

Hello penfriend,

Hi my name is Nela. I am 13 years old and I go to the 8th grade at primary school in Melč. I live on the farm with my older brother, mother and father. I like buying clothes and going out with my friends, I also like studying. My favorite subject at school is Math and Czech language. In my free time I like listening to music too. When I'm bored I go usually go running.

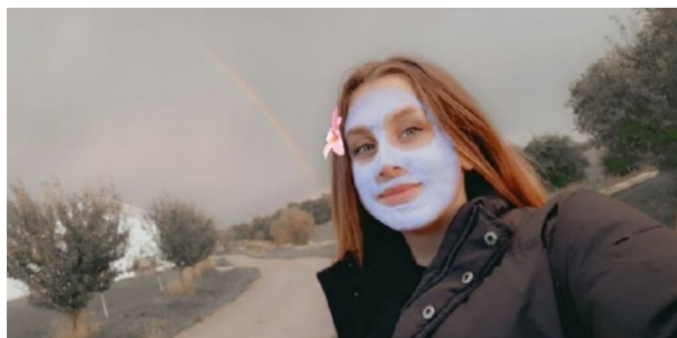
So today I write about the most popular season of the year and that is autumn. I like autumn because everything outside is in a beautiful colors and chestnuts and acorns fall off the trees. But it starts to rain a lot in autumn and it's also windy. In autumn, the weather is unsettled, the sky is often cloudy, and mornings are dull and it looks like it's going to rain soon. People wear boots, raincoats or umbrellas these days. I usually forget my umbrella on the bus stop or at school 😊 whoops

But my mother and I, despite the fact that it rains outside, collect chestnuts and then we make figures and animals out of them. I also like to fly our big kite with my brother. And I also like to collect chestnuts, acorns, leaves and cones from which I make decorations. My cousin and I like to jump into the leaves, we always make a big pile of leaves and then jump into it. Autumn is my favorite time of the year.

Bye,

kind regards

Nela



Dear penfriend,

my name is Vendula. I am 13 years old. I live in a small village in Melč. I live in a big family house. I study at elementary school in Melč. I have one brother, his name is Josef. I like listening to music and meeting with my friends.

I write to you about my favorite season of the year, autumn. Autumn comes on 23rd September. It is gradually cooling outside and the days are getting shorter. Trees are shedding of leaves. Autumn weather is rainy, windy and chilly. However if the weather works in your favor, you can enjoy a beautiful *babí léto*, which is similar to Indian Summer which comes in the second half of September and sometimes stretching into October. *Babí léto* is our last chance in the year to enjoy warm, sunny, summery days with clear blue skies.

My favorite activities in autumn is picking up - in autumn we collect (glean) rose hips and chestnuts for animals. We also collect nuts for Christmas cookies. We grow pumpkins in our garden, from which we make compote and jam. Compotes last in our pantry until next year ☺ My mum can also cook delicious pumpkin soup, she uses special kind of pumpkin, hokaido, for it. We carve out few pumpkins and have them as a Halloween decoration on the doorstep. My other favorite activity is the also flying a kite on a field or meadow, it's great fun.

Write back soon.

Take care,

Venda



In Melč, 13 October 2021

Dear penfriend,

My name is Adéla and I want to write to you something about how I usually spend the autumn in my country. In the Czech Republic summer holidays end by the end of August that means for us we have to go back to school and even if the weather might still be warm, the autumn finally starts. I like autumn a lot because it is still sunny and the nature is full of beautiful colours. During this season we have lots of traditions and I want to write you about some of them.

All Souls' Day falls on November 2nd. The official Czech name is *Památka zesnulých* ("a remembrance of those who have passed"), but everyone calls the day *dušičky* ("little souls" or "of all saints"). People sometimes compare this old tradition to Halloween, but the two don't have much in common. *Dušičky* is a quiet time in the Czech Republic. We visit the graves of family members and relatives to lit candles, lay flowers and wreaths and spend a few moments. Even it usually very sad the flickering glow of hundreds of freshly lit candles makes the atmosphere at cemeteries during *dušičky* time quite beautiful.



Much funnier for everybody is the parade with lanterns which is held in our village every year. The weather is usually chilly or rainy, but it doesn't prevent us from observing the tradition. Adults dress up as ghosts and scare children. Kids have to follow the route, and when they get to the end, they get sweets. I always follow that route with my friends and it is really enjoyable and exciting.



