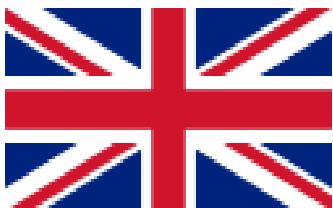


## School Magazine for English Learners

### Primary School Domovinske zahvalnosti in Knin



# WHISPER



Issue 1

Winter 2017

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## INTRODUCTION

We are very pleased and proud to present the first number of our school magazine Whisper.

The magazine is the result of good cooperation of our pupils, English teachers and our headmaster. Special thanks to our headmaster who has given us all the necessary logistic support.

For years, we have been coming across good essays, poems, reports and ideas. So, we have decided it was high time to introduce them to the public.

We have chosen the best among good literary works. The task hasn't been easy at all.

Another purpose of this magazine is to make the English language even more popular and also to show the pupils that some aspects of it, like the English grammar, are not difficult at all. Consequently, we have created Grammar corner whose aim is to explain grammar structures , to simplify and practise them. We will first deal with the tenses, of course.

There is also Vocabulary corner, which is supposed to help the pupils expand their vocabulary. In this section we will present different phrases, idioms, phrasal verbs etc.

Since we are the learners of English, we should also know something about the English speaking countries. The first number will present the United Kingdom to our readers. One of our pupils, a sixth grader, has done a research and written a great report about it, presenting all the most important facts about England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

There is also Time for fun, since the other purpose of the magazine is to entertain our readers. The readers will get acquainted with tongue twisters, puns, rebuses, crossword puzzles etc.

Holidays are also important when learning a language and should not be neglected. They tell us a lot about the character of the people, their routines, habits. Since we are still in the first semester, our pupils have celebrated Halloween and Thanksgiving Day at school.

Our two diligent pupils have written a report about Thanksgiving and its significance for the American people. It is a great story about friendship and altruism.

The other one, Halloween, is even more popular among pupils. It is mystical and spooky. Our pupils have found out the basic facts about the holiday, played some Halloween games, made decorations, like ghosts, spiders, witches and bats.

Finally, we have treated ourselves with a delicious slice of pizza.

Hopefully we will continue working together, collecting great essays and creating new ideas for a long time.

Your editors, Marina Brajković and Slavica Šimić Čolić

## ENGLISH SPEAKING COUNTRIES

### The United Kingdom

Great Britain is an island in the north-west of Europe and it consists of England, Scotland and Wales.

Great Britain together with Northern Ireland is called the United Kingdom or the UK.



The UK flag is called the Union Jack and the national anthem is God Save the Queen.

The UK is a monarchy. Monarchy is the oldest form of government in the United Kingdom. In a monarchy, a king or queen is the Head of State. But the UK monarchy is known as a constitutional monarchy which means that the queen has no political power. She is the representative of the country and she plays an important role in the life of the nation.

The Government and the Prime Minister decide about the future of the country.

The Houses of Parliament are the centre of the British Government.

The Prime Minister lives at 10, Downing Street .The current Prime Minister is Theresa May.

## **HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN**



Elizabeth II is the queen of the UK. She became queen in 1952 which means that she has ruled for more than 60 years , longer than any other Monarch in British history. She is one of the most famous women in the world. She has visited many countries and met many world leaders.

Buckingham Palace is the Queen's office as well as her London home. During summer holidays, when she is away, the state rooms at Buckingham Palace are open to visitors.

Did you know that she celebrates her birthday twice a year? Her real birthday is in April but she also celebrates her 'official' birthday in June.

## **ENGLAND**

England is the largest part of the UK. London is the capital city of both, England and the United Kingdom. England was named after people called the Angles who came there from Germany.

London is one of the most famous cities in the world and the largest city in the UK. More than 8 million people live there and more than 7 million tourists visit it every year.

London is famous for many historical monuments.

Tower Bridge



Big Ben



Trafalgar Square



London Eye

## SCOTLAND

Scotland is in the north of Britain. It is a mountainous country but our Dinara is higher than the UK's highest mountain. It is called Ben Nevis. The capital city is Edinburgh although the largest city is Glasgow.

The Scots are very practical people . They are great innovators, too. Throughout the centuries Scottish people have brought us wonderful things such as telephone, television, steam engine and penicillin.

The Highlands is the part of Scotland famous for its beautiful countryside. People who live there are called the Highlanders and they belong to family groups, clans. On special occasions they wear kilts



Have you heard of Nessie , the Loch Ness monster? Of course you have. Loch Ness is a very large, deep lake famous all over the world. Many people think Nessie lives in it. Some people claimed they had seen Nessie but they never succeeded in taking photos of it.

What do you think? Do you believe that Nessie really exists ?

## **WALES**

Wales is the smallest part of Great Britain. It is called Cymru in Welsh. The Welsh language is very different from English. It belongs to the Celtic group of languages. The capital is Cardiff. Wales is famous for its castles and the Welsh love poetry and music. The most famous musical instrument is the harp.

