

# ALEKO ONLINE

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## SCHOOL LIFE

### **A national strategy to improve literacy**

The period from 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2015 was announced by the Ministry of Education and Science as a National Week of Reading. In this regard, "Aleko Konstantinov" Primary school had various initiatives. Students from the 5<sup>th</sup> grade wrote homework on the topic: "I read because ...". We offer some of their writings in this issue of the newspaper. Others will be published in subsequent editions.

Dear Parents,

We hope that you will be involved in the initiatives of the school and support your children in one of their most favourite activities - reading books. It gives pleasure, entertainment, knowledge, but also the freedom to choose.

We hope that among the desired Christmas presents there will be a book for your children.

Roza Zafirova - teacher of Bulgarian language and literature

### **„ I read because ... "**

Books Take us on a trip to a vast world filled with adventures. Through them, I find many answers to my questions. They help me understand other people. Books inspire me. I read for pleasure, to improve my way of expression and my writing, to train my imagination to have ideas and be able to dream. Reading helps me relax.

I read books of any genre. I like fiction. It takes me to a world where anything is possible and where odd creatures exist. I think: "Would it be such fun if the world was like that? "

Over the years I have read many books but my favorite is,, Matilda ". It tells of a girl named Matilda. She is very intelligent and is almost 5 years old. She has incredible powers. She can move objects with her eyes, she loves to read books and is a genius in Maths. Even before starting first grade, she learned to read and read all the books from the local library.

For some unknown reason her parents hate her and ignore her all the time, but she learns to take care of herself and her greatest wish is to go to school. She loves justice and she thinks that anyone who is rude and impolite should be taught a lesson.

Matilda's best quality is that she looks like a normal child. All of her classmates like her and are not offended by the fact that she reads textbooks for higher grades.

This is a story that shows how positive characters like Matilda and Miss Honey undergo various challenges and no matter how badly treated, they remain good people and continue to see the positive side in every moment.

Diana Tonova 5a class

In books I find what I like. I find my dreams and understand that it makes sense to strive for them. Sometimes they fill me with excitement and make me want to do something nice for my parents, for my friends and people I know.

Books help me isolate and sink into unknown worlds. I meet people who I want to look like, but I also meet people whom I don't want to resemble. From books I learn to be persistent and to fight for my dreams, and then they will become reality.

Books give me knowledge about outer space, life and other peoples. They help me develop. I think the most important thing is to know what we can learn from books. They can take us into space and on other planets, in other worlds unknown to us.

The main characters of our books serve as an example. We learn from them to fight with difficulties and to distinguish good from evil. Books make us smarter, better, more persistent and teach us how to achieve our dreams. Through books we develop and bring the future closer to us.

For me, books are a window to the world.

Ivaylo Manev, 5 b class

### **“I have read this book, and you can read it, too!”**

Representatives from different classes, together with the pedagogical advisor prepared a poster with the motto, “10 reasons to read books”. Students from each class prepared projects related to the books they have read. The topic was, “I have read this book, and you can read it, too! “. There were quite interesting and original ideas which were displayed in each classroom. By participating in the project we have expressed our support to the campaign and show that books can be even more interesting than films.

Enya Eneva, Valentina Slavcheva 7b class

### **Reading Marathon**

In the week of reading, students from 5th and - 6<sup>th</sup> grade held a Reading Marathon. Students from fifth grade read tales, fables and stories to the first grade students. They asked them interesting questions and gave them puzzles that the younger students readily guessed. The marathon of reading was very interesting and all decided to organize such meetings again.

Vaska Gudzheva - teacher

### **"Best Reader"**

On December 11th, 2015 the second-graders had a competition for " TheBest Reader". Teams of five players from classes - 2 a, 2 b and 2v were formed. They drew the first option - a book of favourite fairy tales for children / №1 - favourite children's stories, №2 - "Pippi Longstocking" and №3 - fables / from which they had to read in a chain. All teams had an excellent performance and the participants were awarded with certificates. There were two exhibitions of paintings,, "Characters from Fairy Tales"and,, "Winter's Tale."

Vesela Ruseva - Primary Teacher

## **SCHOOL FOR PARENTS**

35 presents, which your children will never forget

Just before Christmas the topic of gifts giving is particularly relevant. Santa Claus will undoubtedly delight all obedient children with the most desired gifts and reward them for their effort and good deeds in the past year.

And parents who also want to encourage and make their children happy, will choose gifts that cannot be bought in any store in the world.

Here is a list, where you will find ideas about what gift is worth giving to a child. How many of them have you already given to yours?

1. Give your children support - Just a word of approval can load your children with energy and motivation. Let your children know how much you value them. Let them know you believe in them.

2. Hugs and kisses

Children find very important the love of their parents, whether they are 7, 20 or 30 years old! Remember that no matter how old your child is, it is never too late to hug or kiss him, and thus to express your love.

3. Lunch and dinner with the whole family

Joint lunches and dinners are a great way to get the whole family together, to discuss the past days or plans for the future.