In every autumn we enjoy typical activities. My favourite is picking mushrooms. I like to go to the forest for mushrooms in the fall. They mostly grow during September-October.



When I was younger I used to make my own kite and fly it running on the field, because the autumn winds are great for flying kites - by the way in Czech we call it dragon, what do you call it in your language? According to the legend the kites were making connection between humans and God, and they were supposed to scare the enemy. Later on, the kites were used by farmers to bring them a rich harvest. If you interested in this activity and you have never tried it before, you should make one and enjoy the flying season.

Write back soon

Kind Regards

Adéla

Melč 192

14th October 2021

Dear penfriend,

My name is Karolína and I am 14 years old. I go to primary school in Melč.

On 1st September our summer holidays are over and we go to school again. I like autumn because nature is beautifully colourful. In this letter I would like to describe to you what the autumn here in Czech Republic looks like.

Halloween is not typically Czech tradition, but I like it and in autumn I carve the pumpkins and decorate the house with them. I go to the field for the pumpkin and then I carve it at home with my sister.



Autumn in the Czech Republic is traditionally combined with the grape harvest festival. Wine and young wine festivities can also be enjoyed in the wine region in the south of the Czech Republic where we always travel to visit my aunt and uncle. Of course the grape harvest festival is not the only celebration of wine. Wine lovers in the Czech Republic can enjoy a local speciality St. Martin's wine on November 11.



But the festival I like best takes place in our village usually at the end of October, it is called a lantern parade. Some parents with children walk around the village where people disguise as ghosts and scare children. We always have a lot of fun. When they

finish their journey through the village they receive some reward.

I hope you write something about your autumn, too. Write back soon.

Best Regards

Karolína

Hello dear foreign friend.

I want to tell you something about our Czech autumn traditions. Autumn begins on September 22 and ends on December 21. Every time someone says autumn, I remember when I was a kid and I used to fly a kite. In my village, we have a dragon competition for the most beautiful dragon (kite).



During autumn I love how all the trees turn into beautiful red, yellow and orange colours. I love taking pictures of the trees and fallen leaves. There are cob webs in the air everywhere. We call it Indian summer.

We don't celebrate Halloween in the Czech Republic, because we prefer All Souls Day on 2 November when we go to the cemetery to lit a candle for our loved ones that passed out. We remember and think about them all day. We have something similar to Halloween, it's a lantern procession. The children have their lanterns and walk along the road dressed in scary costumes. Every year I carve pumpkins with my brother, it makes a nice an autumn atmosphere. Then we put the pumpkins in front of the house and lit a candle in it. My mother and I pick chamomile for herbal tea, it is our family tradition. We drink it later in winter. In our village by the fire, my friends and I roast apples on a stick or bake potatoes in the fire. We have an autumn equinox in September when the night is longer and the day shorter. What are your habits? Autumn is a lovely time when we go from summer to winter, don't you think?

With regards

Eliška



Dear penfriend,

How are you? Did you enjoy holidays? Last time I sent you a letter about spring in the Czech Republic and today it will be about autumn.

Our summer holidays end at the end of August and school starts on the first of September. Since I



live in the village, I will describe how the autumn looks like. People who has a field starts with harvesting. They harvest a corn with combine still in summer. In September we plough under the potatoes and then we sort them. After this we harvest vegetables and pick fruit from trees, especially apples, pears and plums. Finally, we prepare the fields and garden for winter. Sometimes it is hard work but when the weather is good gardening might me relaxing as well.

In autumn there are not as many holidays as in winter, but I will describe some of them. First holiday is on 28th September. Its name is Czech Statehood Day. In the morning we go to the church and celebrate Saint Wenceslas Day, Saint Wenceslas is the patron of our state. Next holiday is on 2nd November, it is All Saints' Day. We don't celebrate Halloween. We always go to cemeteries, and we bring flowers and light candles on grave of our dead relatives. The last autumn holiday is on 17th November and its name is A Day of struggle for freedom and democracy. This day we commemorate the demonstration that overthrew communism.



Autumn starts with warm weather, but in early October it starts to be cold and very windy. When it is windy we make kites from wood and paper and then we fly them. It is fun. We also have a kite's competition. I always make a really good kite with my cousin and then compete with it.



