



# SVCSM *Newsletter*

December, HT2, 2025

## Welcome from the Headteacher and the SVCSM Team

*Welcome to the second issue of our SVCSM Newsletter, capturing the highlights of a half term filled with reflection, warm community moments, and joyful learning.*

*We began HT2 with our All Souls' Remembrance at Sale Cemetery, a touching and meaningful gathering that brought our tradition of remembering our loved ones and togetherness to life here in the UK.*

*This half term was shaped by the colours of autumn, gentle moments of reflection, playful learning in the classroom, and the growing excitement for the Christmas season. We are also delighted to welcome new families who joined our community.*

*Thank you all for your continued support, kindness, and energy.*

*Warmly,  
Your Headteacher,  
Mgr. Mária Mušutová,  
and the SVCSM Team.*

## Reminders / Upcoming Dates:

- **10 January 2026 – first lesson back after Christmas break**
- **14 February – Fancy Costume morning**
- **21 February - HT holiday - SVCSM IS CLOSED**

## Upcoming Events

- **28 March – Easter Workshop**
- **2 May – May Festivities**
- **27 June – Children's Disco & End of Year Celebration**

(More details coming soon!)

## Follow us

**Facebook:** Slovenske Vzdelavacie Centrum South Manchester  
**Instagram:** svcsmanchester

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# **SVCSM** *Highlights*

- ✦ All Souls' Remembrance
- ✦ Dynamic Learning In Our Classes
- ✦ Book Look
- ✦ Growing Community
- ✦ Creative Autumn & Winter Activities
- ✦ Building a Warm Community Space
- ✦ What do parents say about us?
- ✦ Celebrating Our Members' Achievements
- ✦ Christmas Workshop
- ✦ SVCSM Winter Competition
- ✦ HT 3 Planning



# ALL SOULS' REMEMBRANCE



At the beginning of this half term, our SVCSM community gathered at the Sale Cemetery for a quiet and meaningful All Souls' Remembrance. Led by Father Stephen Woolley from St. Joseph's & Holy Family Parish, the moment was filled with stillness, prayer, and a deep sense of peace.

Together we marked Dušičky here in the UK, remembering our loved ones whose graves we had not been able to visit in Slovakia on this special day. We lit candles — symbols of the light that connects us across distance and generations — and laid wreaths prepared with care by our families and children.

A particularly touching moment came when Gabriela played the violin as the children placed their candles. Her gentle melody carried through the cool autumn air like a wordless prayer, bringing comfort and unity to all present.

In Slovakia, families visit cemeteries together on this day. Here in the UK, we came together as one community — joined by faith, tradition, and heartfelt remembrance. We extend our sincere thanks to Father Stephen for his presence, blessing, and the thoughtful words that guided this special gathering.

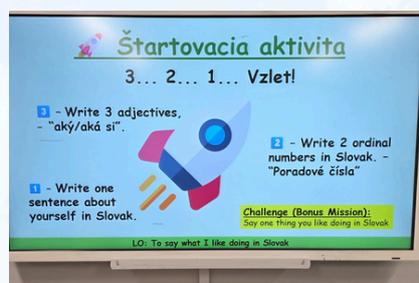


# WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

This half term, our learning focused on **Module 2 – My Free Time**, exploring how we talk about hobbies, free-time activities, and weather in Slovak.

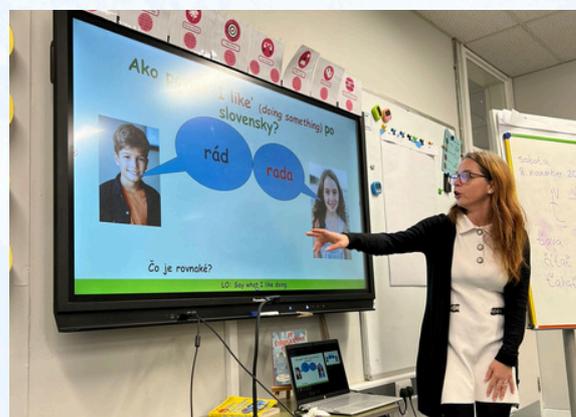
Through **games, conversations, creativity**, and short speaking tasks, the children learned how to describe what they enjoy doing, where they spend their time, and what they do in different weather.

We began with *Dušičky*, learning simple phrases of remembrance and family, and then moved into everyday Slovak used for hobbies and daily routines. The children practised sentences with *rád / rada*, learned how to build *Keď* (When)... clauses (when it rains, snows, or shines), and tried out different verbs for sports and activities.



