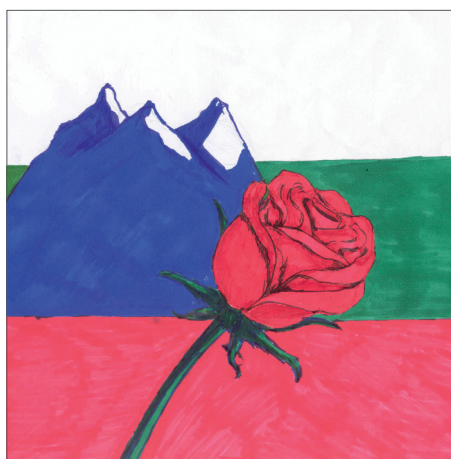




Education and Culture DG

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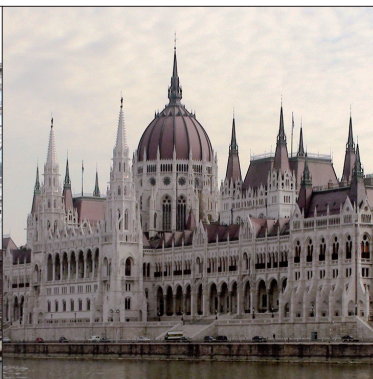
FRSE COMENIUS PARTNERSHIP SCHOOL PROJECTS  
**CULTURAL EXPEDITION IN EUROPE**

2009 • 2011





SOFIA



BUDAPEST



PONIATOWA



BIRMINGHAM



KAZIMIERZ DOLNY (POLAND) • MAY 2010

# **CONTENTS**

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

## **2. PLAN OF THE ACTIVITIES**

## **3. CHAPTER I - BULGARIA**

Bulgaria Preface, England and Poland

Bulgaria to Hungary

Bulgarian Epilogue

## **4. CHAPTER II - POLAND**

Poland to Bulgaria

Poland to England

Poland to Hungary

Poland to Bulgaria Part 2

## **5. CHAPTER III - ENGLAND**

England to Bulgaria

England to Hungary

England to Hungary Part 2

England to Poland

## **6. CHAPTER IV - HUNGARY**

Hungary to England

Hungary to Poland

Hungary to Bulgaria

## **7. FINAL WORDS**

## INTRODUCTION

Dear friend,

You hold in your hands this book, which was created by the experiences of children from England, Bulgaria, Poland and Hungary. These two years they had the chance to make their project “Cultural Expedition in Europe”, thanks to the Life Long Learning Program . Led by their childhood friend Winnie the Pooh, they were able to travel, meet friends, enjoy Europe. We believe that you will like their stories and will convince you that the journey is a wonderful opportunity to know others and accept them as friends and friendship is the most valuable treasure for the heart!





**PROJECT FRSE COMENIUS - CULTURAL EXPEDITION IN EUROPE 2009-2011  
(BULGARIA, ENGLAND, HUNGARY, POLAND)**



**PLAN OF THE ACTIVITIES**

<b>Approx. starting date</b>	<b>Activity/mobility description</b>	<b>Destination country (for mobility only)</b>	<b>Which partners involved</b>
<b>08.2009</b>	E-mail group opened and communication established		The Coordinator All partners
<b>09.2009</b>	Presentation of project in front of teachers. Selection of the staff members to be involved. Selection of students to be involved.		All partners
<b>10.2009</b>	Exchange of information about participating schools		All partners
<b>11.2009</b>	<b>Project meeting 1</b> The representatives of the partner countries to agree on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- practical details;</li> <li>- on the form of the questionnaire for cultural; differences understanding;</li> <li>- on the form of on-going evaluation of the progress in implementation of the activities and achievement of the results;</li> <li>- on planning of the preparation of the e-book chapters after each multicultural exchange;</li> <li>- on the competition for the graphic design of the e-book;</li> <li>- exchange of information about fest calendar and national traditions to be presented amongst pupils;</li> <li>- exchange of information about the educational systems and multicultural education.</li> </ul>	<b>Sofia, Bulgaria</b>	All partners
<b>12.2009</b>	Questionnaire for cultural differences understanding developed and filled in; Producing and exchanging post cards about Christmas.		All partners
<b>01.2010</b>	Questionnaire analyse is completed and posted.		All partners
<b>02.2010</b>	Web page of the project prepared.		Polish partners
<b>03.2010</b>	<b>Project meeting 2</b> Evaluation form filled in and posted; Writing of the first chapter to begin.	<b>Birmingham, England</b>	All partners Guest partners
<b>04.2010</b>	Submission of the drafts for the first chapter; Graphic design of the first chapter.		Guest partners Bulgarian partner English partners



### PLAN OF THE ACTIVITIES

<b>05.2010</b>	<b>Project meeting 3</b>	<b>Poniatowa, Poland</b>	All partners
<b>06.2010</b>	Evaluation form filled in and posted; Writing of the second chapter to begin.		Guest partners
<b>07.2010</b>	Submission of the drafts for the second chapter; Graphic design of the second chapter.		Guest partners English partners
<b>08.2010</b>	Competition for the e-book cover started.		All partners
<b>09.2010</b>	The results of the competition posted.		All partners
<b>10.2010</b>	<b>Project meeting 4</b>	<b>Budapest, Hungary</b>	All partners
<b>11.2010</b>	Evaluation form filled in and posted; Writing of the third chapter to begin.		Guest partners
<b>12.2010</b>	Submission of the drafts for the third chapter; Graphic design of the third chapter.		Guest partners Polish partners English partners
<b>01.2011</b>	Proposals for the e-book cover collected.		All partners
<b>02.2011</b>	The graphic design of 1-st and 2-nd chapters organised.		English partners
<b>03.2011</b>	<b>Project meeting 5</b>	<b>Sofia, Bulgaria</b>	Guest partners All partners
<b>04.2011</b>	Evaluation form filled in and posted; Writing of the fourth chapter to begin.		All partners Guest partners
<b>05.2011</b>	Submission of the drafts for the fourth chapter; Filling in of the questionnaire for cultural differences understanding.		Hungarian partners All partners
<b>06.2011</b>	Collection and collation of the all chapters; The graphic design of the book organised. Collection of the resume of the evaluation forms; Collection of the resume of the questionnaire.		English partners Bulgarian partners
<b>07.2011</b>	Uploading of the e-book to the web; Final report drafting.		Polish partners All partners, Bulgarian partners

# **Chapter I - Bulgaria**



## PREFACE

It is a normal school day. And suddenly - surprise! After classes we, the members of the “Club Adventurers”, are called to the principal.

“We have just received this letter from the Zoo, addressed to you, my dear adventurers,” says the principal while looking seriously over her glasses. “Read it, please, and decide how you can help. I am waiting for a report in three days.”

“That is an easy thing to say,” mutters Julia as she unfolds the paper. And the letter says:

“Dear friends Adventurers,

In the name of our friendship, please, come to us on the wings of the wind. We have a special mission for you and will be waiting for you at the zoo.

Mecho the bear; Tig the tiger; Don the donkey and Piglet the pig.”

A friend in need is a friend indeed. We cannot refuse to help them for we have known them for years. In the afternoon we are at the zoo among our friends. They are all around us, talking simultaneously.

“We want to make a school...”

“We want to study, we want to paint, to read and write stories... like you.”

“But there are no teachers here, and we don’t know...”

“Wait a minute! Wait a minute!” the Goody Bear says, while approaching. “Calm down everyone and tell clearly what you want. After that we can decide how our friends can help us.”

“There is no doubt, you will have your school,” Philip says, “but in first place where can we find the right teachers?”

“Well, we can ask our teachers, I guess,” proposes Cveti, “I am sure they will come up with some ideas too.”

No sooner said than done. Everyone starts to create plans of the future zoo school. We wonder how interesting it will be in History or Geography classes - each one will present the country they come from and their relatives live in.

“Can you imagine what it will be, in their Language classes!” wonders the witty Elena.

The sensible Goody Bear raises her huge paw to silence us. She shows us four pieces of an old faded yellow map and says:

“I have been keeping these for quite a long time now. My grand grandfather had told me the legend of a treasure, to which this map is leading. You take them now - you may well find teachers for our school as you travel, following these routes.”



We are burning with curiosity! What a day! Full of challenges! Just the right things for us, we are adventurers, after all.

Time flies. We are in a hurry – we get together, collect information, make plans and examine the four pieces of the

map...



“As far as I know and can tell, isn’t it England?” guesses Vanessa, while looking at the map.



“And this one looks like Poland!” exclaims Philip.



“If we talk about European countries, this must be Hungary,”



says Gloria competently, “but first of all, you should identify our own country – Bulgaria.”

We are all looking at one of the pieces – Bulgaria!



Now it seems everything fits into place. We cannot wait three days, so after arranging a meeting, we go to the principal. Because of our excitement she hardly understands our ideas. So she decides to call some of our teachers to help us.

“I think it will be better if more students and teachers are involved. From England, Poland and Hungary, for example,” properly proposes Boyan.

“There are towns on the map and you should connect schools there,” the principal adds.

And the miracle happens. The teachers come – such earnest, carrying bags, speaking in English and their own languages. They work two days in the school project room and when the team is built, a full program is constructed.

Then we take in hands our tasks. It isn't difficult for Christmas is on the way – cards, wishes, drawings, friends... so many friends and such wishes! So far so good. But Mecho, Tig, Don and Piglet are waiting for their school, and we have no news for them.

“Let’s divide,” proposes Julia, “each group will study a particular country, uncover its secrets and look for the proper teachers. And we mustn’t forget about the treasure!”

“We will set off for different directions, so that we can have more time, make more friends, learn more...” dreams Viki.

“Wake up! You did everything! You will be overworked!” interrupts George.

But everyone secretly dreams just the same – to travel, to discover, to get to know everything... and hopefully find the treasure.

The bravest should be first! They will reach the furthest point – an island. They will fly over the continent Europe, cross the Channel and land in England. There is no other way for the journey to begin – after all England is the home country of Winnie the Pooh. English is spoken there, so we will communicate easily. Some of our teachers will come with us for support and of course, to deal with bureaucratic issues, while we are busy with our mission.





## CHAPTER ONE

We are on our way now. What a great team we are: Vanessa, Gabi, Viki, Cveti, Elena and George. We feel excited and full of enthusiasm. We are a little frightened from the flight but we hold on.



Now, when we are telling this it sounds funny, but at the airport – OMG! – You already miss Mum, you got a pocket full of dreams, and, all right, you are scared (just a little). But we are confident – we will help our zoo friends and keep the promise.

Late in the evening we are in Birmingham. Our “secret agents” Michel, Peter, James and Aimee are waiting for us. They are familiar with the mission and have made careful investigation. The aim is Bells Farm Primary School! In spite of being tired we are awake all the night. On the other hand, in Bulgaria is 10 pm, and here – eight. How can we sleep? In the morning we don’t want to have breakfast, we want to leave the hotel as soon as possible. But in the end we have our first English breakfast – mmm, delicious!

At last we are at the school. What a surprise – compared to ours it is completely different!

“Where are we?! Is this a farm for bells?” wonders Vanessa.



“One moment, please!” greets us friendly Mrs. Hooper and makes us a sign to walk in.

All the staff welcomes us with warm smiles. As soon as we enter the door we all stop stunned – it looks like a fairy tale school – colourful, cosy, and comfortable. The school atmosphere implies it is designed by the children studying here – there are photos and posters hanging on the walls, the floors are covered with thick carpets, there are rooms equipped with computers and shelves with lots of books.

“This place seems just right for our little Winnie,” whispers Cveti, “this is a good place to search for teachers for the zoo school as well.”

“We could invite someone to be our teacher too,” dreams Gabi.

“This school is amazing! What wonderful classrooms there are – quite small, but full of beauty! And everyone smiles as if they have been our friends for ages!” says Elena happily.

So many friends, so many things they want to show us and to share their knowledge and thoughts with us... We decide to divide and each



one fulfills their own task. In this way we can both study with our new classmates and follow our aims.

“How are we supposed to study, when there are no student’s books here?” wonders Viki.

This frustration we feel only at the begging, because after a while we fit well into our new classes. It is great fun – Maths, Music, P.E. and even Spanish! And the children there also like us. They want to know all about us, about Bulgaria, about our customs. At last we all gather in a huge hall where we sing songs, give our new friends photos from Bulgaria collected in an album, tie everyone a Martenitza (the Bulgarian symbol of health and new begging) and enjoy their concert, especially prepared for us.

But let us not forget about our mission!

“I am looking around all the time and keep everyone under supervision,” repots George. “We may well copy the school model and paste it to our future zoo school. The teachers here are great, interesting and they love their students.

“We have two days to learn more about the details of the organization of this school,” adds Gaby.

“Everything is going to be just fine!” cheers them up Cveti and heads off to the canteen.

“Look over there!” someone says in high spirit.

We all freeze in place – like ice creams! Behind the cook’s shoulder we see the little Winnie! Can you imagine that! The first one to go to him is Cveti – she hugs Winnie full of excitement. And he is all frozen too – he just blinks and wonders what is going on.

“Who are you? Where are you from? What do you want from me?”

Poor Winnie – we took him all by surprise. We tell him about our mission, while he is eating the next slice of pie.

“Relax, friends!” says Winnie. “We have plenty of time, you can tell me everything in details and we will discuss it together – I will help you.”

The two days passes unnoticeably – we studied, played, told stories, presented a program and watched a concert. So many new friends, so many memories, unforgettable experiences...



On the third day Winnie takes us to bowling.



What a game! We enjoy ourselves a lot! Winnie counts our score. The best bit is when Gabi has started to lose and she looks so miserable, that Winnie decides to help her, but before throwing the ball, his paw stick into one of the holes and Winnie together with the ball rolls down to the skittles. Things are getting hot! At that very moment...

"Strike!" shouts out Gabi, "I am the winner!"

Winnie is in trouble, tough. The mechanism drops and lifts him in the air, while he is moving his body hopelessly and is looking so funny. But actually there is nothing to laugh at. He is transformed into a skittle! After a while Winnie turns back to his normal shape and Gabi hugs him.

"I owe you for being the winner! Thank you very much!" says Gabi.

"You are welcome!" modestly answers Winnie.

"You need some ice and a rest, so we will take you with us to our hotel," proposes Cveti.

We welcomed the rest after the long day, only that the heavy snores coming from the next room are a little disturbing☺.

In the morning Winnie invites us for a walk.



“But you haven’t seen anything yet! I will show you around Birmingham!” he says proudly.

Those little bear! This has been our secret desire from the very begging. We have to find something important, as well (you remember the treasure, don’t you?).

Somehow everything is running smooth. We all go together – teachers and students. We will do sightseeing around the city of Birmingham, visit the stadium of Birmingham City football club, have time for a walk, and also try fish and chips – the traditional English food... And here we are at the heart of the city – the weather is accompanying us - sunny, bright and cool. There is a labyrinth of channels, a lot of bridges, squares, smiles, cheerful talks and many memorable photos.





“These channels are full of fish!” exclaims Winnie and before we can turn in his direction – splash! – And Winnie dives into the water.





We all panic, because we cannot see anything, everyone starts to give advice and George jumps without thinking. After one long minute George comes out of the water holding our new old



friend.

“We cannot let Winnie go!” says our hero proudly.

The dugs in the channel, whatsoever, continue to swim undisturbed...