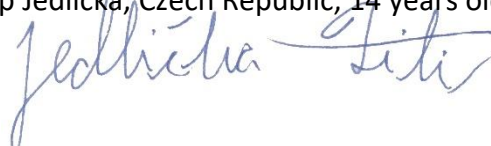
If it is damp and mushrooms grow, we go to the forest and collect them. The nature looks amazing because the leaves turn yellow, orange and red. We often go for a walk. In November it's getting colder and winter is slowly coming.



I have to stop writing and go to bed, because it is late at night.

Kind regards,

Filip Jedlička, Czech Republic, 14 years old

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jedlička Filip'. The script is fluid and cursive.

Hi dear friend,

I'm Katerina. I am 13 years old. I live in a small village. I am from the Czech Republic. I have a small family. I have an older sister. We have got a cat called Sisi and it lives with us. I'm in the 8th grade at elementary school. I like to spend my free time with family and friends. I like riding a bike or rollerblading. When we have a holiday, I meet my friends every Saturday night and play hide and seek. I like playing badminton. My favorite movies are Marvel and Fast and Furious series. My favourite food is pizza.



I like autumn. It is colorful and beautiful season. I like walking in the forest. The weather is sunny but cold in autumn days. I like it when the autumn is sunny and warm which is unfortunately not very often. What I don't like is that it's getting dark soon. Leaves fall off the trees and it's foggy almost every morning. But it can be also magical. Everyone sees autumn differently.

The harvest is celebrated when all the grain is harvested from the field. Czech people call harvest festival Dozinky. The harvest is celebrated in our village so that farmers and their wives and children get together and talk to each other. There is a snack of drinks, cakes and goulash, we dance to various folk songs. The harvest wreath is woven there, different games are being played. And there are stalls with different dishes but also various seating areas with alcohol for adults. It gets crazy sometimes.



I'm glad I could write to you a few things about autumn and harvest in the Czech Republic. Have a nice day. I look forward to reading your letter.

Regards

Kateřina

Dear penfriend,

My name is Lukáš. I'm 13 years old. I'm from the Czech Republic and I live in Melč. I go to Masaryk's primary school in Melč and I go to the eighth class. My favourite subjects are History and Geography. I like WW2 history and riding a bike. What do you like?

In this letter I would like to describe to you what my typical autumn looks like. School starts on the first of September which means a lot of learning but I still manage to go running, sometimes in my free time I enjoy riding a bike, more than in summer. When it is raining, I play my favourite game World of Tanks because I like WW2 and tank history.



Since I love history I decided to write about this topic. I chose St. Wenceslas Day. This holiday is always celebrated on September 28th. It is the feast day of St. Wenceslas, the patron saint of Bohemia, and commemorates his death in 935. Also known as 'Czech Statehood Day', it is a national holiday in the Czech Republic and has been a public holiday since 2000. Wenceslas was born in 907 and was the son of the Duke of Bohemia. His father died in 921 and Wenceslas ruled from 922, when he was 15. The reign of Wenceslas is marked by his support of the church, his aim to unify Bohemia and make peace with Germany. These policies created enemies within his court and even his family. Wenceslas was attacked by his own brother Boleslav and killed. Having suffered a martyr's death, Wenceslas was immediately considered a saint. I am really proud about the Czech history what about you, what's your favourite subject?



History and traditions have lots of in common and they are both important for our country and that's why I like Czech customs. In autumn lantern parade takes place in our village even if its' history is a bit more political. Nowadays it is a sweet tradition that sees groups of families, schoolmates, and entire communities lighting up the autumn night with assorted paper creations shaped like everything. We also celebrate two main festivals throughout October and November, St. Martin's Day on November 11, and the Day of the Establishment of Czechoslovakia on October 28.

Best regards Lukáš

Hello, my dear foreign friend,

my name is Markéta and I'm 14 years old. I come from the Czech Republic. In this letter I would like to describe my autumn activities, so let me tell you something about our fall traditions. Summer ends on August 31st and autumn is just beginning. In September the new school year starts.

I'd like to introduce you one of my favourite traditions, and that's grapes harvest. It is celebrated at the beginning of September until the end of November. Grape harvesting is the highlight of the season both for wine lovers and



winemakers alike. In wine-growing areas this event is often accompanied by jolly times with some history thrown in as well as concerts and markets. South Moravia is probably the most noted wine-growing region in the Czech Republic. Every year I visit my family in South



Moravia and I help them to collect grapes there. It's very beautiful there and I always enjoy it. Festivities of vintage varnish people for wine and entertainment. People dress up in costumes, dance to folk songs and drink wine. There is also one speciality adults love to taste and that is burčák. This speciality, which by Czech law can be made only from grapes grown in the Czech Republic and can be sold only from August 1 - November 30, is partially fermented grape juice

with the correct ratio of alcohol and sugar. This festival is popular because they like to try something new and tasty. I can't taste it yet, because I'm not 18 years old. But I still enjoy the whole atmosphere of vintage. Autumn is my favourite season because all the leaves turn different colours and it's my birthday. What's your favourite fall tradition? I hope you've learned something new about the wine harvest.