**Both groups worked on confidence in speaking:**

- asking and answering simple questions
- forming short sentences about their free time
- using sport and weather vocabulary
- learning the verbs in present tense
- vocabulary of places and activities



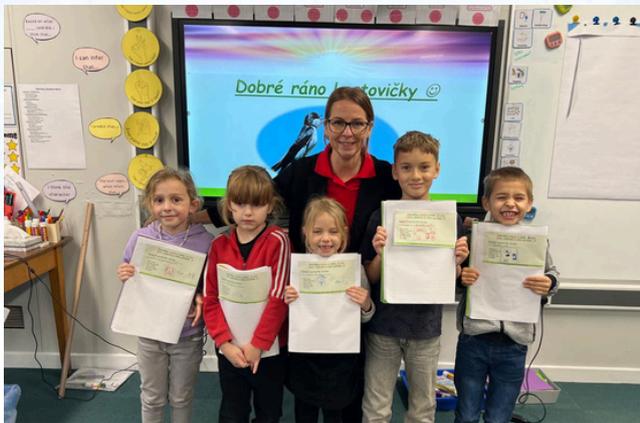
We finished the module with a fun revision session, quizzes, winter activities and Christmas-themed language tasks. The progress in both groups has been fantastic — from first words and simple structures to longer, more confident sentences spoken with pride.

# LASTOVIČKY

Our youngest learners continued to make wonderful progress this half term. Their main goal, as always, was to build vocabulary and develop confidence in speaking Slovak — and they did this through plenty of play, creativity, and joyful learning.



Miss Deniska always begins each lesson with a short phonics warm-up, helping our anglophone children practise Slovak “tricky sounds” and become more secure in pronunciation. This routine has been helping many of them grow braver and clearer when speaking.



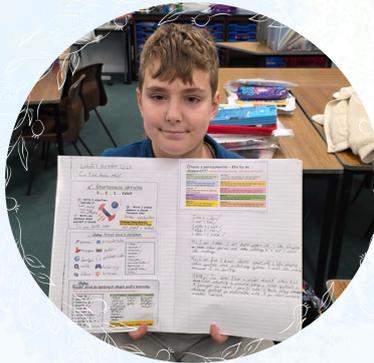
Throughout the half term, Lastovičky explored new words through matching cards, quiz games, movement activities, story-telling and simple role-play. They enjoyed drawing and labelling their own pictures, which helped them practise both understanding and producing new language in a natural way. As always, crafts were a big part of our lessons — from seasonal activities to creative mini-projects that supported the vocabulary of the week.

We are very proud of their growing confidence. Their curiosity, teamwork and big smiles make every Saturday a joy.

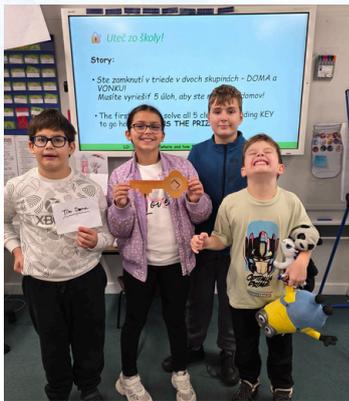
# ORLY

## Confident, Curious and Full of Energy

Our Orly group continued to shine this half term with their enthusiasm, teamwork and determination. The classroom was full of healthy competition, laughter, and moments of real progress.



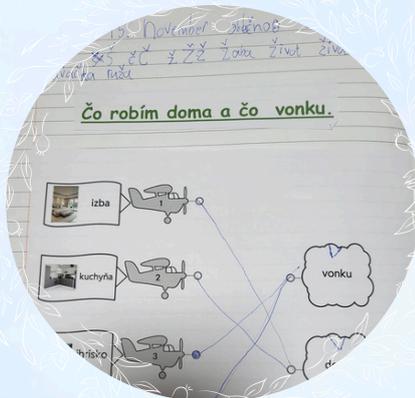
Learning in Orly is always dynamic. The children work through movement-based and kinaesthetic activities, pair tasks, team challenges and problem-solving games that help them use Slovak in meaningful, practical ways. This HT, they practised building longer sentences, expressing their preferences, and asking and answering questions with growing confidence.



