

Erasmus Key Action 2 project 2018-2021

Monks Abbey Primary School
Bishop King Church of England Primary School
St Peter at Gowt Church of England Primary School

Szkola Podstawowa nr 18
Zespół Szkół we Fromborku
Szkola Podstawowa w Lecze



In 2018, three Lincolnshire Schools were given a joint grant to set up a partnership with schools in Poland. In 2019, children and staff from Poland travelled to each school in the UK and each school has sent members of children and staff over to Poland.

The overarching aims of this project were to develop an understanding of communication, culture and curriculum in each school setting.

Due to unforeseen circumstances of the pandemic, children were unable to travel overseas in 2020 and 2021. This meant that the second stage of the project was to be completed virtually and through a penfriend system.

This year schools in Poland and the UK have shared a penfriend system where each school has sent over letters overseas. They have discussed their school experiences, home life and differences during COVID.

On 12th May 2021, the three schools in the UK and the three schools in Poland took part in a virtual activity. This involved all 6 schools meeting together on a Microsoft Teams meeting where they spoke about: a tour and general life at school; life during COVID and they shared traditional tales.

This was a significant day for the Polish children as this was the first day they had stepped through the school gates since the start of the Pandemic, their schools closed on 20th March 2020. They were very excited to see all of their friends again and so thankful to be back in school and not having to learn online!





Each school gave a tour or a presentation about their own school.

After the presentation we played an interactive game of Kahoot. The English schools based their quiz on the local tale of the Lincoln Imp and the Polish based theirs on the tale of the Saint Rock.



What impact has this had on our children?

Children and staff have recorded their findings and these are the main findings from these activities:

- Children in Poland celebrate a range of festivals and special days: Spring time, Teachers Day, school nativity, Independence Day.
- Children have learned entirely from home during COVID they were due to return on May 17th 2020.
- Children in Poland move around in school and have no base classroom.
- Children start at a younger age group: I think the kindergarten children in the video were 6/7.
- It isn't compulsory to wear school uniform.
- Schools have a wide range of outdoor space that is used rarely in the winter but often after spring.
- Children move around during the corridors and have their break times then.
- Prior to lockdown, children had to take part in regular exams (usually once a fortnight)
- Children have returned to school in Poland on 17th May 2021 in a phased return.
- Schools have worked hard on pupils' mental health and wellbeing since returning to school.
- Schools in Poland have focussed less on exams and more on team building and re-establishing relationships with children and other staff since returning from the pandemic.
- Children are given many more opportunities for outdoor learning since they have returned from the pandemic in Poland.
- The virtual meeting was during the holy month of Ramadan and children talked about this. Also, children spoke about how they had celebrated the holy Christian festival of Easter and other traditions.
- Children learnt that both countries had their own traditional tales.
- Children learnt what life was like in another country during the pandemic, and how this is different from their own experiences.