## **NORTHERN IRELAND**

Northern Ireland or Ulster is also part of the UK. It is situated on an island called Ireland. In 1922 Ireland was split into two states, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

The capital of Northern Ireland is Belfast.

The Giant's Causeway is a breathtaking tourist attraction. Huge columns of rocks are sticking out of the sea. The legend says that two giants built these columns. They threw stones at each other in anger which created a bridge between Ireland and Scotland. One of the giants got scared and escaped. But he split the Causeway so the other giant wouldn't follow him. The Irish are great story – tellers known for their love of myths and legends.



Nikša Lubina,  
6th grade

## GRAMMAR CORNER

### The Present Simple Tense

**Grammar (especially the tenses) is hard for many students. But it is actually very simple and precise. Keep in mind that adverbials are the key!**

**ADVERBIALS:** always, usually, often, sometimes, rarely, seldom, never, every day, every week, on Mondays, on Wednesdays, from time to time, every now and then, etc.

**FORM:** We add –s (-es, -ies) in the 3rd person Singular (he, she, it).

I work	we work	But: he <b>watches</b> , she <b>kisses</b> , he <b>fixes</b> , she <b>does</b>
--------	---------	--

You work	you work	he <b>studies</b> , she <b>tries</b> , he <b>cries</b>
----------	----------	--

He	they work	she <b>plays</b> , he <b>stays</b>
----	-----------	------------------------------------

She	works	
-----	-------	--

It		
----	--	--

**Questions: DO/ DOES + VERB**

You work hard. → Do you work hard?

Mary (she) studies hard. → Does Mary (she) study hard?

**Questions: DO/ DOES + VERB**

You work hard. → Do you work hard?

Mary (she) studies hard. → Does Mary (she) study hard?

**Negatives: DO NOT (DON' T) / DOES NOT (DOESN' T) + VERB**

Peter goes to school. → Peter does not (doesn't) go to school.

My parents watch TV every evening. → My parents do not (don't) watch TV every evening.

**We use the Present Simple Tense for things that are true in general, routines, habits or for permanent situations.**



## PRACTICE.

**Write the he/ she/ it form of the verbs below.**

like \_\_\_\_\_

try \_\_\_\_\_

do \_\_\_\_\_

drink \_\_\_\_\_

kiss \_\_\_\_\_

play \_\_\_\_\_

watch \_\_\_\_\_

write \_\_\_\_\_

visit \_\_\_\_\_

have \_\_\_\_\_

**Fill in the gaps.**

John \_\_\_\_\_ (travel) abroad.      Mary and Peter \_\_\_\_\_  
(dance) well.

We \_\_\_\_\_ (do) homework.      Jerry \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to school.

My friends \_\_\_\_\_ (like) grammar.

Jerry \_\_\_\_\_ (study) hard.

We \_\_\_\_\_ (try) hard to do our best in class.

Mary \_\_\_\_\_ (listen) to the radio.

**Fill in the questions with DO or DOES:**

\_\_\_\_\_ you like school? \_\_\_\_\_ we play basketball?

\_\_\_\_\_ your parents complain about your clothes?

How \_\_\_\_\_ James go to school? What \_\_\_\_\_ you do in the morning?

What kind of music \_\_\_\_\_ Peter and Jack listen to?

**Use DON'T or DOESN'T to fill in the gaps.**

I \_\_\_\_\_ watch TV in the morning. My classmates \_\_\_\_\_ shout in class.

Jenny \_\_\_\_\_ play volleyball. Penny \_\_\_\_\_ like her new neighbours.

Our teachers are angry when we \_\_\_\_\_ our homework.

**Write sentences by putting the words in the proper order.**

friends/ hang out/ after school/ I / sometimes/my/ with/.

---

Jerry/ gets up/ early/ always/ in the morning/.

---

usually/ where/ holidays/ winter/ you/ spend/do/your/ ?

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## HALLOWEEN

Halloween is the most popular holiday among kids in the USA and Great Britain but it is also celebrated in many other countries. On October 31st many children dress up in fancy costumes and visit other homes in their neighbourhood. They knock on the door and say 'Trick or Treat' demanding sweets , snacks or a small gift. If the neighbour says 'Trick', they play a trick,which is often a little practical joke and is supposed to be performed in a friendly spirit, without mean tricks . Most people usually say 'Treat' and give the children sweets.

Halloween isn't just for children. Adults also celebrate it by visiting or holding fancy dress parties and watching horror films. At costume parties , figures that are often represented are witches, ghosts and animals associated with night and darkness: spiders,rats, bats and black cats.

Halloween is no longer just about costumes and candies. It is the second biggest decorating holiday, right after Christmas . People spend a lot of money buying lights, pumpkins, spider webs , sweets and costumes trying to achieve the spookiest atmosphere in their homes.

