

First primary school in the city of Galabovo is proud to be named after the first Bulgarian enlightener Paisii Hilendarski.

This is a school with a rich history, which has preserved the past Bulgarian traditions and keeps them in the present. A school that educates the children of Galabovo, builds a new history, introduces innovations along with the traditions.

The school is in the small mining city of Galabovo, which is located in the Upper Thracian lowland. It is surrounded by low slopes on all sides. The city is located on the banks of the Sazliyka River, which flows into the Maritsa River. It is close to Stara Zagora, Haskovo, Radnevo and Simeonovgrad (bigger cities). Previously, Galabovo has been called the village of Kum Duvadjii (Pigeon), and in 1956 it was renamed Galabovo.

The climate of the region is influenced by the Rhodope mountain range. Summer is characterized by its great heat, and winters are mostly mild and short.

17% of the total territory of the city is the East Maritsa coal basin. After the Second World War, Galabovo turned from a small settlement of merchants and farmers into a center of energy and coal mining. The Maritsa East complex is being developed. This is the largest lignite coal basin in Bulgaria. Its area is 240 sq. m. km.



City of Galabovo, photo from TPP AES – Galabovo,  
which produces electricity from lignite

*Surva, a merry year,  
a golden wheat ear in the field,  
a red apple in the garden,  
a house full of silk!  
May you be alive and well  
next year, next year till amen!  
Surva, happy year,  
may your back be strong,  
to be alive and healthy  
next year, till amen!  
A Surva, Surva year,  
a merry, merry year!  
A large wheat ear on the field,  
a red apple in the garden,  
a yellow corn in the forest,  
a large bunch of grapes  
on the vines,  
house full of children,  
barns filled with goods,  
a bag full of money.  
Alive, healthy for a year,  
for a year, till Amen!*



## The magic of the holidays at First Primary School "St. Paisii Hilendarski", city of Galabovo



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**Merry Christmas! Happy Christmas!**  
**Peaceful and happy New Year!**  
**Wishing you health, peace and countless  
happy children's smiles!**



*This is not only a city of the working people, but also a city of customs and traditions. The magic of the dance and the beauty of the folk costume are incomparable. Many of the customs are related to the Christian holidays: Trifon Zarezan, Christmas, Surva, Lazaruvane, "Straightening the First Sheaf", "Beard", as well as wedding customs and customs before and after the birth of a child. All of them are accompanied by music. Various arts are used in them: songs, dances, instrumental music, costumes, through which the sense of beauty and artistic sense of the people is manifested.*

*The most exciting for all young and old is the holiday of Christmas. It teaches us that even in the most difficult moments, we must live with faith and hope. The homes are full of smiles and children's anticipation for the desired gifts.*

*The holiday begins on the night before Christmas, called Christmas Eve or Little Christmas. Traditionally, the whole family gathers on this holiday (we are going back to our roots). Regardless of where they live, from near and far, young and old*

The name of the holiday comes from the Christmas Yule Log – a thick stump that burns in the fire and symbolizes the birth of the new sun and Christ. It is used to predict what the year will be.

The table is arranged in such a way that everyone faces the fire, which is the holy place in the home. The dishes on Christmas Eve are vegan and should be an odd number – 7, 9 or 11.

Usually on the table we place vine-leaves rolls, dry peppers stuffed with bulgur or rice, beans, honey, pumpkin pie, boiled wheat, wine, dried fruits.



The bread that is kneaded for Christmas Eve should be prepared with the so-called "silent water", and then decorated with figures symbolizing God's harvest – wheat or animals. When everyone gathers around the table, the hostess burns incenses, and the oldest member of the family breaks the bread. The first piece of the bread is named after the Virgin Mary and is left in front of the home icon, where it is kept until the next year. Luck will come to the one who gets the coin from the loaf. The table is not set all night, because it is believed that the patron saint of the home also comes to it.

On Christmas Eve, it is predicted whether the year will be good. If the fire is raging or there are many sparks, the year will be fertile.

At Christmas, the holiday is accompanied by rituals for health, fertility and wealth. The most common ritual is caroling. These are a group of boys or young men who are called carolers (Koledari). They go around the houses and sing songs, which are short and consist mainly of good wishes to the owners – for health, prosperity, rich harvest.

***"Arise now, sir, that we are good guests for you. Good guests, carolers, we have been on the road since last night***

***In these long, dark nights. To look for you who is where, to bring you good news – how many herbs on the Earth, so much health in this house.***

***Get up, now, sir, get up, greet us – good guests are coming to you, good guests, carolers.***

***We are on one side and God is on the other.***

***We sing to you, we praise God. Arise now, sir.***

***As many are the stars in a clear sky***

***So much health to be in this house. "***

The Carolers are dressed in folk costumes – yamurluk, a hat decorated with popcorn, over their shoulder they carry a bag in which they put the gifts from the owners. The magic of the winter holidays' calendar continues with New Year's Eve.

Then again, the whole family gathers around the festive table. On this day, it is allowed to eat meat dishes and meat-stuffed turkey, pork, baklava.

The beauty of the holiday is not in the crowded table, but in the shining Christmas tree, which the children enjoy.



The children take care of the decoration. They prepare hand-made toys or use store-bought.

At the top of the Christmas tree shines the Star of Bethlehem, which shows the birth of Jesus Christ, the path of a new beginning. New Year's Eve is also accompanied by rituals, most notably characteristic of which is survakane. Survachka is prepared from decorated twigs, strings of popcorn and dried fruits, small coins, colorful woolen threads, cowhides.

Survakari are children gathered in a group, they go around the homes of relatives and neighbors and each brings a survachka. Survakane is accompanied by blessings that are close to those of caroling.