Although we are enjoying ourselves we cannot get out of our minds the little pieces of the faded yellow map, which we neatly store in our pockets. We search the whole city hall up side down; we look in the council chamber, even in the major’s office – no matches with the signs from our map. We wonder around squares, we peek in each from the many fountains, spy in confectioners – still nothing and nothing. So we decide to hit the road again – we go to the BC stadium – at any cost we must inspect everywhere.

And here we are. The stadium is like those we see only on TV. Winnie presents us to a friend of his – a young handsome coach who shows us around the stadium – he guides us into the changing rooms, we

seat in the VIP seats. We are lucky there is no game running at the moment – we can split and examine everywhere for the signs we are looking for.

“It is getting dark and I am already tired.” complains Vanessa.

“We cannot find anything, how are we going to explain this?” worries Gaby, seeking for support.

“And I haven’t bought a souvenir yet!” says Viki disappointed.

“Why don’t we search in London, as well?!” offers Elena.

“But of course!” exclaims George.

“And can we take Winnie with us?” wonders Cveti.

For sure he will come! He is our guide and will escort us everywhere. We travel first by train, than by bus. We cannot think of anything else – we only have several hours in London, at any prize we have to find signs from the map and discover the treasure.

“Wow! Everything here is named after Victoria!” amazes Viki.

We can well detect every emblem of England – the telephone boxes, the double-deckers, reverse traffic in the streets, London cabs, the Ritz, Hyde Park, and Buckingham Palace. We do our sightseeing on an open-top double-decker; we take a tour on a boat along the River Themes and we reach the Tower of London. We believe that in this castle we can find our treasure – isn’t it after all the castle a symbol for royalty? We follow our guides as if we are hypnotized – they are authoritatively telling about the dark destinies of the kings, queens and their families. We marvel at treasures, but royal ones, behind a glass. Their glory and blaze bewitch us – we secretly hope that the one we are looking for is just the same!

Every one of us takes pictures of the pitch black silk feathered ravens – the guardians of the Tower of London.

We stop for a moment to consider – where should we go on from here? – To the all seeing and ever moving London Eye or the tall standing Big Ben or around the famous bridges.





As we are walking along Tower Bridge, all of a sudden it begins to rise. Vanessa and Winnie are stuck at the one side of the now half separating bridge. Luckily, Vanessa manages to jump to our side of the bridge, while it is still open only a small crack but our clumsy friend cannot jump this far, on the contrary – he stumbles and starts rolling down the bridge.



Just when we thought he must have fallen into the water, we hear screams from the now passing beneath us tour boat. We look down and guess what we see – the tourists stare with wildly open eyes at the speaking bear! The boat Capitan seems quite relaxed as he helps Winnie to climb to the bank where we are waiting for him.

Wow, what a huge city is this! – We wonder how 12 million people can be in one place; having in mind that the buildings are not so high and the distances are enormous! We have to travel by buses, the tube and also to ask for the way a good many times. Winnie is supposed to be our guide, but apparently he gets lost himself sometimes – clearly - you must have a map!

“Do you want me to show you something interesting? I mean to try something traditional?” asks curiously Winnie.

We cannot wait for him to ask us twice – we are so tired, besides we should eat something and have some time to consider our next step. And the right place is... the pub! Everything seems so delicious, that we cannot decide what to order!



“We are running out of time and obviously ramble vainly” – shares her worry Vanessa.

“Yes, you are right – we have to departure in only a couple of hours,” says Cveti, somehow happily.

“And I haven’t bought a souvenir yet!” cries out Viki.

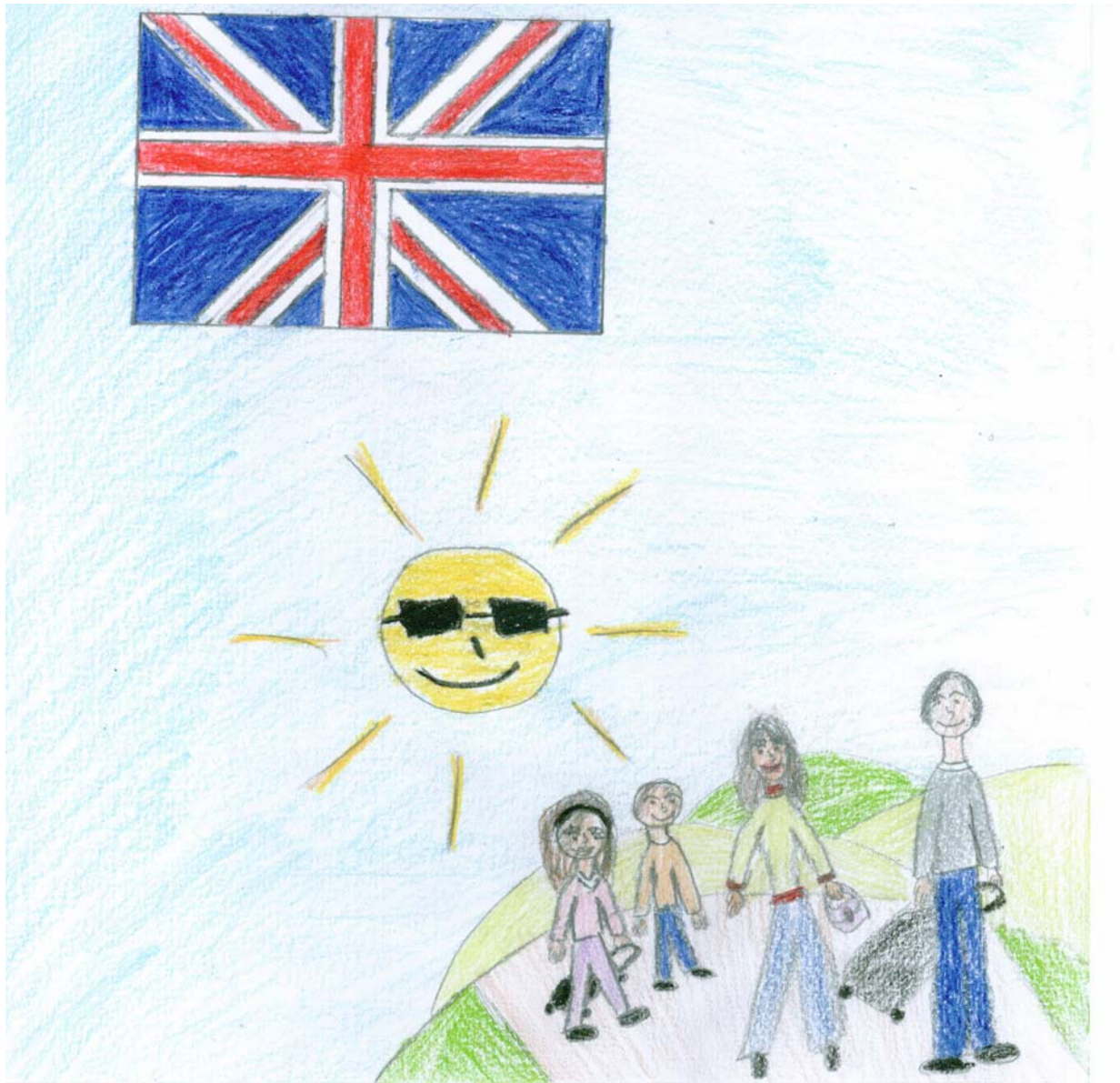
“The most important is that we have seen so many beauties and enriched our knowledge of England!” satisfied says Gabi.

“Yes, indeed,” assured says George. “We are leaving with so many impressions and so many new friends.”

“At least Winnie is coming with us! We have accomplished a part of our mission.” calmly says Elena.

“Don’t you all agree that this is well a kind of a treasure?” smiles playfully Winnie, as he looks at us from behind the too huge burger and bites a mouthful of it.

We are all silent for a moment, revising his words again and again. He is truly right! We are taking a real treasure back home with us! – Photos, memories and most importantly: friends.



“It is all true, but the other teams may fulfill their tasks better and *find* a treasure,” mutters a little discouraged Vanessa.

“We will see. Let them have a try,” adds Winnie, as he smiles, this time mysteriously.



## CHAPTER 2

The first group of the children's expedition has arrived. They have brought teachers for our zoo school, but they have discovered no treasure. Are we too going to fail? Are we going to mislead our friends? These thoughts have been troubling all of us. Truly, our England missionaries have shared with us a bunch of impressions, everything they have seen; they have shown us pictures, but the mission remained – we had to find the treasure and to find teachers with the help of Winnie.

“How can we help them?”, asked Mrs. Chardakova and Mr. Vasilev.

“Why do not we gather the students, to discuss a new plan and to head for our next destination, which we had found on the faded piece of the map – Poland?”

“Are you ready for adventures? Can you face some risks? Are you really ready for our special mission?”

“But of course, Mrs. Chardakova! Why are you even stating this as a question?”, responses Filip from the name of our group.

“This time it could be much more difficult”, warned us Mr. Vasilev. “We have to be very more careful and patient...”

“We are totally ready ...; we have even gathered our luggage.”

“All right, than tomorrow at 12.30 we will be waiting for you at the airport. But where have you all gone?! ”

This was 10 days ago. Now we are at home, all together again and everyone is talking about what adventures they had been through, showing photos they have taken of interesting places. The excitement is in the air, their eyes sparkle; they are so happy. We all are wondering what is in their diaries – so was our agreement before they took off – to store everything in a diary, since our mission is a secret one, we have to use passwords...

4<sup>th</sup> May, Tuesday

“Today is the day of our departure”, writes Elena, “I feel somewhat strange – on one hand, I am a little worried, I already miss Mum and Dad, but on the other hand I am happy. The thought that we are going to Poland cheers me. I'm waiting for my parents at the door with my suitcase packed. Why aren't they ready? ”

“Our plane takes off in two hours. All of us are at the airport, we are so thrilled, and I, personally, am going to fly for the first time. My stomach already responds to this fact. No more time for thinking – we have to head to the check-in desk”, hurries Maria.

“This will be me, flying for the first time,” admits Boyan, “Honestly, I am a little scared and elevated at the same time! My Mom is excited too. The important thing for us has to be our secret mission – to find the treasure from our map.”

“We are flying! – what a thrill!”, squeaks Anita, “The land beneath us looks fantastic! All this waiting and checking in was so boring... I have no patience left – I want to experience incredible things...”

“God, I am flying!”, breathlessly says Elena. “The world under me becomes smaller and smaller! Everything from here is with the size of an ant! And above us are the clouds – they are like spread cotton, like a very thin a soft blanket. I look around – Mrs. Chardakova is also impressed. Mr. Vasilev explains something to Boyan and Filip – they look grabbed too. Keeping feeling away, we should not forget about the mission! When we got on the plane I searched quickly the seats – nothing. Maria and Ani found nothing too.





“How is Winnie feeling all alone!?”, wonders Filip. “Nobody knows that he’s flying with us with no ticket. We’ve hidden him into Boyan’s luggage...oops! Poor Winnie – he won’t see how beautiful it is to fly among the birds.”

“We are at the Warsaw airport! After taking our luggage, Boyan and I cast a secret glance - is everything okay now? Winnie has to wait - we can release him only after we leave the airport.”

“Winnie is so annoying at times. He constantly complains about how dark it was during the flight, how could see nothing and how now he cannot see anything from Warsaw... but we still have not revealed that he is travelling with us! I cannot lift him to look out the window.”

“Warsaw is so beautiful and clean, as Mrs. Chardakova says “cleanly clean”, admires Boyan. “Despite the rainy and cold weather, the city is marvelous. We have to travel a long time, before we exit Warsaw and head to our target – a small town, called Poniatoŭa. It is at around 150

km from Warsaw. We will stay there for three days, we will make some new friends, learn everything about them, and we will reveal our secret mission, so that they can help us to accomplish it.”

“We have been travelling for so long! I am so tired!”, complains Maria.

“As we are going to speak only in English, now is the time to revise everything with Mr. Vasilev, so that it will be easier for us.”

“We are finally in front of the hotel with the melodic name

“Nightingale””, sighs Elena. “It is so beautiful and there is a lake! They are expecting us – although we are still strangers, we are given a very warm welcome, like we have been friends for ages! Although I was a little worried, whether we will cope with speaking only in English, I am so gladly surprised to find out, that there is no problem at all!”, says relieved Elena.

“What a wonderful hotel, and so many well-comers!”, excites Filip. “Oh, we will be together with teachers from Britain and Hungary and with Hungarian students, as well! Let’s get done with our accommodation and head for dinner – time for making some new friends!”

“That’s interesting – could those be the secret agents, about whom our Britain missionaries have told us?”, suspects Boyan. “And the Hungarians speak a very interesting and strangely sounding language – could it be a secret code?”, he continues to wonder.

“The dinner is splendid – very delicious and so curious – we eat soup and drink dried fruit compote”, says amazed Anita. “We are sitting next to the Hungarian students, with whom we quickly become friends.”

5<sup>th</sup> May, Wednesday

“Oh, we have to get up now! We have so much to do!”, says Filip in a blur, as he rushes out of his bed. “I wonder how I have fallen asleep and how many hours I have been sleeping. I must not forget to take Winnie out of the backpack!, mumbles Filip.

“I wonder how everyone will react to Winnie’s presence?”, speculates Boyan. “I hope he will not get us into any trouble, since he will be with us all day.”

“All of us have breakfast together!”, cheerfully says Maria. “It is fantastic! I cannot wait to see how interesting it will be at the school!”

“Mrs. Chardakova seemed very worried, when she found out we have

secretly brought Winnie with us”, guiltily swallows Anita. “But we all have to look after Winnie – he is very important and will help us in everything.”

“Wow, what a cozy library!”, says delighted Elena. “The school is so far from Bulgaria, but Winnie is welcomed here as well! He is literary looking at us from all the shelves! Obviously, Polish children like him too!”, observantly marks Elena, as we all glance amused at the books on the shelves.

“Oh, look, our Polish friends carry their Winnie and ours is still in the backpack! And our mates from Hungary and Britain have one too! So, it is okay to take out our Winnie!”, sighs relieved Boyan.



“Today we will study together with our Polish friends – Maths, P.E. and English. Are we going to cope? We are better at English, but the Maths lesson concerns fractions...”, worries Filip.

“I hope I have correctly memorized all of the names – Ola, Victoria, Matetzi...; they are all very cool”, smiles Elena. “At the begging it is normal for us to face some problems understanding ourselves; sometimes the words won’t come out and we often just gesture and

smile”, cheers Elena. “The fractions are not so complicated, but only after you grasp them. I find it harder at P.E.!” , laughs Elena. “Now, when I laugh, I remember how Filip and I guffawed when a bunch of girls circled him in the corridor and were shouting “I love you”, simulating that it was the only thing they remembered in English!” , chuckles Elena. “The English lesson is so interesting!” , excites Maria. “We make posters for the countries we come from and tell something about them to the others. We are divided into groups – it so compelling when we work together, suggest ideas and put them into practice... It seems like we have been friends for a long time now.”

“How curios – in every classroom there are the National flag and the Crucifix – carved figure of Jesus Christ on the Cross!” , says with widely opened eyes Anita. “From all of the walls are hanging posters, covered with drawings and collages. They are wonderful! Here the children learn to dance, draw, and sing, to create beautiful things... They will teach us to dance Polonaise!” eagerly says Anita.