One of the most famous Halloween activities is pumpkin carving. Children and parents can participate in this activity together creating funny, scary or simple, beautiful pumpkin. They put a candle in the centre and leave it in the window or on the front porch. This pumpkin is called jack-o'-lantern.

### The history of Halloween

Halloween comes from All Hallows' Eve, the evening before All Saints' Day.

The Celts, who lived 2, 000 years ago in the area that is now Ireland, the United Kingdom and northern France celebrated their new year on November 1st. They believed that the night before the new year, on October 31st, was the time when the living and the dead came together.

More than a thousand years ago the Christian Church named November 1st All Saints' Day (also called All Hallows). This was a special holiday to honour the saints and other people who died for their religion. The night before All Hallows was called Hallows Eve. Later, the name was changed to Halloween. Just like the Celts, the Europeans of that time also believed that the spirits of the dead would visit the earth. As they didn't want to be recognized by ghosts, they would wear masks when they left their homes so that the ghosts would mistake them for fellow spirits.

The tradition of Halloween was brought to America by the immigrating Europeans. Some of the customs changed during the history. For example, on Halloween, people in Europe would carry lanterns made from turnips , while in America they were made from pumpkins.

### Jack- o'- lantern

Originally, Jack-o'-Lantern wasn't a pumpkin. It was a man. A very stingy, lazy, selfish Irish man. He had neither enemies nor friends. In his whole life he never helped anyone. On the contrary, he liked playing tricks



on people. He even tricked the devil himself. He made the devil promise him not to take his soul after the death. So, when he died, he couldn't go to heaven because he had been a miser. But he couldn't go to hell either because the devil kept the promise and didn't allow him to enter. His soul was lost and had nowhere to go but to wander around in the darkness. Trying to keep stingy Jack away from their homes, the Irish people hollowed out turnips, beets and potatoes .

## HALLOWEEN IN OUR SCHOOL

Witches, cats, spiders, rats... All these creatures sneaked into our school on December 31st. Can you guess why ? The time was just right to learn more about Halloween. But it wasn't an ordinary English lesson. Teachers guided us through exciting games.

We worked in pairs and were shy at the beginning but my mates broke the ice with the first game- spider race. After that we had a blast throwing the spiders into the webs . It wasn't easy at all! We also decorated mandarins to look like jack-o'- lanterns. We had to walk as fast as we could without 'pumpkins' falling down from our heads. The last game required skills in throwing balls into a big 'jack-o'-latern' box. The best way to win this game is to be precise and calm. We had so much fun doing all these activities.

Second graders enjoyed doing Halloween decorations. They made funny ghosts from paper plates, standing witches, spiders and bats. They danced and sang spreading the spirit of joy through our classroom.

Little by little we felt tired and hungry. Luckily, our teachers surprised us with delicious homemade pizza and some treats in 'jack –o'- lantern' cups. Our bellies were full and happy so as we.

We also did a quiz to test our knowledge on this special holiday.

School bell reminded us it was time to say goodbye. We were sorry but satisfied. We left school talking about Halloween adventures and looking forward to the next gathering.

Gabriela Juko , 7th grade



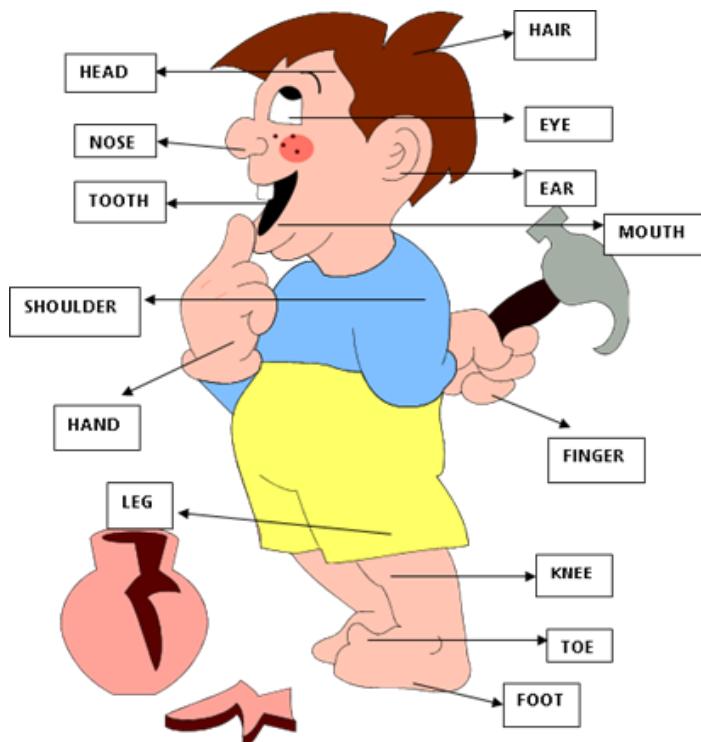
## VOCABULARY CORNER

### Idioms with parts of the body

An idiom is a phrase or an expression that has a figurative, sometimes both figurative and literal, meaning. It is believed that there are at least twenty-five thousand idiomatic expressions in the English language. We can often trace their origins in folk ethymology.

