinavia people take it to the next level and often drink beer with it!

A dish known all over the world is for sure the Italian *Panettone* which is a tall and light pastry, often baked with candied fruit, pieces of chocolate or walnuts. Us Czech people might know it in a similar form as "*bábovka*". In Italy people traditionally eat it not only as a desert but mostly as popular breakfast.

A Christmas chunk?? Yes! In France, *Bûche de Noël* is a sweet roll made of a sponge cake, filled with cocoa cream and a chocolate crust on top. It is also enjoyed in Belgium, Switzerland, Canada, Lebanon and many other places at Christmas time.

And lastly, a well-known English classic is the *Plum pudding*. The pudding that takes longer than an hour to be made. The most frequently used ingredients in it are raisins, candied fruit, peeled apples, spices and often even alcohol. I hope that you feel inspired and hungry so much that you'll try something different this Christmas while enjoying different cultures from all around the world.

PLACES YOU MUST VISIT AT CHRISTMAS TIME

PATRIK LIBERSKÝ

Christmas should be celebrated with your close family and the people you love. But what if you don't want to be at home every year? Maybe you would like to experience the best Christmas atmosphere somewhere else. Then you shouldn't miss this list of cities that you just have to visit at Christmas.

1. Quebec City, Canada

Quebec is a city in south Canada. The city is known for its maple sirup - so it could be one of the reasons to see this place. Quebec is also the oldest city in Canada, so it looks beautiful because of its historical buildings. It is often said that people from Europe, who have visited Quebec felt like they were in a European city, also because people in Quebec speak French. The second reason to visit Quebec City is the *Marché de Noël allemand de Québec* (German Christmas Market in Quebec City). The market starts on November 24th and ends a month later. This market is famous for live music, food and for the hotel which stands at the same square as the market does. The hotel is called *The Fairmont Le Château Frontenac* and it is one of the most photographed hotels in the world.

2. Strasbourg, France

Strasbourg in France is often called „*Capital de Noël*” which translates as the capital of Christmas. The city hosts the oldest Christmas market in France, with a tradition over 450 years, dating back to the year 1570. The whole city, from its biggest squares to its smallest streets, is decorated with colourful lights. The market makes 16 billion euros in 38 days, which is how long it runs for. You can enjoy the atmosphere and if you are old enough, you can taste the famous mulled wine: *Vin chaud*.

3. Bruges, Belgium

Bruges is known for the laces that are handmade, so you can have something to use as decoration at home, after you leave the city. And what could you do to enjoy the time spent in Bruges? Buy yourself some chocolate. Belgian chocolate is popular all around the world, so you can't go wrong buying some in Bruges.

The city has glorious architecture, and it attracts people even without any snow.

There are many other places to visit at Christmas. We could mention even New York, because of its lights, London, Dublin, or - if you want to be somewhere without crowds of people - Iceland. I chose these three although I've never been to any of them and chose them based only on experience of my acquaintances and a little help from the internet. So here is one more town I have been to and have spent Christmas there. The town is called **Seefeld**. It is in Austria, and I went there many years ago but the atmosphere was so great I can remember the beautiful view of the town, the food I ate, even the little model of the Nativity scene. Naturally, the town has its own Christmas market and it holds a few Christmas concerts in December.



CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS IN PARIS

VANDA ŠTŮBLOVÁ

Upon arriving in Paris, I was surprised to see an obvious lack of Christmas decorations in the streets as well as in shops and such. People weren't wearing coats and layers upon layers of clothes despite the somewhat chilly weather unlike in the Czech Republic. Unlike Czechia, the lack of Christmas-themed items in shops surprised me since I was used to going to shops and malls and seeing them filled with chocolates and Christmas stuff since September. Upon asking my mother about it, I found out French people start preparing for the holidays around mid November, so from that perspective, it wasn't that weird.

When we were in France, we went to an amusement park near Paris, I met a couple of French people my age and we had a conversation. A part of that conversation was centred around Christmas and the preparations and I learned about the food their family ate during Christmas. I am unsure whether it is a thing just in their family or a regular thing for every French family, but according to them, their family eats snails for Christmas. So while we eat carp, they usually eat cooked snails. The person said they don't particularly enjoy the food but their family loves it. This fact surprised me above anything else I found out, so much so I had to share it.