“It is so exiting to dance Polonaise!”, exclaims Maria. “And it is not so hard! Literally, all of the students and teachers from Poland, Hungary and Britain join the dance! We all dance gracefully and with easiness to the wonderful music.”

“I think we are all hungry – especially the Winnies!”, says Boyan, rubbing his stomach. “We are all invited now to the school’s canteen. Hmmm, the lunch is very delicious; it is like we are in a 5-star restaurant. By the way, I am very impressed by the school’s yard and by all of the playgrounds. Here are professional facilities for playing football, skating and biking...” exhilarated says Boyan.

“The soup is delicious! I think we all enjoy the lunch”, smiles Elena.

“Let us build our plan for the afternoon, when we are going for an excursion in Lublin. I have read that there is a museum, which is actually an authentic historical village. Therefore we have to be on the alert and keep our eyes constantly open – we can find a piece of the treasure anywhere!”, notices Elena.



...

“Oh, it is raining again!”, complains Maria. “Luckily, we are travelling with the bus to the old village. But look out of the windows – it is surely because of the rain, that everything is so green and all the houses we pass by have small and quite courts with so many flowers! How beautiful!”, smiles Maria.

“Finally, we are at the old Polish village. Everything is made from wood – the houses, the church, and the stores. It seems that the village is an ethnographic museum with authentic stables, coops, and old streets”, marks Filip.

“Winnie is so brave! He acquainted himself with the hens and sneaked into the coop. Only he can look for a treasure there”, laughs Elena. “We should very carefully look everywhere; although we are tired, we must not lose hope”, cheers everyone Elena. “What’s that screaming?!”, shouts puzzled Elena. “Ha-ha-ha, look everyone there is a hen on Winnie’s head! Poor Winnie, he looks so funny! Is he continuing his search?!”, amuses Elena.



“Our Winnie is so brave – a real hero! Look over there; isn’t that our old friend Yori coming from underneath that hamper lid?!”, says really amused Maria. “Hey, guys, let’s go talk to him and explain him why we are here! Are you all in? I really hope he will understand us, while we clarify the reason we are here – we should tell him everything about our intentions to make a zoo-school”, suggests Elena.





“I cannot understand a thing!”, complains Yori. “You are all talking all at a time!”

“Calm down, children!”, smiles Mrs. Chardakova, as she approaches us. She explains everything to Yori calmly, smartly and engrossing.

Seemingly, Yori agrees to come with us and to teach at the zoo-school!

“That’s so cool! What a success! We have one more friend!”, delightedly shouts Filip.

“I guess we all are really tired, but we have one more destination to go to. It’s the mall; I am sure the girls will be melted by pleasure”, giggles Boyan.

“Well a mall like every other”, says Elena. “Let’s meet at the first floor,



than we can go to buy something sweet, some souvenirs and to look around”, suggests Elena. “Is that a store for toys? Look, here are a lot of toys, just like our Winnie and Yori in all sizes”, exclaims Elena. “Wow, all of the toys look as if they are alive!”, cries Anita. “and look at that tiger – he poses like a present TV star and everyone are marveling at him!”



“Should I believe my eyes!?”, outcries Filip. “This is Tiger! I am sure Winnie will no longer be mad at us for dragging him from that jeweler’s store, which he has taken for honey store. He will be so delighted to meet Tiger!”, smiles gladly Filip.

“How lucky we are! The three of them are so happy to see each other! I hope we this time we will succeed with the explanations, or Mrs. Chardakova and Mr. Vasilev will have to prompt in once again?”, wonders Boyan. “Still, we are running out of time; we are to meet with

the others at 18.30.”

“What a success! We will take with us Tiger, as well!”, says Elena. “I am so tired! I guess we all are”, yawns Elena. “I wonder if we can make it to dinner? But I still wonder why we have no fortune with finding our treasure; where could it be?! We have looked everywhere very carefully throughout the whole town, but...still nothing!”

“My God, I have gathered so many impressions; I wonder if I can memorize everything and tell it to the others back home?!”, asks herself Anita. “It is so interesting and beautiful, so clean and well arranged; the people are so polite! I like it here – we all laugh together and become better friends.”

“We have not succeeded thoroughly, but still we have tomorrow! We can search everywhere at the school - the canteen, the swimming pool, the gym, or maybe in this historical town? ”

6<sup>th</sup> May, Thursday

“The swimming pool is amazing! I think we have spent already two hours swimming and enjoying ourselves!”, laughs Filip. “Anyway, we cannot stay any longer. We are going to participate at the concert”, reminds Filip. “The girls seem quite worried.”

“Oh, it will be okay. We should not be anxious! Everything will be just fine, besides Filip, especially, has the support of his admirers”, giggles Boyan.

...

“This children sing so beautifully!”, amuses Anita. “All these traditional Polish customs and songs and outfits are so interesting!”, applauds Ani. “I have never heard so far a real organ playing”, whispers Elena. “I have learnt from one of the Polish teachers, who speaks with Mrs. Tarakchieva in French that they are playing especially for us!”

...

“The concert was amazing!”, says Filip. “Now, we have to direct towards the old fort. May be we will find something there!”

“Wow, the view from up here is simply breathtaking!”, murmurs Boyan. “Grasped as we may be by the beauty of this place, we should not forget about our mission! Let’s go and check everything carefully around!”

“This city is amazing and so “authentic” – yes, this is the exact word –

the streets, the little stores, the tiny figures, made of wood, glass and porcelain; I have bought some unique souvenirs!”, says delighted Elena. “And I am lost for words to describe the ice-cream, the cakes and these special breads...hmmm!”

“This place is so romantic! It is like magic, music, beauty..!”, sighs Anita. “We will go to another concert back at Poniatova – it will be a surprise! I cannot wait!”

...

“I just love this mid-age music! It is hard for me to describe how I feel...”, buzzes Maria. “All the children are so talented, and these costumes, and the music... And their instructor is so eloquent. I never knew that they have come to Bulgaria! Everything is so wonderful!”



...

“I cannot believe it is our last night here! And I cannot believe, that tomorrow morning we will get up at 5.00 to take off!”, fusses Ani. “I feel



like we have just come here! I want to spend some more time with our new friends!”

“How come we are so tired without even being to school or having no lessons and homework?”, wonders Filip. “I do not want to go to sleep! I wish this day never ends! It is such a great time being here! And even our teachers are having great fun!”

7<sup>th</sup> May, Friday

“I feel so sleepy this morning! Besides, I have not seen much from Warsaw on our way back”, stretches Elena. “Oh, not the airport again – queuing, checking – boring, boring, boring... But, after all, we are going back home”, dreams Elena.

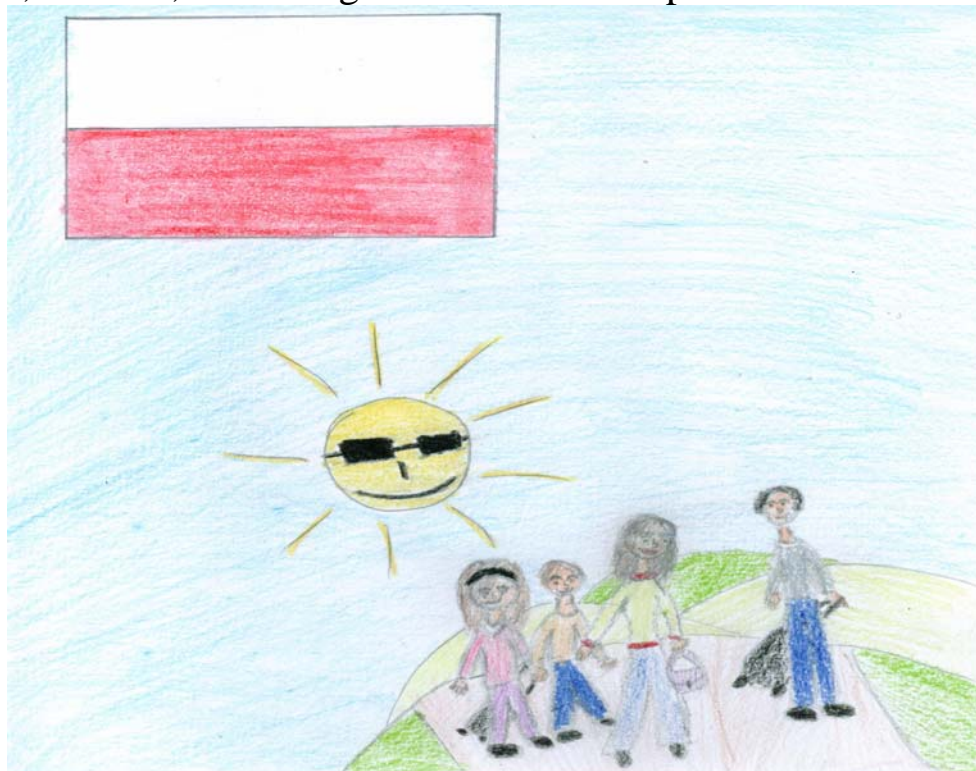


“Phew! I am so glad we managed to hide Winnie, Yori and Tiger so well! This time I am used their constant complains”, laughs Boyan. “It is such a pity; we do not have the treasure with us! But there was nothing more we could possibly do - we have searched everywhere, according to the special signs of our map! I doubt we have missed something! We were so



carefully observing! Still, we were always surrounded by so many new friends, that we might have skipped something! I strongly hope we haven't; now what are we going to say to the other missionaries?!"

"Anyway, we have gathered so many emotions and experiences! I cannot wait to tell the others when we arrive home!", smiles Ani." I very much hope we will see our new friends again and I hope they will remember us; after all, we have given each of them pieces of our hearts!"



### Chapter 3 Budapest, Hungary

'I'm sick and tired of this flight. It's so dark and there is no room at all – my back is so stiff. That's not fair at all, and above all I'm hungry – Doh! I haven't borrowed any honey with me! When are we to land in Budapest?' mumbles Pooh, stuck in Ralitca's suitcase. 'But there's no other way – I have to be with the children and help them with the treasure hunt. But I was woken up so early in the morning, that's why I'm feeling quite asleep – I didn't even pay attention with whom I'm travelling with. I remember that the kids from the last expedition, unfortunately, failed to come upon the desired treasure. They have provided teachers for the zoo school Eeyore, the donkey, Tigger, Piglet and Rabbit. But this isn't the treasure that Goodie Bear had spoken about – we've still fail to discover it – neither in England, nor in Poland. Where on earth could it possibly be? I don't know what is it, but naturally, I hope there is honey too. '

Pooh is holding his head between his paws, trying to force his head to think, but as we all know, he doesn't own a brilliant mind, since he goes upstairs and downstairs upside down. But his thoughts are suddenly interrupted – the suitcase is moving unnaturally now. 'What's happening?' Poor Pooh – he doesn't have the slightest clue his current occupation is being tossed around Budapest's airport. 'I emerge into the light at last! Where are we?'



‘In Budapest, at the hotel’ explains Joanna, as she helps Pooh out. ‘We are just about to have breakfast and then we are going to the Tropicarium.’

‘And what’s a Troti.....?’

‘Tropicarium! Tropicarium!’ repeats Kirila in a rush. ‘I don’t know exactly, but I guess, it may be somehow connected with tropics.’

‘There must be hot and full of animals!’ predicts Diana.

‘Animals? Like in the zoo?’ wonders Pooh, gazing surprised with his eyes wide open. ‘Nobody answers me. Gloria’s Mum welcomes us with traditional Hungarian breakfast – just baked – bread with chocolate! Totally irresistible!

We have to take a train to reach a mall where the Tropicarium is situated. Is this town really that big? Never mind. Ow, here we are, at last! That’s a miracle – a real rainforest! There are so many people, who are gazing stunned, reading the labels and questions are flowing from everywhere.

And who will explain to me? Ow, I see...I better concentrate on what Gloria and

Diana are discussing – at least I can hear them clearly, since I'm in Gloria's hands. The girls are amazed by the monkeys, crocodiles, turtles, parrots... Ow, the girls bend over to have a better look at the animals. I better hold on tight, if I don't want to be dropped down.



Now we are studying the fishes – they are totally stunning! Each one is in a bright color – they remind me of the color pencils, which Christopher Robin once gave me as a gift – but only that they are even more beautiful and vivid. But the literally most breathtaking moment is when huge sharks are swimming above us...whew! Cowardly Piglet is lucky to be absent.

Wow, wow! Wait a minute! I thought it couldn't become more terrifying! All of the treasure-hunters are bending down to touch the stingrays! Ow, no! What if Gloria accidentally drops me...? I can feel my teeth chatter – I absolutely refuse to look!

I must rub my eyes to believe that – so many children, all wearing yellow T-shirts, all gazing in amazement at the fish. And who is this jumping around



hectically - isn't that Roo? Yes, yes, that's right! Only a little kangaroo can jump like that. Ok, so if this is really Roo, than where is Kanga? Ow, there she is! – helping the children to take their places in the nearby benches, so that they can have a better look at the fishes. I hope so badly to escape from Diana's arms and run to greet them! What should I do?! Yes, got it! – I hope it'll work if I pull a lock of Gloria's hair. And – hit! The girls see and recognize my friends; they even catch the attention of Ralitca and Joanna.



'Hello, dear Kanga! Is it you we are suppose to meet?' laughs Gloria, as we all approach Kanga. 'Dear, Kanga, you really should help us...'

'Shhh..., Pooh' interrupts me Joanna. 'But all I wanted to say is that we are looking for teachers for the zoo school in Sofia...'

‘Are you talking about Sofia, Bulgaria?’ wonders Kanga, ‘Is that far from here?’ asks Kanga, still surprised.

‘We’ll explain it to you all! Now we are in Budapest to meet with children and teachers from the ALDASH School. We are supposed to be here, according to the schedule, for 3 days, but if we like it we can stay until the end of the week’, says Diana in a blur, ‘We would love to see so many landmarks here – museums, palaces, Parliament, to take a tour on the Danube on a boat’, sighs Diana, as if she pictures all of this in her mind.

Poor me...and I’m going to be dragged everywhere, sighs Pooh, while throwing up his paws over his head, rubbing and hectically thinking. ‘But, on the other hand, it’d better than being alone at the hotel or – worse – in somebody’s suitcase. I wonder when will come my turn to utter a word – I will soon give up any hope of opening my mouth – the girls are talking in unison, persuading Kanga to come with us back to Bulgaria. She will answer us tomorrow. Let’s hope she’ll say “yes”. This will add one more friend to the family. I notice Rummi is extraordinarily happy – literally she is moved to tears. Do you understand what I mean? May be RUmmi and ROo and Kanga are relatives! I’m certainly sure now – Rummi will 100 per cent persuade them to come with us in our zoo school – there is no doubt about that. And now – back to the hotel just in time, as my tummy begins to sing the “I’m hungry” song. I wonder what we will eat here in Hungary. Typical Hungarian dishes, of course! Let’s hope it’s not something peppery – the chilies are all around us. Let it be something sweet! And what could this “goulash” possibly be? I always hear this word when there is a conversation about eating. And I don’t like eating honey, I adore it!

We have strawberry soup for dinner! Yummy! And the other dishes are delicious too. As the saying goes, the things to eat are good things.

What a wonderful school – it looks like Harry Potter’s castle. How will I describe it to my friends? Oh, it will be easy – the children are taking pictures. Isn’t it the Owl!?



The smartest bird is placed at the entrance of the school – I wonder if all the students can read and write as he can? We will see!