- 1) *to have your head in the clouds* – to daydream, to be out of touch with reality
- 2) *a sight for sore eyes* – a sight that makes you happy
- 3) *a weight off your shoulders* – You no longer have to worry about something or deal with something difficult.
- 4) *pain in the neck* – something or someone that annoys you
- 5) *gut feeling* – your inner feeling, your intuition
- 6) *My hands are tied.* – I can't do anything about it.
- 7) *joined at the hip* – to be very close to someone

- 8) *weak at the knees* – to be deeply affected by something, to feel an emotion so strongly that it makes you feel unstable on your feet
- 9) *find your feet* – to adjust to a new place or situation
- 10) *an apple of someone's eye* – very precious to someone
- 11) *pull someone's leg* – play a trick on someone, play a practical joke
- 12) *Achille's heel* – a weak spot, a weakness that could result in a failure



## HOLIDAYS

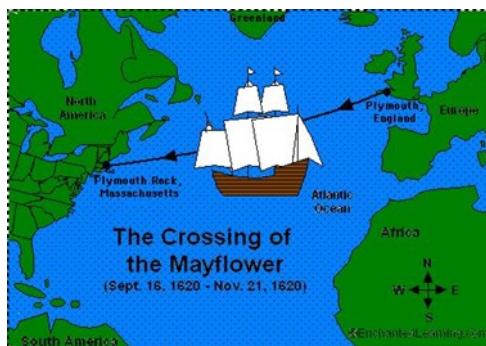
### THANKSGIVING DAY

Thanksgiving Day is a national holiday in the USA, Canada and some of the Caribbean Islands, but it is actually popular all over the world. In the USA it is celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November.

It all began in the 17th century. A group of English settlers arrived to America on the ship called the Mayflower. They set up a colony in Plymouth, Massachusetts. During the first winter half of them died. The native Americans helped the remaining people to survive. They taught them how to farm the land and catch fish.



*Happy Thanksgiving!  
To You And Your Family*



The settlers known as the pilgrims prepared a dinner to celebrate the first successful harvest and to thank the local Indians for helping them. That wasn't just an ordinary meal but a three-day celebration.



### **How did Thanksgiving become an official holiday?**

Pilgrims held their second Thanksgiving celebration in 1623 to mark the end of the long drought and prompted the governor to call for a religious fast. Those days of fasting and thanksgiving became a common practice in other New England settlements as well. During the American revolution, the Continental Congress designated one or more days of thanksgiving a year.

Abraham Lincoln was the first American president who declared Thanksgiving a national holiday.

## What is Thanksgiving today?

Thanksgiving is a day when families and friends get together for a special meal. The meal usually includes a roast turkey, potatoes, cranberry sauce, gravy, pumpkin pie and vegetables.



That is actually a day when people give thanks for what they have.

Thanksgiving Day parades are held all over the country. The most famous parade is Macy's Parade ( named after the famous department store in New York – Macy's).

These parades also mark the beginning of the Christmas shopping season.



The pupils of our school also celebrated Thanksgiving with their teachers on 23rd November 2017. They found out the basic facts about the holiday and its significance for the American people. They made a delicious pumpkin cake and shared it with their classmates. Most importantly, they gave thanks for everything they have.

## PUPIL'S CORNER

### School and me

Hi! My name is Andrija. I am twelve years old and I am in the sixth grade. There are quite a lot of boys and a few girls in my class. My class mistress is Mrs Gabrijela. She teaches P.E.

I usually have five classes a day, only sometimes six. P.E. is my favourite subject because I love excercising, parkour and other sports. My second favourite subject has to be English. I am excellent at it and it is really easy and fun for me. I don't like some school subjects because they are hard, extremely boring, require a lot of work, effort and studying. For me, a teacher needs to go easy on us pupils, teach his subject well and, most importantly, give us a small amount of homework. I have got a lot of friends at school. Not only from my class, but throughout the entire school. During the breaks my friends and I usually talk about video games or play something.

School holidays need to be a bit longer. It would be better if we did not need to get up early in the morning. My ideal school would be modern, with a small amount of pupils and with awesome teachers.

Andrija Klemić, 6th grade

## **Parents and children**

My name is Gabrijel. I am 13 years old and I live with my parents Siniša and Ankica. I have got a brother, too but he is currently in Zagreb. His name is Alen. My father is medium height and fit because he often played football in his younger days. He is a little bit strict but I don't mind it. My mum is really kind and helpful, but can also be strict when she wants to.

