



Thursday 7th September 2023



MARIA'S NOTES :

Welcome to all children, parents and teachers. We wish you all a fantastic year 2023-2024. A very warm welcome and we hope you have an enjoyable and rewarding time at ISB.

See you all tomorrow, Friday 8th September, at 17.00 at school, for the **welcome pizza party** with children, staff and parents.

It's been a busy start to the year in the Primary School, with students and teachers alike returning to school with great enthusiasm. The students that are new to the school, have been welcomed by their classmates and already seem to be very settled in their classes.

We'd like to give a special mention to the new Early Years children who have all been so brave throughout this first week and a half, especially as, for some of them, it's the first time that they have been left by their parents.

After just one week, there are already signs of inspiring work being produced all around the school and we'd like to invite you all to the **Primary Open Evening on Thursday 5th October**, during which you will be able to see some of this work, and have an informal chat with your children's teachers. It is a great opportunity also for your children to show you their new classrooms.

All parents are welcome to visit the school, with their children, **between 15.30 and 17.15 on this day**. This is not a time to talk to the teachers about your individual child's progress, however, as always, if you do feel that you need a meeting, you can arrange another time for this with the teacher.

On Monday, we had our first whole school assembly, and even the brilliantly behaved Reception class joined us – It was encouraging to see that the children remembered the behaviour expectations during the assembly, as they all sat beautifully and were quick to contribute when asked – What a great start! The theme of the assembly was **'Helping Others Feel Welcome'**. We discussed different ways in which we can be made to feel welcome e.g. physical gestures (smiles, nods, thumbs up etc); welcoming words (nice to meet you, welcome, good morning etc); bright colourful classrooms (like we like to see at ISB); inviting others to play; and lots of other ideas that the children came up with. We then read a story about a girl who was starting at a new school where she didn't speak the same language as everybody else. She was very nervous, but her teachers and her classmates found different ways in which to make her feel welcome. **We agreed that being made to feel welcome, makes people feel like they belong, and so during the next week, we are all going to try to make everyone feel welcome at ISB, whether we are a student that's been here for a long time, or if we are a new student.**

Mr Hanrahan is looking forward to next week's assembly where he will be looking out for some impeccably dressed children to come to the front and show case what a perfect school uniform should look like. We are really proud of our uniform as ISB, and so it is important that we wear all of it, and not just some of it.

This includes school shoes, that should be ALL black, ALL brown, or white sandals.



NO:



Can we also remind parents that we have a strict **NO JEWELLERY**. Please understand that for many reasons, including health and safety, that we do not allow any jewellery **apart from small stud earrings**. You have chosen to send your children to ISB, where we have a school uniform, and so we ask you to please adhere to our uniform rules.

Over the next few weeks, the famous 'uniform scanner' will be out and about, and if it spots perfect uniforms, the children in question will be awarded 10 house points in the following week's assembly!

Classes across the school are currently voting for this term's **Student Councilors** and **House Captains**. We will find out next week, who they are, when they will then begin their extra responsibilities around the school, including having very important 'school business' meetings with Mr Hanrahan, once a week.

On Monday morning at 09.15, there will be a meeting with Mr Hanrahan for parents in Grades 4-6 about the upcoming school residential.

On Tuesday afternoon at 14.30, there will be a meeting with Miss Heather for parents in grades 1-3 about their upcoming residential. **We hope to see as many of you there as possible.**

LIBRARY HELPERS

As usual, **we are looking for parent volunteers**, to help us collect and allocate reading books in the lower primary library each morning from 0845 – 0915. If you have time and are interested in helping, please **drop an email to jette.buffer@isbearn.com**

HEALTHY SNACKS

For Foundation and Primary: Can we please remind parents that it is a school policy in Primary that children only bring in fresh fruit or vegetables for snack time. This rule applies to all children from Early Years to Grade 6. Chocolates, biscuits, compotes and other snacks are not permitted (only after school, before clubs / garderie). Thank you for your support with this healthy initiative! - Don't forget to label all items of clothes, bags, etc. with your child's name. Please ask me for a special felt tip pen.

CORE PARENTS

Mrs Louise Chamberlain (Secondary parent), has kindly organised 'Core Parents' for each of the year groups across the school. Amongst other things, these parents can often help you with any questions that you might have about school, to save you having to contact a teacher. The core parents are:



IMPORTANT DATES:

Wednesday 27th September to Thursday 28th September – Grades 1-3 residential trip to Socoa

Wednesday 27th September to Friday 29th September – Grade 4-6 residential trip to La Camieta – Hendaye

Thursday 5th October (15.30 -17.15) - EYFS & Primary school Open Evening

Monday 16th October (1435) – Grade 6 assembly (Grade 6 parents welcome)