The interior of the school is wonderful too. It's like a labyrinth – I wonder how the students fail to lose their way in this corridors and staircases. Julia has told me that everyone knows me here – they've heard and read about Winnie the Pooh. I'm so celebrated! I'm the little bear with a countless number of European friends.

We are in classroom where all the students are cutting, sticking... making beautiful shapes out of paper. Now we are heading to attend two English lessons! I'm so eager to learn something new! I'm sorry, but English exactly my pot of honey! - Especially when it comes to describing weird iron scary machines, or competing in contest of comparing adjectives! But I'm definitely for the third English class – I'm exquisite in writing poems and composing songs...and eating chocolate (besides I never refuse gifts, in particular sweet ones)! My attention is distracted – isn't that teacher one of the Birmingham's secret agents?! But he is out of my reach...

Wow! I cannot believe it! There are so many students here and they are all wearing white shirts and blouses. We are told that today is a public holiday and there will be a concert at the school. We are listening to magnificent songs, watching historical scenes and traditional folk dances. It's impossible to fully summarize this amazing performance. And this applause is for us – we are going to tell everyone about our country, our school and about us, of course. Julia and Rummi look so beautiful on the stage – at the end they will invite the all our new friends in Sofia and promise there will be a concert too.

How about having lunch? I'm curious what do the students from this school have for lunch?





It's time for a walk. Do you know where are we going? To a true palace of wizards! But the wizards here are called scientists. These scientists discovered principles which are used to create different devices – like the one we've already seen in the English class – and everyone here can play and learn more about the amusing world of the physics. I should go to school too – to learn to read and write and so on and so forth. I should ask Christopher Robin about this whole education thing.

We have a lovely time here in Budapest. Ow, Kanga has just phoned us to tell us she will come with Roo in Sofia. Hurray! But we still have to look for...the treasure. We've made a lot of friends at this school – I can see the teachers are talking and laughing...everyone are friends.



We are having a city tour, going sightseeing, taking photos and trying to find the treasure. Here from this towers (I wonder why they are called Fishermen's Bastion) we can see everything and look everywhere. I'm thankful to Gloria for lifting me; otherwise I would have the mesmerizing view!



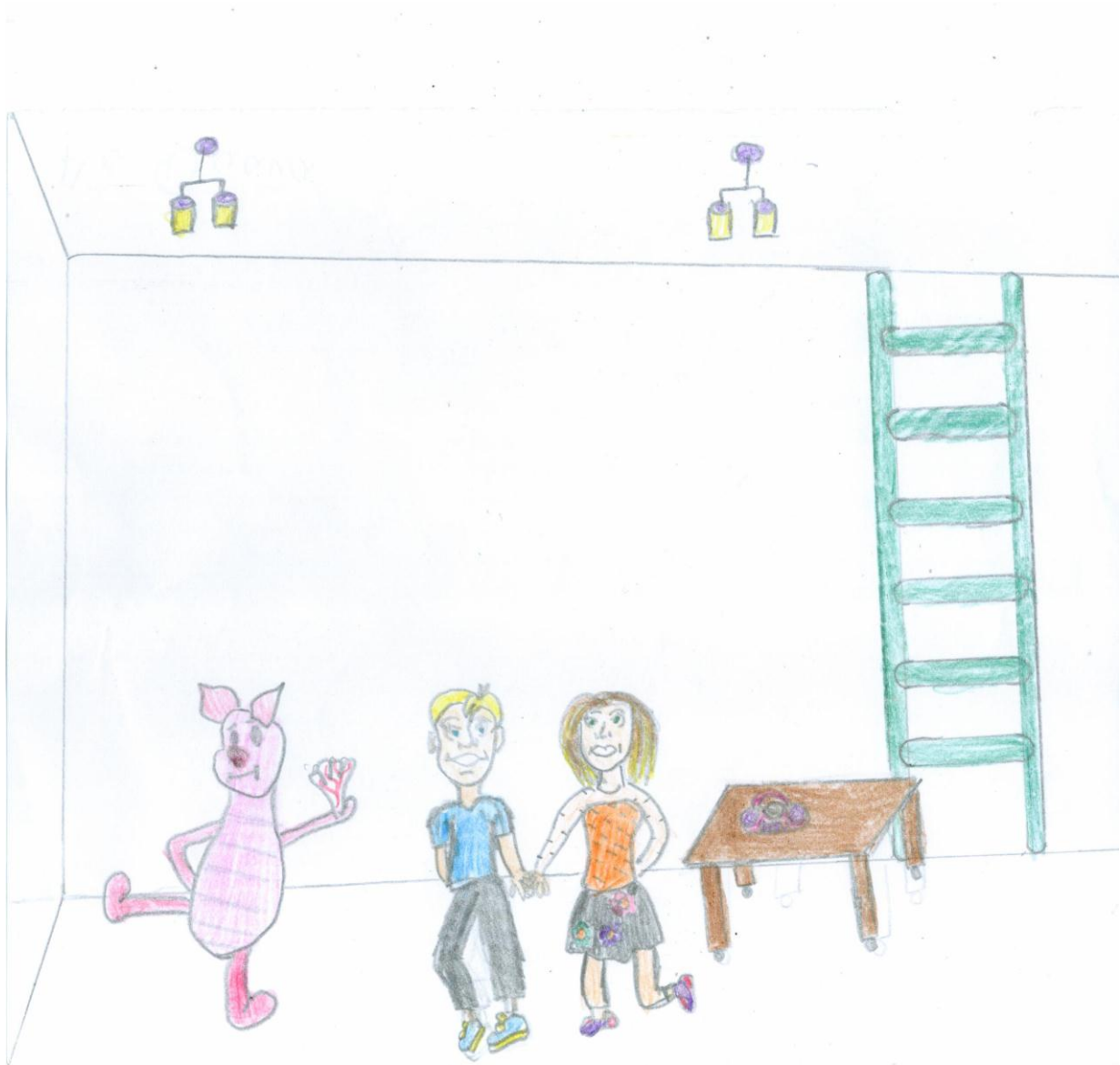


It's absolutely breathtaking: the banks of the river Danube with its bridges, Pest – the one half of the city – in front of us, the stately Parliament. We are all silent and lost in admiration from the glorious view and all this music – you can truly feel it only here. It's so unforgettable to be right here with friends. I guess I'm the only one to keep my mind on the treasure. Why don't we use the map – it could be right here! I hope no one else have heard me. We can hunt our target in the Historical museum, the Ethnographical museum, underground... everywhere... We must pretend we are going sightseeing, so nobody suspect us, while we keep seeking. Besides we might as well come upon some honey!

We have found nothing...may be tomorrow. I want to go to bed – I'm so tired. Instead we are going to learn how to dance Csárdás. What's the matter with this? If only Christopher or Owl were here! I could have asked them...never mind, I'll see it myself if I don't fall asleep first. I cannot go to bed – we are at the school hall among friends – students, teachers, musicians, dancers. There is pastry, as well, for refreshment...mmmmmm, yummy!

Here is the surprise! Who's the dance teacher? Can you guess? It's my dear

friend Piglet. What a dancer he is! He keeps dancing without getting tired! I cannot reach him to hug him. The dance is over at last! 'What are doing here?' says Piglet in amusement, 'This is my hometown.'



'It's ours, but now it's mine too. I'm on a visit here. I'm looking for teachers for our zoo school in Sofia. I'm looking for something else, as well – I will tell you later.'

'These might be very important things, now you have come all the way here in Budapest!' Piglet becomes thoughtful. But time is short, because the dance continues.

I wonder if I should invite him to teach the zoo animals how to dance and



maybe to teach the children, as well. I don't know... I must ask.

'Pooh, why aren't you dancing, what are thinking about?' Piglet wonders.

'Some things and another matter.' I say importantly.

'They might be useful.' speculates Piglet.

'If you want to solve the problems, you should come with my friends and me in Bulgaria. There is a school there, where children want to learn how to dance and zoo animals that are waiting for teachers. Kanga has already promised to come with Roo. Eeyore, Tigg and Rabbit will be there too...we can live as one happy family. We are flying tomorrow and we will be waiting for you at the airport.'

We are all exhausted and fall into a heavy sleep. Our dreams repeat what was seen during the day. We are going to Parliament tomorrow. But how will we get there? – It's on the other side of the river.

Here we are in the underground. It's terrible, because it's steep. But there is nothing for me to be afraid of – in Rummi's hands I can travel the world.

We are at Parliament. It's beautiful. No, it's wonderful. No, it's magnificent. A lot of frescoes, colored glasses, marble staircases, high ceilings! How can I interpret it?! It's indescribable! We are hushed looking around, taking photos, striving to store every detail. We are out on the terrace from where we can see the opposite bank of the river Danube, the Fishermen's Bastion, the Palace.

We hug and kiss 'goodbye' with part of our friends and make a promise to meet in Bulgaria in the spring.

We are going to a museum with rest part of our friends, but I cannot pronounce its name – Echo...Eto...

'Ethnographical, Pooh!' Joanna helps me. 'There we will see how Hungarians used to live hundreds of years ago.'

'Isn't it a school subject?'

'Yes, but it can be understood better with a guide.' explains Joanna.

'I wonder how will we understand this obscure language?'

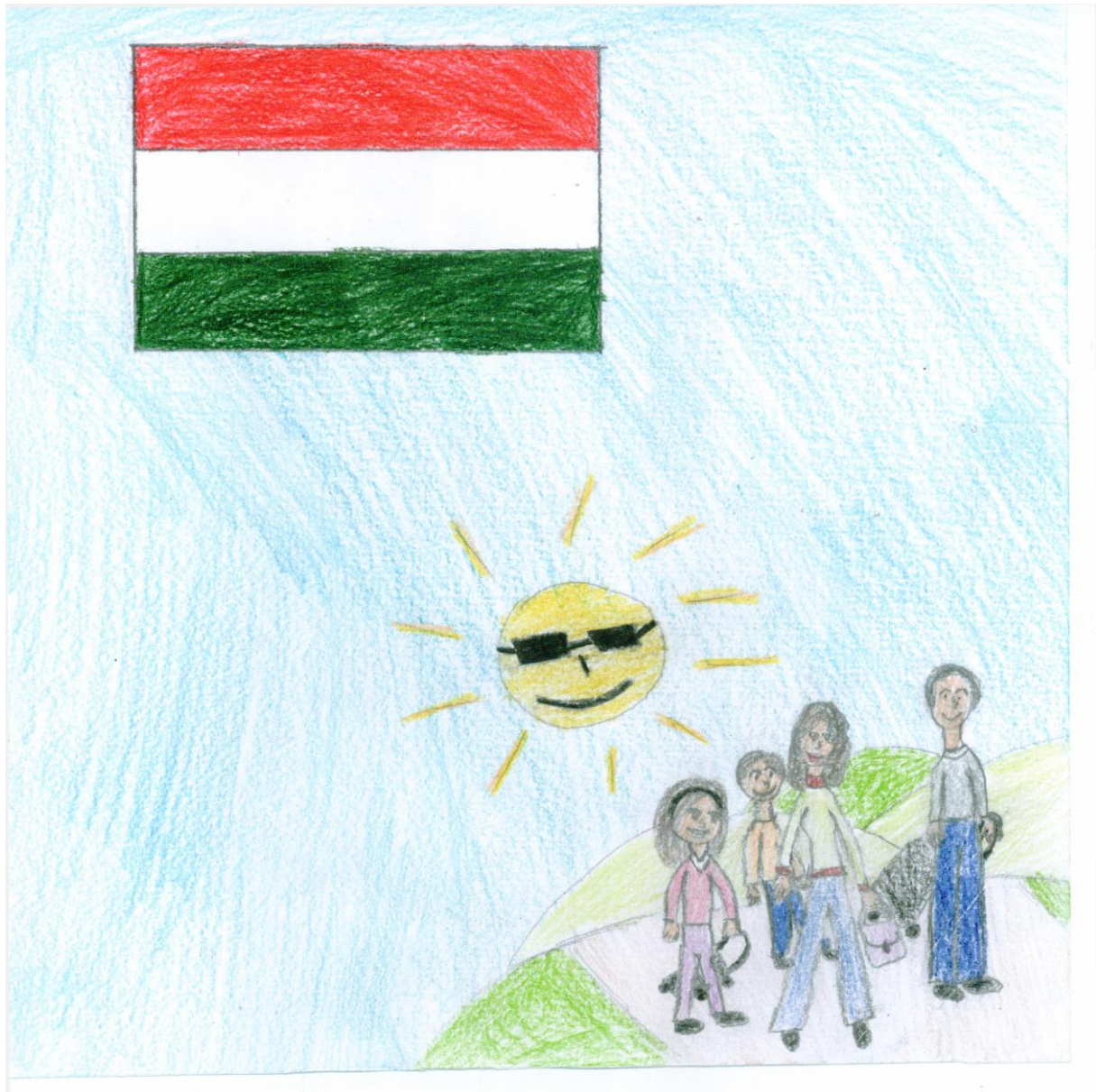
'Don't worry, the guide is Bulgarian.' smiles Joanna.

What a strange museum – almost half of the exposed objects are similar to what I've seen in Bulgaria: clothes, furniture, pots, and toys...others we see for the first time. There are wonderful goods in the souvenir shops too – embroideries, knitted works, utensils made of glass and china...one finds it difficult to choose. There are a lot of sweets, as well: chocolate, marzipan, jam, marmalade and honey, of course! Time to buy some souvenirs and presents from Budapest.



Unforgettable days, a real fiesta! But we still haven't found the treasure. The old faded map, Goodie Bear gave us, has so many signs, we have tracked almost all of them, we have asked far and wide, but the luck wasn't on our side – we found nothing, and the nothing, the naught! We haven't even found hidden pots of honey. But everything is over now – I'm once again to be stuck in a suitcase! Only that now it smells delicious – like chocolate. I will be set free no sooner than we land in Sofia – in 2 hours from now. Maybe Kanga, Roo and

Piglet have tickets and they are in their seats, after all they are our guests! I doubt the children will put them in the luggage. I have so many problems to solve, that even when I only think about them I get a headache...all in all I'm just a little bear with weak mind. I better go to sleep, because as we all know from fairytales, the best advice is found on the pillow! Early to bed and early to rise, makes me healthy, wealthy and wise!



THE TEXT AND THE PICTURES ARE PREPARED BY:

DIANA SIMEONOVA, GLORIA UZUNOVA, JOANNA PANOVA, JULIA GALABOVA, KIRILA BUCHEVA,  
RALITSA TODOROVA AND RUMYANA PATRONSKA.



## EPILOGUE

Here are we all gathering together in our cozy project room. What are we going to tell our teachers and the principal about our travels abroad? We've brought along friends for the animals from all the places where the pieces of the old faded map had led us to... There will be teachers in the zoo! And a school which will combine a little bit of English, Polish and Hungarian school culture and experience. But we didn't find out the treasure and we are disappointed for not fulfilling the Goody Bear's task. We have made a lot of new friends and had many interesting moments, unforgettable memories, but the best part is ...

'Dear children,' says Mrs. Chardakova with a moved voice, 'We've travelled all over Europe, have met friends from different countries, have got in touch with their culture, national cuisine, history and language. Now we have to do something very, very special – to welcome them to our country, to show them our school...' She knows about our impressions, but still can't help us. What should we do?