Some children get on well with their parents but some don't. They usually argue about school and marks and about lots of other things. Children usually complain about not being able to stay out longer or the clothes they want to wear. Once I got a few bad marks and my parents grounded me and took away my tablet. I accepted that punishment and started learning really hard and things eventually got better.

If children have problems with their parents, they have to discuss them with someone. There are violent parents who hit their children and harass them. That is one of the many reasons why kids call a telephone helpline to share their problems with someone. But it is not always the parents' fault.

Some kids are maybe too lazy and deserve to be treated a little bit more strictly. I would advise to both parents and children to try to put themselves in each other's positions and try to solve their problems together.



Gabrijel Hrga, 7th grade

### Bullying – the problem of today

A bully is a boy or a girl who is disrespectful towards other kids. Bullies harrass other pupils. They think they are superior to others. They bully others because they want attention. They often come from dysfunctional families. It could be because of a broken marriage or maybe an addiction like drugs, alcohol etc. They usually go after anyone who is in any way different or inferior to them.

Kids who get bullied are almost always the shy and quiet ones. They feel uncomfortable around others. They often have none if any friends and they fear the consequences if they talk about their problems with anyone. The victims of bullying can seldom be surrounded with many people. They are usually loners who don't want to or simply can't find any friends.

If you are bullied, ask for some help. It would help to have someone to talk to. Ask your teachers or parents to help you. If that doesn't work, go to the police. Bullies can be helped by talking to their parents or teachers. There are also some experts who might help, like psychologists or social workers. I have seen a great animated movie about bullying. It is called The Silent Voice. I think it is based on a true story. It is about a boy who bullies a deaf girl. The girl moves away and later in life the boy becomes the victim of bullying. It is an amazing story which can make you feel sad for the bully. It gives you an insight into both sides of the story. It has really made me understand a lot about bullying.

Josip Androšević, 8th grade

### **Parents and children**

Hello! My name is Luka. I am in the 7th grade. I have a brother and a mother. My mum is a little bit plump. She is medium height and has brown eyes and brown hair. She is very nice and understanding. Now I am living only with my mum because my brother is in Germany.

Parents and children mostly get on well, but some unfortunately don't because there are violent parents. Parents mostly argue with their children about school and bad marks. Parents complain about the children's bedroom not being clean or some misbehaviour. On the other hand, children complain about other things. They hate it when their parents tell them what to do. When I was in the 2nd grade I lied about not having homework for two weeks. When my mum found out about that, she got really mad. She was furious. I had to do every single homework that I had skipped.

A counsellor helps children who have problems with violent parents. Violent parents hit their children if they get a bad mark or for some other reason. Children mostly call Childline or another telephone helpline if it becomes too dangerous for them. But it is not always the parents' fault. There are some children who are disobedient. I would advise to both parents and children to be patient and calm and to try to solve their problem in a peaceful way.

Luka Bukorović , 7th grade

## School and me

My name is Karla. I am 11 years old. I live in Knin. Knin is a small town in Croatia. There are two primary schools in Knin. I am in the 6th grade. There are 24 pupils in my class. There are 10 girls and 14 boys. My class mistress is Mrs Slavica. She teaches English.

I usually have 5 classes a day. My favourite subject is English. I am very good at it and I also like my English teacher. I like some subjects less because they are really hard. A good teacher should teach his subject well and be fair and funny. I have some friends in school. My best friends in class are Anamaria and Katja. They are funny and cool. During the breaks I hang around with them.

When I am on school holidays, I miss school a little. I think that holidays are OK, neither too long nor too short. My school is OK. I would like to have a canteen and a lab in

our school. But we have a library and a lot of classrooms. I am very happy in my school.

Karla Blažević, 6th grade



## Parents and children

My name is Marija . I'm 13 years old and I live in Knin with my family. My family is quite big. I have one sister and one brother. We all live together in a house. My mum is kind and understanding. She is always there for me. My dad is funny, but strict. I spend more time with my mum because my dad usually works long hours, but I love them equally. My sister is my best friend. I can talk to her about everything. My brother is the funniest . He always has something to say.

Parents and children are always there for each other. Sometimes they can get in a bad fight. They usually argue about marks, chores, clothes, food etc. Some children don't want to study and their parents are angry. There comes the fight. They argue about the Internet , too. Kids like the Internet and want to use it all the time but parents don't agree with that. In that situation kids think their parents treat them like babies. That's the biggest problem kids complain about. I mostly argue with my parents about food and my room. I don't like vegetables but my mum thinks it's very important. I know it is and I try to eat it more often . My room is always untidy. My mum goes crazy about it. Actually, my parents and I don't fight too much.

There are a lot of violent parents . They don't just argue with their kids , they also hit them. It doesn't happen once or twice. It's every day. Kids who have violent parents run away from their homes. Then they can call Childline or visit a counsellor. That's a serious problem. In parents and children's fight, it isn't always the parents'fault. Some kids are very problematic and parents can't stop them.