4. Sense of humor - Find time to laugh with your children.

5. Show them how to notice beauty

Help your child to discover the beauty in everything they see and in everyone they meet. Show them the diversity in arts and the diversity in human souls.

6. The possibility to make mistakes

Give space to the children, so that they can experiment, explore and even make mistakes. Show them that it's not so scary.

7. A stable family

Stable family is the foundation on which children build their entire lives. Whenever possible and they need it, children should receive your support and understanding.

8. Give your child a desire to achieve more

Encourage the ambitious desires of your child.

9. Give your child time

Time is the only gift that you will never be able to take back.

And this is one of the most precious gifts you can give to your child.

10. Attention

Time itself is not enough. You need to be devoted and close to your child. Do not miss moments.

11. Teach them to show compassion

Life is often unfair! And when something unfair happens, teach your children not to remain passive, but to help those who need help.

12. Give children the ability to appreciate

One of the best gifts that you can give your children is to teach them to appreciate what they have, but not to stop where they are.

13. Curiosity - Teach your child to ask questions and seek answers.

14. Determination

To achieve success you do not just need luck and good preparation. The ability to show determination helps a lot, and this requires willpower.

15. Self-discipline

The main part of the education is discipline, but do not build it on prohibitions. Try to build it in a positive and useful direction.

16. Give them encouragement

Words have a tremendous power. The words you say every day to your child can support him or make him despair. Therefore, choose words carefully.

17. Teach your child creativity - The world needs people, who are able to create things...

18. Teach them generosity - Teach your children to be generous with your things, so that they can be generous with their own.

19. Teach your children spirituality

20. Teach them honesty - Honest people feel better and they enjoy life more. And what is more important – they sleep well at night.

21. Fill them with hope - Hope gives strength and determination. And even in difficult times and moments of despair it helps us to move forward.

22. Imagination – one of the most valuable gifts

23. Self awareness

Upbringing is an important and responsible job that requires a high degree of awareness. It is good to make your children see who they are and what they want to achieve.

24. Passion for knowledge

25. Give them a passion for nature

26. Willingness to try something new - Let us teach our children the desire to try new things.

27. Give them optimism

Pessimists do not change the world. This is the work of optimists.

28. The ability to enjoy and be proud of victories

Celebrate small victories in life.

29. Teach them to love the world around them

Loneliness can be very destructive when we grow up. Teach your children to love the world around them, to accept it with open arms. Show them the beauty of communicating with people and the value of friendship.

30. Teach him/ her to stick to his/ her values

31. Show your child that he/ she is unique

Our differences make us valuable - for us and for society.

32. Teach your child to speak with you

33. Love for their home

34. Loyalty to the person close to them

35. Love

Zdravka Petrova-pedagogical advisor

## **LANGUAGE PAGE**

### **CHRISTMAS IN ENGLAND**

Christmas is Britain's most popular holiday.

Its traditions and early ceremonies were rooted in pagan beliefs and date back hundreds of years. They are still part of contemporary Christmas celebrations.

Christmas candles

The Druids, for example, honoured the mistletoe in their religion and sacrificial rites. The red berry of the holly was believed to protect one against witchcraft.

Ivy symbolised immortality. The Vikings introduced the Yule log which used to be burnt in honour of God Thor. The English adapted this practice for Christmas and today's (electric) Christmas candle is a holdover from baronial days.

Christmas cards

The custom of sending Christmas cards to friends and family originated in Britain, too. In 1843 John Calcott Horsley designed the first one for Sir Henry Cole. Thus began a real spread of sending Christmas cards and this practice soon became an established tradition.

### Christmas tree

Since 1840 the decorated and illuminated Christmas tree has gained popularity in England. Prince Albert brought this rite over from Germany. In 1848 the Illustrated London News published a picture of the Royal Family around one. The English families followed the Royal example and it can truly be called a Victorian innovation. Each year a giant Christmas tree is set up and decorated near the statue of Lord Nelson in Trafalgar Square.

### Christmas carols

On Christmas Eve carols are often sung by groups of singers walking from house to house, and children hang a stocking on the fireplace or at the foot of their bed for Father Christmas to fill. Caroling dates back to the Middle Ages when beggars were seeking for money, food or drink wandering the streets singing holiday songs.

### Christmas meals

On Christmas Day gifts are opened in the morning. Later the family will gather for the traditional Christmas dinner consisting of Brussels sprouts, fried potatoes with roast turkey, roast beef or goose. Sweet mince pie or Christmas pudding is served for dessert. The pudding might contain coins or lucky charms for children. For afternoon tea Christmas cake is offered. It is rich baked fruit cake with marzipan and icing. A party favourite are Christmas crackers. There will be one to each plate on the Christmas dinner table. A Christmas cracker is a brightly coloured paper tube, twisted on both ends and filled with a party hat, a riddle and a toy.

### Boxing day

Boxing Day is on December 26th. This day takes its name from a former custom giving a Christmas box to delivery men and trades people called regularly through the year. Nowadays dustmen, milkmen, or postmen get a tip for a good service at Christmas time.

Stella Kurteva- English teacher