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**ZŠ a MŠ**  
STRUHLOVSKO

## EASTER IN CZECH REPUBLIC

### Happy Easter!!! Veselé Velikonoce

*You can watch a video, how we celebrate Easter:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H4mrN-vqM0o>

#### INFORMATIONS FOR TEACHERS:

Many Czech Easter symbols are related to spring and the beginning of new life. Some of the best known are: **Easter egg (Kraslice), Pussywillow (pomlázka), baby animals**

#### The Days Before Easter Sunday

In the evening of **Green Thursday** (Zelený čtvrtek), every boy in the village equips himself with a wooden rattle (řehlačka), which is specially made for the purpose, the boys form a group and walk through the village, rattling their rattles vigorously, so the noise can be heard from afar. The meaning of the rattling is to chase away Judas. The same procedure repeats **on Good Friday** (Velký pátek) and one more time on **White Saturday** (Bílá sobota) .

**Easter Sunday** (Neděle velikonoční) is a day of preparations for Easter Monday. Girls paint, color and decorate eggs if they haven't done so already, and boys prepare their pomlázkas!

**Easter Monday** (Pondělí velikonoční) is a day off, the day of the pomlázka.

The origin of the pomlázka tradition- Its original purpose and symbolic meaning is to chase away illness and bad spirits and to bring health and youth for the rest of the year to everyone who is whipped with the young pussywillow twigs. Boys would whip girls lightly on the legs and possibly douse them with water, which had a similar symbolic meaning. An Easter carol, usually asking for an egg or two, would be recited by the boy while whipping. The girl would then reward the boy with a painted egg or candy and tie a ribbon around his pomlázka. As the boys progressed through the village, their bags filled up with eggs and their pomlázkas were adorned with more and more colorful ribbons.

Resources:

[http://www.myczechrepublic.com/czech\\_culture/czech\\_holidays/easter/](http://www.myczechrepublic.com/czech_culture/czech_holidays/easter/)