



Friday 5th September 2025

MARIA'S NOTES :



Welcome to all children, parents and teachers. We wish you all a fantastic year 2025-2026. A very warm welcome and we hope you have an enjoyable and rewarding time at ISB.

On Monday, in your child's bag, you will find the **subscription form** from the famous French publisher **ECOLE DES LOISIRS**. Choose the 'abonnement groupé' as it is less expensive and will be given to your child at school, **from Early to Grade 9.**



It's very useful to be able to read French books if you want to improve your French skills.

Traffic rules to be followed at school / on school premises :

The morning and afternoon **drop-off area** is used exclusively for its intended purpose.

So please do not park there!!!

If you wish to stay for a few minutes, use the car park and leave this area free.

I would like to remind you that the parking spaces alongside the school buildings are strictly reserved for school staff.

PRIMARY NEWS

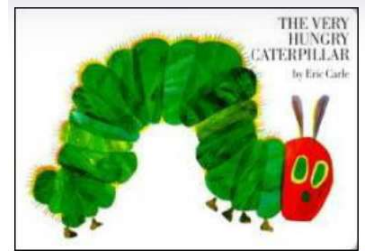
John-Mark Hanrahan

Welcome to all children, parents and teachers. We wish you all a fantastic year 2025-2026. A very warm welcome and we hope you have an enjoyable and rewarding time at ISB.

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 11th September**, 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. During the assembly we reflected on our favourite part of the first day of school so far – There were lots of different things from across the school, from meeting new friends, to enjoying Mr Luis' delicious pasta bolognaise for lunch!

Mr Hanrahan then reminded us of a few playtime rules, before reading *The Hungry Caterpillar* to us. Whilst he was reading it, he asked us to think how this could be relevant to our first day of the year. At the end of the story, he revealed his tenuous link – We are like the caterpillar at the start of our school year, and we need to ‘eat’ lots of knowledge, in order to finish the year as a beautiful butterfly/brainbox!



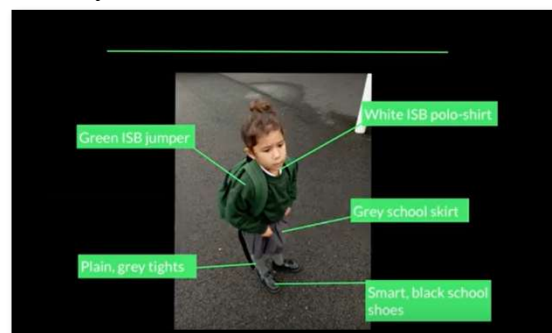
We then suggested to Mr Hanrahan, what sort of things we could ‘eat’ during the year to become beautiful brainbox – a bit of maths; maybe some art; some computing; some reading, phonics and handwriting...the list of things that we are going to work hard at was endless!

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.



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 Councillors and House Captains**. We will find out next Monday (15th Sept), 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.

Class Trips

On Monday morning 8th September, at 0915, there will be a meeting with Mr Hanrahan for parents in grades 4-6 about the upcoming school residential to La Camieta.

In the afternoon at 1400, 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.**



Healthy Snacks

For Foundation and Primary: Can we please remind parents that it is a school policy 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 us for a special felt tip pen.

Teams

This week, all children should have brought home a “credentials” sheet with the login details, for their class Microsoft Team.

On your child's team, you will be able to see photo and videos of what they have been getting up to in class, as well as access their homework, and receive notifications about what is going on around the school.

You can use your child's credentials to access their team on your personal device!

If you have any problems logging in, please email Mr Hanrahan:

john-mark.hanrahan@isbearn.com



Important Dates:

Thursday 11th September (15.30 -17.15) - EYFS & Primary school Open Evening

Thursday 18th September to Friday 19th September – Grades 1-3 residential to Socoa

Wednesday 17th September to Friday 19th September – Grades 4-6 residential to La Camieta – Hendaye

The first days in **Early Years** went very well! Here are a few snapshots from Early Years children having fun:





Reception off to a great start with their phonics lessons!

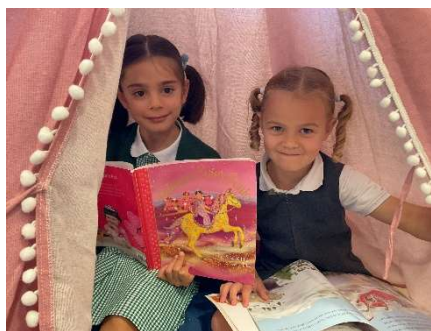


What a fun first week in Reception! Discovering our new classroom, making new friends... it's going to be a wonderful year!!



Such a lovely moment! Reception children look so engaged and happy learning their very first French words with Miss Didi in French class FR. What a wonderful start to their language journey! Bravo, Reception!