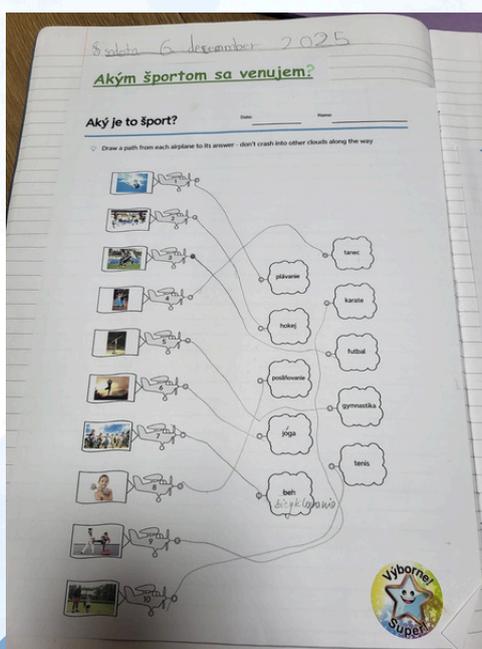
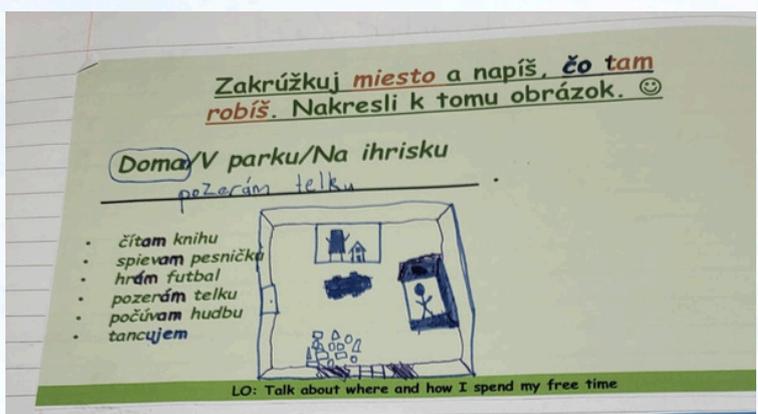
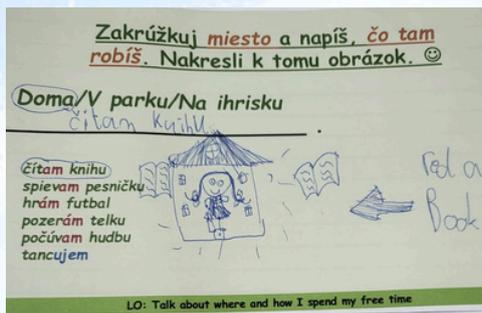
One of the highlights of this half term was our Escape School language game, where the students had to solve tasks, decode clues and complete challenges in Slovak to “escape.” Their teamwork, quick thinking and competitive spirit turned the classroom into a buzzing problem-solving zone — with impressive results.

We also saw remarkable improvement in their reading skills. Many students are now decoding Slovak text more confidently, recognising familiar structures faster, and reading short tasks and questions with greater independence. Their progress in this area has been truly exciting to watch. The curriculum provides just the right level of challenge

# BOOK LOOK: LASTOVIČKY



This half term, our students' books clearly show their growing confidence and progress in Slovak. The Lastovičky filled their books with colourful drawings, labelled pictures, simple words and short phrases, building vocabulary in a playful and creative way.

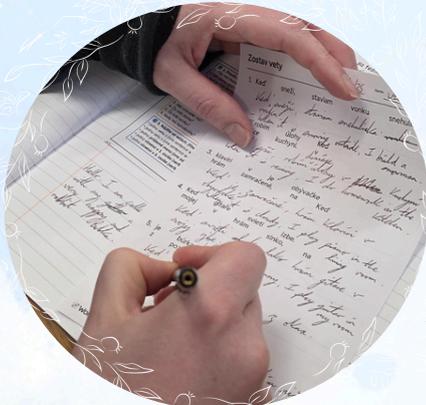
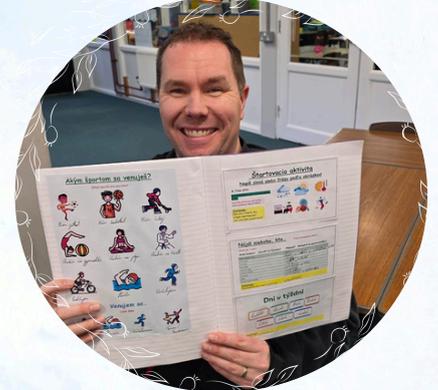


1. Doma telku. pozerám  
Doma pozerám telku. ✓
2. Doma hudbu. počúvam  
Doma počúvam hudbu. ✓

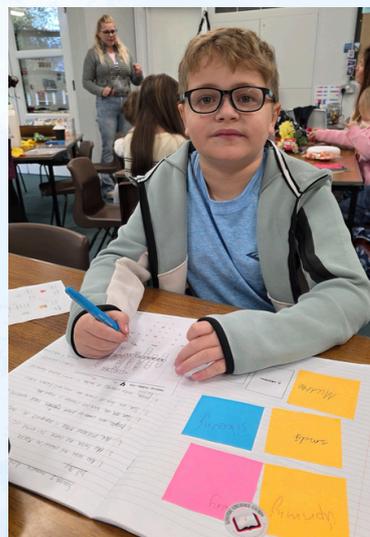
One of the highlights of this half term was the children's growing confidence in writing simple words and short phrases to describe their own pictures, showing a clear connection between what they drew, what they understood, and what they were able to express in Slovak, often working with increasing independence and pride.

# BOOK LOOK: ORLY

One of the highlights of this half term was the pupils' remarkable progress in reading and writing, with many confidently tackling longer Slovak texts independently.



The Orly worked on reading tasks, written answers, and longer sentences connected to their free-time topics. Many students showed impressive improvement in reading accuracy, understanding written instructions, and presenting their work neatly and independently.