'Mr. Vasilev may we talk something over with you, but shshshsh!...' Boyan tries to enlist the teacher for their cause.

'Tomorrow we have to go to the zoo to prepare the welcoming of the teachers for the zoo school,' Mrs. Tarakchieva always has a plan for everything, 'Our students have to demonstrate the guests all their knowledge.'

'Why don't we show them our school first?' Vanessa always suggests so extraordinary things. 'What if they start their visit with us?'

'Obviously we must consider every detail well. The guests will be here in a day or so. I wonder whether the principal will approve our idea?' hesitates Cveti.

'I am sure she will! We will persuade her', says Philip firmly.

'OK. Let's put our hand to the work!' Mrs. Chardakova is constantly supporting us.

Wow! What a downpour of ideas! – We have one for organizing a concert, for introducing the guests to our theater "Theatre 5-5", but how are they going to understand a sketch in Bulgarian? – We can supply them with translated scripts.



Why don't we introduce our guests to traditional Bulgarian dances and costumes, our ballet and some acrobatics, or may be as well, let Martina and "Europe - Rainbow" sing, tell our guests the story of the patron of our school Petko Karavelov...so many ideas – 'the more...the more', as Winnie likes to say.

Now it's time we get to work. We are so used to cooperate in a team now – we divide the tasks and each one takes the one they like most. Some of us draw and sign cards with greetings for the spring, others select and wrap gifts, or draw routes for a tour in Sofia, for the trip to the old town in Plovdiv and to the Bachkovo Monastery, or prepare the schedule and lessons at the school. .. It is great fun, we are all very happy and excited, but a little tensed, also. Now we are the hosts and we are to welcome so many friends. The principal says that we can be together from Monday until Friday.

'Let's invite our friends from the zoo on Wednesday, they'll be happy among us, they can make a lot of new friends...' , that is such a spontaneous offer no one can object.

'I'm pleasantly surprised that all of you have learnt so much' wonders smiling the principal, eying us over her glasses. 'I'm sure you can cope with everything and I count on you! What is my part?'

'To invite the guests', says in a blur Viki.

We give everyone a very warm welcome. We show them some archeological sites and tell them facts from the history of Sofia and Bulgaria. One of our gifts is the school concert. All of the meals we offer include national Bulgarian cuisine. Everything is so new and yet so interesting for our guests.

'The most interesting for me was when everyone were amazed by how many we have learnt, and how the students in the first grade can read and calculate', laughs excited Ralitzka, as she has a role as a translator.

'For me more interesting was when our friends made "banitza" and embroidered' smiles Gaby.

'No, no... it was the best when we taught them how to dance "horo" and to draw national Bulgarian costumes' argues Anita.

'And everyone was so fascinated by Plovdiv – from the Roman amphitheatre, the Old town of Plovdiv, the Ethnographic Museum', steps in Gloria.

‘And how many photos have everyone taken from the Bachkovo Monastery!’

‘I guess our guests liked everything’, summarizes Elena, ‘They were commenting all the time that all of it was wonderful and they thanked us for the welcome and the activities.’

‘Yes, that’s right! We all read about the impressions of our guests in the school’s Chronicles book!’

‘What a pity everything is history now...’, sadly smiles Julia.

‘No, it is not’, shakes his head Winnie, ‘I may be just a bear, but I have travelled all the way with you and personally I will never forget this project! Each one of you has so many friends from the countries and schools we’ve visited! You have so many memories and photos to remind you of the good time you had! Besides, you all have learnt so many new things!’

‘But we fail to find the treasure...’

‘That’s the point! You have found one! All the good words are as the coins in a treasure! To love the others, to accept them as friends, to feel free to hug them, to send them a postcard for a holiday, to keep them all in your heart – that is an entire treasure!’



As always Mrs. Chardakova is smiling pleased. Everyone – the teachers and the zoo animals are smiling. The joy is all over the faces of the children and their parents. The treasure turns out to be in the heart, in the mind, in FRIENDSHIP! We have found it everywhere – in England, in Poland, in Hungary! And we will keep it! As we all keep the little, clumsy and always hungry Winnie from our childhood!

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## **Chapter II - Poland**

## Meeting in Sofia/Bulgary 3-6.11.2009



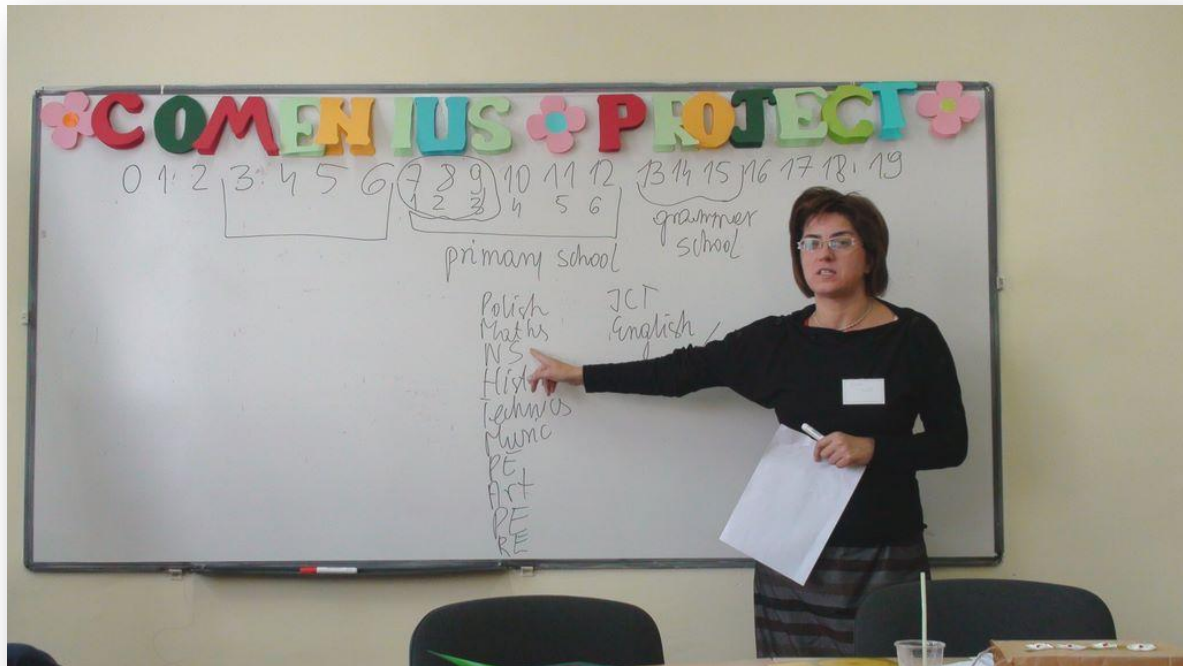
From the 3rd to the 6th of November a first meeting of Comenius schools teams took place in Sofia. Every team have prepared promotional brochures, leaflets and multimedia presentations concerning their schools as well as they informed each other about their educational system.



They also made some corrections connected with the next visits in the project schedule. Besides working on the project we took part in the trip around Sofia organized by Bulgarian partners.







We had an opportunity to know better Bulgarian traditions and customs presented by the local folk band, which in a very expressive way /through dances and songs/ showed as bulgarian national customs and habits.



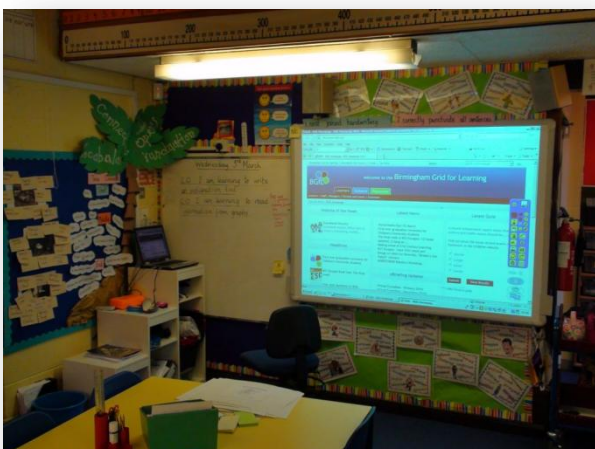


## Meeting in Birmingham/England 2-5.03.2010

The next meeting of school-partners taking part in "Culture expedition in Europe" held from 2.03. to 5.03.2010 in Birmingham /England/.



All participants could observe how pupils in Bells Farm School work.





They also took part in a very interesting workshop with children and their parents.



English organizers prepared many attractions for visitors who were able to admire a beautiful Birmingham city called Venice of the North.







Birmingham is famous for its marvelous canals which were communication routes many years ago. Guests from Poland, Bulgaria and Hungary also visited town hall as well as magnificent stadion of F.C. Birmingham Football Club. Visit in Birmingham was perfectly and professionally prepared.





## Meeting in Budapest/Hungary 4-8.10.2010

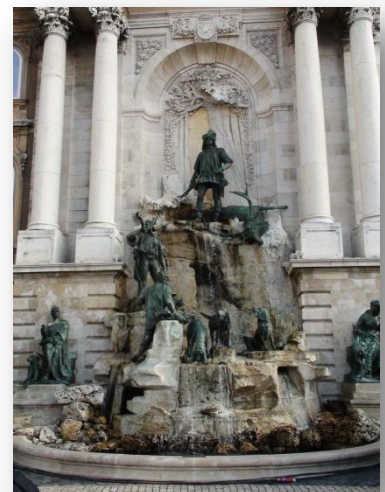


The team of the teachers who realise the tasks of the Comenius project, took part in another plain trip, this time to Budapest. The hosts of the meeting prepared a rich programme with a lot of attractions.



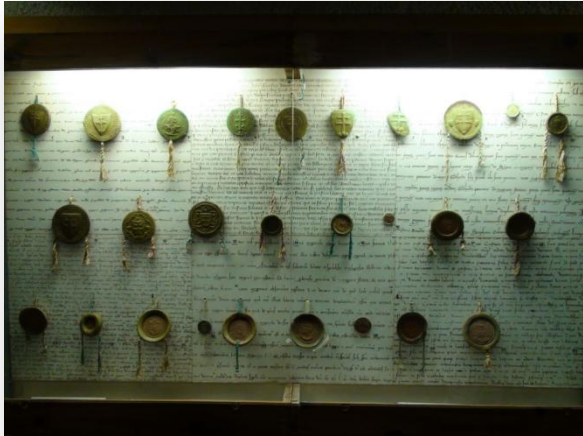


At the beginning of our visit there was a walk through a historic district of Budapest. Thanks to organizers we had the opportunity to see many interesting places.

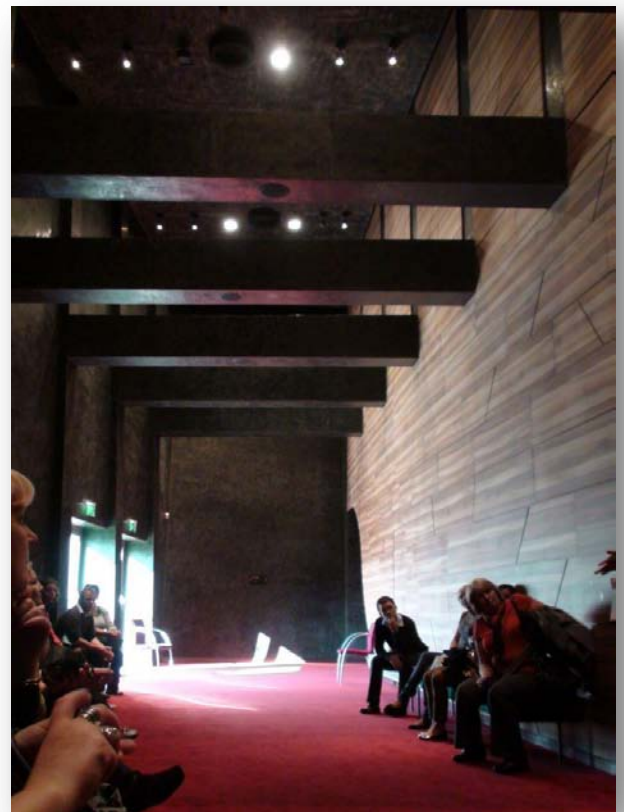




We saw the **History Museum**, where there was even a coat of the Jagiellon family (it was a royal family who ruled in Poland) and beautiful the **Art Palace**, where there were a concert hall and a theatre.







During our stay there was a Hungarian national holiday (6<sup>th</sup> of October) and it is a custom that they haven't any classes, but pupils and teachers prepare an artistic programme. We had the opportunity to see one.





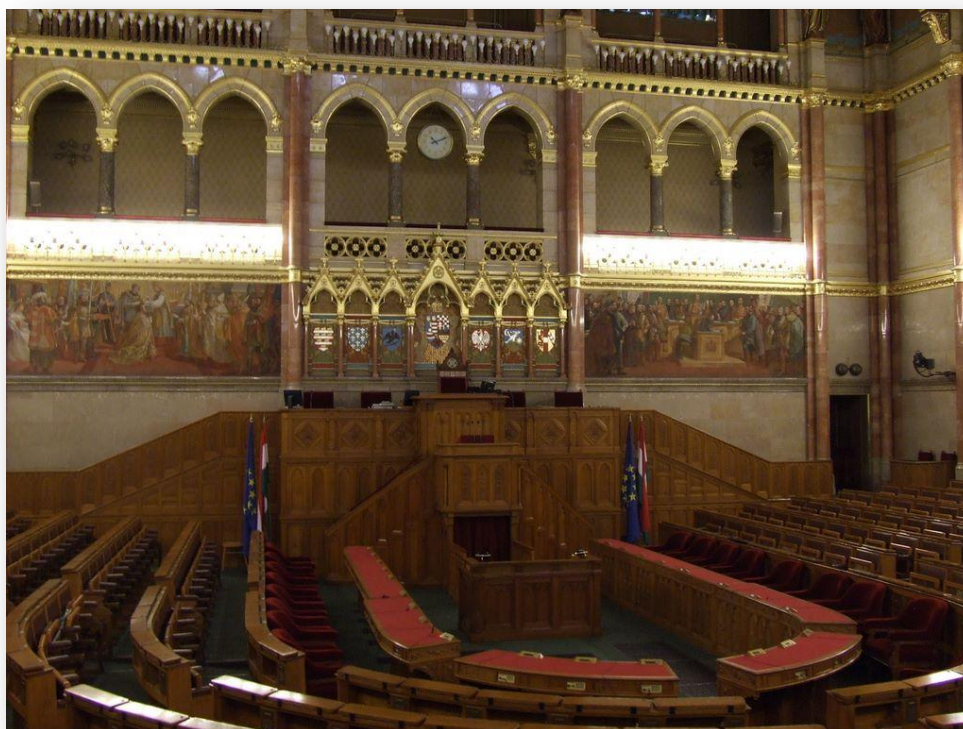
We took also part in many lessons given by Hungarian teachers (there was also one given by English teacher), which were reviewed during workshops.



We experienced a new impression because we learned how to dance a national Hungarian dance - czardas.



The building of Parliament made an indelible impression us - this was a surprise excursion, which our Hungarian friends prepared for us at the end of our visit.



We brought many ideas and great educational solutions which we introduce in Poland.