Grade 1 have had a great first few days getting to know each other. We've painted recounts of our holidays and introduced ourselves in lots of different ways. We've talked about our emotions with help from the colour monster. we've had guided play (constructing zoos) and have ticked off many firsts like our first photo, lunch, assembly etc.



Making new friends, testing out the new sports pitch with some team games, sharing our holiday news, estimating and counting in maths! **Grade 2** are off to a great start!





In French FLE class, the Grade 2 students met *Monsieur Carotte*, our mascot.
With Miss Didi on the guitar, they sang their first song in French FR and learned how to introduce themselves.
Well done, bravo 🙌 Grade 2 !

Grade 3 have been making new friends and putting their team work to the test with a scavenger hunt around the school!



Grade 4 have made a great start to the new term. We have begun our Rivers and Lakes topic and here are some of us making rivers posters. Super teamwork everyone 🙌.





A fun filled start to the year for **Grade 5!**



Grade 5 in Art started a printing project. This week the theme is lighthouses and they created a printing plate with cut foam sheets. Next lesson they will focus on the process of collagraph printing.

They look so great already that Miss Sara wanted to share before they are covered in ink.





In PSHE **Grade 6** enjoyed sharing holiday experiences as well as some cool dance moves!





After holidays, all staff had a first aid training



SECONDARY UPDATE

Ann Byrne

Important Dates

Open Evening Tuesday 09 October 16:00 – 18:00

Please come along to meet teachers, find out more about our subjects and view a selection of student work and resources.

There will be two short presentations by the Head of Secondary in the Hall at 16:00 and again at 17:00.

All parents are encouraged to attend, however, please note that detailed student conversations will not be possible, although the evening will provide the possibility of arranging a future one-to-one meeting with any teacher.



KS3 Coast trip and KS4/KS5 Rivers Trip

Please lookout for letters that will be emailed out next week with details of the trip.

All students are encouraged to attend as these trips provide a unique opportunity for pupils to explore new places, to make new friends and develop new skills and interests - all of which can help encourage personal and social development

Kit lists will be emailed home for both trips in the coming week.

FireFly

Learn how to activate your Firefly account, log in for the first time and reset your password if needed.

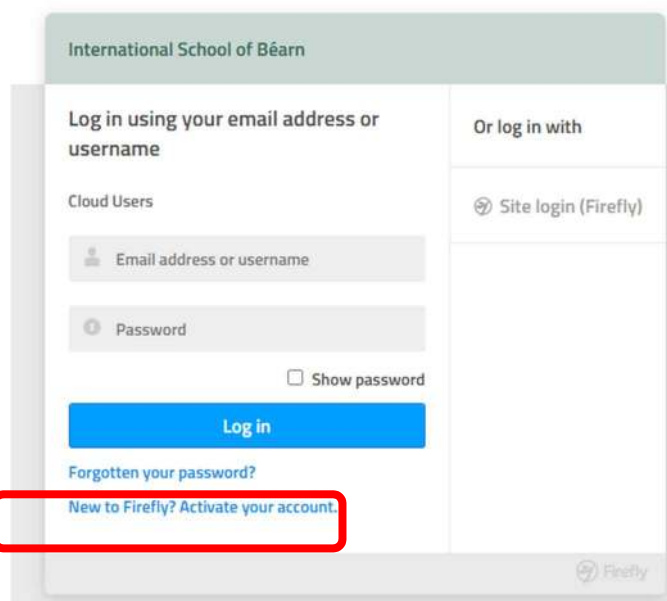
Overview

Use the instructions below to activate your Firefly account and log in for the first time.

Activating Your Account

Follow the steps below to activate your account:

1. In your browser, navigate to isbearn.fireflycloud.net
2. Your username is either of the parent emails that you have registered with the school
3. Select **New to Firefly? Activate your account.**



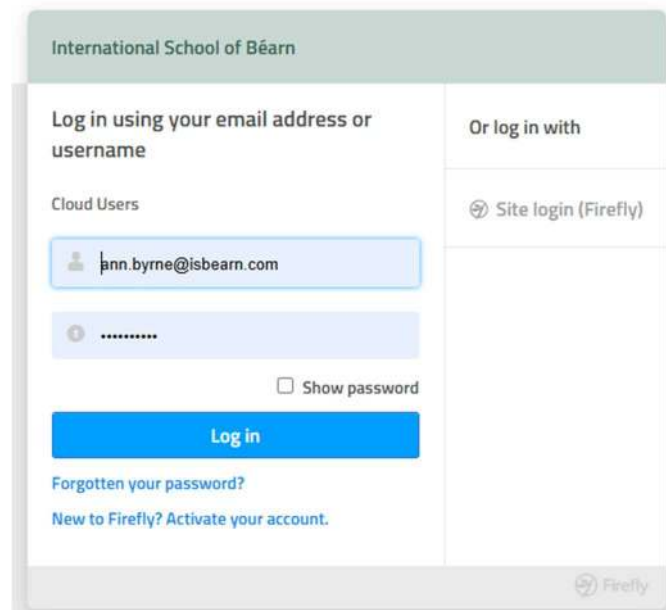
4. Enter the email address/username then select **Activate account**. An email is sent to you.
5. Check your email inbox. Make sure to check your spam filters if you don't find it anywhere.
6. Open the email and select **Activate Account**.
7. Enter the password of your choice, then confirm it.
8. Choose **Activate Account**.
9. Your account is activated and you're now logged in to the FireFly Parent platform.