What disappointed me was the lack of decorations around the city as I was looking forward to talking about them, but from what my mother mentioned, Paris is beautiful when it is fully decorated and the things they sell are just as beautiful, packing the stores with ornaments, chocolates and other Christmas-related things.

LAUGHTER

VÁCLAV LNĚNIČKA

Laughter is one of the many characteristics of a person. We can also recognise laughter by hearing it. In contrast, a smile is quite a different thing. We can only see a smile, not hear it. It is often said that laughter can heal. It's true that laughter does indeed induce a mental as well as a physical relief. It has the ability to lower stress hormones. It can also ease pain and speed up healing. The louder we laugh or the longer we laugh, the more muscles we engage. It is also one of the communication signals. It's been suggested that laughter is even older than speech itself. It is a universal phenomenon in all the languages of the world.

Whenever a European, an American or a Chinese person is laughing, they are likely to laugh in quite a similar way. It's a trait we don't need to learn. Even a small toddler - who can't speak yet - can laugh. Even a deaf or blind toddler can laugh without ever hearing or seeing it. It probably evolved as a signal to express positive and friendly emotions.

Why do we smile? One possible reason for a smile is a joke. A joke is most commonly a written text that says something funny. It doesn't always have to be written - many jokes are just told. The joke itself affects our feelings. When we feel sad, jokes are a great help. As has already been said, laughter is a healthy thing. Even just by smiling, you can make others feel better, sometimes even improve their day. Perhaps you too may one day meet someone who can make you feel better just by smiling. So don't hesitate to smile.

Source:

<https://www.diochi.cz/cs/pro-volne-chvile/proc-je-dulezite-se-smat> <https://zoom.iprima.cz/zajimavosti/evolucni-koreny-smichu-v-cem-nam-vtipy-pomahaji>



CAN WE LIVE WITHOUT CHRISTMAS?

TEREZA MOUCHOVÁ

Nowadays, it's hard to imagine life without Christmas. These days, it is expected that every person must absolutely look forward to Christmas and experience it happily. But I think it shouldn't be taken that way.

I asked have asked many people about this and their answers really surprised me. The argument of the people who said that we can't live without Christmas was usually related to religion. To be honest, I completely understand them. Together with Easter, it's the most important holiday for Christians. But would they really care about this holiday if there was a pandemic or a war? That was the most common argument from people who said we can live without Christmas.

Personally, I would love to live without Christmas but I completely understand and respect that it's very important for some people. The main reason I want to live without Christmas is that I think it is becoming more of an opportunity for people to make money than a celebration of the birth of Jesus. I would like to enjoy this holiday without presents and I know some people who already do it this way. I feel like most kids don't even know the main reason why we celebrate Christmas and just care about the food and presents.

I guess that Christmas isn't for everyone. For some people, it can even be difficult to celebrate it. Some people may have a psychological block from childhood. Some people may have lost a person they loved during the year or they may be dealing with a difficult life situation. In any case, I respect every opinion I have heard.

DELICIOUS AND SUPER SIMPLE GINGERBREADS!

VERONIKA REJFKOVÁ

Do you enjoy baking but think you can't bake? This recipe is just for you!

Gingerbread cookies are perhaps the most typical Christmas cookies in the Czech Republic and should not be missing from anyone's home! This recipe really is so simple that anyone can bake them.



INGREDIENTS (40 pieces):

40g butter
60g honey
100g caster sugar
2 tbsp cocoa powder
1/2 tbsp gingerbread spices mixture
1 large egg
2 tbsp rum
300g plain flour
1 tsp baking soda

The glaze: 1 whole beaten egg

To decorate: Frosting for decorating gingerbread cookies

METHOD:

- (1) Put the butter and honey in a saucepan and melt over low heat. Set aside, add caster sugar, sifted cocoa powder, gingerbread spice mixture, eggs and rum and stir thoroughly with a small wooden spoon.
- (2) Sift the plain flour together with the baking soda and transfer the mixture onto the baking board. Make a dent in the middle, pour in the liquid mixture and combine it all to create smooth, elastic dough. Then let it sit in the fridge wrapped in cling film for at least 2 hours.
- (3) Using a rolling pin, roll the dough into a 4mm thin sheet and cut out the gingerbread shapes.
- (4) Bake the gingerbreads on a greased baking sheet in an oven at 125 °C for 5 minutes. After you remove them from the oven, brush them with the beaten egg while they are still hot.
- (5) Once they have cooled down, decorate the gingerbread cookies according to your own imagination.

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