# CREATIVE AUTUMN & WINTER ACTIVITIES

This half term, creativity played an important role in our centre. Our members took part in All Souls' wreath making, explored autumn and winter themes, and enjoyed hands-on activities that supported language learning in an engaging way. Alongside crafts, pupils also created weather forecasts and predictions, using drawings, labels and simple sentences to practise new vocabulary through movement, role-play and creative tasks.



Creativity continued at our Christmas Workshop on 20 December, where children, parents and visitors came together to create Christmas decorations as a community. Teachers Majka and Deniska prepare highly creative lessons rich in kinaesthetic learning, allowing children to learn through making, moving and doing. This approach keeps learning lively and memorable, while naturally connecting language, tradition and shared experience.

# GROWING COMMUNITY

Over this half term, we continued to see growing interest in SVCSM from families beyond our regular classes. New parents reached out to ask about our lessons, events and community activities, helping our work reach further into the local area and beyond.

We recognise that not all families are able to travel to Sale every Saturday. For this reason, we are currently exploring the possibility of online Slovak language sessions for families who live further away or who may find regular travel challenging.

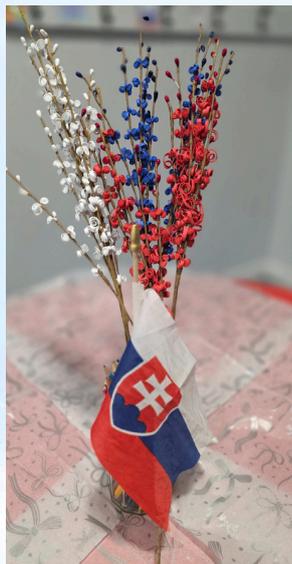
We warmly invite interested families to register their interest in online learning with us. This will help us understand demand and assess the potential for opening online classes in the future.

Building a strong community takes time, and every message, enquiry and expression of interest helps shape the next steps of SVCSM. We look forward to welcoming new families – in person or online – as our community continues to grow.



## BUILDING A WARM COMMUNITY SPACE

At SVCSM, creating a welcoming and relaxed environment for families is just as important as classroom learning. During Saturday lessons, parents and visitors are invited to spend time together at our SVCSM Coffee Table, enjoying a cup of tea or coffee and taking a moment to chat and connect.



This half term, we also extended our community space with a small SVCSM stall, where families can purchase centre-branded items such as pens, water bottles, caps, T-shirts and hoodies. Alongside homemade bakes kindly shared by our families, the stall adds another way to support SVCSM and feel part of the community. A voluntary donation box is always available to help cover refreshments and running costs. Everyone is warmly invited to stop by — whether for a quick drink, a browse, or a pleasant conversation.



## WHAT DO PARENTS SAY ABOUT US?



*“Since the boys started attending Slovak school, they have begun to conjugate more accurately, apply correct verb tenses, and distinguish between grammatical genders. They really enjoy the carefully prepared activities and look forward to coming to school every week. They love meeting other children and enjoy healthy competition — although neither of them knows how to lose yet, which sometimes makes our Saturdays quite intense! Thank you for being there for us!”* **Danka**

*“SVCSM has been the best opportunity that could have come into my two children’s lives. It is a place where they can learn Slovak while also discovering Slovak traditions and culture. Every Saturday brings two hours of engaging lessons full of experiences that the children truly enjoy with their teachers and friends. Toby, Natalia and I, as their mum, are incredibly grateful to be part of this wonderful community.”* **Petka**



*“Every visit to the Slovak Centre enriches not only the children, but also Slovak parents living abroad. How? Through shared manners, customs and the use of our language. The beauty and melody of the Slovak language warms the Slovak heart anywhere in the world — especially when we are so few. We always look forward to the engaging lessons, full of knowledge about the Slovak language, traditions and customs. The way the lessons are presented is lively and interactive, drawing children into the topic. It is truly a pleasure to spend two hours in an environment that reminds us of our home country.”* **Andrea**



*“Samko looks forward to going to Slovak school every Saturday and attends with real enthusiasm, thanks to the kind, patient teachers and the friendly community that warmly welcomes every new child. The calm, supportive atmosphere helps him feel confident and happy, and allows him to enjoy learning without pressure. Being part of this community helps Samko build a positive relationship not only with the Slovak language, but also with Slovak traditions and customs, which are becoming a natural and joyful part of his life.”*