Parents shouldn't hit their children. They shouldn't treat them like babies. They should talk to their children about everything. Children should study regularly and do their best to help their parents. Parents and children should spend more time together. They should be best friends.

Marija Tokmakčija, 7th grade

### **Parents and children**

My name is Luka and my surname is Kalat. I am 13 years old and soon to be 14. My family is small and we live in Knin. Members of my family are mum, dad, brother and me. My parents are very similar to each other. Sometimes they know how to be very boring, and then again, they know how to be very funny, too. It's like my parents have two sides, and I know it sounds funny ,but that's true.

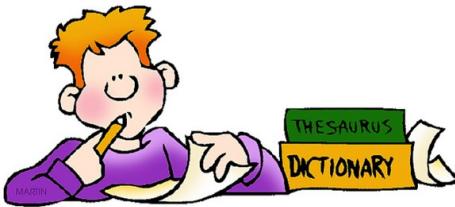
Sometimes, when we talk, my parents just change the topic and start arguing. Like the other side just takes over and it seems like they can't control it. But, I guess, it's just what I see. I'm sure that it isn't actually like that. My brother is a very interesting person. He gets on my nerves , but, then again, he also looks after me, worries about me and stands up for me.

Parents and children mostly get on well. Of course, like every normal parent and child, they argue.

Children talk back and parents get mad at them. Parents complain about children's behaviour, marks, school problems, friends and that kind of things. When it comes to children , they don't like when parents start a big conversation, when parents tell them what to do or wear or when they make them eat the food they hate. I usually argue with my parents about marks and my attitude. They don't punish me because I am always honest with them and I apologise when I am wrong.

In my opinion, when parents and children get in a serious problem, and when it comes to violence, children should search for help and talk to professionals.

They should try not to be scared and it is very important if they can stay somewhere where they feel safe. In the end, I think it's not always the parents' fault. Some kids are rude and aggressive.



Luka Kalat, 7th grade

### School and me

Hello, I'm Lana Marijanović and you can call me just Lana. I am eleven years old and I am the youngest girl in class. But I don't care. I live in Knin, a small Croatian town in the middle of Dalmatia. I am in the sixth grade. My class is really big. There are 25 pupils in it, thirteen girls and twelve boys. My form teacher is Mr Borovac. He teaches science and chemistry. I like him because his lessons are interesting.

I usually have six classes a day. I don't have a favourite subject, I like them all. Yes, you can call me crazy, but I'm not. That's the way it is. I have great marks. I like all teachers and I respect them. A good teacher needs to teach his subject well and he should be strict but fair. He shouldn't be aggressive or have pet students.

I have many friends at school. They are really good friends and I can share my secrets with them. During the breaks we spend some time in the school corridor, laugh and have fun.

I think school holidays are the best part of the year. You can just relax and spend some time with your friends without thinking about homework because you don't have it. If you ask me, our school is really modern. We have e-



boards and e-registers. In my ideal school there would be lockers for all of us and we would wear school uniforms. All pupils would be the same. Nobody would be jealous or sad. I want school like that. And that's all! I'll write you soon.

Lana Marijanović, 6 th grade

### School and me

My name is Iva. I'm twelve years old. I live in Knin. I am in the sixth grade. My class is big. There are twelve boys and thirteen girls in my class. We get on well. My form teacher is Mr Borovac. He teaches science. He is strict and he doesn't have pet students.

I usually have six classes a day. I have lots of favourite subjects but my most favourite subject is English because I love languages.

My least favourite subject is history because I don't like learning about many wars that happened in the past. A good teacher should be strict. But not all the time. He should be patient and fair. I have got a lot of friends at school. I like hanging around with Gabrijela, Klara, Lana and Patricija. We all have fun because Patricija always makes us laugh. During the breaks we talk about school, volleyball or just play some games. I sometimes meet other girls , too. They are seventh graders. Boys sometimes join us. We all tell jokes and laugh together.

I think that winter holidays are too short, but summer holidays are OK. My ideal school is my school but with some changes. I think that we should have more PE classes a week. I love to be at school to meet my friends, have fun and learn something new.

Iva Ramljak, 6th grade

## CHRISTMAS TIME

Christmas is celebrated all over the world on December 25th.

People celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ who was born in Betlehem.

The day before Christmas is called Christmas Eve.

In England less emphasis is placed on Christmas Eve than in other countries.

Carol singing and midnight church service are some of the activities that many families enjoy. Carols are traditional Christmas songs and we can't imagine Christmas without them. They make Christmas even more beautiful and festive. The most famous are *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*, *Silent Night* and *Joy to the World*.

Children hang up their stockings around the fireplace or at the foot of the bed. They believe that Father Christmas fills them with presents. They write him letters listing their requests, but instead of posting them , they throw them into the fireplace. Letters go up the chimney and Father Christmas reads them from the smoke.

