

22nd January 2024

Year 5 Turing Wellbeing Mobility to Prague 11th-15th March 2024

Dear St John's, Shoscombe and Welton families,

We are very much looking forward to our visit to Prague in March. This letter is to provide you with the latest information about the visit. There will be further information and meetings for you in the next few weeks however in the meantime, if you have any questions, please speak to your own school contacts: Mr Cracknell at St John's, Mrs Rorison at Shoscombe or Mr Snell at Welton.

Many thanks,

John Snell
Welton Head Teacher and Visit Leader

About our visit

We are taking 22 children from three local schools: Welton, St John's and Shoscombe Church School. 5 members of staff will be on the visit:

- Mrs Rorison, Mrs Webb (Shoscombe)
- Mrs Berry, Mr Snell (Welton)
- Mr Cracknell (St John's)

Mr Snell is the group leader.

Our travel arrangements

We will all meet at **Norton Hill Primary School** on Monday 11th March 2024 ready to depart by Berkeley coach at 9.00am. If this time changes we will let you know. We are flying with British Airways from Heathrow Terminal 3 at 3pm arriving in Prague at 6pm. Prague is 1 hour ahead of the UK. The flight time is less than 2 hours. Your child will need a packed lunch for the journey and a refillable water bottle.

Outbound flight details:
BA0856 from London Heathrow to Prague
Departs at 15:00, arrives at 18:00

Inbound flight details:
BA0859 from Prague to London Heathrow
Departs at 14:20, arrives at 15:45

We will return to Norton Hill Primary School at 7.30pm on Friday 15th March 2024.

When in Prague we will be using a recommended coach for all our travel. On arrival at Prague airport we will be taken by the coach to the accommodation.

Travel Documents

Your child must have a valid passport and it is also recommended that they have an EHIC or GHIC card - health insurance. You can apply for these online free of charge - beware of unofficial websites that may charge. If you have an existing EHIC it remains valid until the expiry date on the card. Please give these documents directly to Mr Snell on the morning of departure. As MNSP schools we have travel insurance already in place so there is no need for you to purchase this separately.



Accommodation

We will all be staying together in a large, self contained private house. The accommodation has been visited and has been risk assessed to be suitable for our visit. Bedrooms will be allocated and shared with you nearer the time. There are a combination of single beds and mattresses, some of which are together as large doubles, however all beds have single duvets and pillows. All bedding and towels are provided. The children will need indoor shoes for wearing inside the house (e.g. daps, sensible slippers with grip soles, or trainers). Visit <https://www.vilaprag.cz/> for further information about the house. We will not be making use of the spa building - this will be out of bounds.

Luggage

All luggage will be taken in the cabin of the aeroplane. Your child should pack a small suitcase (cabin bag) and one travel rucksack (hand bag). The rucksack must be suitable for your child to use as their day bag during the visit. No large suitcases or bags will be allowed. Your child must be able to carry and manage their own luggage at all times.

British Airways bag sizes are as follows:

	
Hand bags	Cabin bags
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Up to 40 x 30 x 15cm (16 x 12 x 6in)• Up to 23kg (51lb)• Essentials like medication, mobile phones, other electronic devices and passports• To be placed under the seat• Guaranteed in the cabin	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Up to 56 x 45 x 25cm (22 x 18 x 10in) - includes wheels and handles• Up to 23kg (51lb)• No valuables, electronics or essential medicines• May need to go in the hold

Please ensure that you do not pack any banned items. You are advised to let your child help with the packing so that they know exactly what they have packed and where to find it! Your child must be able to manage their own luggage independently at all times, including through security checks.

Your child's hand luggage must comply with airline safety rules so please be mindful of this when packing, especially when selecting snacks, items for a packed lunch and drinks. British Airways has some useful information on their website on what you can/cannot take onto a plane: <https://www.britishairways.com/content/information/baggage-essentials/liquids-and-restrictions>

What to pack

We are away for 4 nights. Your child will need clothes suitable for days out at the school, a visit to Prague Zoo, a guided tour of the city sites and visit to local parks. They will need overnight clothes, a waterproof/warm coat and at least one jumper. They should bring a swimsuit and towel as we plan to swim in the school pool, supervised by a lifeguard. We recommend your child packs a familiar, small, soft toy, a book and anything else that will help them feel at ease whilst away from home. A small card game or similar would be acceptable.