Logging In for Activated Users

To login to Firefly after you've activated your account, follow the steps below:

1. In your browser, navigate to the FireFly Parent platform isbearn.fireflycloud.net
2. Enter your credentials directly on the main screen and select Log in.

3. If you are asked for a school code it is ISBEARN all in upper case.



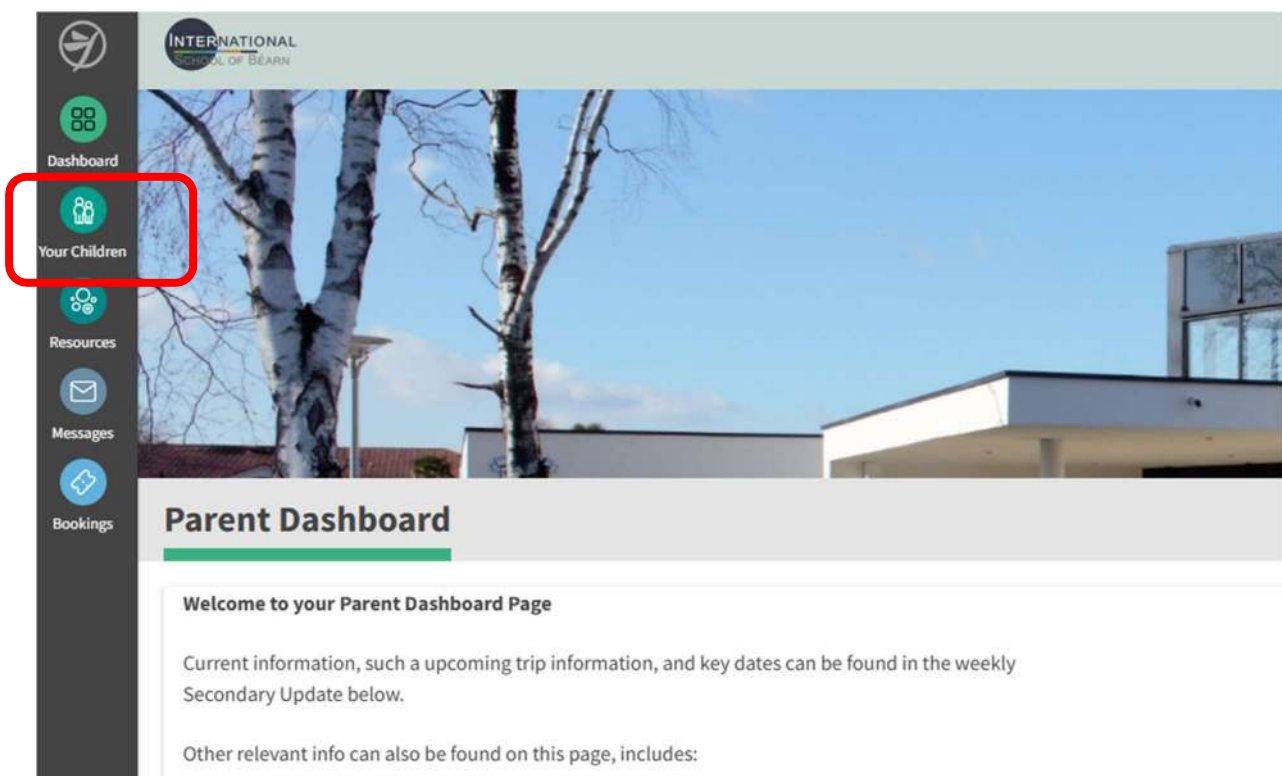
Resetting a forgotten password

In your browser, go to the the FireFly Parent platform isbearn.fireflycloud.net

1. Select **Forgotten your password?**
2. Enter your username or email address. This must be the address that is registered with Firefly.
3. Choose **Reset password**.
4. In your mailbox, follow the reset link that was sent to you to choose a new password.

Using FireFly

Your home screen is the Parent dashboard:



Select 'Your Children' as highlighted above and from here you can view homework tasks and grades.

Please explore the other resources/options within your FireFly dashboard. More advice and guidance on using the FireFly platform will be available at our Open Evening on Tuesday 09 September and in future School Newsletters.

*Have a nice week
Très Bonne Semaine
Maria*

Grade 12 Induction Day



On the evening of Sunday 7 September 2025, the Moon will eclipse our sky. It will then take on a bewitching red hue.