**Andrea**



# CELEBRATING OUR MEMBERS' ACHIEVEMENTS



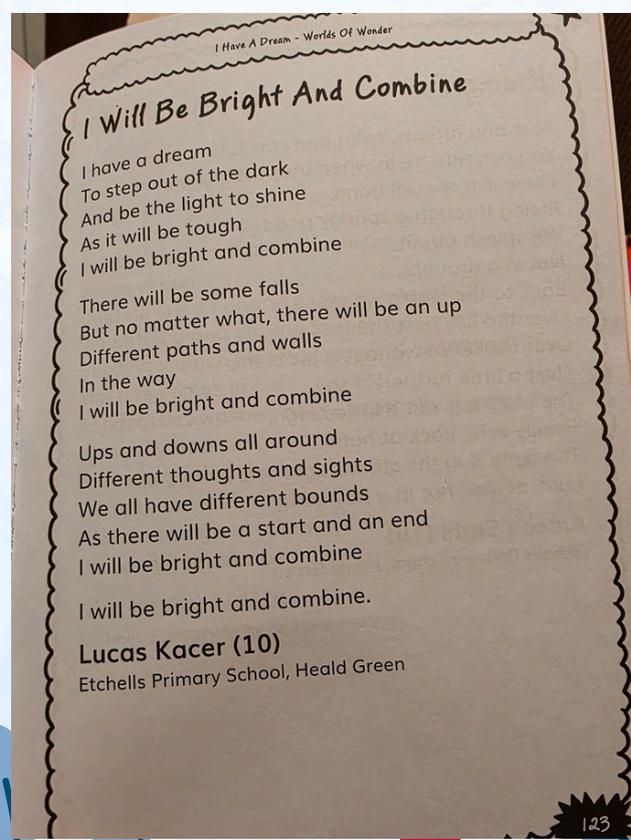
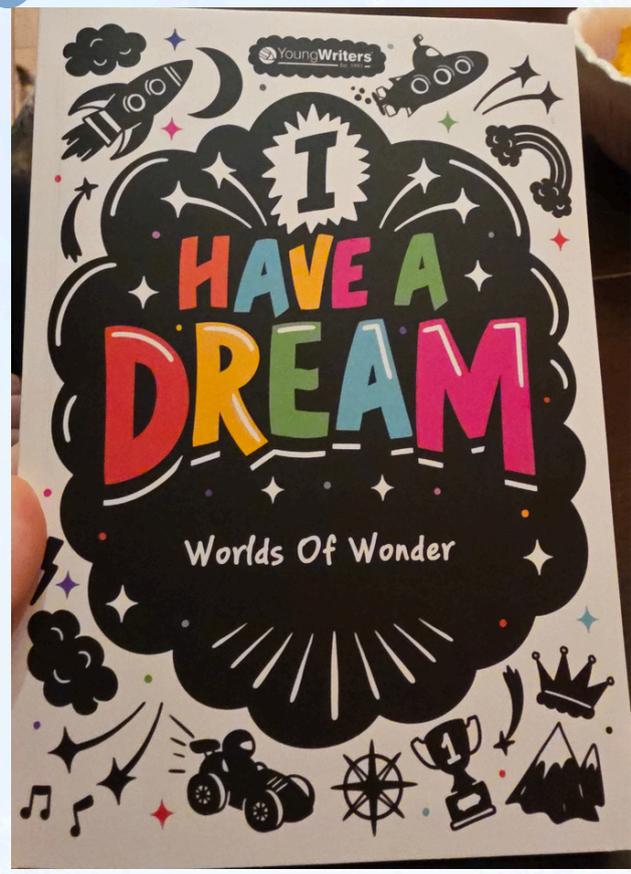
We are incredibly proud of Sofia, who continues to shine in cheerleading and proudly represents our Slovak community through her club, **Electric Athletics**. Sofia's dedication, discipline and enthusiasm are truly inspiring. This year, her team achieved fantastic success by **winning a competition** here in the UK and has now earned the opportunity to **represent their club internationally in the USA**. We are also delighted that SVCSM and Electric Athletics support one another, strengthening the connection between sport, community and shared values. As Sofia prepares for this exciting journey, we are cheering her on every step of the way. **We wish her and her team the very best of luck and look forward to celebrating many more achievements in the future.**



# Lucas

We are immensely proud of Lucas, a young poetic soul whose creativity and sensitivity truly shine through his writing. Lucas recently had his poem, "I Will Be Bright and Combine," published in the book *I Have a Dream* — a wonderful achievement and a moment of great pride for our whole community.

Through his words, Lucas shows imagination, confidence and a beautiful ability to express his thoughts and emotions. His success is a powerful reminder of how creativity and language can inspire, connect and give young voices a platform. We congratulate Lucas on this remarkable accomplishment and look forward to seeing where his talent will take him next.





# Toby

We are incredibly proud of Toby, who reached the final of the **Under-12 Welsh Open Karate Championships** in Wales. Competing with focus, courage and determination, **Toby truly fought like a tiger** and showed impressive strength and discipline throughout the competition.

In addition to this fantastic achievement, Toby has also attained **7th and 6th Kyu grades**, which have been officially recorded by the **Yamada-ha Shitō-ryū Shukokai Karate-dō World Union UK**. This recognition reflects his hard work, commitment and steady progress in karate.

Toby's achievements are a wonderful example of perseverance and dedication, and we are very proud to celebrate his success as part of our **SVCSM community**. We look forward to cheering him on as he continues his **karate journey**.



# Natália



A big congratulations to Natália, who has successfully completed her swimming lessons and achieved the **STANley 7 Award**. This final stage of the programme reflects excellent water confidence, swimming technique and safety skills. We are very proud of Natália's determination and hard work — **well done** on this fantastic achievement!