## Meeting in Sofia/Bulgary 21-25.03.2011



From 21st to 25th March 2011 in Sofia there was a meeting of the representatives from all schools (Sofia/Bulgary, Birmingham/England, Poniatowa/Poland, Budapest/Hungary) that took part in the project "Cultural expedition in Europe". This joint undertaking lasted for two years. It was a closing and evaluating visit. All common tasks have been summed up. Our stay in Sofia (21st March) we started from visiting The National Palace of Children. The palace is an out-school education institution where children in pre-school and school age develop their capacities and gifts in more than 50 varied educative forms in the sphere of science, IT, arts, sport and tourism. The educational program is based on more than 200 projects developed by highly qualified and friendly teachers, with proved achievements in the corresponding sphere.



**The National Palace of Children** has the necessary equipment for developing various activities. It is the greatest institution in Bulgaria for out-schools education. We had a chance to see a ballet lesson for pre-school kids as well as Art and Biology activities. We were impressed by a workshop of Bulgarian customs and folklore. All of our friends have listened with great interest a story about a Spring Day celebrations in Bulgaria. The name of the holiday is Baba Marta . "Baba" is the Bulgarian word for "grandmother" and "Mart" is the Bulgarian word for the month of March.



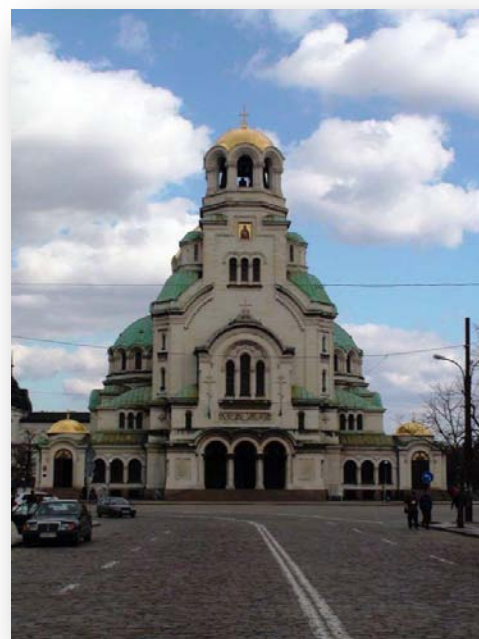




Menitsa is a small piece of adornment, made of white and red yarn and worn from 1st of March until around the end of March (or the first time an individual sees a stork, swallow or budding tree). Baba Marta is a Bulgarian tradition related to welcoming the upcoming spring. On the next day (22nd March) we had an exciting tour around Sofia. It started from the centre of the capital city. At the main **Holly Sunday Place** a local English-speaking guide brought forward the history of Sofia.



He told us a short stories about the monuments next to this place(Holly Sunday church, Theological College and the Balcan Sheraton hotel. From Holly Sunday Place we could admire Vitosha Boulevard with a beautiful view of Vitosha Mountain and Boulevard of Kniagina Maria Luiza. In the background of the Sheraton hotel we saw the oldest church in Sofia (from the IV century) - **Saint George Rotunda** as well as the remains of the Roman buildings as well as a Bulgarian president's residence. We could also visited the following landmarks: The National Theatre named Iwan Wazow, the church of **Saint Sophia - the Martyr** and Orthodox **Church -Saint Alexander Nevsky**.





In the evening we took part in the celebration of 131st birth anniversary of Petko Karavelov the Bulgarian school patron. Students from 55 COY Karavelov Primary School and participants of various activities in The National Palace of Children presented their skills and abilities during ceremonial concert. Before the performances the school director made a short speech opening the ceremony.



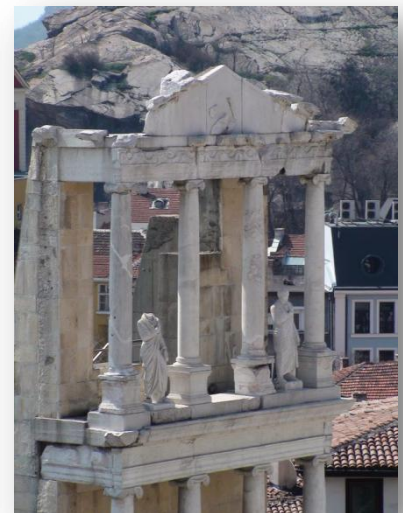


The next day (23rd March) we spent at school. We were able to see how Bulgarian pupils and teachers work, observing many interesting lessons (Chemistry, Biology, ICT, Bulgarian Literature and Foreign Languages) in higher grades. We also participated in early education classes. Thanks to these observations we could know the methodology of Bulgarian teachers. The head teacher informed us about forms and tools used for measuring teachers' work. They are slightly different from those used in Polish schools.



After lunch there was a meeting with Bulgarian teachers, parents' representatives and other people who are responsible for school management. They shortly summarized their activities. After a short break we started to work on the project. All project's participants made final settlements concerning the e-book and evaluating questionnaires which are the final products of our common joint venture.

On the last day of our stay in Bulgaria (24.03) the hosts organized a trip to Plovdiv. This is an ancient city which is situated about 130 km from Sofia. Being older than most of the oldest towns like Rome, Athens, Carthage or Constantinople, an almost contemporary of the ancient city of Troy, Plovdiv is a town built upon layers of towns and a culture developed upon layers of cultures. Plovdiv is a picturesque town, with many gardens and parks, museums and archaeological monuments. We visited its old ,called the Old Town with the houses o from the National Revival period (18th-19th century), which is an imposing open-air museum. We could also see one of the most remarkable sights of the town, The Ancient Theatre and medieval Monastery Bachkovski.



Our stay in Bulgaria gave us also an opportunity to try their traditional dishes like pyneni czuszki (red pepper stuffed with rice), shopska salad, bean in a earth enwarepot, sirene-Bulgarian cheese or banitsa-baked cheese. pastry as well as traditional Bulgarian dessert called toľumbiczki.





## Quotes of our students

**Hungary:** “Wonderful people”, “Friendly and open people”, “Sunny country”, “Singing country”

**Bulgaria:** “Cheerful and nice people”, “Sunny country”, “Fragrant roses”

**England:** “Discipline and order”, “Always smiling”, “Very polite people”



**Comenius Team:** Aldona Chabros-Rożalska, Małgorzata Piłat, Joanna Pastwa, Iwona Kucharek, Małgorzata Hulak and Rafał Pastwa



## **Chapter III - England**

On the 22<sup>st</sup> March four teachers, intrepid adventurers, from Bells Farm met at Birmingham International Airport. The time was 5am and we should all still be in bed. Despite this, we were happy to be there as we were about to embark upon a visit to Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria and the last destination on our Comenius tour.

A smooth flight was the contrast to the manic dash across the city to sign into the hotel before meeting the rest of the group ready for the first activity; a cultural show. We were promptly whisked to a lovely lecture theatre in a nearby university where we were treated to many delightful and well-rehearsed acts. Aimee particularly liked the comedy which was put on by the elder male students whilst Terry commented that the dancing was 'truly amazing.'

After a comfortable sleep, we had breakfast and finally a proper chance to catch up with our friends. We were all so pleased to see everybody looking and feeling well and happy.

The four Bells Farm teachers, along with the rest of the Comenius group, were warmly welcomed into 1955 SOU Petko Karavelov School on their open day. During the next few hours we were lucky enough to see teaching across a variation of subjects. Peter was most impressed by the science lessons and took the instructions on how to make a volcano back home with him. Dawn, the nursery teacher, really enjoyed watching the transition of the children between the younger age groups to the more mature students.

On a tour of the school we were shown the planning and moderation forms used by the Bulgarian teachers; needless to say we were all completely jealous!

The next day we awoke ready for the promised trip to Plovdiv, a Roman city about 130km away from Sofia. Peter would like to say that he remembered the journey well, and that the scenery was beautiful, but couldn't as he was asleep for the whole time! Plovdiv itself was a very attractive city with a lot to offer and see. We made our way to the Roman amphitheatre and trod the boards in an effort to hear the projection and amplification of our voices; it was a lovely structure. Luckily for us, as educators, we were able to visit an International Children's Monument, built with bells donated from countries from around the world.

After a very tasty, and traditional, lunch, we all headed off to a stunning working monastery, Bachkovski. The setting for this monastery, rolling hills and dense forest, were truly inspiring and helped us to appreciate the peace and spirituality in which the monks lived.

Finally, the moment of sadness came upon us; our last dinner. With many courses of food and hugs, we ate and talked heartily. An evening of music in the hotel topped the visit off perfectly as we were all able to dance, chat and laugh freely.

I'd like to say that that was the end of the drama but alarm clocks, missing taxis and a mad sprint to the airport all followed the next morning, but that's another story...

Bells Farm Team.



# BELLS FARM NEWS

SUNDAY 10TH OCTOBER

10.10.10

REPORTER: PETER ANDERTON

## TEACHERS EMBARK ON VOYAGE!

An intrepid team of adventuring teachers have just arrived back from Budapest in Hungary. The teachers, all from Bells Farm Primary School, were said to have had a wonderful time exploring this remarkably good-looking city.



Michelle Hooper, the Headteacher of the Birmingham based school, explains that this was not just a pleasure trip. 'Our group, six in total, were there to investigate the teaching methods and educational system within Hungarian schools.'

The school, Áldás Utcai Általános Iskola, pictured, welcomed groups from other nationalities too. In total, the school played host to teachers and pupils from Poland, Bulgaria and England.

Zsolt Fülöp, the Hungarian coordinator, was heard to say, 'I'm so happy that all nationalities are enjoying themselves in our school. This makes all of the hard organisational work worthwhile.'

One day of the trip was dedicated to observing lessons which took part in the Budapest based school. Iwona Kucharek, one of the visiting Polish teachers is quoted as saying, 'We observed many lessons and then discussed them during thematic workshops.'

In addition, one of the Bells Farm teachers ventured into a Hungarian classroom with a view to teaching imagery in poetry. One pupil from the class was heard to mutter, 'This chocolate is as smooth as a playground slide!'



Mariana Chardakova, who is the Comenius Project Coordinator, paid tribute to the fantastic organisation of this trip, 'I must say, everybody has worked hard to make our school-centred visit a success.'

## MINISTER FOR EDUCATION VISITS SCHOOL

The children, staff and visiting teachers of Áldás Utcai Általános Iskola were left surprised after a stop-over from the local minister for education. The gentleman, pictured with Mrs Attiláné Horváth and Mrs Ildikó



Kámánné, gave us much information about the manner in which Hungarian teachers work and how the school system supports learners. The English teachers were envious of some practices but not of others!

Áldás Utcai  
Általános Iskola:

**Headteacher:**  
**Mrs Attiláné**  
**Horváth**

**Location:**  
**Budapest, Hungary.**

**Email:**  
[http://](http://www.aldassuli.gportal.hu)  
[www.aldassuli.gportal](http://www.aldassuli.gportal.hu)  
[.hu](http://www.aldassuli.gportal.hu)

**Coordinator:**  
**Zsolt Fülöp**  
**(below)**



Pictured below is the symbol of the school, which translates as Blessed Street Primary School. Our reporter



explains that the choice of a 'Wise Owl' is suitable for this school which offers education for all.

# BELLS FARM NEWS

MONDAY 11TH OCTOBER

11.10.10

REPORTERS: YEAR SIX, BFPS.

## BRILLIANT BUDAPEST TREATS TEACHERS

Children from Bells Farm school noticed a sizeable number of teachers missing for the majority of last week. Liam, a year six student, was heard to say, 'One minute they were here and the next...gone!' Other students were quick to point out that the teachers had headed to Budapest on a cultural exchange. 'They've headed off to view education in other countries. Hopefully they'll bring back even more good tips,' a year 2 student quoted.



Louis Grindrod, the year 3 teacher at Bells Farm, was one of the lucky few who jetted off to the Hungarian

capital. 'We landed in the pouring rain and headed around the city in a tour-bus. Even with the bad weather, the city is stunning. I particularly liked the view of the Parliament building from the Fisherman's Bastion; stunning.'



The group of six were also treated to visits to the Museum of History and the newly-opened Palace of Arts, pictured below.



The 6th October, was a National Holiday. Usually, schools are not open on this day. However, for this special visit, the school opened for an artistic programme of singing, acting and a unique performance



of The Gruffalo. Peter Anderton, pictured above, commented that 'the performance was exceptional; a true credit to the school.'



## PARLIAMENT HOSTS COMENIUS

Due to some incredibly well-placed contacts within the Hungarian political system, the Áldás Utcai Általános Iskola hosts were able to offer a startling trip to the Budapest Parliament. Speaking outside the building, the largest in Hungary, June Perry could not but help admire the Gothic design, 'this is very similar to Westminster in London, a lovely building.'

On the tour of the building, the group



were treated to a view of The Holy Crown of Hungary, presented to Saint Stephen as the first true king.

### BUDAPEST:

**Population:**  
1.7 million

### **Flag:**



### **Famous people of Budapest:**

Zsa Zsa Gabor  
Franz Liszt  
Erno Rubik  
Bela Bartok

**Currency:**  
Forint

**Attractions:**  
Danube River  
Chain Bridge  
Heroes' Square  
Parliament Building  
Fisherman's Bastion  
St. Stephen's Basilica  
Buda Castle  
80 Geothermal springs.

Sadly for the teachers, but luckily for us, the teachers needed to come back. We are pleased that they had a great time, and found out a lot about other education systems, but we're pleased to have them back at Bells Farm, where we think that they belong.

04.05.10

Dear Diary,

We arrived at Birmingham Airport at some unearthly hour of the morning only to discover that poor old Pete had been stranded in Cologne and was, hopefully, going to meet up with us in Amsterdam. We checked in and waited for our flight to be called.

Our first flight was quick and painless and as we landed in Schipol Airport we had made good time. The aircraft taxied from the runway for what seemed miles and like a pterodactyl, its wings outstretched, we actually travelled across the main road via a very large bridge!! (weird!)

As we disembarked we realised that we had an almost endless walk to the opposite side of this enormous airport to the gate for our connecting flight to Warsaw. We seriously thought about hijacking one of the buggies that constantly passed us by, as the time ticked away faster than our feet could carry us. The big question was "Would Pete be there to meet us?" A question that was answered as we rounded the last bend on our way to the departure lounge. There he was as large as life and wearing a brand new shirt (the only clean one in his possession!!).

Our second flight of the day was called and we boarded the plane bound for Warsaw. We had breakfast again!! (a repeat of the one on the first plane!!) The wind was behind us and we made good time, landing ahead of schedule. We all found our luggage without a hitch and then waited for our Polish hosts to find us to whisk us away. Well we waited and waited and had a coffee. We began to worry when nobody had appeared after an hour. So the boys (Pete and Adam!) did the hunter thing and went off in search of somebody we recognised. As they went off in one direction Gosia walked round the corner from the opposite side of the foyer.

We boarded an ancient people carrier type of vehicle and so we began the long journey to our destination.....We crossed the capital city and I was surprised to see so many of the shops that can be found on any high street across the length and breadth of Great Britain. There were record numbers of McDonalds and Burger King (almost one on every street corner!!) Like a dinosaur, C&A, also reared its head a relic from the past here in England, but not so in Warsaw!

The buildings were a mixture of old, ornate stone built architecture and more modern less elaborate creations. There was also a difference in the standard of housing in different parts of the city much as it is here in England. After about 30 minutes we had crossed the main part of the city and began to see the scenery changing from urban to rural. We seemed to travel in a straight line along one main road for what seemed like a lifetime, punctuated by muffled squeals and gasps from us Brits as our driver (driving on the wrong side of the road in my eyes!!) answered his mobile phone, driving at breakneck speed!! I now know what is meant by a white knuckle ride!! No chance to catch up on any sleep during this bit of the journey then!