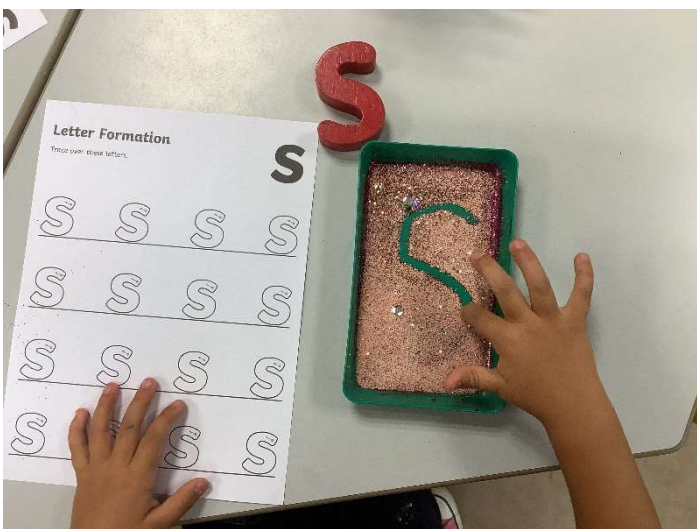
Friday 20th October – LAST DAY OF SCHOOL - MUFTI DAY (Non-uniform)

Over the last few days **Early Years** have been busy settling in, getting familiar with all the daily routines and most importantly having fun and making lots of new friends!





What a wonderful start in **Reception**- settling into new routines, making new friends, exploring our new classroom, working together and having fun!





Grade 1 have had a great first week back. We have settled into new routines quickly, reconnected with old friends and welcomed new ones to our school. Well done Grade 1!





Grade 2 : first PE lesson





Grade 3 have been getting to know each other by playing lots of games in pairs and teams this week. Well done!





Grade 4 are having fun in Drama class this week, finding out about one another with “interview” questions!





Grade 5 enjoying their first P.E lesson, learning the skills of Netball.





Secondary School have Rugby and Football lessons in PE





Grades 10-13 DofE

The Duke of Edinburgh International Award is getting ready for action again so Parents have received information for the different types of participant involved in the Award.



SECONDARY UPDATE

07 September 2023

Important Dates

Tuesday 12 Sept: Parent Information Session for parents of Grades 12 and 13

This event is primarily aimed at the new G12 parents and consists of a presentation in the Hall at 16:00, followed by the chance to meet subject teachers for your son/daughter's AS Level subject choices.

Any G13 parents are welcome to attend, although you will already be aware of the structure of the AS and A Level Curriculum and expectations etc. However, if any G12 or G13 parents wish to speak to subject teachers this is an opportunity for brief conversations, with the possibility of arranging a future one-to-one meeting with any teacher.

KS3 Beach Trip and KS4 and KS5 River Trip

Gr 10-13 Rivers Trip departing 08:15 please arrive **by 08:00**; return arrival time at ISB to be confirmed but very likely to be 18:00

Gr 7-9 Beach Trip departure time 09:30, please arrive in school at the usual 08:40, returning to ISB for 18:00

Kit lists will be emailed home for both trips on Friday 08 September

Grade 13 students who are not taking part in the River Trip will be in school for a bespoke schedule of A level lessons delivered by the English, Psychology and Science Department.

Absence from School

Please be aware that absence due to illness must be notified by an email to office@isbearn.com and your child's Form Tutor and cc'd to Ms Byrne.

Absence for all other reasons, should be requested from Maria contact@isbearn.com ideally 7 days ahead of the requested absence.

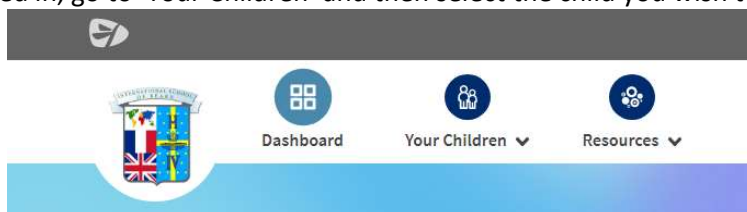
FireFly Parent Logins

By making full-use of our FireFly learning platform, parents can stay informed of set homework, grades achieved and teacher feedback. Please see 'Logging into FireFly...' below if you've not already logged on.

Logging into FireFly for the first time

Activating your account

1. In your browser go to: **isbearn.fireflycloud.net** The school code is **ISBEARN** all uppercase
2. Enter your (school registered) email address as your username.
3. Click on the green box ' ... Activate your account', this will allow you to set a password.
4. Once logged in, go to 'Your Children' and then select the child you wish to view



5. Now you will see a student profile for your selected child where you will see all tasks that have been set as homework etc or as individual tasks, and grades/feedback received. This view will also show outstanding and overdue tasks.

Please contact Mr Pearse or Ms Byrne if you need further help on using FireFly



*Have a nice week
Très Bonne Semaine
Maria*