# Scarlett

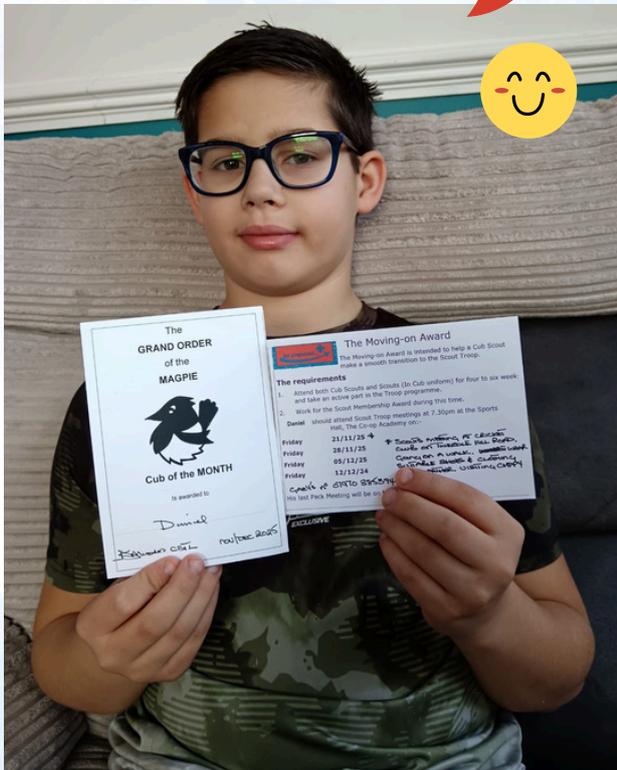


Well done to Scarlett, who received an **On Time Award** for arriving at school on time every day this half term. This achievement reflects her reliability, commitment and positive attitude. We are very proud of Scarlett and celebrate this wonderful example of responsibility.



# Majky

We are proud to celebrate Majky, who was **officially invested** into the 105 Scout Group as a **Beaver Scout**. On 6 December, he successfully completed his first camp, where he earned his very first badges — a **wonderful milestone** at the start of his scouting journey. Well done, Majky, on this exciting achievement!



# Danny

We are very proud of Danielko, who has **successfully completed** his time with the **Cub Scouts** and was awarded **Cub of the Month** — a wonderful recognition of his commitment, teamwork and positive attitude. As he moves into the new year, Danielko will be taking an exciting next step in his scouting journey by joining the Scouts in 2026. We wish him every success as he begins this **new adventure** and continues to grow in confidence and independence.

## Pupil voice

*This is our class representatives. They take class mate ideas to improve our school and give them to the headteachers and he will make sure our ideas are valued.*

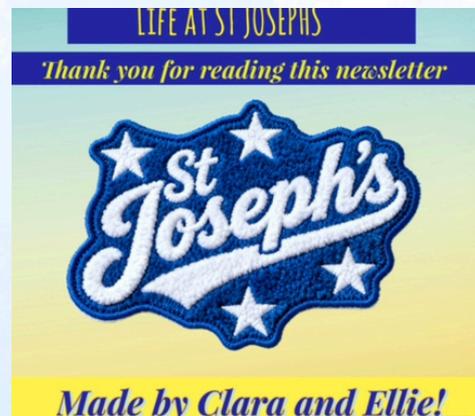


In addition to this, Clara was chosen as a **Pupil Voice** representative for Year 6 — a clear sign of the trust placed in her by both staff and classmates, and a role that allows her to represent her peers and share their ideas and opinions. She also **created a video** about her school, together with her classmate, which has been proudly **published on the school website** alongside the Headteacher's welcome message. This opportunity highlights her confidence, creativity and ability to communicate positively. We are incredibly proud of Clara and the values she represents.



We are delighted to celebrate Clara, who has recently become a member of her school's **Faith Team** and received a **Headteacher's Award** for delivering Christmas cards to local residents — a beautiful act of kindness that helped share the joy of Christmas within the community. Clara was also selected to take part in the school's **Christmas Brunch**, where families came together after Mass and the children provided festive entertainment through carol singing.

Christmas Brunch



# Emma

Well done to Emma, who competed in the Winter Cup Competition at CC Gymnastics and achieved fantastic results. Emma won 2nd place on floor and finished 4th overall, demonstrating great skill, focus and determination. We are very proud of her achievements and wish her continued success in her gymnastics journey.



# Samko

Congratulations to Samko, who received a certificate from Navigation Values for his success in applying exchanges when adding two-digit numbers. Samko has shown great focus and understanding — and it's clear that he really enjoys mathematics. Well done on this excellent achievement!



# Vanessa

We are delighted to celebrate Vanessa, who received her **Graduation Certificate** from Nursery — a lovely **milestone** at the start of her learning journey. Vanessa also created a beautiful piece of artwork expressing her **dream of becoming a make-up artist**, showing creativity, imagination and confidence. We are very proud of her achievements and look forward to seeing her talents continue to grow.