We stopped about half way to our destination for a meal. We all chose something different but traditionally Polish, Gosia did a grand job translating the menu for us. A while later and feeling refreshed we got back on the mini-bus again and continued on our way to Lublin. For



the next hour or so we travelled through the countryside and noticed that we didn't see rows of houses anywhere but single houses on plots of land facing in random directions to the road.

Eventually we arrived in Poniatowa. Our hotel was set in interesting surroundings on the banks of a lake to one side and apartments on the other. We walked into the clean marble foyer and were greeted by a cheerful receptionist who did the paper work and gave us a pile of keys to choose from. Terry and I picked up the key to room 16. As we took the lift with our luggage to our floor I realised how tired I was and just how long we had all been up!! We found our room and opened the door to a bright, spacious room with twin beds, plenty of wardrobe space, a desk, a comfy sofa and a compact bathroom. The view out of our bedroom window was of the lake and as we opened the window the sound of ducks quacking greeted our ears. (Funny how Polish ducks could be mistaken for the ones we have back home!!)

We were at our destination finally and here the adventure was about to start.

Dawn

05.05.10

Dear Diary,

I was so nervous, butterflies were flying around my tummy anticipating the day ahead. I arrived at Ponitowa School and wow...I was really impressed. It wasn't at all what I expected.



Oh my goodness you should have seen the art work in the corridors; the children take such pride in their work. My eyes were glued to it. The colours and

designs were so imaginative. Peter loved the basket ball court




and



Winnie...well he wasn't too keen on the goal posts!!

We watched some interesting lessons. Not at all like lessons in England! Who'd have thought there was so much difference in education systems in Europe! Did you know that in Poland the children have to take their own equipment to school? Pencils, pens,

crayons, paint in their own bag...amazing... I was really shocked!  Dancing in a classroom...well that was a new adventure for everyone! I loved it but my feet were moving in the wrong direction; thank goodness my partner was a good dancer!



Oh diary they love to dance in Ponitowa, everyone

dances and the costumes, goodness me they were beautiful.



Even the


headdresses made by the younger children were stunning.



Everyone made us feel so welcome;



right from the meetings in the library

(with the yummy Hungarian bread,) to the meals in the canteen!  I wish there had been a menu though; I really didn't know what I was eating! Well except for the apples, they were mouth wateringly juicy.

Well diary it's time to sign out now ...I have a trip to plan to Hungary!

Michelle

05.05.10

Dear Diary,

Today's visit to the Majdanek Concentration Camp, and the stony silence of that desolate place that had witnessed so much, will be etched into my memory forever. Our guide was fantastic – he spared us no detail..... the 'vision' I have of the shower heads, the gas chamber with its thick metal door, the gas canisters piled up high, the tightly-packed bunk beds, the cage of shoes and the locks of hair in the glass cabinet will always haunt me.....the 'ovens' even more so..... No words to describe how those forced to 'feed' them must have felt.....What a strange feeling, though, taking so many photos – a mixture of feeling like a typical tourist 'snapping' away when it wasn't really appropriate, but compelled to because I must remember, the world must know.....like an inevitable duty to share this part of history with someone. The young? My own children at least? Only half a

century ago! Could something so terrible happen again if we don't tell our youth? Having walked along the double barbed wire fences, past a guard tower, and seen the mausoleum of ash and the 'trenches' where so many lost their lives three awful days in 1944, we boarded our coach once more. I felt so grateful to have had the opportunity to see for myself one of the camps I had heard about and tried to imagine for so long.....

Then thank goodness our Polish hosts had thought we might need some 'light relief' after our visit and had planned for us to stop off at the nearby town of Lublin. First the Castle – once a royal residence, a Gestapo jail in the war and even a prison of Soviet secret police afterwards! Now a museum, but we didn't have time to go in -thankfully! Think we were all more in need of a café visit! Heard the legend of the Devil's Paw, though, when he slammed his hand down on the wooden table and left an imprint!

Old Lublin was lovely – the cobbles and the open square reminded me of Prague – really quaint and full of 'atmosphere'. Had a lovely chat with Ildi

As we stopped to marvel at the old buildings. Our group needed a hot chocolate 'fix'! Gosia joined us, in a sweet little place near the square. Lots of laughing and chatting – just what we needed after Majdanek. Time to go again, but first the chance to visit the tourist office and purchase a few resources and nick-nacks to take back.

Stopped off on the way back to see an incredible wall, built by the Jewish community, to commemorate their loved ones, using their headstones. It had an awesome 'break' in its design, casting light on the pretty, shaded woodland beyond, scattered with a few of the remaining graves. Was well worth the scramble up the muddy slope, to reach it!

What an end to a truly memorable day!

Terry

06.05.10

Dear diary,

I have had a fantastic day today! Lunch at school was typical Polish food which, even though I had no idea what it was, tasted delicious. I'm not too sure everybody around the table had the same idea though! After the very thought provoking day yesterday, at Majdanek, we had the chance to enjoy the fine Polish countryside at the quaint, scenic Kazimierz Dolny. Following a short coach trip we were what seemed to be an eternity away from the bustle of the major city that we had left behind.

The Polish teachers were very efficient at making sure that we were in the correct places at the correct times. At first, I didn't realise why there was a tight schedule. However, when we got to the parish church



sitting proudly in the middle of the market square, I understood...we were to experience the organs in full flow. In what was an example of perfect timing, as soon as we got onto the pews, the organs began blasting out. The acoustics of the ornate 17<sup>th</sup> century church enhanced the sound majestically – what an experience.

Gosia then offered us the chance to walk around the market place or head towards the tower and castle. Despite the warnings of slipperiness due to the rain (it was as wet as England, diary!) most of the group headed towards the castle. I felt like a child again as I explored the ruins of the castle, heading down the steep, damp steps to the basement. When my eyes adjusted to the dark I noticed that the room was filled with interesting instruments of torture. After looking across the Vistula River, what stunning views, my stomach started screaming at me...’food and drink!’

Back in the market square, we found a restaurant set in a lovely looking building. Adam and I ran off to buy a selection of waffles – such a treat! – as drinks were ordered.

After a quick stop for photos near the town well, we were on the coach and, before I knew it, I was asleep! A great trip out to the countryside!

Up next; a concert from a renowned group of musicians...

Pete

## **Chapter IV - Hungary**

## WELCOME TO BIRMINGHAM

*(Well, come to Birmingham!)*

*by*

***Adél Csemez 6.b***

***Bence Hornák 6.c***

***Vince Kámán 5.a***

***Luca Tordai 6.a***

On 2nd March, Tuesday, we met in front of the school. Five Hungarian teachers and four learners from Áldás Street Primary School left for the Ferihegy Airport. We changed in Zurich and after the long journey we arrived at the Birmingham Airport. We were to meet the English teachers from Bells Farm at the airport. There was a misunderstanding and we had to wait for a couple of hours for them. After a lot of phone calls and arrangements, finally we could find each other.

They took us from the airport to Westmead Hotel by car. It was funny to see that our teachers were puzzled by the steering wheels on the right hand side in the cars and experiencing driving on the left on the roads. Most of them wanted to get in the car on the right, though none of them wanted to drive.

We were curious about the hotel. We spent 4 nights in very nice, cosy rooms. We experienced the English custom when we were served tea every morning. We tasted the well-known traditional English breakfast, ham and eggs. We have heard about it only from books. It tasted delicious!

It was interesting for us, that the light switches worked the other way round as we got used to it. It was a bit difficult to charge our mobiles. But the more experienced ones could solve the problem with a socket converter.

The first night we were invited for a dinner. In the evening we met the English staff from Bells Farm, the Bulgarian children and the Bulgarian and Polish teachers. After the delicious meal we danced a lot. We enjoyed the first night very much!

On 3rd March, Wednesday, we could hardly wait for the school to visit. We were wondering about the plot, the building, and the learners. Is it really on a farm? Is it similar to ours? We were excited to meet real English children.

A minibus took us to the school from the hotel. We didn't have to be in a hurry because school starts at 9 o'clock in England. On the way we could see, that there are some tall buildings, but the houses are mainly short in Birmingham.

The school is a short, white building as well. We arrived there together with some English children. We experienced at once that children of different nationalities and religions attend Bells Farm. It was strange to see that the parents weren't allowed to enter the school. They were waiting outside patiently. They greeted us very friendly because everybody was informed about our visit.

The building of the school doesn't reveal much about its internal values. We could see colourful decorations all over the place. The doors were vivid as well. Posters, photos, jolly



paintings make the building friendly. We became happier seeing such decorations on the walls.

Entering the building we met a painted tree on the wall. It was the so called "Values tree" with 24 different value words. Later it turned out that these 24 values are very important for the teachers to convey for the learners of the school. We met these values in the classrooms and on the walls as well. Some of these values are: tolerance, freedom, happiness, friendship, equality, patience. They focus on one of the values in each month.

We entered the staff room first. It is a very cosy room with colourful armchairs and a small kitchen. The classrooms are unique too. The classroom is richly decorated with project works. We met decorations everywhere. Pictures, posters or teaching materials are hanging from the ceiling as well. The classrooms are situated strangely there aren't any corridors, you can enter from a class to the other. It is usual that a teacher goes through to the neighbouring class in the middle of the lesson but the students don't even notice it because they got used to it. After a couple of days it wasn't strange for us either.

We haven't seen any traditional blackboards and chalk in the classrooms. In every classroom there is an interactive board and a white board, too. Teachers prefer using Smart Boards.

We saw a sign on a door: "Sunshine Room". All of us wanted to know more about it. This room is smaller than the others and it looks like a children's room at home with toys. In this room children can have a rest, or can spend a short time. They have the chance to start school in a relaxed way or restart the lesson if they can't pay attention. When they feel like joining in the flow of the lesson, the assistant takes them back through the classrooms to their classes.

Each class has got a teacher who teaches all the subjects and an assistant who helps the teacher's work.

School starts at 9 o'clock in England. In the morning the children go to their classrooms to meet the teachers and the assistants first. Then they go to the assembly hall together. **Every morning starts here for all of the learners, the teachers and the assistants in Bells Farm School.** Soft music is on while everybody enters the room quietly. The head teacher greets them in the hall. Year 1 comes first, then all the older learners from other forms. Only the smallest ones stay in the nursery and the reception room. The head teacher always evaluates the way how the children enter the hall and sit down. Then they greet each other.

*"Good morning Mrs Hooper! Good morning everybody!"*

There's always a happy **singalong** together. Every month they discuss and emphasize one of the **values** they've established together from the 'Value tree'. They have to behave according to the appropriate value and keep it in mind. **'Quality'** was the emphasized value when we visited the school. The head teacher expected quality in the children's behaviour, their work, the way they speak and all the other territories of their school lives.

The school staff often organizes **festivals** and **performances** here in the hall as well. Last morning there was a farewell performance by some of the classes to say goodbye to us.

It was a bit strange for us to have **P.E. lessons** and **lunch** in the hall as well. They can arrange everything easily with the practical tables and chairs at once.

Every month the staff members invite some of the **parents** to take part in the school life. They have **project works** together with the children and the teachers. These projects are organized around a topic. We visited Bells Farm from Hungary, Bulgaria and Poland. In England there are so many nationalities and religions so our topic was the different languages. We prepared dice with the word 'Hello' in different languages and fans with numbers in other languages as well. We learnt a lot and had fun.

Last morning there was a farewell party where some of the classes had performances for us. We experienced it here, as during our visit, how tolerant and attentive they are toward their fellows with different nationalities, origins, cultures and religions. These values are emphasized to accept and understand each other's behaviour.

English learners wear school uniforms. Bells Farm has got its colours, clothes and badges. It was a bit strange for us.

Some of the children wear only long, black clothes with a kerchief. Some of them speak more than one language, some children's parents are different in nationality and appearance. We experienced these features in the performances as well. That's why they can be more tolerant and understanding toward each other and behave in a natural way. We, Hungarians didn't even feel to be different either.

These assemblies were unusual for us. In Hungary we can meet all the school members only at the beginning and at the end of the school year in the yard. In our school there are a lot more learners so we can't organise these assemblies this way. But it was a great experience for all of us not only to participate in it but to talk about it to our families, friends, class and school mates at home.

225 children attend Bells Farm Primary School. We met the smallest ones from the kindergaten. The oldest ones are from grade 6. The little ones are in two rooms. Each grade has got one class. The English children start school at the age of 5, so when they finish school they are 10. They are younger than us in the same form.

We were lucky to take part in the lessons.

Their tables are pushed together, 6 of them were sitting in a group. It was weird for us that in each class an assistant helps the teacher. She gives everybody a flask to drink some water. The children can drink during the lessons there.

First we took part in a maths lesson. They practised multiplication with two digit numbers and drew money exchange on a diagram. This was a little bit easy for us, but at their age we also studied similar things. Otherwise the method of teaching was almost the same like in our school.

We also took part in a literature lesson where the students had to copy a poem. It was really strange for me. I didn't really understand it. It was one of William Shakespeare's poems.

They always left their exercise-books in the school so they hadn't got any homework. Every morning the teacher or the assistant wrote the children's names on the board under a smiley face. Who behaved badly, or didn't pay attention, the teacher wrote his or her name under a sad face on the other side of the board. They tried to discipline the students this way and encourage them to work hard. It was strange for us.

School starts at 9 o'clock and lasts till 4:30. It's longer than our day at school. The lessons are usually 60 minutes long. After the lessons there is a short break when the children go outside to run and play.

When the bell is ringing the children have to stop. When one of the teachers rings the bell the learners have to line up in front of their classrooms. (They mustn't run!)

The decorations of the classrooms were really interesting too. It was a bit unusual for us. The entire wall, and sometimes the ceiling, was covered with drawings, posters or project works. This made the room very interesting and lively. There were decorations with school rules and rules of behaviour. Nobody can be bored here!

We think that Birmingham is a very nice city. Unfortunately we didn't have enough time to visit all the famous buildings but we know more about it now. This city is the second biggest city of the United Kingdom with an own council. We could hardly believe that its canal system is longer than Venice's in Italy. We would have spent a couple of more days to look around.

Travelling to the school we experienced that the city is clean and tended. It was interesting for us to see double-decker buses here. We thought that we can find such buses only in London.

We were invited to the city centre to see the Town House. Our guide spoke about the stories of the city, the mayors and the office. She was very kind to say "OK" loads of times. We could notice it because some of our teachers has got habits to say different expressions. (But we don't reveal their secrets now.)

It was a good feeling to walk in an old, historical building. We visited the mayor's office and study. We could sit at his desk and we could be in the official decision making room as well.

Then we had an open-air programme. We visited the Birmingham football pitch. I'm a girl, but I'm crazy about football. So I was very happy to be there personally! As we experienced it at school, the citizens of Birmingham are very proud of their football team. They are on the 8th place in the League with loads of fans.

In the stadium everything is blue and white like Chelsea Fc. We could see the whole stadium, the pitch, the seats. One of Mitchell's, the headmistress of the Bells Farm school, sons works for this team and this way we could have a look at the locker room and listen to interesting stories about the footballers' lives. We liked the "Kick out of football" wall with football players of different nationalities and religions playing together in the same pitch. We thought about the same feeling we had experienced at school from the very beginning.