Parents and children decorate Christmas trees in their homes. They put lights, baubles, tinsel and other shiny decorations. They usually put stars or angels on the top of Christmas trees.

On Christmas Day , families and friends get together,share Christmas dinner and give each other presents. Traditionally, Christmas dinner is roast turkey or goose with vegetables. It is often served with cranberry sauce or bread sauce. Then comes the dessert. It is Christmas pudding, but it is not what you think it is. It is actually a cake with nuts, dried fruit and brandy. Some people put a coin in it for good luck and a sprig of holly on top of it. Holly is a kind of evergreen plant with red berries.

There is nothing as fun as Christmas crackers at the end of Christmas dinner and it wouldn't be complete without them. Be careful, you can't eat them although they look like sweets wrapped in shiny paper. All the family members wear paper hats and pull the crackers. A little toy and a silly joke come out of it.The first crackers were invented in 1847 by London sweet maker Tom Smith. He saw French 'bon-bons' and brought the idea to England. He added popping mechanism to get the cracking sound and a little note.

Do you like these jokes from Christmas crackers?

What do Santa's helpers learn at school? The elf-abet!

What do monkeys sing at Christmas? Jungle-bells, jungle bells!

Boxing Day is a holiday celebrated the day after Christmas Day, on December 26 th and it is not related to boxing at all! It is called so because people like household servants used to receive 'a Christmas box' from their employers - some money, small gifts and leftovers from Christmas dinner.

These days, on December 26 th, popular activities among the people in the UK are watching sports such as soccer and cricket, shopping and visiting friends.

I hope you 've learned more about Christmas traditions in GB!

## Father Christmas or Santa Claus



Father Christmas arrives by coming down the chimney



He comes down the chimney and puts the presents



in Christmas stockings



He travels in his sleigh across the sky.



Nine reindeer pull the





The most famous reindeer is Rudolph .

He leads the way with his red nose.

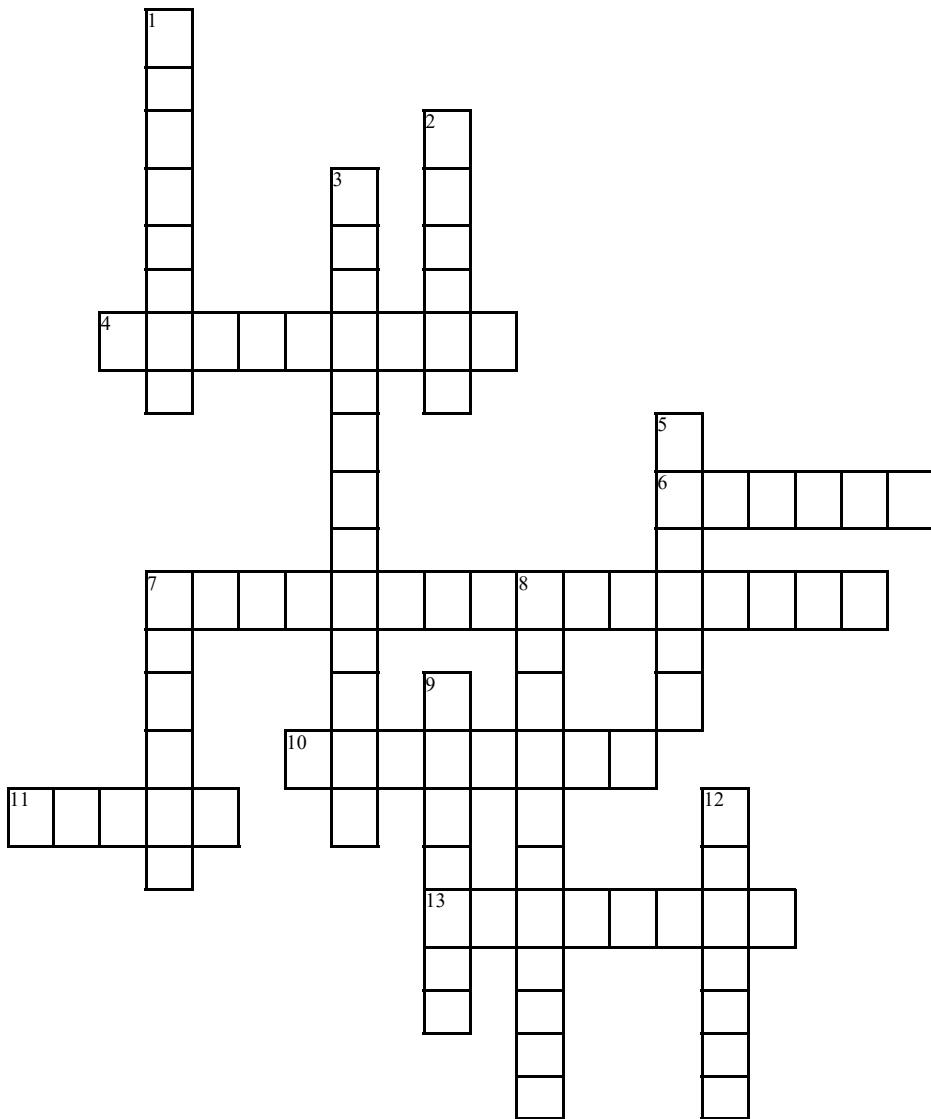
Children prepare some food for Father Christmas ( mince

pies or biscuits and milk).