With kind regards Markéta

Dear penfriend,

my name is Veronika, I am 13 years old. I am from the Czech Republic. I live in a family house with my parents and two sisters in a small village called Melč. I love my pets. I enjoy listening to music, walking with my dog and go out with my friends.

My favorite season of the year, autumn, has just started. In autumn it is usually colder weather, it is very often windy, it rains quite a lot, it's foggy and cloudy but sometimes the sun comes out and it charges me with energy to go out.

Autumn brings many natural treasures. Once I take the dog for a walk, I head to the forest very often. Along the way I come across thistles, grass and branches. I rip them off a little, because I use them for decorations. There is a hunting pulpit by the forest, from which I like to look at the vast landscape. There is a feeder next to it, where I give the animals some food. Once I met a hedgehog and a deer there. Another favorite places of mine is the park in the village. There are many deciduous trees with red, yellow, orange and brown color. Here I collect multicolored mapleleaves, chestnuts, shell, acorns and seeds of beech. Once I have gathered all the natural products, it's time for crafting.



I enjoy crafting, I relax while doing so. I make roses from maple leaves, which I put in a vase in the living room on the table. The procedure is simple, but not everyone can do it 😊 Starting from the smallest leaf to the largest. The middle tip of the leaf folds down and such a rectangle is created, we roll it into a roll, I take another slightly larger leaf and fold it. I wrap the same sheet around the roll and continue into the shape of a rose. I choose the size myself, according to the number of maple leaves. I make also animals from the collected chestnuts and acorns. Chestnuts and acorns are connected with toothpicks. The last ornament I make is a wreath. I take polystyrene ring and glue natural products. So it reminds me, that it's time to go for a walk... so have a nice day.

With love

Veronika



Hello my penfriend.

My name is Filip and I live in a small village called Domoradovice. I'm 15 years old. In this letter I would like to mention my most popular events during autumn. As you may know the school in the Czech Republic starts 1st of September and that is when the autumn begins for most of people.

Most people look forward to autumn because Czech wine harvest festival takes place, especially in south Moravia but also in other places. It's usually during September-October. Winemakers harvest their



grapes from orchards, which are then made into a delicious wine. Visiting this festival personally every wine



barrel cellar opens and you can see how it looks like. At this time my

mother always buys and tastes the burčák, which is also produced.

Concerning the wine we must not forget St. Martin's Day which is celebrated in the Czech Republic on 11 November. It is said that Martin will ride a white horse and bring the first snow. On this holiday St. Martin's goose is being baked



or martini rolls. St. Martin's wine is also produced. These traditions are still observed.

All Soul's Day takes place on 2 November. The official Czech name is "Památka zesnulých", but they all say "Dušičky". People visit the graves of their relatives and friends to lit candles. The weather is mostly cold at this time, but it's still a wonderful tradition.



These are some of the traditions celebrated in the Czech Republic. I hope you enjoyed it and I'll be waiting for your letter.

Goodbye, take care

Filip

Dear penfriend,

My name is Petra. I live in a village called Melč. I'm 14 years old. The summer is over and the autumn has just begun, for children it means the end of summer holiday and going back to school. And how are you? I hope everything is going well. I decided to write you about typical autumn in my country and in my village Melč.

The official first day of fall is September 22. Picking apples in the autumn is one of the basic things here in the Czech Republic. There is also a collection of pumpkins, which are then hollowed out and put in front of the door as a Halloween decoration. You can also visit several famous corn mazes. We also go mushroom picking in the fall.

„Drakiáda“ means that children bring their flying kites either made or bought, to whom a flying kite flies the highest gets the price. This event is held in our village every year in September.



Wandering with lanterns is an annual event of our village. Adults dress up as ghosts and children have to go through all the ghost stations. It's always at the beginning of November and it's fun.



That was a little I do in the fall and how we enjoy the village events. I hope you enjoyed it. In the meantime take care and I'll be waiting for your letter.



Regards

Petra