Unfortunately we couldn't meet the players. But it would have been a nice dream to collect their signatures.

We were a bit sorry that this tour came to an end as well.



One day we were invited for a traditional fish and chips lunch. It was delicious. Everybody liked the huge portions and the special sauce.

The other evening we went to an Indian restaurant. We met strange spices and flavours but we had a great time together!

We visited a Pizza Hut Restaurant as well which was the same like in Hungary. But the people were speaking English of course. We tried an Italian restaurant at the airport. It was interesting for us too.

One evening we went to play bowling together with some children and the teachers. There are some differences between the Hungarian and the English game. For example the shoes. But I think, that's all. We were very proud of Luca who won the whole game over the adults!

We, four of us became good friends. The pupils were very kind to us, we changed our e-mail addresses. We hope we can keep in touch with them in the future.

One of our classes at school started to correspond with an English class in Bells Farm. We hope they can meet their penpals in England or in Hungary.

When we were sitting in a taxi, we could speak about our work to do at home. It seemed like sitting around a table.

On 5th March we felt the same way: none of us wanted to come home yet.

## VISITING BULGARIA

Within the Comenius Project we can visit other countries and we can observe their schools and education. In March four children and eight teachers flew to the capital of Bulgaria, Sofia.

We arrived in time and Vasko, a Bulgarian English teacher met us and took us to our hotel. We had four nights in Hotel Vitosha. We left our luggage in our hotel rooms and then we visited the National Palace of Children. We had dinner in the Milenka Restaurant. The next day we looked around in the Mall. It is similar to our Mammoth. This is a big plaza, and lots of people go there to do their shopping. Then we had a tourist guide and we enjoyed the 81st anniversary programme of our host school, 55 Petro Karavelov. Finally we had dinner in the Kandahar Restaurant. The next day we visited the Bulgarian school. We kids, participated and observed lessons, then we had lunch in the school canteen.

The Bulgarian students are very nice. I like the Bulgarian education. The learners don't have to sit quietly on their seats, they talk to each other and they can cook. At the chemistry lesson the Bulgarian students had a presentation about Vitamin B and they had a volcano experiment. In the afternoon we visited a dancing lesson and art activities and the teachers had a meeting. We had dinner in a restaurant, it's called Rodopska Kashta. The last day we visited the Bells Monument by UNICEF near Sofia. That day we visited Plovdiv, one of the oldest towns of Bulgaria too. The farewell dinner was at the hotel. We arrived in Budapest with pleasant experiences and good memories.

Bye!

Anna Kuzmiák 5.a

## BULGARIA

In March some students from the school went together by plane to Bulgaria for a week. The journey was very tiring and long for me. But the people greeted us in a friendly way at the airport.

Bulgaria is a beautiful country and there are really amazing places. Everything was very nice for example the changing of the guards in front of the Mayor's office or the 97 bells near Sofia.

We made lots of excursions. The best was the trip to the Historical city of Plovdiv. We went there by bus. We saw the Folk Museum and the Amphiteatrum which is also in use today. In the Folk Museum there were a lot of historical instruments. After looking around in the historical city we had some free time for shopping. On the last day we said goodbye to one another at the airport. During the week I had a lot of fun. I enjoyed my stay in Bulgaria!

Dóra Medek 5.c

When I got the news that I was chosen for the Comenius project in Bulgaria, I started to get excited because I haven't travelled by plane before. I even started to count the days. We flew across Munchen, so I could fly twice as much as I thought. On the same night we went into a nice restaurant in Sofia, where they welcomed us with a local specialty, called sopszka. This is a kind of salad, which has cheese and vegetables

in it. It tastes really good. The next day we went into a local shopping center. There we saw an interesting 4D cinema. It would have been nice to watch a film there, but the bowling was also pretty good. In the afternoon, we went to several museums. We even saw the changing of the guards at the mayor's office. After that we went to a concert, where we saw a very funny show. It was a bit bad because I didn't understand Bulgarian.

On the third day, we went to a local school. The students and the teachers were very friendly. We could visit some of the lessons. We saw interesting presentations and experiments. I enjoyed being there very much.

On the last day, we went to a place where every country had its own bell. It is sad that a lot of them are stolen or damaged. I liked the bells very much, because we could sound them. After that, we went to the famous city, Plovdiv. Here we saw the oldest monastery of the country.

The next day, we were on the plane to Munchen. While we were waiting for the plane to Budapest, we received free coffee and cocoa. (It was delicious!)

I would travel to Bulgaria any time again!

Elina Leipold 5.b

## Bulgaria

A few weeks ago I travelled to Bulgaria with my three school mates and eight teachers within the Comenius Project.

I wanted to visit Sofia, and my dream came true. It was interesting, because I've never flown by plane before. I was very excited and I enjoyed the flight!

I had to wake up early in the morning, so I couldn't sleep too much. We went to the airport by a big taxi. First I met Elina, she became my friend. We arrived at the Munich Airport first. We hadn't got too much time there. Then we arrived in Sofia where Vasko, one of the Bulgarian English teachers was waiting for us. After us the Polish group arrived. I met them in Hungary last year, but I haven't talked with them before. They were very friendly.

I liked the hotel, it was very comfortable. In the first afternoon we visited the "National Palace of Children". I liked the second day the most. We went to the mall where I bought a lovely snood. After that we had a sight-seeing tour. It took more than 2 hours. We visited the St. Alexander Nevski Monastery, and two others. They were big and beautiful. The Bulgarian students' school concert was in the evening. We enjoyed it very much! Some of the performances were funny.

We spent the next day at the school with our Bulgarian friends. I couldn't imagine the school or the kids. They were lovely and friendly! I was at the 7.g class. They had a craft lesson. First I met three boys who spoke English very well. Now I know that the whole class can speak English. I like their group. I keep in touch with them. In the summer I want to visit them. In the afternoon we had an art and a dance lesson with the Bulgarian learners. It was interesting to learn something new about their culture.

Our last day was a long day. We had an excursion to Plovdiv by bus. We visited the Bachkovski Monastery and the National Ethnographic Museum. We know a



lot about their culture now. We can imagine the Bulgarians' clothes they wore hundred years ago. I liked their food too, it was delicious. We had their national salad called Shopska as the first course. The last dinner was friendly but a bit sad. We had to say goodbye to one another. I miss my new friends. The way home was pleasant. We could see the "Alpok". It's awesome! I nearly fall in love with the people I met, and with the city too. I wanna go back again one day.

Nelli Ter-Manueljanc 7.b

## LEAVING FOR POLAND

*(by Judit Molnár 7.b)*

We met at 7 o'clock in front of the school. We travelled almost for a half day. When we arrived we had dinner. First we met the Bulgarians in Poniatowa. They were very nice to us.

The next day we met the Polish children on our first lesson. It was P.E..

I might be paranoid, but I felt that everybody was speaking about us and laughing at us. It can be true. But to tell you the truth we did the same.

The girls were nice and helpful. Most of them couldn't speak English but it wasn't a problem for us. We became good friends!

The next lesson was I.T.. We prepared the Hungarian and the Polish flags on the screen. Then we had a French lesson. I learnt some French words. In the break my new Polish friends taught me a very funny dance.

After that we went to Lublin where we visited a museum and then we went to a shopping centre. One of my friends bought a pair of stockings because her shoes became wet. (It was rainy all day long.) I asked my friend to go with the Polish children somewhere because I wanted to buy a small present for them. When we arrived back at the hotel we had dinner and we went back to our rooms.

The next day our first lesson was swimming, but we just played volleyball in the water so we didn't really have an ordinary lesson. Then we watched the Bulgarian group's and the Polish children's performances. After that we had lunch and then we went on an excursion again. We visited a castle and bought a lot of crisps. We got a small present from our Polish friends and I gave them mine.

We went to a medieval music concert before the farewell dinner. It was great! We liked the costumes and the instruments as well.

The next day we woke up early to leave Poniatowa☺. The Polish children and the teachers were helpful and friendly. Not only at the meetings but also in the class and at the school.

I'm just a little bit sad because my Polish friends can't come to Hungary. I'd like to show them our school and Budapest where we live in. But I hope I can keep in touch with them via e-mail.

## **SCHOOL AND TEACHING IN POLAND**

*(by Anna Lágler 7.a)*

We visited a school in Poland in the city Poniátowa. The school is not too old and it's a nicely renovated building surrounded by nice green grass, trees and bushes. There is a huge football pitch and a roller skate and skateboard field next to the school. (I wish we had them at home!)

When I first entered the school, I noticed that it is very colourfully decorated with the children's drawings. I liked the creative children's illustrations about the school rules the best. It was not usual. I liked that they expressed their personalities in the pictures.

First we had a P.E. lesson. I liked the teacher, she was very nice, and the exercises were interesting. Our second lesson was Information Technologies. We learnt how to make flags by the help of different codes. We made the Hungarian, the Polish and the Bulgarian flags too.

There was a big noise in the breaks. We met children only between the ages of 6 and 12. There are only 6 grades in this school. Next to this building there is the secondary school, where children can go from grade 7.

Our third lesson was French. The teacher was nice and she smiled a lot. We learnt a few words in French then they translated them into Polish, and we taught them how to say the same words in Hungarian. We enjoyed it very much!

In the break we had lunch exactly at 12 o'clock. The tastes were unfamiliar for me. I think they cook in a more sour way than we do. It can be difficult to cook lunch for different nationalities with different tastes. I liked that the cooks prepared the food in the school kitchen.

After lunch we danced in the gymnasium. We learnt a famous Polish dance, the Polonese.  
After that we returned back to the hotel.

The next day the first two lessons were swimming at the swimming-pool of the neighbouring high school. There was no teaching. We only played volleyball, water-polo, and other games. I enjoyed this programme very much! I think I enjoyed it the most!

Then we went back to the school, we had lunch and then we went on an excursion.

All the programmes were very well-organized, interesting and funny. I enjoyed it very much!



## MUSIC PROGRAMMES IN PONIATOWA

(by Adrián Bohner 7.c)

On our second day at the Polish school we had a special 'Music Festival'. The delegations of each country gave a small show.

First young Polish kids in traditional costumes danced and sang folk songs accompanied by piano accordion. Then some elder girls sang 2 English pop songs. That was really great! The Bulgarian students introduced their country in a few sentences. We Hungarian students said four English poems then we sang 3 songs together with our teachers: a Polish folk song in Polish, a Hungarian one in Hungarian and a well-known English song, which was a little bit funny. The original text was changed ("The Bear Went Over the Mountain ...") we sang about our stay and friends in Poland.

### Our Group Went Over the Mountain

Our group went over the mountain, our group went over the mountain  
Our group went over the mountain, to see what they could see.  
And all that they could see, and all that they could see  
Was a Polish school in Poniatoŭa, a Polish school in Poniatoŭa,  
A Polish school in Poniatoŭa, was all that they could see.

For they are jolly good fellows, for they are jolly good fellows  
For they are jolly good fellows, which nobody can deny.  
Which nobody can deny, which nobody can deny  
For they are jolly good fellows, for they are jolly good fellows  
For they are jolly good fellows, which nobody can deny.

The group went over the river, the group went over the river  
The group went over the river, to see what they could see.  
And all that they could see, and all that they could see  
Was the other group from Sofia, another group from Birmingham,  
Another group from Poniatoŭa, it's nice to see you again!

It's nice to see you again!  
It's nice to see you again!

For they are jolly good fellows, for they are jolly good fellows  
For they are jolly good fellows, which nobody can deny.  
Which nobody can deny, which nobody can deny.  
For they are jolly good fellows, for they are jolly good fellows  
For they are jolly good fellows, which nobody can deny.

Early evening we all went to a concert. The introduction was difficult to understand but the performance was wonderful. A local early music group called 'Scholares Minores Pro Musica Antiqua' played Renaissance music and they were wearing beautiful medieval clothes. At the beginning they sang early choral works then continued with musical instruments. We can rarely listen to this kind of music and their performance was really professional. We were all impressed. After the concert we met them, talked a few words with them and got one of their CDs as a souvenir.

### EXCURSIONS

(by András Murvai 6.c)

The first excursion was in Lublin, in a village museum. Actually the weather was bad, it was raining and we had to walk in the mud. But it didn't ruin the picture of the village museum. The old houses and buildings were transported there from an old village. We saw old clay houses next to a shopping centre. It was a bit weird to see old and modern styles next to each other. There was a huge mill where we saw two millstones more than 300 kg each. We could see the mill inside and it was amazing! We were mainly amazed by its structure and the three stairs. We saw two clay houses inside and outside too. One of them was used by the peasants and the other by the nobles. That's why there were a lot of differences between them. Our guide shared some interesting details about them with us. For example children were sleeping next to the stove, because neither the children nor their parents had got a bed. Their beds were filled with straw.

We saw a really huge warehouse, where some animals and corns were kept. After that we visited the old mayor's office. It was well designed and it was big enough compared with houses of these days. After they showed us everything, we visited a small souvenir shop, where some of us bought some little painted or wooden stuff. Finally we went to a shop where we were waiting for the others and we also had the opportunity to look around in the village museum.

The second excursion was in an old city, called Kazimiersk. The weather was still not grateful to us, because it was raining cats and dogs. After a long discussion we climbed a castle. It was destroyed to the ground by the Swedes. From there we could see the whole area. There were some torture devices (stocks, a cage, etc.) in the castle. They seemed scary. Next to them there was a shop where you could buy all kinds of wooden weapons and armours. Then we visited a church at the bottom of the hill where they were playing the organ. After that a funeral was going on. Eventually we decided to look around at a nearby square and do some sightseeing, visit the Renaissance buildings and buy some Polish specialities and gifts for our friends. On the way home we visited a little jewish cemetery and a monumentary statue next to it.

We were very excited about the journey. We couldn't imagine the town, the school and the way how we could communicate with the others. It was our first visit to Poland for all of us.

We enjoyed the lessons and all the programmes. We experienced a lot from the Polish culture and their customs. We had fun together and made friends with the Polish and the Bulgarian children. We would like to keep in touch with them in the future.

It was interesting to speak about our stay to our family members, our friends, our school mates and the teachers at home. We feel lucky to take part in the Comenius Project. We hope our new friends feel the same! :o)

## Final words

When we started developing this project, I was inspired by the idea of creating a book made by children for children. All Comenius team took the challenge and we started together... Now I am happy with the result. All participants have been worked hard. Winnie also ... I'll keep wonderful memories of our expedition.

Mariana Chardakova  
Bulgarian coordinator

I can honestly say, on behalf of all children and staff at Bells Farm, that this has been a most worthwhile project. We are happy to have met so many wonderful people and have the opportunity to study and compare teaching across Europe. Through good and bad, we have made positive friendships and can be assured that our teaching and learning has improved alongside this.

Peter Anderton  
English coordinator

It was a great wonderful time for all of us. It was a fantastic adventure , new experience , new ideas which we took from our friends- partner schools. We are going to remember THIS EXPEDITION ..... long time.

Iwona Kucharek  
Polish coordinator

It was the first time when I felt what it is like to be a European citizen! We experienced the necessity of interest in others and approval of them as a daily practice. This project became a part of our lives, we made new friends. The children with sparkling eyes, the teacher colleagues with their sincere smile prove how great this program is. I'm very grateful to the wonderful Bulgarian friends for the coordination.

Zsolt Fülöp  
Hungarian coordinator



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