# Melissa

A big well done to Melissa, Vanessa's younger sister, who **successfully completed her first day in Nursery**. This is an important milestone, and we celebrate her confidence and courage as she begins this exciting new chapter. We wish Melissa lots of happy days ahead!





## Dominika

We are proud to celebrate Dominika, who was awarded a free ticket to the musical *Legally Blonde* in recognition of her 100% attendance, excellent behaviour and outstanding academic results at school. This well-deserved award reflects her dedication, responsibility and positive attitude to learning.

Outside the classroom, Dominika enjoys playing the guitar and shows great energy and teamwork every Wednesday when she plays rugby. We are very proud of her achievements and enthusiasm across so many areas — well done, Dominika!

Our youngest community member, Olivia, has been bringing us lots of smiles this year. Spending joyful time with her mum, Olivia was inspired by our **Kukuriatko folk-theatre group** and learned to sing “*Tichá noc*” in Slovak — a truly heart-warming moment, beautifully captured in a video shared by her mum.

Olivia has been an absolute gem, and we already see her love for music and language shining through. We look forward to welcoming her into Slovak school as soon as she is ready and watching her continue to grow as part of our **SVCSM family**.



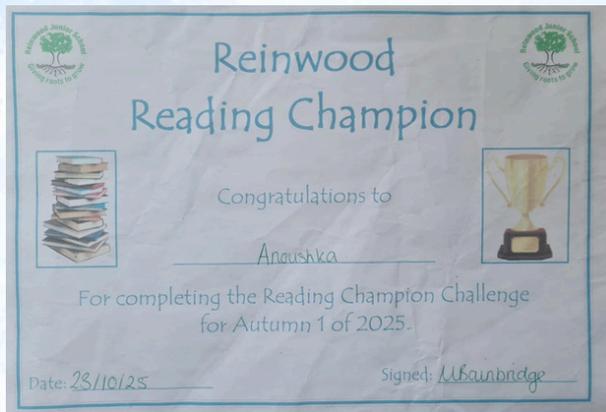
## Olivia





# Anoushka

We are very proud of Anoushka, who has received several awards this half term in recognition of her hard work, values and creativity. She was awarded Homework of the Week not once but twice – including for an outstanding anti-bullying poster, which showed thoughtfulness, creativity and a strong message of kindness.



Anoushka also received the Reinwood Reading Champion award, reflecting her commitment and enthusiasm for reading, as well as a School Values Award – Compassion Certificate, recognising her kindness and positive attitude towards others. These achievements highlight not only her academic effort, but also the wonderful values she brings to her school community. We congratulate Anoushka on these fantastic accomplishments and are very proud to celebrate her as part of our SVCSM community.



# Oliver

We are very proud of Oliver, who received a PE Certificate (KS3) at St Peter's RC High School — a special recognition awarded to him as the only student across Years 7–9 in his house group (Pankhurst House). This achievement highlights his outstanding commitment, effort and attitude in Physical Education.



Alongside this, Oliver has been selected to join the Manchester Schools Football Team following successful trials, as previously mentioned in our last newsletter. He will now go on to represent Manchester in the North West fixtures, competing as part of a strong squad aiming to perform well in national competitions. This is a fantastic opportunity and a wonderful recognition of Oliver's talent, dedication and teamwork.



We congratulate Oliver on these impressive achievements and wish him every success as he continues to represent his school — and our community — with pride.



# Gabriela

We are delighted to celebrate Gabriela, who continues to impress our community with her talent, dedication and versatility. As a **young female footballer**, Gabriela was awarded **Player of the Match**, a well-deserved recognition of her determination, teamwork and strong performance on the pitch. Her confidence, resilience and passion for football make her a fantastic role model for other girls in sport.



Alongside her sporting achievements, Gabriela also shared her musical talent by performing on the violin at our **All Souls' Remembrance** as well as at the **Christmas concert**. Her beautiful playing added a moving and special atmosphere to both occasions, bringing comfort, reflection and celebration through music.



# Samuel

We are incredibly proud of Samuel, the eldest member of our Slovak community, who celebrated his university graduation in December. Samuel completed his studies in Biomedical Science at the University of Lancashire and was awarded a Bachelor of Science (BSc Honours) degree — a remarkable achievement that reflects years of hard work, dedication and perseverance.

This milestone was a moment of great pride not only for Samuel and his family, but also for all of us at SVCSM. Throughout his studies, Samuel also demonstrated exceptional responsibility and leadership by successfully balancing university life with his role as a manager at McDonald's. This speaks volumes about his character, work ethic and ability to lead others with confidence and maturity.



We warmly congratulate Samuel on his academic success and wish him every possible success in his future studies and career. His journey is a wonderful inspiration to our younger members and a reminder of what can be achieved through determination and commitment.



★ ★ **Michal**



Our valued adult member of our community, Michal, celebrated a very **special milestone** — his **50th birthday** — surrounded by family and friends, many of whom are part of the SVCSM community. It was a joyful occasion that brought people together to mark an important moment in his life.