*Look at the pictures. Can you spot the differences? How many are there? Find them all.*



## CHRISTMAS PUZZLE



**Across**

4. Presents are in them.
6. God's servants in heaven.
7. The most delicious dessert.
10. Rudolph is the most famous \_\_\_\_
11. Evergreen plant with berries.
13. Sweet pie filled with dried fruits.

**Down**

1. They are under the Christmas tree.
2. Father Christmas travels in it.
3. People decorate it with baubles and tinsel.
5. We light it and put it on the table.
7. Traditional Christmas songs.
8. The most famous Christmas song.
9. A creature made from snowballs
12. Father Christmas comes down the \_\_\_\_



Merry  
Christmas

## TONGUE TWISTERS

A sentence or series of words that is hard to say correctly is called a tongue twister. Children love tongue twisters and challenge their friends to try to say them quickly several times in a row.

Here are some examples. Try to say them as quickly as you can. Enjoy!



*Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.*

*A peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked.*

*If Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers,*

*Where's the peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked?*

*I saw Susie sitting in a shoe shine shop.*

*Where she sits she shines, and where she shines she sits.*

*How can a clam cram in a clean cream can?*

*Denise sees the fleece,*

*Denise sees the fleas.*

*At least Denise could sneeze*

*and feed and freeze the fleas.*

*The thirty-three thieves thought that they thrilled the  
throne throughout Thursday.*

*Roberta ran rings around the Roman ruins.*

*Clean clams crammed in clean cans.*

*Six sick hicks nick six slick bricks with picks and sticks.*

*I wish to wish the wish you wish to wish, but if you wish  
the wish the witch wishes, I won't wish the wish you wish  
to wish.*

*Stupid superstition!*

*There was a fisherman named Fisher*

*who fished for some fish in a fissure.*

*Till a fish with a grin,*

*pulled the fisherman in.*

*Now they're fishing the fissure for Fisher.*

*World Wide Web*

*Luke Luck likes lakes.*

*Luke's duck likes lakes.*

*Luke Luck licks lakes.*

*Luck's duck licks lakes.*

*Duck takes licks in lakes Luke Luck likes.*

*Luke Luck takes licks in lakes duck likes.*

*There those thousand thinkers were thinking how did the other three thieves go through.*

*Santa's Short Suit Shrunk.*

## PROVERBS

First, let's learn what a proverb is.

Proverb is a short well-known sentence or phrase that states a general truth about life and is often repeated as a piece of advice.

1. *A friend in need is a friend indeed.*

Explanation: If someone helps you when you are in trouble, that person is a true friend.



2. *The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence.*

Explanation: People usually want what other people have



(better marks at school, clothes, jobs). Instead of thinking about people around you and what they have, be thankful for what you have!

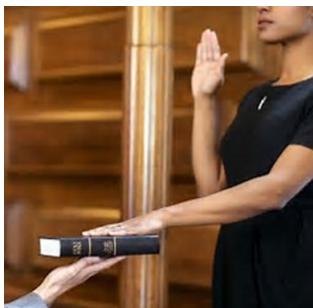
*3. Don't judge a book by its cover.*

Explanation: Things are not always what they seem. This proverb teaches you not to make judgements about other people because of how they look or dress.



*4. Honesty is the best policy.*

Explanation:Lying isn't easy because you must remember all your lies. Soon enough, someone will find out you are lying and you 'll be in trouble. But if you are honest and tell the truth, people will believe you and respect you. You will earn their trust and sleep well at night.



*5. The early bird catches the worm .*

Explanation: You should wake up and start working early if you want to succeed.



*6. Practice makes perfect .*

Explanation: Everything is difficult when you are a beginner. But if you stick with it, if you keep practising, you can achieve what ever you want!



*7. Water under the bridge.*

Explanation: It is better to forget certain things that happened in the past. They are not important any more. You cannot change them so you shouldn't worry about them.

*8. No man is an island.*

Explanation: You can't live completely independently. Everyone needs help from other people.

*9. Better late than never.*

Explanation: It's best to do something on time. But if you can't do it on time, do it anyway.

*10. Never look a gift horse in the mouth.*

Explanation: Don't be ungrateful when you receive a gift.

*11. He who laughs last, laughs best*

Explanation: It is more important who the winner is at the end' of the game' than who had the advantage at the beginning .

*12. You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink.*

Explanation: If you try to help your friend and he doesn't take your advice, give up. You can't force someone to accept your help.