Whilst electronic items are allowed, these are taken at your own risk. We appreciate how devices might be a good entertainment whilst travelling, but please consider if you want your child to have this whilst abroad. Your child may want a camera - please brief them on how to use and charge this and how to keep it safe. If your child wishes to bring a mobile phone please let us know and we will share the MNPS policy with you.

Contact whilst we are away

We discourage too much contact between you and your child whilst away as in our experience this can cause homesickness more than solve it. This trip is an opportunity for your child to develop independence and staff will be contactable 24 hours a day to help resolve any concerns or difficulties children may have. We will let you know that we have arrived safely. We plan to set up a single communication contact (most likely WhatsApp) for communication with you during the visit. We will also be sharing photographs with you during the trip.

About the Prague school

Skola da Vinci is a school situated in a small town in the outskirts of Prague. The school buildings are innovative in design and provide children of all ages with an inspiring environment in which to learn, both inside and out. Additionally the children have access to a dedicated forest school area in woods nearby. The school is very well resourced and has a swimming pool, its own amazing cafeteria and indoor and outdoor areas for sports, all set in beautiful grounds. For further information see <https://www.skoladavinci.cz/>

Programme of activities

The children have already begun communicating with each other including two online sessions. Our programme of activities has been created in support of the theme of 'wellbeing'. Our programme outline:

- Monday 11th March
Travel day (bring packed lunch) and settling in at the accommodation. Evening meal provided.
- Tuesday 12th March
Visit to Skola Da Vinci for a day of activities together including cooking, playing and swimming. Lunch and evening meal provided at the school.
- Wednesday 13th March
Visit to Prague Zoo with Skola Da Vinci. Lunch provided. Evening meal provided at the accommodation. Evening activities at the accommodation.
- Thursday 14th March
Walking tour to see the sites of Prague. Lunch and evening meal provided. Evening activities at the accommodation.
- Friday 15th March
Travel day. Lunch and meals provided.

Allergies and medication

We will soon be asking you to complete a pupil profile that includes allergies, intolerances and contact details. If your child needs medication then we will ask you to complete a medical form. If the

medicine is prescribed, we will also need a copy of the prescription to allow us to take it through customs. All medication will need to be clearly labelled when packed. If your child is carrying self-administered medication such as an inhaler, please ensure they are confident in their use, storage and care.

Spending money

A small amount of spending money is recommended. We won't have many shopping opportunities however there will be a chance for your child to buy some souvenirs. Please ensure that your child has a purse/wallet for their money and that they understand it is their responsibility to keep this safe. We will explain more about currencies shortly. Children do not need money for food, transport or any excursions as these are included in the cost of the trip.

Behaviour and Expectations

As with all school visits, we expect the highest standards of behaviour whilst on this visit. Poor behaviour whilst travelling can lead to children becoming unsafe or lost. To ensure we all have a positive experience we must all agree to follow our school behaviour policies - to be respectful and considerate at all times. Please ensure you have spoken to your child about the behaviour we expect of them whilst on this trip.

Cultural differences

Travelling is an exciting experience. It is an opportunity to recognise things which are similar but also it gives us a chance to learn about new things, try new foods and become part of a different culture. Being different doesn't mean being strange or odd and that something is better or worse than what we are used to at home.

This is a very exciting opportunity for your child, but we understand that for most of our pupils this will be their first visit overseas without you so it is very normal for them to feel worried. We are all aware of this and will be working together over the coming weeks to reduce any anxieties and explain what to expect when we are away.

If you have any further questions please contact your own school teachers in the first instance. We will be arranging face to face meetings very shortly in which we will share important risk assessments and other documents for your information.

With best wishes,

The Turing Prague Team