The celebration had the feel of a proper Slovak party — full of laughter, music, conversation and great company. Friends came together not only to celebrate a birthday, but to share memories, stories and genuine warmth, creating an atmosphere that felt relaxed, heartfelt and truly special.

We wish Michal continued health, happiness and many more milestones celebrated in such good company.



# CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP

Our Christmas Workshop on 20 December was a vibrant, joyful and truly memorable way to end the half term. From the moment families arrived, the centre was full of Slovak Christmas music, laughter and a wonderful sense of togetherness.



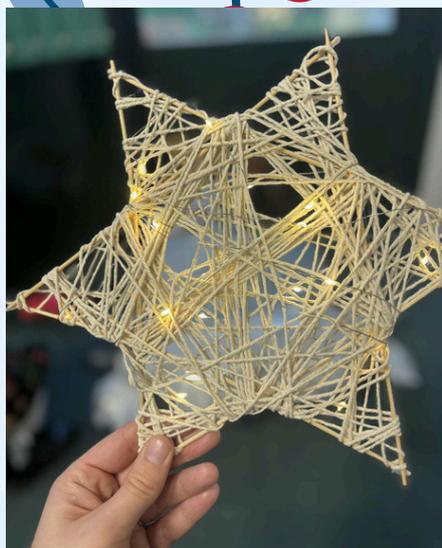
The day began with a lovely performance by our Kukuriatko folk-theatre group, who presented a short festive play and sang the Christmas songs, setting the tone for the celebration. Families were then invited to move freely between five creative craft stations, where children and adults could create Christmas decorations together. We chatted, we sang and enjoyed the relaxed, festive atmosphere.





A traditional food table offered familiar Slovak flavours, while our SVCSM stall displayed centre products and traditional items. The excitement continued with a tombola, which brought smiles, anticipation and lots of cheerful moments. Everywhere you looked, people were talking, laughing, creating and simply enjoying being together.





Many parents told us that this was one of the best SVCSM events so far, and we couldn't agree more. It was not just a workshop — it was a celebration of community, tradition and shared Christmas spirit. We truly loved spending this special time together and are grateful to everyone who helped make the day so warm, lively and unforgettable.



# SVCSM WINTER COMPETITION

This winter, we invite our children and families to take part in the SVCSM Winter Competition, running until **30 January**.

## THIS YEAR'S CHALLENGE

### Create a snowflake

— using any materials and any technique you like.

Snowflakes can be paper cut-outs, drawings, recycled crafts, painted designs or decorative creations. **Each snowflake should be handmade by the child**, with age-appropriate support if needed.

### How to Take Part

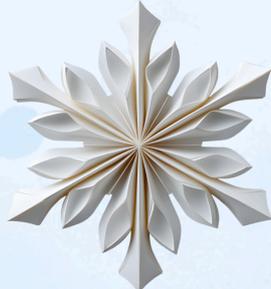
- Send us a photo of the snowflake by 30 January via Messenger
- All entries will be shared and displayed on our SVCSM Facebook page

### Awards

*At the end of the competition, we will celebrate*

### *The 3 Prettiest Snowflakes*

All participants will receive a small SVCSM reward, and the winning snowflakes will be announced online on our Facebook page.



# SPRING TERM CURRICULUM (HT3 PLAN)

In HT3, we are excited to begin **Module 3 – My School**, a fun and creative theme where children will learn, talk, imagine, design and share ideas about school life.

Lessons will be full of discussion, games, creativity and hands-on activities, helping children use Slovak naturally and with growing confidence.

A real highlight of the half term will be 7 February, when the children will design and present their own “School Of Dreams” 3D poster — a chance to show what they have learned, explain their ideas and proudly put their language skills into action.

With plenty of culture, creativity and joyful learning ahead, we are really looking forward to this half term and can't wait to get started!

## Module 3 – My School

**10 January - Regular teaching – Sviatok Troch kráľov**

*Cultural lesson exploring the tradition of Three Kings, its meaning, symbols and customs in Slovakia, supported by simple language activities and storytelling.*

**17 January - Regular teaching – Aký je tvoj obľúbený predmet? (My favourite school subject)**

*Talking about school subjects, expressing likes and preferences, and practising simple sentence structures.*

**24 January - Regular teaching – Čo nosíš do školy? (What do you wear to school?)**

*Vocabulary for clothing, describing what we wear to school and expressing preferences.*

**31 January - Regular teaching – Čo je v tvojej škole? (What is in your school?)**

*Describing school spaces and classrooms, using basic prepositions and building short descriptive sentences.*

**7 February - Regular teaching – Škola mojich snov (My dream school)**

*Creative language work imagining and describing an ideal school through speaking, drawing and simple writing.*

**14 February - Karnevalové dopoludnie – Fašiangy**

*A cultural morning exploring Fašiangy traditions, history and customs, with costumes, activities and celebrations.*

**21 February - Half-term holiday – no school!**



